

**Before the fall of man into sin, there was complete harmony and peace in all of the creation:**

There was peace between God and man. In the relationship between the man and his wife, there was love, harmony, and agreement, along with human activity and work as the man cultivated and kept the Garden of God; they communed with God, and with each other. There was no strife or contention between the man and his wife, and there was no sin between them and God. There was harmony in all of the creation, as the animals and fish and creeping things of the earth began to flourish in their purposes for which God created them. **EVERYTHING** and **EVERY CREATURE** that God had created was **GOOD** and **VERY GOOD!**

But then the man rebelled against the commandment of God and sinned against Him, and the whole earth and all of the creation was affected/cursed by the man's sin, and that is when everything changed.

It wasn't long after the fall that Cain, Adam's son murdered his brother Abel. A time to love had become a time to hate; Cain's hatred of God and his brother led to him kill his brother. Contention, hatred, and strife between individual men would soon lead to contention, hatred, and strife between nations, which would lead to wars between nations of men.

**Wars between men and nations is the one of the lasting consequences of the fall of man into sin.**

If you've read your Bible, you know that there are many wars recorded in it, dating all the way back to Genesis 14 and The War of Nine Kings. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> war ever recorded in the scriptures. It was a conflict that Abram was drawn into to save his nephew Lot from Chedolaomer, King of Elam.

When Abram heard what happened, he took 318 of his own trained men and went after and slaughtered Chedolaomer and the other kings and rescued Lot, along with the women, children, and their possessions. For Abram, it was a time of war to free the captives and recover their stolen goods.

There are many reasons why nations go to war with other nations: To gain territory, expand their kingdoms, conquer and rule over other nations, revenge for an unprovoked attack, to free people from a dictator, or because of disagreements that cannot be resolved by diplomacy.

In the history of our nation there have been many wars: The Revolutionary War, the Civil War, WW1, WW2, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, and the war in Afghanistan.

Some are called to serve and to fight in wars. And while the rightness or wrongness of every war in the world might be debated, the truth is, war is inevitable in a fallen and sinful world.

**That leads us to the first part of our text: A time of war**

Many of us have never been in a war in this world, but if you're a child of God, you have been called into a spiritual war, to STAND AGAINST and TO RESIST an INVISIBLE and VERY REAL ADVERSARY

& ENEMY. Satan!

He declared war on your soul after God saved/delivered you from his kingdom and translated or conveyed you into the Kingdom of Christ.

Satan's war against God started before the creation when he rebelled against God and was cast out of the presence of God. He then proceeded to tempt the newly created man and woman, who sinned and rebelled against God, at which time sin entered into the world.

From that moment in time, there has been enmity, (or war) between the seed of the serpent, which is Satan and his people and kingdom, against the seed of the woman, which is Christ and His people and Kingdom.

EVERY human soul born into this world comes into it under the captivity and dominion of Satan; dead in their sins. But when God saves a sinner; that sinner is also saved/delivered from Satan's dominion and rule over them.

Colossians 1:13, Acts 26:18, Revelation 6:1-2,

The enemies of the Lord accused Jesus of casting out devils by the prince of the devils; but it was with the finger of God! Luke 11:20-23

Christian, your soul has been saved/delivered from Satan's kingdom by the Lord Jesus Christ; but Satan wants you back, and he thinks he can get you back. His primary and untiring mission is to convince you to forsake your faith in Christ and to lure you back into his kingdom.

#### **That brings us to the first part of our text: A time of war**

If you're a Christian, it is a time of war for you. Whether you like it or not, you have a constant adversary who is going to constantly attack you.

1 Peter 5:8: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. JOB!

But not only did God reveal to us that we have a constant adversary and enemy, He also taught us how we are to resist him.

1 Peter 5:9: Whom (you are to) resist steadfast in the faith, (with the truth), knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world .

James 4:6-10

So yes, we have a constant adversary, but we also have an Ever-Present Commander in the Captain of our Salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ, who has already defeated Satan, who will never leave or forsake us, and who has equipped us so that we might effectively RESIST our adversary!

We CANNOT resist Satan by our own strength, the only way to resist him is by the strength of the Lord given to us, and with the protective spiritual armor that God has given to each one of us to PUT ON and USE!

Ephesians 6:10-18

Christian you MUST constantly be aware of your adversary and THIS WAR, which will happen in your mind and thoughts, and in what you see and hear in the world: Satan is the tempter, he will tempt you to lust, to lie, to be dishonest, to hate; and then, when you do sin against God, he will tell you; you're no Christian, he will accuse you and tell you that you're lost he

will tell you to give up! 1 John 1:7-9

KNOW THAT In Christ, you have the HIGH GROUND! But you MUST deliberately take the armor of God by faith and put it on every day. If you don't take up the armor of God by faith, you're a target rich environment for Satan!

1 John 4:4: Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in YOU, than he that is in the world

Be encouraged child of God, YOU cannot be recaptured by the wicked one:

John 10:27-30, Ephesians 2:1-5

But if you're not a Christian, Satan has the high ground on you; you are under his rule and dominion; your only way to be freed from him is to turn from your sins to Christ in repentance and faith! 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

Satan is actively blinding you and lying to you about the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ! He is telling you: You don't want to give up all of what you have in the world! Sin is not what God calls sin! God is lying to you! The Bible is full of contradictions; sin is not going to ruin your life! Think of all that you will have to give up; even your close friends!

What will a man give in exchange for his soul!

### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> war:**

You've got another battle/another war that you must constantly be engaged in; one that comes from within, and from what the scriptures call the old man.

Ephesians 4:22-24, Romans 6:6-13, 1 Peter 2:11

### **This brings us to a time of peace : There have been many wars in the world since the war of Genesis 14, but there have also been times of peace.**

David was a man of war and fought in many wars, but God granted peace to the Kingdom of David's son, Solomon. In our nation, we have lived in relative peace, but there are always wars and rumors of wars.

Christian, the war that you must be concerned with is that UNSEEN WAR that will come at you at any time from your adversary; or from within your own heart, from the old man whom you must constantly mortify and put off.

You've had those days like we've all had, when everything seems to be going wrong; you can't do anything right, you're in a foul mood! And so, where is ða time of peace!

Christian, if you would have peace in this world, it is going to be the direct result of your faith in Christ, and your ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT in this war on two fronts.

Your adversary is not going to stop attacking you, and if you don't kill the old man, he's going to rise up; but real peace is promised to you in the midst of these conflicts.

John 14:27, 16:33, Philippians 4:6-7, Colossians 3:12-15, Isaiah 26:3, Romans 14:17

### **To the lost, those of you who have not turned from your sins to Christ, you may think to yourself that there is peace in your life and in the world around you, but there is no peace between you and God.**

According to the scriptures, you are an enemy of God, estranged

from God, the wrath of God abides on you at this very moment in time! If God were to call you to account for your soul right now, and take your life back, you would lift up your eyes in hell.

*Isaiah 57:21: There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked*

If you would be at peace with God, no longer an enemy of God and estranged from God look to the cross of Christ by faith. See the Son of Man's victory over the wicked one on that bloody tree! See the serpent defeated; his head crushed by resurrected Son of Man! Turn from your sins and believe that your sins were paid for in full by His blood!

*Colossians 1:13, 20-23, Romans 5:1-2*

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