

Introduction:

The last number of days we have seen images from the War in the Ukraine. The word “war” is used 227 times in the Bible, 212 times in the O.T. and 15 times in the New Testament. I want to look at “war” on three different levels. War in the physical sense, between God and Satan, then the war in our personal lives as Christians.

I) War- in The Physical Sense

A) Common occurrence

1. The first “war mentioned in the Bible is in Genesis.

Genesis 14:1 *And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations, 2 that they made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).*

2. Note worthy because Lot became captive (**v.12**) during this “war” and Abraham came to his rescue (**v. 13-16**).

3. Jesus used war to teach.

Luke 14:31 *"Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 "Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. 33 "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.*

4. History is filled with wars and our country with its Revolutionary War, Civil War, etc.

B) Causes of war (sin)

1. Wanting something that does not belong to you.

- a. Nations battle over land, trade routes, raw materials sea ports, slavery, etc.
- b. Goes along with envy and material wealth.
- c. The nations on the Old Testament were going to war to enlarge their territories and acquire wealth.

2 Kings 5:2 *And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife.*

Amos 1:13 *Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of the people of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because they ripped open the women with child in Gilead, That they might enlarge their territory.*

- d. In **Isaiah** King Hezekiah showed an envoy from a far away country the wealth of Israel.

Isaiah 39:2 *And Hezekiah was pleased with them, and showed them the house of his treasures-the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory-all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.*

2 Kings 24:13 *And he carried out from there all the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house, and he cut in pieces all the articles of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said.*

- 2. Hatred – prejudice

1 John 3:11 *For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, **12** not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And*

why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

- a. Black/white, ethnic divisions, distrust between peoples, etc.
- b. Keep in mind, even the “nations” in Canaan before Israel arrived were already at war.

3. Different values

- a. Is it any wonder the nations of China and Russia are “communist” countries seeking to overthrow democratic/capitalist countries.
- b. Religious values are different –idolatry creates a totally different value system.
- c. Example of King Manasseh.

2 Chronicles 33:3 For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he raised up altars for the Baals, and made wooden images; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.

2 Chronicles 33:6 Also he caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom; he practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

4. Power – over people, over land, wealth, which goes along with selfishness and greed. Think of Daniel 4 and Nebuchadnezzar’s words.

Daniel 4:30 The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"

C) The cost of war

1. Lives are lost, people crippled, families separated, etc.

2. Material wealth is destroyed, wealth is consumed.
3. Liberties are often lost.

D) The reason you go to war is to win

1. Regain liberty
2. Over throw oppression
3. Take back what is rightfully yours.

II) Spiritually- God v. Satan

A) War between God and satan

1. Eight times in the Book of Revelation is found “war.” All eight times in **chapters 11** onward.

Revelation 11:7 NKJV 7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.

2. This “war” has been waged from Genesis to now.
 - a. The temptation of Jesus, those who stood against the Gospel in Acts, etc.
 - b. Jesus’ death was to overcome the power of satan.

B) Cause of this war

1. Different values – God is love, righteous, no sin in Him
2. Satan is a murderer, liar, the enemy, our adversary.

C) Cost of this war.

1. Satan wants our soul, us to be as lost as he is.

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

2. Death reigned from Adam to Christ.

D) The reason you strive against Satan is to win

1. To escape the snares of the devil.
2. To gain your liberty in Christ.

III) Christian Warfare

A) Common occurrence

1. War is conflict and one we wage on a regular basis.

1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

2. From the time of Adam to the present-day people of God have been tempted and tried by Satan.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

B) Causes

James 4:1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

1. Wanting something which does not lawfully belong to you, called lust.
2. Selfish desires
3. Different values

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

4. Power in the sense of the pride of life.

C) Cost of this war

1. Submitting to the will of God, obeying His law.
2. Carrying our cross.

Matthew 10:38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

3. Being faithful until death. ***Revelation 2.10***

D) The reason you go to war is to win

1. The hope of heaven
2. Influence others around you and help them escape the power of satan and death.

Conclusion:

We know who won the Civil War, World Wars 1 & 2. Because history tells us. We know who wins the war between God and Satan because the tells us. Be sure to be on the side of God.