

Bite Size Bible Study

War #171

By Pastor Lee

This study begins on a very low note, but stick with me it ends on a very high note.

I often wake up in the morning thinking about something that might make a good BSBS and this morning it was war. Why is war so prevalent among us? What do we gain through war? War, and conflict, has been with us since Cain and Abel. It seems that no matter what we do it eventually ends in a battle.

I was born during WW2 and I can't remember a time during my life when some part of the world was not at war. During the 1950 we were scared that someone would use atomic weapons and destroy the world, as we knew it. When I was graduating from High School we were worried that we would be drafted into going to the Vietnam War. Today we still face that threat as Russia tries to retake the Ukraine.

I remember seeing a documentary a few weeks ago about Ngogo Chimpanzees. In this aspect of conflict they act much like we humans do. They will wage war on another group to gain territory where the "grass seems greener" only to fight another war started by the other group to gain it back and a little more if possible. Greed seems to be a part of humanity as well as other parts of creation.

Jesus was aware of this proclivity and when asked when He would return He said:

When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains (euphemism for end of the age). Mark 13:7-8

Who decides to go to war?

Not the warriors who have been conscripted into the armies or those warriors who have been defeated in previous wars and conscripted into the current army. Not the general populace. They are generally too busy trying to make enough to live on. Wars destroy their crops and livelihoods not mention their homes and families. If they were on board for war there would be no need for conscription or drafts. It is the elite and powerful who make the decision. They generally will not feel the effects of the war because they have the means to stay in the background. They will not go hungry or lose their homes and families.

Who wins in a war?

For the short haul, one side wins and the other side loses. But on the long haul no one wins. The loser will eventually muster enough to re-engage the other and we

have a new war, a possible new winner and a new loser. The winner may gain territory and a population (to exploit) but eventually someone else will see the prosperity and in envy will desire it for themselves.

Who loses in a war?

It seems obvious that it is those who lose their lives. But there are other losses. Destroyed land, homes, crops, injured and traumatized people, and so on. One group that is often dismissed is the warrior that returns to civilization – in war he is expected to kill the "enemy" and not have remorse for doing so. But when he returns he is expected to flip the switch and behave as a good citizen. We have thousands of people who have not been able to make that change and are marginalized in the country they served.

Wars are not always fought on the battlefield.

Small wars are fought every day: in the boardrooms, on the streets, in the business world, and the list on it goes.

When a person desiring a VP position attempts to destroy another person's reputation or puts out negative rumors – that is a war, not with guns and grenades, but with words and actions. Some street gangs and political factions have mini wars with guns and knives for territory and other rights.

A business that bids on a contract with specific requirements but has no intention of keeping to those requirements only to undercut the competition is engaged in a war. It is not generally recognized as a war but the intent is the same – defeat the competition and reap the rewards.

Here is the good news.

There will be a time when there will be no more wars, a time of peace and prosperity that will not end.

Many Gentiles will go and say, "Come, let's go up to the mountain of Adonai, to the house of the God of Ya'akov! He will teach us about his ways, and we will walk in his paths." For out of Tziyon will go forth Torah (God's instructions), the word of Adonai from Yerushalayim. He will judge between many peoples and arbitrate for many nations far away. Then they will hammer their swords into plow-blades and their spears into pruning-knives; nations will not raise swords at each other, and they will no longer learn war. Instead, each person will sit under his vine and fig tree, with no one to upset him, for the mouth of Adonai-Tzva'ot (Lord of nations – AKA Suzerain King of Vassal kings) has spoken. Micah 4:2-4 CJB

We will have wars until Jesus returns – then war will be a thing of the past. Peace will reign!

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