

Perspective

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December 11, 2025

Who Will Conquer Space?

The military arms race has been a continual feature of international relations for centuries with new weapons being produced every year. The space race began on October 4, 1957 when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik I. There has been a continual competition to develop the most sophisticated spaceflight capabilities. The race heated up on April 12, 1961 when the USSR sent the first man, Yuri Gagarin, into space with the orbital flight of Vostok 1. In the same year, U.S. president, John F. Kennedy, raised the stakes. On May 25, 1961, he asked a joint session of the US Congress to commit to the goal of “landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth” before the end of the decade. Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the moon, July 20, 1969. Now, over 70 nations have space programs, but only three can launch humans into space, Russia, China, and the United States. The U.S. and Russia are the most significant, but surprisingly, China has climbed in space achievements and is of primary concern to the United States. Whoever dominates in space will have the military high ground. So, the big question, who will conquer space?

Space is the military high ground

Space preeminence is a critical U.S. national security imperative, as it is a structural prop for all U.S. military operations. As competitors, China and Russia field increasingly powerful space capabilities and counterspace weapons which can threaten U.S. satellites in space orbit, which are critical to both the entire terrestrial military as well as the civilian communications infrastructure. Maintaining U.S. space superiority is crucial and is a priority for the security of the nation.

In December 2019, President Donald J. Trump signed into law legislation creating the first new armed service since 1947 — the U.S. Space Force. "Space is the world's newest warfighting domain," Trump said at Andrews (AFB). "Amid grave threats to our national security, American superiority in space is absolutely vital. We're leading, but we're not leading by enough, and very shortly, we'll be leading by a lot. Space Force will help the United States deter aggression and control the ultimate high ground, said the president."

Will there be an unexpected invasion from outer space?

War of the Worlds, a well-known science fiction novel, written by H. G. Wells between 1895 to 1897, is about an invasion of Earth by beings from the planet Mars with higher intelligence and more deadly and sophisticated weapons. Their mission is to eradicate humans from Earth, as their own world has reached the "last stage of exhaustion."

Hollywood has told this story theme in many ways. However, though NASA has confirmed 6000 exoplanets thus far, they have yet to find life exists anywhere else but Earth. On Mars, they claim they found evidence life did exist, but no proof it exists now. So, it is unlikely the Martians will invade anytime soon.

There is life out there—but it is not what you think

All we do know is God the Father, His Son, and millions of angels dwell in a place called heaven. The patriarch, King David, so eloquently wrote in Psalms 19:1: *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork."*

It is God, the divine Architect of the beauty of all the vast systems of the trillions of planets, stars, and galaxies which span the universe. Isaiah 40:26 challenges us, *"Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing."*

And yet man, claiming to be wise, denies this great Architect even exists (Romans 1:18-22). Psalm 14:1 tells us, *"The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'"*

The Bible speaks of the grandeur of the universe and the glory of the Supreme Being who created the heavens and Earth, and also created man. God claims: *"I have made the earth, and created man on it. I—My hands—stretched out the heavens, and all their host I have commanded."* (Isaiah 45:12)

“He alone spreads out the heavens, and treads on the waves of the sea; He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.” (Job 9:8-9)

The Son of God was sent in the form of Jesus as a lowly Lamb as a sacrifice, and He willingly laid His life down for the sins of mankind to make grace possible and eternal life possible through His shed blood. He preexisted as the Word, and He was with God (John 1:1,14). Christ created all things (Colossians 1:16).

Jesus is coming to conquer space and the Earth

Man will no doubt continue his quest to explore the solar system. The U.S. intends, with the Artemis Program, to send astronauts to the Moon in 2027. Russia wants to put a man on the Moon in 2029 and establish an International Lunar Research Station by 2030. China has made significant strides in its space capabilities by developing a lunar lander with the intent to send a man in 2030. It is likely that space will be a place of military conflict in the future, but neither China, Russia or the United States will be the true rulers of space.

Bible prophecy foretells that Jesus Christ will soon come a second time, and He will be the great conqueror of space. This time, the Lord will not come as a lowly Lamb, but as an awe-inspiring, powerful Being with His archangel Michael and a great army of angelic beings. Further He will put down and defeat all the armies on Earth, and then set up His government in Jerusalem. He will rule over all people on the Earth. The Bible also reveals the saints will be with Him at the time of the resurrection, *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord.”* (I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

These are the saints, who longed earnestly to see the day of His visitation, who will be changed to immortal beings (I Corinthians 15:52-53). They will assist Christ in ruling the Earth as kings and priests (Daniel 7:21; Revelation 5:10; 20:6). They will be able to look upon Jesus Christ in His glorified form, because they will have bodies like Him (I John 3:2).

God is calling those who will work with Jesus Christ now; they must resist the pulls of the flesh and live a godly life of righteousness. What is righteousness? Psalms 119:172 defines it, *“My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness.”* Once a person learns and applies the truth in their lives with the help of the Holy Spirit, Jesus said, *“But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”* (Matthew 24:13)

The government of Jesus Christ will usher in a thousand years of worldwide peace, happiness, abundance and prosperity for all human beings on Earth. Jesus will cause the entire world to put away warfare. He will bring about prosperity and end poverty. Unhappiness will become a thing of past history.

Micah, the prophet, was inspired to foretell the time when the Eternal would set up His government on earth: *“He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”* (Micah 4:3)

The trillions of dollars used to produce the world's war armaments will instead be turned into farm equipment, which will be used to produce bountiful crops which will be used to feed all the nations of the world and forever end hunger. No longer will little babies starve to death in the arms of a loving mother or father. Amos 9:13 prophesies: *“Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.”*

Mankind instead will learn to love his neighbor as himself. Instead of people killing or maiming their fellowman, they will be taught the way of peace. (Isaiah 59:8). Love, joy, peace and happiness will fill the tranquil world of tomorrow. The law will go forth from Zion, and people will finally come to see the laws of God teach a way which is outgoing towards others, and not selfish like man's ways (Isaiah 2:3).

We have the opportunity to be a part of the work of preaching the true gospel which is the good news of the coming kingdom of God. There will be no more wars or space wars, and God will make it happen!