

Perspective

By L. Jim Tuck

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The Art of War

The Art of War, a classic book written in China by Sun Tzu around 500 BC, has been used for nearly 2,000 years by military experts to study war tactics. In a nutshell, the book teaches how to achieve victory by knowing the opponent, building unassailable defenses, deceiving the enemy with diversionary tactics, and finding and hitting weak spots with the greatest power. The book is highly valued at U.S. West Point Military Academy and other leading military institutions in the United States, Great Britain, and elsewhere. The bottom line of waging a successful war is to artfully deceive and outwit the enemy. Over its entire history, the U.S. has been at war ninety-three percent of its nearly 250 years of existence, which means only about fifteen years of peace. Imagine that---only 15 years without conflict. Though exact numbers are not known, since 1900 roughly 203 million people, soldiers and civilians, have perished on earth as a result of armed conflicts. Iran is a terrorist nation, and no one doubts they would use nuclear weapons if they had them. Operation Epic Fury, conducted by the U.S. and Israel, is necessary to protect not only the U.S. and Israel from nuclear war, but the world. However, why must nations make war at all? Why do people fight and kill one another? Who is responsible for all the hatred, violence, mayhem and death? Will it ever end?

Who is the real author of hatred and war?

Sin originated from Satan, and he is the author of it. He invented the lie, hatred, murder, and war. Jesus was hated by the scribes and Pharisees of His day, who wanted to kill Him. He told them, *“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”*

When Elohim created angels and later the universe, there was absolute and total peace and harmony in all of God’s creation (Genesis 1:1). For God and the angelic realm, this was their state of existence for perhaps billions of years.

Lucifer, the archangel was given a third of the angels, and he ruled over them on the Earth; this possibly occurred over a period of millions of years before Adam and Eve were created. Lucifer was responsible to bring God’s instructions and messages from God in heaven. Lucifer in Hebrew, *hêylêl*, pronounced *hay-lale'*, means in the sense of brightness, the *“morning star”* or the *bringer of light*, or truth. He was this brilliant angel who was used of God to lead the millions of angels on Earth.

Ezekiel 28:11-13 gives us some insight into this being, Lucifer: *“... Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.’”*

God said this great being was *created* perfect in wisdom and beauty. No human could ever be referred to in that manner. Ezekiel 28:14-16 further says: *“You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading, you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore, I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones.”*

He became lifted up by his own pride, wisdom, and beauty: *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit*

on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High. ” (Isaiah 14:12-14)

Lucifer mounted an army to make war against God

He became so vain he thought he could knock God off His throne and become the “Highest.”

So, God cast this high Archangel, whose wings once covered the Throne of God, out of heaven as profane. Jesus told His disciples in Luke 10:18, *“I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”*

There is no other angel named in the Bible who was thrown out of heaven. Revelation 12:9 states, *“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”*

God calls things what they are. He changed the name of Lucifer to Satan, which means “adversary” or “accuser.” He is called our adversary and accuser (I Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9-10). Another name for Satan is the Devil, and interestingly, the word spelled backwards is *Lived*. At one time, *Lucifer* was alive—but when he turned to evil, he “died” spiritually and became God’s adversary, Satan.

Mankind fights and makes war just like their father, the Devil

James, the apostle, wrote the tribes of Israel scattered abroad in James 4:1-2: *“Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 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.”*

War is a game of subtility and deception to conquer the enemy. Genesis 3:1 says, *“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made...”*

The Serpent, who deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit, is Satan the Devil. He fooled her by his craftiness. Adam wasn’t deceived and rebelled against God (I Timothy 2:14). All human beings have followed in the footsteps of Adam, and have been contaminated by Satan’s nature. Man’s human nature is Satan’s nature to disobey God (Romans 8:7).

The only way that hatred, fighting and war will ever end is if human nature is changed. When God calls someone out of this world, they must be specially drawn by the Father in heaven. Jesus said, *“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”* (John 6:44). One is brought to repentance and baptism. Then the receipt of the Holy Spirit is given by the laying on of hands of a minister of God. Only then can the process of changing our nature begin (II Timothy 1:6-7).

Jesus Christ is returning to put war to death

Fathom a world where there is no hatred of one people against another. Imagine when the very notion of fighting and war is anathema. No more will flag-draped coffins be flown back from far and distant lands to be mourned over by a grief-stricken spouse or family. In the time to come, Jesus will end war for 1000 years.

Satan will be locked up for 1000 years and wars will cease, but at the end of the millenium he will be released a short period (Revelation 20:3). We are also told as soon as he is let loose, he goes out to deceive the nations of Gog and Magog, and they launch an attack on the unwalled city of Jerusalem. God utterly destroys them (Revelation 20:7-9).

During the rule of the King of kings and Lord of lords, the laws of God will be obeyed. A prophecy in Isaiah 2:2-4 gives us a vision of the amazing times ahead: *“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ for out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; 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.”*

With the hope of the glorious days coming when the art of war will finally be ended, we can truly rejoice in God’s plan for humanity.