

The Invisible War
Revelation 12:1-17, Daniel 10:12-14
June 6, 2016

1. We are in the midst of a war.

Revelation 12:17 ***Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.***

Psalms 2:2 ***The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his Anointed ...***

2. The war is _____.

Revelation 12:7 ***Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.***

Ephesians 5:12 ***For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.***

3. We fight _____ battles.

I Peter 5:8-9 ***Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.***

(For more on the personal battle, check out the sermon “A Defeated Foe” at <http://woodburypres.com/index.php/worship/sermons/sermon/185-150712-sermon>)

4. The war is _____.

Ephesians 6:12 ***For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.***

Daniel 10:13 ***But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.***

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5. We fight with _____ weapons.

II Corinthians 10:3-5 *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

Revelation 12:11 *They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*

Ephesians 6:17-18 *Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

6. Jesus Christ _____!

Colossians 2:15 *And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

Revelation 19: 11-16 *I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter."^[a] He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

Romans 16:20 *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*

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1. We are in the midst of a war.

Revelation 12:17 ***Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.***

- Recount the story of Revelation 12.

Psalms 2:2 ***The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his Anointed ...***

- We’ve seen this through history. Pharaoh,
- Herod,
- Nero,
- First Crusade (Seljuqs, a band like ISIS came close to Constantinople)
- More recently, Hitler.
- ISIS in our own day.
- Is it hard to perceive spiritual forces behind these movements?

2. The war is spiritual.

Revelation 12:7 ***Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.***

Ephesians 5:12 ***For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities,***

against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- It shows up in earthly things.
- Spiritual = heavenly.

3. We fight personal battles.

I Peter 5:8-9 ***Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.***

- Discouragement, doubt, dissension, deception, disobedience ...

(For more on the personal battle, check out the sermon “A Defeated Foe” at

<http://woodburypres.com/index.php/worship/sermons/sermon/185-150712-sermon>)

4. The war is global.

Ephesians 6:12 ***For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.***

- Our true enemies, our spiritual enemies are these principalities and dark powers.
- We catch a glimpse of this in the Old Testament

Daniel 10:(12-)13 ¹² Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come

in response to them. ¹³***But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.***

- There is spiritual warfare on the national level, in communities, in churches.
- Churches come under spiritual attack, especially as they try to advance the Kingdom of God.
- So when we as a church experience setbacks and discouragement, don't panic!
- Yes, we are being attacked by the enemy, but we are not helpless!

5. We fight with spiritual weapons.

II Corinthians 10:3-5 ***For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.***

James 4:7 ***Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

- The first weapon is to submit ourselves to God.
- If we don't do this, we are sitting ducks.

Revelation 12:11 ***They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.***

- The second weapon, the most important, is “the blood of the lamb.
- Gospel Presentation
- The next weapon is the word of our testimony!
- Remember how Christ saved you – how you came to faith in Him.
- Declare the Creeds!

Ephesians 6:17-18 ***Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.***

- The sword of the Spirit is the word of the Lord.
- Scripture (Memorize it. Quote it.)
- Our testimony. (Creeds)

■ Pray in the Spirit

■ D-Day and Reese Howells. P. 256

6. Jesus Christ wins!

Colossians 2:15 ***And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.***

- Jesus Christ already won the victory at the cross!
- Christ’s victory will be complete at the end of history.

Revelation 19: 11-16 ***I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are***

many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.”^[a] He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

- **Pastor Tony Evans’ son played for the Washington Redskins. Had to watch a recording of a game the Redskins won.**

- **We are in the midst of a war.**

- **Fight!**

- **Fight by submitting yourself to God.**

- **Fight most of all with the Blood of the Lamb.**

- **Fight with the word of your testimony.**

- **Fight with the Word of God.**

- **Fight with your prayers.**

Special application: The Session has elected Dean Goodwin and myself to go to Israel.

We will ask you to support us with money.

Support us with prayers.

Join the battle!

Romans 16:20 *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*