

God of War

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Ares is the Greek "god of war", and Mars is his Roman counterpart. In later Western art and literature, the mythology of both became indistinguishable. However, these pagan gods of war are predated and fashioned after the originator of war who is described in the Bible by various names, including the following:

So the great **dragon** was cast out, that **serpent** of old, called the **Devil** and **Satan**... (Rev. 12:9a; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; emphasis added).

...your **adversary** the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking who he may devour (1Pet. 5:8b; emphasis added).

To confirm that the originator of war is Satan, his motives need to be exposed. Once this is done, other scriptures can be examined to show how he uses warfare to achieve his goals.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking (selfish ambition) in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, **demonic**. ¹⁶For where envy and self-seeking exist, **confusion and every evil thing will be there** (Jas. 3:13-16; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

In the scriptures above, a "form of wisdom" is mentioned that is "earthly, sensual, and demonic." The Apostle Paul described this as "the wisdom of this world" which is very foolish when compared to Almighty God's wisdom.

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, for it is written, "He catches the wise in their own **craftiness**", ²⁰and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile" (1Cor. 3:19-20; cf. 2:6-14; emphasis added).

"The wisdom of this world" is compared to "craftiness" because it is motivated by envy and selfish ambition. This craftiness is described as "cunning" on the part of Satan who sought to destroy Adam and Eve.

Now the serpent was more **cunning** than any (living creature) ... (Gen. 3:1a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

The Hebrew word translated into "cunning" is SHD 6175, which can mean "crafty", "shrewd", "sly"; "subtle"; "prudent"; "sensible". It can be used either negatively or positively, depending on the context. As Satan's goal was to destroy Adam and Eve, it should be apparent that his "cunning" was related to the deceit he knowingly foisted upon Eve, who was inexperienced and naive enough to trust in the word of Satan as opposed to the word of God (Heb. 5:14). The word of God stated the following,

And **the Lord God commanded the man, saying**, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for **in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die** (Gen. 2:16-17; emphasis added).

Satan then contradicted the word of God, which would lead to the death of Adam and Eve if they continued down the path that Satan was suggesting.

And **the serpent said** to the woman, "**You will not surely die**" (Gen. 3:4; emphasis added).

Satan knows the word of God very well, and for a long time he believed and followed it. During this period in his life he was known as Lucifer, which means "Day Star" (Isa. 14:12). He was full of God's wisdom as opposed to "the wisdom of this world".

You (Lucifer) were the seal of perfection, **full of wisdom** and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God... (Eze. 28:12b-13a; emphasis added).

Just as Moses taught the ancient nation of Israel about God's law and commandments; so the Lord taught Lucifer. Therefore, as long as Lucifer upheld the law and commandments, he had the wisdom of God and was expected to teach what he had learned to other angels (Eze. 28:14).

Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. ⁶Therefore **be careful to observe them, for this is your wisdom and your understanding** in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, "Surely **this great nation is a wise and understanding people**" (Dt. 4:5-6; emphasis added).

Instead of being thankful for receiving instruction in righteous conduct, and the subsequent authority granted to him, Lucifer's attitude began to change.

Your heart (inner attitude) was lifted up (became proud/vain) because of your beauty; **you corrupted your wisdom** for the sake of your splendor... (Eze. 28:17a; Ed. notes in parentheses).

At some point, Lucifer no longer gave credit to his Creator for the many talents and opportunities that were given to him. Therefore,

any "meekness of wisdom" that Lucifer once exhibited was replaced with the wisdom of this world, which is proud and self-serving.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the **meekness of wisdom** (Jas. 3:13; emphasis added).

The entirety of God's law can be summarized in the following statement, which also defines how to avoid being self-centered, self-serving, and proud,

Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets (Mt. 22:36-40).

So instead of continuing to serve God and his fellow angels, Lucifer began to believe that he should be on the receiving end. In other words, because of his splendor and many talents, everyone should be worshiping and serving him. In his mind, if this does not occur willingly, he will fight to take power away from whoever is in his way until he gains complete control. At this point, his goal of being served and worshiped will be achieved. This process is explained in the following section of scripture.

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? ²You 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. ³You ask and do not receive, because **you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures** (Jas. 4:1-3; emphasis added).

The possibility remains that Lucifer might have asked for certain things, but was denied for good reason. However, it appears he was not prepared to accept “no” for an answer and proceeded to take matters into his own hands.

For you (Satan) said in your heart (inner motive): “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God (angels; cf. Rev. 1:20); I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.” (Isa. 14:13-14; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Some believe that Satan has already taken this action against God, but the tense in which it is written suggests a future fulfillment (cf. 2Thes. 2:1-4). Nonetheless, because Satan’s intentions were known by God, he was removed from his responsibilities and Jesus Christ mentioned that he witnessed this event.

And he (Christ) said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven” (Lk. 10:18; cf. Isa. 14:12; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Even though Satan was prevented from carrying out this attack, he continues to wage war in one form or another whenever the opportunity presents itself (1Pet. 5:8). This includes waging war with other angels, who are often described in figurative language which can make it difficult to identify who they are. For instance, Satan can muster fallen angels to do his bidding against God’s loyal angels. Because Satan has given positions of authority to some of the fallen angels, these angels are referred to by the names of those nations over which they have influence. For instance, in the 10th chapter of Daniel, the fallen angel who has authority over the physical nation of Persia is called “the prince of the kingdom of Persia”. This prince went against the angel Gabriel, and prevented Gabriel

from delivering an important message to Daniel. In order to get the job done, another angel loyal to God had to intervene and assist Gabriel.

Then he (Gabriel; cf. Dan. 9:21) said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. ¹³But **the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me** twenty-one days; **and behold Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me**, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia” (Dan. 10:12-13; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).



AND HE (CHRIST) SAID TO THEM, “I SAW SATAN FALL LIKE LIGHTNING FROM HEAVEN”
Luke 10:18; cf. Isaiah 14:12; Ed. note in parenthesis.

In one of Daniel’s visions, he saw a fallen angel that appeared as a male goat who became more and more powerful until he reached the point he was able to defeat many other angels. In fact, one scripture that follows indicates that a third of all angels may have been removed by the deceptions of this fallen angel (Rev. 12:9).

And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, **without touching the ground**; and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes (Dan. 8:5; emphasis added).

The male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven. ⁹And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land. ¹⁰And **it grew up to the host of heaven and it cast down some**

of the host and some of the stars (angels; cf. Rev. 1:20b) **to the ground, and trampled them** (Dan. 8:8-10; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. **⁴His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth...** (Rev. 12:3-4a; emphasis added).

It appears that Satan will attempt to fulfill his plan as described in Isaiah 14:13-14, but now he will have an army to support his goal of complete domination in both the spirit realm and physical realm. Presumably this army will consist of the "conscripted one third" of the fallen angels, but Michael and the loyal angels will defeat them.

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and **the dragon and his angels fought,** **⁸but they did not prevail,** nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. **⁹So 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** (Rev. 12:7-9; emphasis added).

At some point in time, following this defeat, Satan will be bound for a thousand years.

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. **²He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years** (Rev. 20:1-2).

It is important to note that between the time of his defeat by Michael, and being bound for a thousand years, Satan is still capable of causing serious problems, especially for those who are

obeying the law and commandments of God (Rev. 12:13-17). It has been assumed by many that the following section of scripture is referring to a human leader, but that is unlikely. Instead, the individual in question is Satan himself, and the scenario being described will take place in the spirit realm.

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to him, we ask you, **²not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of the Lord had come. ³Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin (lawlessness) is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God showing himself that he is God** (2Thes. 2:1-4; cf. Isa.14:13-15; emphasis added).

Finally, this originator of war will wage his last battle and be defeated by God.

Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison **⁸and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. ⁹They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰And the devil, who deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet were cast...** (Rev. 20:7-10a).

This final battle is also described in the 38th and 39th chapters of Ezekiel, and it will take seven months to bury the dead.

It will come to pass in that day that I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travelers, because there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore they will call it the Valley of Hamon Gog (Multitude of Gog).¹²For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land (Eze. 39:11-12; Ed. note in parenthesis).

According to the following prophecy, the spirit-being that used to be Satan will not be buried along with this huge army.

You (Satan) will not be joined with them in burial, because you have destroyed your land and slain your people... (Isa. 14:20a; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Instead the corpse of Satan will be seen, by the travelers mentioned previously in Ezekiel 39:11, for a period of time.

Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: "Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms. ¹⁷Who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners (both human and fallen angels)?" (Isa. 14:16-17; Ed. note in parenthesis).

After being seen for a period of time, Satan's corpse will be consumed by "fire" and he will become like ashes under the feet of those he kept as his prisoners (Isa. 14:17).

And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone... (Rev. 20:10a).

You shall trample the wicked, for **they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet**... (Mal. 4:3a; cf. Rom. 16:20; emphasis added).

For He brings down those who dwell on high, the lofty city; He lays it low, He lays it to the ground, **He brings it down to the dust.** ⁶**The foot shall tread it down – the feet of the poor and the steps of the needy** (Isa. 26:5-6; cf. 40:23-24; emphasis added).

From this point onward no one will learn the so-called "art of war".

He (Christ) shall judge between nations, and shall 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** (Isa. 2:4; cf. Mic. 4:3; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

So many have suffered and died as a result of warfare from the beginning of man's history. The first recorded death appears to be related to a "religious" argument between two brothers. Therefore, it could be regarded as the first "religious-civil conflict". From the brief account of events, Abel understood what was required according to God's law regarding animal sacrifices, but Cain had an issue with Abel's "interpretation" (see study: Abel observed God's Appointed Festival). When Abel's offering was accepted by the Lord, that was the "last straw" for Cain.

Now Cain said to his brother *let us go out to the field*; (italic quoted from LXX; Syr., Vg.), and it came to pass when they were in the field, that Cain rose against Abel his brother and killed him (Gen. 4:8; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Jesus Christ confirmed that this was a murder related to religion, and it could not have occurred without anger, jealousy, envy, greed, and other factors being involved (Gen. 4:6-7).

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and

adorn the monuments of the righteous,³⁰ and say, "if we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets."³¹ Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets (Mt. 23:29-31).

Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city.³⁵ that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, **from the blood of righteous Abel** to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar (Mt. 23:34-35; emphasis added).

So many wars and so many murderers have been committed in the name of religion, and the common denominator is the carnal minded attitude of Satan who is more cunning than any other living being (Gen. 3:1; cf. 2Cor. 11:13-15; Rev. 12:9). He has managed to convince the vast majority of mankind, as well as many angels, that his way of reasoning is better than Almighty God's. Consequently, he has become "the father" of everyone who accepts his values as being "normal" or "reasonable", including waging "justifiable wars".

You (religious leaders) 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 (Jn. 8:44; Ed. note in parenthesis).

As mentioned previously, "the war to end all wars" will not occur until the end of Christ's millennial rule of this planet, when Satan is released from his prison for a "little while" (Rev.

20:1-3; 7-10). Between now and Satan being restrained, there will be wars and rumors of wars as Christ stated in Matthew 24:6-7. The fact that there will be peace on this planet during the thousand years that Satan is in prison, is proof positive that he alone is "the god of war." When Satan's value system is exposed for its self-serving objectives, there will be no more murders or wars. At this future time, there will be no mourning related to violence, murder, or warfare.



**YOU SHALL TRAMPLE THE WICKED,
FOR THEY SHALL BE ASHES UNDER
THE SOLES OF YOUR FEET...**

Malachi 4:3a; cf. Romans 16:20; emphasis added.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, no sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away (Rev. 21:4).

Until this occurs, God's true servants are to continue praying, "thy kingdom come, (so that) Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

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