

Satan's Removal and the Sabbath Rest

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In an interview on CNN, Ted Turner suggested that soon, war may be a thing of the past, and that countries like Germany and France will never fight again. This scenario is nice to imagine but is it a reality given the fact that mankind has never experienced an extended period of time in its history without an outbreak of war somewhere on the earth (see study: Peace)?

According to God's word, there is a cause for every effect. In other words, if war occurs there is a reason that contributed to it.

Where do wars (battles) and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members (inner thoughts)? You lust and do not have (happiness). You murder and covet and cannot obtain (are never satisfied). You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. (When) you ask and do not receive, (it is) because you ask amiss (for the wrong reason or motive), that you spend it on your pleasures (Jas. 4:1-3; NKJV throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The main instigator behind warfare is also the originator of it. War did not exist anywhere in the universe until the rebellion of Lucifer, who is now known as Satan.

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer (Heb. 1966, Helel: Shining one or Day Star), son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground (picturing Satan's future judgment), you who weakened the nations (starting with those in the spirit realm)! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars (symbol of angels; cf. Rev. 1:20) of God; I will also sit on the mount of the

congregation on the farthest sides of the north (location of Almighty God's throne); I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High' (Isa. 14:12-14; cf. Eze. 28:15-17; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The intent of Satan's rebellion was to replace the Most High God, and he waged war in an attempt to accomplish this goal. Thankfully, he failed and now awaits judgment at a future resurrection from the dead (cf. Eze. 28:18; Rom. 16:20). In the meantime, he is able to influence anyone who will give credence to his rebellious attitudes. This barrage from the Adversary will continue until he is removed from his position as "god of this present evil age."

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing (because they will share in the same judgment as their father who is Satan; cf. Jn. 8:44), whose minds the god of this age (Satan) has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image (likeness in mind and purpose) of God, should shine on them (2Cor. 4:3-4; cf. Gal. 1:4; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Jesus Christ will be in charge of Satan's removal and when this is accomplished the earth will begin to experience a period of peace that will last 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 (symbolizing restraint for a spirit-being). He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while (Rev. 20:1-3; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The apostle Paul referred to this rest from war and other evil activities in the context of a

Sabbath rest. Ultimately, this Sabbath rest will not be fulfilled until the completion of all the events associated with the second resurrection (cf. Rev. 20:4-6).

For He (God) has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: 'And God rested on the seventh day from all His works'; and again in this place: 'They (ancient Israel and all who have refused to repent of sin) shall not enter My rest.' (Heb. 4:4-5; Ed. notes in parentheses).

During the First Covenant period, God patiently endured insult and rebellion from the very people He had set apart to be His witness to the world (Dt. 4:6-8; 7:6). Ancient Israel was to be a showcase nation proving, beyond any doubt, that obedience to God's every command eventually brings peace, prosperity and happiness. Because they refused to repent of living contrary to His Word, God removed them from the Promised Land. This Promised Land was meant to provide rest from the bondage that ancient Israel experienced as slaves in Egypt. Unfortunately, they continued to embrace the religious customs of Egypt rather than observing God's commands, which included resting on weekly Sabbaths, New Moons, annual Holy Days, every seventh year (sabbatical year), and during the Jubilee year (50th year). Eventually, God removed them from the land and only then could it rest as originally intended.

I will scatter you (ancient Israel) among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste. Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths as long as it lies desolate and you are in your enemies' land; then the land shall rest and enjoy its Sabbaths. As long as it lies desolate it shall rest – for the time it did not rest on your Sabbaths when you dwelt in it (Lev. 26:33-35; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The Promised Land did not have rest, in a spiritual sense, because of the sinful behavior of its inhabitants. The primary reason that ancient

Israel persisted in breaking God's Sabbaths was due to Satan's influence and this is pictured symbolically on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:1-34). Because the majority of mankind does not recognize that this Holy Sabbath Day is to be observed today, they cannot understand the serious reality it pictures.

But the goat, on which the lot fell for Azazel (Satan), shall be presented alive toward the



**YOUR (GOD'S) KINGDOM COME.
YOUR WILL BE DONE (INSTEAD OF
SATAN'S), ON EARTH AS IT IS IN
HEAVEN.**

Matthew 6:10; Ed. Notes in parenthesis

presence of the LORD, to provide atonement upon him, to send him to Azazel into the wilderness (symbolic of the bottomless pit; cf. Rev. 20:1-3) (Lev. 16:10; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Until this aspect of the Day of Atonement is fulfilled, this planet will not experience any lasting peace. Also the lawless behavior of its inhabitants will continue to get worse and not better, despite those who believe otherwise. Just as God took the nation of ancient Israel "off the land" because of their sinful behavior, so Jesus Christ will take Satan "off the land," figuratively speaking, so that everyone who remains after Christ's return can begin to enjoy the fruits of living in accordance with every word of God, without any interference from the Adversary. Then and only then will there be peace and rest on earth (cf. Isa. 2:1-4; Mt. 4:4).

For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me, says the Lord, so shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon (another of God's commanded Holy Days) to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before

Me, says the Lord (Isa. 66:22-23; Ed. note in parenthesis).

And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles (another of God's commanded Holy Days) (Zec. 14:16ff; Ed. note in parenthesis).

It is no coincidence that Christ directed worshippers to ask Almighty God to bring His Kingdom to this earth because it's not here right now. Instead, everyone on this earth is under the influence of the Adversary whether they realize it or not (cf. Rev. 12:9).

Your (God's) kingdom come. Your will be done (instead of Satan's) on earth as it is in heaven (Mt. 6:10; Ed. notes in parenthesis).

Not only will war cease after Christ figuratively "moves Satan off the land," all the other heartaches associated with his evil way of living will be gone including mass murders, assassinations, kidnappings, rape, multiple forms of sexual perversion, etc. In describing the conduct of the ancient nation of Israel, the prophet Ezekiel aptly described where our societies are heading today.

Make a chain, for the land is filled with crimes of blood (and there were no guns available at this time in history), and the city is full of violence (Eze. 7:23; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Then He (God) said to me, 'Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed, they put the branch to their nose (Eze. 8:17; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Today, most of our world "puts the branch to their nose" by ignoring the word of God and we are paying the price. So the optimism expressed by people like Ted Turner is unrealistic, given the fact we (this world) have chosen to walk contrary to Almighty God and His word. As a consequence, mankind ignorantly follows the Adversary (cf. 1Kgs. 18:21).

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