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**United  
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## TODAY'S WAR ON PLANET EARTH

By Evelyn Christenson

Billy Graham in his Indianapolis Crusade must have shocked his audience when he emphatically stated: “There is a great war going on in our world today!”

**Who declared this war?** Are you, too, wondering what country Billy meant had declared war? China? Russia? Japan? some Arab country? the United States? The news media keeps us abreast of the continuous outbreaks of battles at various spots on the earth, but a war great enough to encompass the whole earth? Yes. And it was God the Father who declared it.

In the Garden of Eden when the serpent Satan tempted Eve and she gave to her husband Adam, they both sinned by disobeying God and falling for Satan's temptation to sin. We then read this astounding declaration by the God of the Universe:

*“And the Lord God said to the serpent, because you have done this, cursed are you...And I (God) will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed (Jesus). And He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel.”*  
Genesis 3:14-15

**But who caused this war between good and evil?** Our God of love? Oh no! Ezekiel tells us it was the wisest and most beautiful angel named Lucifer who was occupying a place of high authority in heaven who started it all. *“You were blameless from the day you were created...until unrighteousness was found in you...and you sinned.”*  
Ezekiel 28:15-17

How sin got into the holy presence of God originally is an unanswerable question. But God, who was the sovereign creator and Satan just one of His created beings, threw Satan out of His holy heaven with the then-fallen angels Satan had marshaled around himself.

Then Satan, smarting from his defeat by God, retaliated by tempting the only two existing inhabitants of Earth, Adam

and Eve, to sin also. Satan plundered God's perfect environment of the Garden of Eden—and its occupants fell, taking all of future mankind into condemnation with them.

*“So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men.”* Romans 5:18

This universal condemnation produced the greatest, longest and most devastating war Planet Earth ever has seen—with every human still on one side or the other.

**Two kingdoms established.** On that disastrous day, although everything on earth had been declared “good” by God at creation, it all changed. Sin had produced two diametrically opposed spiritual kingdoms on Planet Earth— God's and Satan's. Kingdoms of light and darkness. Kingdoms of good and evil.

So Satan, having been cast out of heaven for his own sin against God, pitted himself against the Lord for the allegiance of, not only those first two human beings, but all humans by keeping them in his kingdom yet today.

Yes, this is a global war declared by God, and it directly influences every single human being on Planet Earth.

**Unseen War.** Billy Graham explained that this great war is an unseen war—because it is between spiritual forces. Ephesians 6:10-12 explains it like this:

*“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*

However, the only way we can know this universal war is raging is to see the ravages of it. Only the spoils and victories of both sides validate its existence.

**An escalating war.** Bringing up to date my Battling the Prince of Darkness book, I was horrified to see how since I wrote it ten years ago evil has escalated in our own country. Here are just a very few examples of where we are today:

The U.S.A. Census 2000 figures show that households headed by unmarried partners grew by almost 72%, most of them living together out of wedlock. For the first time ever, the ordinary nuclear families dropped below 25% in America. Co-habitation has increased by 1,000% from 1960 to 1998. We are the leader in percentage of single parents among all industrialized nations. Healthcare providers are finding a dramatic increase of oral herpes and gonorrhea of the throat in teens and some in middle schoolers—not believing oral sex is sex. High school students shooting other students. Children raping children. A president lying under oath. And the news media yelling “separation of church and state” when our current president prayed with a foreign dignitary in his private office—but were silent at the previous sexual escapades there. When the Ku Klux Klan holds rallies with the Neo Nazis shouting unprintable condemnation of blacks and Jews. Computer pornography accessible to all ages. The remaking of our nation’s, and the world’s, history to fit their own purposes. The escalating list of evil in the last ten years is endless.

**However, this is the only on-going war that already has been won.** Different than all other earthly wars, there can be no surprise ending to this war. No sneak attack of the enemy can reverse the seemingly obvious outcome. Why? Because God also established the solution to and final outcome of this war before the world began.

After God the Father had accomplished all He purposed to do in Old Testament times, Galatians 4:4 tell us, “*But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son.*” And the first recorded words Jesus preached were “*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.*” Mark 1:15

The Bible clearly says:

*“The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”* I John 3:8

Satan desperately tried to thwart this from happening by offering the kingdoms of the world to Jesus at His temptation, thus keeping Jesus from defeating him on the cross. Matthew 4:8-10 tells us, “*Again, the devil took Him (Jesus) to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; and he (Satan) said to Him, ‘All these things will I give You if You fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Begone, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’”* Although Jesus knew this was a legitimate offer since all the kingdoms of the world had fallen into Satan’s clutches in the Garden of Eden, He chose rather to die to buy us back—redeeming mankind from Satan.

So, on the cross when Jesus cried, “*It is finished!*” what was “it” that was finished? Ephesians 1:7 tells us, “*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our*

*trespasses.*” Jesus defeated Satan by personally paying for all the condemnation and sin Satan brought to Planet Earth.

Why did Jesus do this? It was all about the two kingdoms—so that condemned people could be transferred out of Satan’s kingdom into His kingdom of light.

**The only way we can win in this war now on Planet Earth is by God transferring citizens from Satan’s kingdom to His Son’s.** Jesus told Nicodemus, “*Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*” John 3:3

Born again—so they would no longer be condemned in Satan’s kingdom: “*For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged, he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*” John 3:17-18

Jesus clearly explained these two kingdoms to Saul when He appeared to him after ascending back to heaven saying, “*For this purpose I have appeared to you...to open their eyes so that they (Jews and Gentiles) may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive the forgiveness of sins...*” Acts 26:16-18. (See also Colossians 1:12-14.)

That was for the here and now. But the final redemption and victory is still to come. Jesus concluded His Acts 26 instructions to Saul by saying the final result of being transferred from Satan’s kingdom to God’s was: “*and (that they may receive) an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.*” Heaven for eternity!

At the two ends of this war God provided a paradise—the Garden of Eden for mankind before they fell—and eternity with Him for those transferred to Jesus’ kingdom by believing in Him.

**Why don’t people put the two spiritual kingdoms together and make Earth a paradise right here and now?**

It isn’t that people haven’t tried—with peace accords, unworkable human reconciliation pacts, and suggesting the major religions join sides to create a majority that could rule the outsiders. But, according to Ephesians 2, the only putting to death of the enmity, the war, is the reconciling both sides in one body to God through the cross of Jesus.

**Where are we in God’s timetable for this war on Planet Earth? When will this war end? When Jesus comes back to Planet Earth!**

But are you asking: When will He come? People through the ages have calculated and speculated about the date of Jesus’ return. However, Jesus, while telling the disciples what signs to look for, told them the most important sign of all—the universal proclamation of His kingdom:

*“And the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come.”* Matthew 24:14

Jesus continued saying in verses 30-31, “*And then the sign of the Son of Man shall appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.*”

**Is there hope?** Oh yes. Because God called Christians from all over the world with the same goal of reaching the whole unreached world with Jesus’ gospel of the kingdom, they ormed A.D. 2000 and Beyond. Now just over ten years later, the cooperating religious radio broadcasters are transmitting to virtually every spot in the world. The translation of at least a part of the Bible is complete in almost all languages. At Billy Graham’s Amsterdam conference, the remaining 253 unreached people groups were taken up by differing mission agencies. The 10/40 Window included 40 million people praying daily for the unreached countries for a month each year. The end is in sight!

The proof of this being accomplished is an incredible Revelation 4:9-10 song sung in heaven when no one was worthy to open the sealed book until the Lamb (Jesus) took it from the Father’s hand. Then the living creatures and the elders fell down before the Lamb, Jesus, saying:

*“Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and nation. And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God. And they will reign upon the earth.”*

The camera caught the President looking down at Evelyn’s book as he said, “I’m deeply honored,” and Evelyn responded, “No, sir, I am the one who is deeply honored.” This was the warm, welcoming exchange as Evelyn presented her book A Journey Into Prayer to the President at the White House on the National Day of Prayer.

Evelyn also gave one of her books, a copy of *What Happens When Women Pray*, to Mrs. Bush. Lovely thank you notes to Evelyn from both the President and his wife have been received.

The 50th annual National Day of Prayer included a special invitation to the members of the National Prayer Committee (on which Evelyn has served for more than 25 years) and other national Christian leaders to a private presidential reception in the White House. Evelyn was thrilled to hear the President tell the leadership how he depended on the power of prayer and Bible reading to begin every morning.

Shirley Dobson, chairman of the National Day of Prayer, expressed gratitude to the President at the reception by stating: “Prayer is very much a part of our country’s spiritual heritage, and we really appreciate your help in focusing America’s attention on the importance of this celebration.”

Then joining them (versus 11-14) were thousands and thousands of angels saying with a loud voice: “*Worthy is the Lamb which was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.*” Suddenly they were joined by every created thing in heaven, on the earth, under the earth and on and in the sea praising Jesus too. Why? Because the war was over. The kingdom from every tribe and tongue and nation was there. Jesus had culminated the war He won on the cross.

And while the worshipping and praising goes on forever and ever in Jesus’ kingdom, the Bible records the final fate of the leader and those in the kingdom of Satan: “*And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever...and if anyone’s name (humans) was not written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*” Revelation 20:10, 15

**The duration of this horrendous war is up to us.** As soon as we Christians have reached every tongue and tribe and nation on Planet Earth with Jesus’ gospel of the kingdom from our own cities to the uttermost parts of the earth—Jesus’ predicted end will come!

We’re almost there. Let’s not give up now. Remember we are Satan’s enemy much more than he is ours. **And the duration of the war is up to us.**

(For further victory praying, refer to Evelyn’s book Battling the Prince of Darkness.)



*President George W. Bush and Evelyn Christenson  
National Day of Prayer  
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