

## Searching the Scriptures / 56 / War And Peace / Part 1

In our study we want to look at the subject of war and peace in the Bible in the light of the following three aspects:

1. Mutual Warfare
2. What Does Man Strive For?
3. Only God Can End the Warfare

### Mutual Warfare

There is warfare between God and all mankind that started in the Garden of Eden as a result of Adam’s sin; and because man is at war with His Maker, he is also at war with other men. Our sinful Adamic nature, with which every human being is born, is described in Jam 4:2, “*Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*” Man’s rebellion against God and hatred for Him drives him to foolishly think that he can fight against God and win, as explained in Psa 2:1-5: “*Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.*” They fail to consider the futility of their efforts, the magnitude of their sin, and the eternal, infinite, holy God with whom they have to deal face to face one day. God derides man’s foolish pride because man refuses to acknowledge the awesome Creator and Judge of this universe, who both hates and will judge sin and sinner alike, as Deu 32:39-42 decrees, “*See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand. For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever. If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me.*” Yet, in the midst of judgment there is a ray of hope, a glimmer of mercy, as we read further in verse 43: “*Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people.*” In our last section, we will take a closer look at the wonderful peace that God grants to His people.

### What Does Man Strive For?

The real desire of man is to achieve the maximum level of economic prosperity, physical well-being, and political freedom in order to satisfy “*the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life...*” according to 1 John 2:16, which is “*not of the Father, but is of the world.*” Notice also the warning in verse 17: “*And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*” The book of Ecclesiastes has much to say about this striving after “*wind*”, or vanity (Ecc 5:16). Consider the admonition of Ecc 2:11, “*Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.*” Furthermore, Ecc 11:9 declares, “*Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.*”

### **Only God Can End the Warfare**

Isa 40:2 beautifully describes the salvation that God accomplishes when He brings to an end the warfare that previously existed between man and God: *“Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem [the elect], and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned...”* Rom 10:15 announces that this peace is found in the Gospel of the Bible: *“And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”* What are the “glad tidings”? It is that which we saw previously in Isa 40:2, *“... warfare is accomplished... iniquity is pardoned.”* How did this take place? We learn from Eph 2:14-15 that this is the work of the Lord Jesus: *“For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace...”* The Gospel of the Lord Jesus is for all people. It’s for those who profess an external Christianity as well as for those who hail from cultures steeped in their own special kind of ritualism. God is no respecter of persons, as we see from Rev 7:9, *“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands...”*