The Great Controversy: The Foundation

"The Great Controversy: The Foundation" | October 6, 2012 | Order Info

Text: Genesis 3:15; Revelation 12:1-17; Isaiah 14:4-21; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 1:20-28; John 16:2.

This week’s lesson looks at the “great controversy” as a foundation for all Bible doctrine. It is interesting to look at a definition of “war” to deepen our understanding of this cosmic conflict.

Wiki defines war as:

“[A]n organized, armed, and, often, a prolonged conflict that is carried on between states, nations, or other parties typified by extreme aggression, social disruption, and usually high mortality. War should be understood as an actual, intentional and widespread armed conflict between political communities, and therefore is defined as a form of political violence. An absence of war (and other violence) is usually called peace.”

The history of war on our planet, according to sociologists, goes back a long ways. Conway Henderson states, “One source claims 14,500 wars have taken place between 3500 BC and the late 20th century, costing 3.5 billion lives, leaving only 300 years of peace.” Lawrence H. Keeley, a professor at the University of Illinois holds that approximately 90-95% of known societies through history engaged in at least occasional warfare, and many fought constantly. It seems since the end of World War II (a war that took more lives than any other war in history) most nations have counted the financial cost of war and decided a world war wouldn’t be worth it. Although Mao Zedong has urged the socialist camp not to be afraid of nuclear war with the United States, even if “half of mankind died, the other half would remain while imperialism would be razed to the ground and the whole world would become socialist.”
But what are the effects of war? Richard Gabriel in *No More Heroes* has written, “Nations customarily measure the ‘costs of war’ in dollars, lost production, or the number of soldiers killed or wounded. Rarely do military establishments attempt to measure the costs of war in terms of individual human suffering. Psychiatric breakdown remains one of the most costly items of war when expressed in human terms.” He goes on to say, “In every war in which American soldiers have fought in, the chances of becoming a psychiatric casualty – of being debilitated for some period of time – were greater than the chances of being killed by enemy fire.”

The foundation for understanding human history goes back beyond dusty books and manuscripts; it reaches beyond archaeological discoveries of ancient mass graves of people being murdered. We look to a war that began in heaven between Lucifer (who became Satan, the enemy) and Christ. The backdrop of this conflict provides the template on which all of the doctrines of Scripture point. Christ came to our earth to redeem people from the curse of sin. Jesus and Satan are at war over our lives. The battle is intense. Sides are being chosen. It will soon end. Are you daily choosing to be on the side of Christ?

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1. Wikipedia

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