

Questions Posed for Study

Question: If God is a being of love, why is there is so much warfare in the Bible?

Intro: There are many folks in the world who are looking for reason to not believe that God exists. And today we have one of those areas both in Scripture and a sentiment among the lost of the world. Even professing Christians (CRINO's – Christian in name only), who have a difficult time reconciling a God of love with so much mention of war in the Bible, or even with so much war in the world. Why would a loving God prescribe such events in the historical record of the Bible or in the world? And so, many simply ignore the issue because in the weaknesses of their mind, they can't reconcile a God of love allowing wars to rage, or even command war, and there is an answer, so the question before us today is:

“If God is, as the Bible describes Him, a God of love, then why so much warfare recorded in the Bible?”

Prayer

I. Before the Bible was Written – **Isaiah 14:12 – 15.**

- A. In heaven, even the angels have _____ to either rebel or remain faithful to God.
 - 1. Satan for all his beauty and prestige in heaven allowed his _____ to best him.
 - a. There are 5 “ _____ ” statements found in **Isaiah 14:12 – 14.**
 - b. Those two simple words describe what is at the _____ of all sin.
 - c. It is the determination to do our _____ will rather than the will of God.
 - d. Satan was created by God to serve a specific _____ before God & God's creation. Satan wanted more than the purpose for which God created him.
 - e. In fact, Satan wanted to rule over God and take control of all of God's creation.
 - 2. **Ezekiel 28:11 – 20** gives another word picture of Satan prior to & in his fall.
 - a. We see here and elsewhere in Scripture that Satan was _____ to take over God's creation by any means possible.
 - b. From this text, war is being waged _____ God and the righteousness of God.
 - c. Satan uses lies as a weapon – **John 8:44** – Satan is a murderer & a liar, it is his character, he has no other character. **II Corinthians 4:4.**
 - d. He is treacherous and full of guile – **II Corinthians 11:13 – 14**, an imposter.

B. He was able to lead a great number of the heavenly host to rebel with him – **Rev. 12:4.**

II. Answers from the Bible.

A. The Bible doesn't _____ aware from depicting God as a warrior or in favor of war.

1. The obvious understanding is, that were it not for _____, war would be unnecessary!
2. **Exodus 15:3; 17:14 – 16 & Revelation 19:11** with so many other passages prove that God is not going to _____ idly by and let sin, Satan and the lost rule over His creation.

B. God has a purpose for why He created the heavenly host & man.

1. The heavenly host is there for to _____ Him – **Isaiah 6:1 – 6 & Revelation 4:8 -11.**
2. The battle is between what is right & wrong; moral & immoral, holy & unholy.

C. God does not have to _____ why He does what He does or chooses to do.

1. **Isaiah 45:21 & 22;** God has purposed a creation free of sin. **Isaiah 11:6 – 9 & 65:25.**
2. Compare this to Satan's _____ – **Genesis 6:4 – 8 & Revelation 13:1 – 8.**
3. What we need to do, is to be more studious in our study of God's Word – **II Tim 2:15.**

D. So, if one feels the need to reconcile or understand God is love, but also a “man of war”, then:

1. Know first, that Satan has _____ war against God because Satan hates God and has made it a personal goal to oppose God in everything right & righteous, holy and moral.
2. Satan _____ the rebellion in heaven – **Isaiah 14:12 – 14, Ezekiel 18:11 – 20 and Revelation 12:7 – 8.**
3. Secondly, Satan has been permitted by God, to take over this world and establish a _____ of operation – **John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11 & Ephesians 2:1 – 3.**
4. As the “prince of this world”, Satan has been, is and continues to _____ this world as an enemy of God by blinding the lost to the Gospel of hope & salvation.
5. Thirdly, we have got to understand that every individual who has come to a saving faith in Christ, is _____ in this spiritual warfare.
 - a. **Ephesians 6:10 – 18.** Our equipment for this warfare as a _____.
 - b. **II Corinthians 10:3 – 6** – A simple statement of _____.

E. There is absolutely no conflict between God is love and the fact that He is a man of war.

1. God could have, and will one day put an end to Satan and those who choose to follow him. **Revelation 20:10.**
2. The testing of our faith is permitted by Satan **James 1:2 – 6.**
3. God will deal with sin and those who give themselves over to a perverted life-style as we read about in Genesis 6, whether it is a person or a nation of people who have given themselves over to absolute sinfulness – **Genesis 13:13 & 18:20.**