

The Struggles that Surround us - 9

This is totally your study. Nobody will be instructing you and nobody will be grading you. It will just be you, your Bible, these lessons, your own paper, and of course, the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you.

STRUGGLE	Wars & Conflicts
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The world is out of control but that is because the god of this world (the devil) is supervising things. However, God is still in control of the whole thing, allowing mankind to continue their evil foolishness.

1. The Bible does not hide the cruelty of war or its past or current existence. Match the statement with the verses.
 - a. "These kings went to war" _____ 1 Sam. 23:1-2
 - b. "Came & attacked the Israelites" _____ Exodus 17:8-9
 - c. "To fight against the Canaanites" _____ 1 Kings 15:32
 - d. "Go & attack the Philistines" _____ Genesis 14:1-4
 - e. "The war between Asa & Baasha" _____ Judges 1:1-3
2. Look at these word choices for war-related events. Match them.
 - a. "Famine" _____ Jer. 51:20-21
 - b. "Topple a Leader" _____ 2 Chr. 33:11
 - c. "Brother against brother" _____ 2 Kings 6:25
 - d. "Crush & Shatter" _____ Isaiah 19:2

It's not pretty; it's not humane; it doesn't even make sense most of the time.

3. Let's call attention to five causes for war. Match them.
 - a. Economic Gain _____ Our country is superior to yours. We will prove it by invading you.
 - b. Territorial Gain _____ Deep-seated roots of revenge for past faith-related differences, abuses, & control.
 - c. Religion _____ Protecting ourselves from being attacked, invaded or controlled by another country.
 - d. Nationalism _____ To take control of another country's money to expand their own wealth & power.
 - e. Defense _____ We need a larger country for living & farming, and to keep other nations farther away from us.

4. Write out Jeremiah 17:9. _____

5. Write out James 4:1. _____

Excuse me but we are sinful people. If we leave God totally out of our lives, then the wicked battles within us will affect the whole world. Look around. It is!!

6. Other Bible verses agree. How does man cause war?

- a. Matt. 15:19 _____
- b. 1 John 1:8 _____
- c. Proverbs 19:3 _____
- d. John 8:44 _____
- e. Psalm 51:5 _____
- f. Genesis 6:5 _____
- g. 1 John 3:4 _____
- h. Romans 7:18 _____
- i. Colossians 2:23 _____

Read Galatians 5:19-21 in the Message.

¹⁹⁻²¹ It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on.

I think we know why wars exist now. How do we handle these times of war. There are two situations: 1. You live in a war zone. 2. You read about the wars. I cannot understand the horror of war at all. Being afraid – being mad – being helpless – being damaged – how do you get your head around that. I can't fix anything. I am here. I'd better do something here.

- 7. Can I reach out to others to meet a need here? ___ Yes ___ No
- 8. Can I pray here for those living or fighting in wars? ___ Yes ___ No
- 9. Can I focus here on teaching growth to others? ___ Yes ___ No
- 10. Can I plant a FRUIT TREE in my yard? ___ Yes ___ No

²² But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control.

LORD, HELP ME WHILE THE TIME IS SHORT- WHILE PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING THERE, I WILL PURSUE PEACE IN THE LIVES OF EVERYONE I KNOW HERE.