

God Is Warlike

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God is warlike (Exodus 15:3; Isaiah 51:15).

God is peaceful (Romans 15:33; 1Corinthians 14:33).

It is important, when making an accusation against someone, that the facts are correct and can be verified. If the accusation is untruthful or inaccurate, the claim is baseless and should not be taken seriously. The latter is the case regarding this apparent contradiction. Nonetheless, in order to expose the foolishness of this charge against Almighty God, a correct interpretation will be explored.

The claim that God is warlike is inaccurate based on the following definitions of the word “warlike,”

Belligerent; hostile (Reader’s Digest Illustrated Encyclopedic Dictionary).

Disposed towards or threatening war; hostile (Oxford Dictionary).

Fit for, disposed to, or fond of war; Bellicose – a warlike people (Webster’s Dictionary).

Almighty God is not belligerent, hostile, or fond of war. However, scripture refers to a god who is and the two should not be confused with each other. The god in the following scriptural reference actually initiated the first war, and it took place in the spirit realm,

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut to the ground, you who weakened the nations (beginning in the spirit realm prior to the time of human beings)!¹³For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars (symbol of angels) of God; I will also sit on the mount (symbol of government) of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north (location of God’s throne);¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High (Isa. 14:12-14; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses).

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon (symbol of Satan); and the dragon and his angels fought,⁸but they did not prevail (were not strong enough), nor was a place found for them (him) in heaven any longer (Rev. 12:7-8; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Because Satan was dissatisfied with his position, and the responsibilities that went with it, he decided to wage war against Almighty God. In the sense that God responded and banished Satan from direct contact with Him, He is metaphorically a ‘man of war’ as the following scripture states,

The Lord is a man of war; The Lord is his name (Ex. 15:3).

However, it would be more accurate to say that the 'Lord,' mentioned in the scripture above, who waged war against the Egyptians was the spirit-being who later became known as Jesus Christ,

Moreover, brethren, I (Paul) do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ²all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³all ate the same spiritual food (the law and commandments given by Christ to Israel on Mt. Sinai), ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For **they drank of that spiritual rock (spirit-being) that followed them, and that rock was Christ** (1Cor. 10:1-4; cf. Jn. 7:37-38; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Jesus Christ was the Angel of the Lord that brought Israel out of Egypt and then fought against the forces of Pharaoh and his army,

When we (ancient Israel) cried out to the Lord (Almighty), He heard our voice and sent the Angel and brought us up out of Egypt ... (Nu. 20:16a; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: 'I led you up from Egypt, and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you' (Jgs. 2:1).

It is no coincidence that the "Lord" mentioned in Exodus 15:3 is the same spirit-being who fought against Pharaoh because Pharaoh was a "type" of Satan, while his army was a "type" of the fallen host (cf. Rev. 12:4, 7-9). This entire scene is prophetic because it will happen again in the future and will be associated with the return of Jesus Christ, and he will free the spiritual nation of Israel at that time (cf. 1Pet. 2:5, 9). The Angel of the Lord (Christ) delivered a physical nation that was held captive as slaves in Egypt. In the future, Christ will return to deliver a spiritual nation that has been held prisoner because they have been forced to operate within a hostile environment that is manipulated by Satan (cf. 2Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; Rev. 12:9),

Those who see you (Satan at a future time) will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: 'Is this the man (cf. Mal. 4:3; Rom. 16:20) ¹⁷who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, **who did not open (would not release) the house of his prisoners?**' (Isa. 14:16-17; cf. 2Pet. 2:7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Although Jesus Christ sits at his Father's right hand in heaven, he still holds the title, 'Commander of the army of the Lord,' and he will use this position and power to defeat and then restrain Satan at some point in the future,

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, 'Are You for us or for our adversaries?' ¹⁴So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" ¹⁵Then the Commander of the LORD's army said

to Joshua, 'Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.' And Joshua did so (Jos. 5:13-15; cf. Mt. 26:53; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Then I (John) saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit (cf. Rev. 3:7) and a great chain in his hand. ²He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years (Rev. 20:1-2; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Almighty God is not warlike, but He will respond to attacks from those who rebel against His law and commandments. Jesus Christ is the spirit-being who leads God's army against all the attacks that come from Satan and the fallen host. Eventually Christ will put down all rebellious authorities (cf. Eph. 6:12) and once this is accomplished he will hand this kingdom, now completely and willingly subject to God's law and commandments, back to his Father in heaven,

Now when all things are made subject to Him (Almighty God), then the son himself (Jesus Christ) will also be subject to Him (Almighty God) who put all things under him (Christ), that God may be all in all (1Cor. 15:28; Ed. notes in parentheses).

It is only at this point in time that the following prophecy will be fulfilled. Until this occurs, Almighty God is prepared for war because Satan is still actively working to create havoc at any opportunity (cf. 1Pet. 5:8),

He (Christ with the authority of his Father) shall judge between the nations, and shall rebuke many people (including Satan and the fallen host); they shall beat their swords (symbols of warfare) into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks (knives); nation shall not lift up sword against nation (in either the physical or spiritual realm), **neither shall they learn war anymore** (Isa. 2:4; cf. Mic. 4:3; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Almighty God is not warlike, but He will not stand by and do nothing when rebellion occurs in His kingdom. Once all His subjects have matured, spiritually speaking, they will have reached the point where they understand the connection between lasting peace and obedience to His law and commandments (see study: Peace). When this occurs there will be no war anywhere in God's kingdom.

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor. 11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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