

## The Conflict of the Ages

The span of human life on earth is epitomized by a person's taking sides either with good or evil. God is good. Satan is evil. We actively support one or the other side. *Neutrality is not part of the scenario.* To do nothing, to make no conscious choice, is to strengthen the side of evil. Jesus said: "*He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters*" (Luke 11:23).

When we lie, cheat and steal, when we live ungodly, unholy lives, we encourage Satan and support what he believes in, what he stands for. We are "for" the devil and "against" Jesus Christ. Our pious verbal profession means nothing; our behavior means everything. Our actions indicate whose side – God's or Satan's – we are aiding and abetting.

So, the struggle for souls (Kingdom of God) and for nations (Kingdom of Heaven) continues. Satan's defeat is assured. It's only a matter of time. *God's time.* God's direct and complete takeover of governments on earth is on schedule. (Read Psalm 2.) When the war between good and evil ends, God will rule the entire universe - fully and forever.

If Satan "...*knows that his time is short*" (Revelation 12:12) and that his defeat is imminent, why does he continue to fight a losing battle? Because, from his perspective, it is far from a losing battle. And he's right. He is the one "...*who leads the whole world astray*" (Revelation 12:9). Yes, he knows he is going to hell, but he's going to take as many human souls with him as he possibly can. The sad truth is, a lot of people will follow him. (See Luke 12:32; Matthew 7:13-14.)

Satan will not succeed in defeating his creator but, in the process, he will do a massive amount of irreparable damage. His greatest triumph will be his ability to deceive much of humanity. More people will believe his lies than will believe God's truth. But the Lord continues to give humans that choice, because he has given us a free will. However, that gift – a free will — carries with it responsibility, accountability, consequences.

Meanwhile, whenever God intervenes in human affairs, he does it for his own purposes. Whenever he allows Satan to take certain action, he does it for good reason. It is part of his celestial strategy.

As Christ's ambassadors, our primary occupation is with the Kingdom of God. Our secondary concern is the Kingdom of Heaven. Although God expects us to interact with human authority, it should not be at the expense of God's kingdoms and Christ's causes. First and foremost, I pledge allegiance to the King of kings and Lord of lords. ◇◇