

How do we fight in this conflict?

1. We let God work his holiness in and through us (Ezekiel 36:21-36).
2. We become witnesses and overcome through our testimony to what God has done (Revelation 12:11)
3. We submit to God and resist the evil one so that he will flee from us (James 4:7).
4. We bring others into God's kingdom (James 5:20).

Why can't we use force to win the battle?

Force is the enemy's way. God shows us his way and then allows us to exercise our will. Satan's methods are entrapment, accusation, and deceit.

We need to be careful to use only God's tools in fighting God's battles. Loving, honest, straight-forward, non-manipulative testimony is our best weapon.

What is the final result of the battle?

God's home is now with his people. He will live with them, and they will be his own. Yes, God will make his home among his people. ⁴He will wipe all tears from their eyes, and there will be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain. These things of the past are gone forever.
--Revelation 21:3 & 4

Where can I find more information on this cosmic conflict?

The book of Revelation reveals much of the conflict. Milton, the great poet who wrote *Paradise Lost* used the concept of the cosmic conflict. C. S. Lewis, in his science fiction trilogy (*Out of the Silent Planet*, *Perelandra*, *That Hideous Strength*) discusses many principles. While the background and narrative of these books is fictional, the principles on which they are based are those of the cosmic conflict in scripture.

A specifically Biblical outline is found in the second chapter of *Who's Afraid of the Old Testament God?* published by Energion Publications.

Pacesetters Bible School also publishes the following pamphlets that you may find useful:

- ✓ God's Good News for You!
- ✓ Prayer Scriptures for Prayer Warriors
- ✓ Self-Defense for Prayer Warriors
- ✓ Repentance and Rejoicing
- ✓ 7 Barriers to Hearing the Word
- ✓ 7 Kingdom Principles of Choice
- ✓ Offering Peace and Forgiveness
- ✓ Spiritual Warfare

Notes:

1. Many would argue that Satan and the serpent are not the same. Genesis makes no comment. But we can clearly see that the serpent acts as an adversary.
2. The KJV and NKJV read "angels" which follows the Greek Septuagint, but the NASB, NRSV, CEV and other modern versions provide a more accurate translation here.

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Cosmic Conflict

COSMIC CONFLICT

This made the dragon terribly angry with the woman. So it started a war against the rest of her children. They are the people who obey God and are faithful to what Jesus did and taught.

— *Revelation 12:17*

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What is Satan's fundamental accusation against God?

Satan (or the Adversary) accuses God of unfairness and of placing rules on humanity that are not really for our good. In the case of Job, Satan's accusation was that Job's faithfulness was solely due to the way in which God had blessed Job above and beyond others.

"Why shouldn't he respect you?" Satan remarked. "You are like a wall protecting not only him, but his entire family and all his property. You make him successful in whatever he does, and his flocks and herds are everywhere. Try taking away everything he owns, and he will curse you to your face." – Job 1:9-11

In the garden of Eden the suggestion of the adversary¹ was that God's rules were not for the best good of Adam and Eve, and that they should step beyond the command of God.

We often think that Satan's primary purpose is to tempt us and lead us into sin, and he certainly does that, but his primary role in scripture is as an accuser (Revelation 12:10).

Be on your guard and stay awake. Your enemy, the devil, is like a roaring lion, sneaking around to find someone to attack.
– 1 Peter 5:8

You will be my witnesses. – Acts 1:8

What we need to understand is that these principalities and powers are fighting over possession of people; of the human will. God created the will to be holy and to be in line with His will. The *spiritual* powers want to take over the *spiritual* territory of your spirit!

What has God done in this conflict?

God has made the clear demonstration through Jesus Christ of His justice and His love. He has also shown not only His love, but His respect for His creatures by allowing them to exercise their will either for Him or against Him.

In the death of Jesus we see the two sides of this conflict clearly displayed. Jesus goes to the cross and dies in order to bridge the gap between infinite God and finite man. One of the reasons Jesus had to die was so that he would experience all of human life as we know it, including its end in death.

We recognize that through His life and death that Jesus truly has experienced life as we know it.

In addition, by allowing himself to be subject for his lifetime to life under Satan's rules, He demonstrated exactly what Satan would do when presented with pure goodness in human form.

Jesus, in dying on the cross, announced to the universe that God was ready to experience death in order to provide life

We have a great high priest, who has gone into heaven, and he is Jesus the Son of God. That is why we must hold on to what we have said about him.¹⁵ Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin!¹⁶ So whenever we are in need, we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help.
– Hebrews 4:14-16

for His creatures. Satan showed that he was willing to kill even the source of life—God—in the person of Jesus, in order to further his own will and power.

Through the shedding of His blood, Jesus opened up to us the way to God. He closed the gap that we could not close.

Didn't Jesus know He was God and know he would rise again? Doesn't this mean He didn't experience life exactly as we do?

Jesus grew in wisdom and strength. So he also experienced growth and learning as we do. He certainly did know before He died what was to happen to Him, but we also both know that we will die, and we also know that we have eternal life in us through Him.

The nations will know that I am Yahweh when I show them my holiness through you. - Ezekiel 36:23