

**Stand Firm in Warfare:
The Call to Battle -The War to End All Wars
Eph 6:14-20 (Part 1)**

I. Introduction- Turn to Eph 6

A. Proposition: STAND FIRM in WARFARE

1. The CALL to PREPARE (6:10-13)

a) Your orders: Clothe Yourself!

Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God,

b) Your Objective: Stand firm

so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil

c) Your Enemy: Spiritual – Satan & his demons

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

d) Your Mission Statement: Resist and Stand firm

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

2. The CALL to FIGHT (6:14-20)

14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

3. Sounds like we're at WAR!

4. We've been carefully going through this passage!
5. Covered vv10-13 – Our Preparation for the Battle
6. Now we've got to fight!

B. But – who are we fighting and what war is this?

1. Obviously, it's SPIRITUAL WAR
2. And the passage tells us the DEVIL is the enemy
3. BUT – do you REALLY UNDERSTAND what this war is?

C. Tell you today about the Greatest War ever fought!

1. = The War to End ALL Wars
2. It is a real war that is going on right now.
3. In fact, it was the first war and it will be the last war.
4. It started all wars and it will end all wars.
5. This war will last almost as long as time itself will last.
6. It is a war being fought between the most powerful forces in the universe and it includes every human being.
7. That is why it is the 'war to end all wars'!

D. So, as we march in to battle – let's look at the war we are fighting in!

II. Before the War: In the Beginning

A. Creation of Angels

1. To tell this story I have to take you all the way back to the beginning of time
2. All the way back to when God created the heavens and the earth - on the very first day of creation.
3. On that day God created all the angels before He laid the foundation of the earth!

[Job 38:4](#) “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, 5 Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? 6 “On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

4. He actually breathed them into existence (Ps. 33:6).
[Ps 33:6](#) By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
And by the breath of His mouth all their host.
5. Instantly, there were myriads and myriads of angels!
6. God continued to create for five more days
 - a) at the end of six days, He had created everything.
 - b) God created heavens and earth
 - c) Including angels, man and woman, and all the animals.
7. At the end of the sixth day,
[Ge 1:31](#) God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.
8. He rested on the seventh day.

B. What are angels?

1. First of all, Angels are Spirits – not flesh and blood
2. Angels are immortal personal beings (Luke 20:36)
 - a) Same number today as when created!
3. Angels have all kinds of names!
 - a) Heavenly Host, host of heaven (Neh 9:6; 1 Kgs 22:19)
 - b) Sons of God (Gen 6)
 - c) Morning Stars (Job 1:6; 38:7)
 - d) Watchers (Daniel 4)
 - e) Ministering Spirits (Heb 1:14)
4. Angels have great wisdom (2 Sam. 14:17,20) and strength (Ps. 103:20).
5. Angels even have levels of importance, like ranks in the military (Col. 1:16).
 - a) Archangels, cherubim, seraphim, and others.
 - b) But, there is one particular angel, a cherubim angel (Eze. 28:14), I need to tell you about.
 - c) A cherubim angel covers and protects God's holiness, God's 'separateness,' from sin.

C. The Most Special Cherubim Angel

1. One of these cherubim-type angels that God created was so magnificent that God gave him a 'seal of perfection' and called him 'full of wisdom and perfect in beauty (Eze. 28:12).

[Eze 28:12](#) "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. [13](#) "You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. [14](#) "You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you *there*. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.

2. God called him the "anointed cherub" (V.14) and made him the highest ranking angel in God's presence.
3. His name was 'shining one' or 'morning star (Is. 14:12)' which became 'Lucifer' when the Bible was translated into Latin
4. = best-of-the-best angels, Lucifer,
5. started out his life in perfect goodness, like everything else God created.

III. The Adversary is established: The Fall of Satan

A. It was not long after creation that this anointed cherub angel, Lucifer, became proud about his perfection (Eze. 28:15-17).

[15](#) "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you. [16](#) "By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as

profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire.
17 “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you.
18 “By the multitude of your iniquities, In the unrighteousness of your trade You profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you.

B. His pride produced discontent with position (1 Tim. 3:6).

1 Ti 3:6 [Elder qualifications] *and* not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

1. He was not satisfied to just be the best of all the angels.
2. He wanted to be like God, the very God who had created him (Is. 14:12-13).

Is 14:12 “How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! 13 “But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14 ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ 15 “Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.

C. So, Lucifer led a revolt in heaven against God (Rev. 12:4) and convinced a third of all the angels to join him (Rev. 12:4).

Re 12:4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. ...

D. God cast Lucifer and his angels out of heaven and told him that he would put him into the Lake of Fire for all eternity:

[Is 14:15](#) “Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol,
To the recesses of the pit.

**E. When God cast him out of heaven he became
‘Satan,’= the adversary.**

F. So, that was how the ‘war to end all wars’ began!

IV. The War to End All Wars Begins

A. Satan’s first battle with God –after creation

**B. God created Adam and Eve and put them in the
Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:15).**

C. They were sinless like the angels.

**D. However, one day in the Garden, Satan appeared to
Eve through a serpent and deceived her into
sinning against God (Gen. 3:1-6).**

**E. One of the first things you must understand about
Satan is that he is a murderer and a liar (John 8:44).**

[Jn 8:44](#) “You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to
do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the
beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is
no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from
his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

**F. When he went into the Garden of Eden that day to
do battle with God, murdering and lying was exactly
what he had on his mind.**

**G. You see, God told Adam and Eve that there was
only one thing that they could not do.**

**H. They were not allowed to eat from the Tree of Life
(Gen. 2:17-18).**

**I. God said that if they did, they would die! So, what
did Satan do?**

**J. He came to Eve and challenged God’s command. Satan
lied to Eve by telling her that God was the liar:**

[Ge 3:3](#) but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.' ” [4](#) The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! [5](#) “For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

1. God's a liar – you will become like God – not DIE (exact opposite from truth).

K. Unfortunately, Eve listened to the liar, Satan, and so did Adam.

L. They ate the fruit and Satan watched them bring death into the world with their sin against God (Gen. 3:17-19).

M. That was Satan's first victory.

N. But, before that day was over, God told Satan, Adam and Eve that He would crush Satan when this war was over (Gen. 3:15).

[Ge 3:15](#) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

O. So, thus began the War to end all wars!

V. Profiling our Enemy: Satan & His Army

A. His names and titles describe his character.

B. 'Satan (Rev. 12:9)= common name. = adversary or accuser.

1. = of God, the holy angels, and Christians.

C. He continually accuses Christians of evil (Rev. 12:10)- attempt to bring God's judgment on them.

1. Jesus Christ is at the right hand of God to step in as the advocate of Christians and protects us from these accusations (1 John 2:1; Heb. 4:14-16).

D. 'The devil' is his other common name.

1. 'Devil' = one who slanders or one who trips up.
2. He slanders God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, the Bible, Christians and everything related to God.

E. He is also 'the old serpent (Rev. 12:9)' because he is crafty, subtle, sneaky, wily, deceitful and deceiving (2 Cor. 11:3).**F. A very graphic name of Satan is the 'great red dragon (Rev. 12:3,7,9).'**

1. This indicates his power and destructiveness.
2. He is a terrifying, destructive beast who is out to destroy.

G. He is also the 'roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:8).'

1. Do you know when lions roar?
2. Lions roar when they have their prey.
3. Lions do not roar when they are chasing their prey, or when their prey knows they are coming.
4. When a lion reaches his prey and is assured of victory, he roars before he devours.
5. By the time you hear Satan roaring, it is too late to escape. He captures you and devours you in sin!

H. Satan is also 'the evil one' (John 17:15) because he is pure evil.

1. He is never satisfied with his own evil, but desires that everyone is evil.

I. 'The Tempter' is another of his names because he entices men to do evil.**J. He is 'the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience (Eph. 2:2).**

[Eph 2:1](#) And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, [2](#) in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air,

of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

1. This means that he works evil in people who are not Christian.
2. Satan controls every person in this world who is not Christian, who does not follow Jesus Christ.

K. He has even more names than that!

1. Beelzebul, Abaddon, Belial, ...

L. But that is enough to show his character!

M. The Army of Satan

1. As I said before, when Satan sinned and God cast him out of heaven, he did not go alone.
2. He took with him a third of the angels of heaven (Rev. 12:4).
3. How many is one-third? I do not know!
4. Angels neither procreate nor die (Matt. 22:30) and
5. The number of God's angels is 'myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands (Rev. 5:11).
6. Satan's army of angels, i.e., demons, are highly organized

Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

7. Since the whole evil world lies in power of Satan – the evil one(1 John 5:19),
8. Therefore - he and his army control much of what occurs in the world.

VI. The Targets of Satan

A. God / Jesus Christ

1. "Jesus Christ was Satan's primary target in this war.
2. God's plan - defeat Satan through the work of His Son, Jesus Christ (Heb. 2:14-15).
[Heb 2:14](#) Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, [15](#) and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.
 - a) He would defeat Satan and He could then deliver those who chose to follow Him, out of the control of Satan and into His kingdom (Heb. 2:14-15; Col. 1:13).
3. Live a life without sin and then to die to pay God's price for sin by dying.
4. First, Satan unsuccessfully tried to destroy the line of ancestors the messianic line, leading to Jesus, so that His birth could not take place.
5. Satan worked through King Herod to issue a decree to find Jesus and kill Him (Matt. 2:16-18).
6. Satan tried to defeat Christ in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11).
 - a) He failed in the wilderness too.
7. After all of his strategies to defeat Jesus Christ failed, Satan used
 - a) Judas Iscariot (John 13:2,27),
 - b) Jewish leaders (John 11:49-50)
 - c) Romans (John 19:16) to put Jesus on cross to die.
8. Jesus successfully carried out His Father's plan and so, won the victory and defeated Satan (Jn 17)

9. When Jesus died, He went and proclaimed His victory over the demons (1 Peter 3:18–20), then rose from the dead and ascended into heaven.
10. “Even though Jesus Christ defeated Satan at the cross, God’s plan still allows him to operate in this world until Jesus Christ returns to earth.

B. Israel

1. He has continually tried to destroy the nation of Israel, knowing it is crucial to God’s eternal plan because of the promises God made to Abraham to make Israel a great and everlasting nation (Gen. 12:2; 17:7).
2. Israel’s history is a story of persecution and holocaust because of Satan.

C. Christians

1. Satan has attacked Christians for past 2000 years.
2. Satan hinders God’s servants
 - a) From carrying out their ministry (1 Thess. 2:18)
[1 Th 2:18](#) For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan hindered us.
 - b) Attempts to trap Christians in sin (1 Tim. 3:7).
[1 Ti 3:7](#) And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.
[Ac 5:3](#) But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land?
[1 Co 7:5](#) Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
 - c) Slanders God’s word (Gen 3:6)
 - d) Introduces Deceitful Doctrines:

[1 Ti 4:1](#) But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

3. Satan also brings vicious accusations against Christians to God in hopes that God will judge them (Rev. 12:10; Job 1:9-11).

[Re 12:10](#) Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

4. The battles of this war that are fought with Christians are spiritual warfare = Eph 6:10-20.
5. Every person on earth is involved in this war and is either in God’s army or Satan’s army.
6. God supplies His army of Christians with spiritual armor so that each person can withstand the attacks of Satan and his army as we are learning in Ephesians!(Eph. 6:10-20).
7. REMEMBER: Satan will flee a Christian who resists him while wearing spiritual armor (James 4:7)!

[Jas 4:7](#) Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

VII. The End of the War: The End of Satan

- A. Finally, a day will come in the future when Jesus Christ will return to earth and the war will end.**
- B. Christ’s return will begin a time of tribulation, a seven year period before Christ’s earthly kingdom begins.**
- C. This time of tribulation will see God unleash His judgment against the earth.**
- D. During this time, God will banish Satan from heaven and send him to earth (Rev. 12:7-9).**

Re 12:7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

E. The tribulation time will culminate in a battle between Satan and his armies and Jesus Christ and his armies in the plains near the Mt. Megiddo in Israel.

1. This is the battle called Armageddon.
2. Jesus Christ will come on a great white horse with His armies of angels in white riding white horses.

F. Jesus Christ will kill all of Satan's armies. Jesus will then rule on earth for 1000 years while Satan stays bound and sealed in the Abyss.

Re 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

G. At the end of the 1000 years, God will free Satan one last time to deceive the nations (Rev. 20:7-8).

1. Satan will once again gather an army, but fire will come out of heaven from God and devour them all!
2. God will cast Satan and all of those who followed him into the Lake of Fire for eternal punishment.
3. Jesus Christ will win the war that Satan started back in the beginning of time.

H. This war will end all wars because for all eternity thereafter, death and suffering will pass away and Jesus Christ will reign (Rev. 21:3-7) over all those have followed Him.”

[Re 21:3](#) And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, [4](#) and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” [5](#) And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.” [6](#) Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. [7](#) “He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

VIII. CONCLUSION