

The Concept of Global Combat in the Context of Christian Theology: Combatants, Armor, and Two Human Anatomic Combat Zones.

ABSTRACT

The agonizing global combat in every individual human being, spouses, family members, race, communities, tribes, ethnic groups, nations, religions, political parties, and various corporate institutions triggers lustful desires, divorce, depression, discrimination, health hazards, financial depletion, and suicide in diverse ways among other inhumane acts call for immediate attention of the entire human race. Unfortunately, conferences, seminars, workshops on reconciliation and peace at global, national, community, and family levels have never found the real cause of this global combat. This article unveils a detailed information about the cause of this combat, personalities involved in this combat, the initiator of this deadly combat, divine and devilish armors that are used in this war, and two human anatomic organs that are foundational combat zones being manipulated by Satan in his aggressive battle against humanity. Finally, the antidote to live a persistent and victorious Christian life in this global combat is recommended in this article.

INTRODUCTION

“What leads to strive (discord and feuds) and how do conflicts (quarrels and fightings) originate among you? Do they not arise from your sensual desires that are ever warring in your bodily members [anatomic organs]?” (James 4:1, AB). The human brain (mind) and the heart are two anatomic organs that the enemy manipulates for persistent battle. Hence, it is very incumbent for every person created in the image of God to understand the global combat, the divine and devilish armors in this wrestle, paramount combat zones in the human body and how to guard against the intruding enemy’s schemes, counterattack his ferocious weapons, and finally prevail over all works of the devil with divine armours for a perpetual victory in the global combat.

Since it is very inappropriate, ignorant and unproductive to put square pegs in round holes and vice versa so it is to seek for sound, peaceful and victorious life

without in-depth knowledge about the global combat, the combatants, various armors, and the foundational combat zones in the human anatomy. Peace and reconciliation meetings, round-table conferences, and workshops to minimize global war from families through local to international levels do yield very insignificant results because of sheer illiteracy about this fierce global war. Ignorance of the cause in one's daily battle with self and others, and how to live a triumphant life elicit horrible torture and torments, deep rooted melancholy, and extreme hopelessness.¹ Satan the crafty assailant hides behind the scene through deception. Charles H Kraft (a missionary and prolific author) narrates his ignorance and regret about this all-important subject and further gives insightful counsel to all human beings;

What can we do about evil spirits?" This is a burning question for the Nigerian leaders I was attempting to guide. But I, their missionary, knew virtually nothing [ignorant] about the subject. My three-volume seminary theology text book only had two references to Satan and none to demons. And that's about all I had learned about the enemy kingdom and its activities in spite of the prominence of that subject in Scripture. So my Nigerian friends were on their own. I couldn't help. But now, forty years later, God has led me into regular and frequent open conflict [counterattack] with demonic "rats" with the aim of setting captives free. I deeply regret that I didn't know in the late 1950's what I know now...That memory plus my present experience has led me to commit myself to raise this issue wherever possible in missiological circles in hopes that coming generations will be better able to deal with spiritual power than I was.²

GLOBAL COMBAT

Global combat is the cosmic battle between what God approves and what He disapproves (Is. 5:20)—the conflict between divine and devilish. Global combat is being waged in the spiritual realm and actualized in the physical.

¹ D Okai and P White, The Concept of Spiritual Warfare in Context of The Kingdom of God and its Missiological Implication, *The Journal of Applied Science, Arts and Theology*. Vol. 1, 2016, 3-8.

² C H Kraft, *Appropriate Christianity* (Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2005), 362-3

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

M J Erickson prudently argues that; theology in a Christian context [Christian Theology] is a discipline of study that seeks to understand the God revealed in the Bible and to provide a Christian understanding of [Biblical] reality [theological truth].”³

COMBATANTS

GOD

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of waters. The God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.” (Gen. 1:1-3, NKJV). King David supports the creative capability of God, he says; “The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard” (Ps. 19:1-3, NIV).

Because humans are finite and God infinite, if they are to know God it must come about by God’s manifestation of himself [in diverse ways].⁴ Hence, every practicing Christian believes that a unique personal Being called God existed before time and space. The following unique and sovereign attributes are worth commenting.

- *God is omniscient – All knowing (Ps. 139:1)
- *God is omnipotent – Almighty and powerful (Is. 44:24)
- *God is omnipresent – Ever present (Jer. 23:23-24)
- *God is incomparable – No co-equal (Is. 40:18, 25)
- *God is personal – Longs for personal interaction with humanity (Exod. 34:14)
- *God is immutable – Unchanging (Ps. 102:26-27).
- *God is eternal – Without beginning or end; the Great I AM who will always be who He is (Exod. 3:14-14).

³ M J Erickson, *Christian Theology, Second Edition* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009), 17.

⁴ M J Erickson, *Christian Theology 2nd edition* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1998), 178.

According to D. W. Baker there are three main independent forms and numerous compounded ones in the Pentateuch designate God. The first of these encountered in the text is *Elohim* and the related singular forms *el* and *eloah*, the common noun “God, god, gods,” (Gen. 1:1 and 811 additional times in the Pentateuch; 2,600 total in the OT: ... The second is *yhwh*, the proper noun “Yahweh, the LORD.” (Gen.2:4 and 1,827 additional times in the Pentateuch; 6,828 times in the OT: ... The third is *adonay*, a combination plural common noun plus pronominal suffix, literally meaning “my lord(s)” (Gen. 15:2 and seventeen additional times in the Pentateuch; 439 times in the OT.⁵

In the canonical Gospels, “God” (*theos*) is the traditional deity of ancient Israel referred to in OT: and, as everywhere in the NT, the exclusivist monotheism of ancient Jewish piety, which involves a rejection of all other deities, is the religion orientation adapted to early Christian devotion to Jesus.⁶ “God” (*theos*) is frequently used in the Gospels; (48 times in Mark, 51 in Matthew, 122 in Luke [and] 73 in John).⁷

The Trinity – The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Though the term Trinity is not spelt out in the Christian Holy Bible, the concept is vivid in two different books of the New Testament. “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19, NIV). “May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (II Cor. 13:14, NIV). A E McGrath asserts that both verses have become deeply rooted in the Christian consciousness, the former on account of its baptismal associations, and the latter through the common use of the formula in Christian prayer and devotion.⁸

The term “the Trinity” has been found a convenient designation for the one God self-revealed in Scripture [the Christian Holy Bible] as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It signifies that within the essence of the Godhead we have to distinguish

⁵ D W Baker, “God, Names of,” in *Dictionary of Old Testament Pentateuch* edited by J W Green ((Downers Grove InterVarsity Press, 2003), 359.

⁶ J W Hurtado, “God,” in *Dictionary Of Jesus And The Gospels* edited by J B Green (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1992), 270.

⁷ J W Hurtado, “God,” 270

⁸ A E McGrath *Christian Theology: An Introduction, fourth edition* (Maiden: Blackwell Publishing, 2007), 248

three “persons” [Persons] who are neither three gods on the side, nor three parts or models of God on the other, but coequally and coeternally God.⁹

“God exists as three persons, yet he [He] is one being [Being]. Each person [Person] –the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – has a separate identity while enjoying the same essence of nature as the others, not merely similar natures in different roles.¹⁰

“The one [true] God is revealed as in the manner of creator and lawgiver. This aspect of God is referred to as “the Father.” The same God is also revealed in the manner of savior, in the person of Jesus Christ. This aspect of God is referred to as “the Son.” The same God is also revealed in the manner of the one who sanctifies and gives [new birth] eternal life. This aspect of God is referred to as “the [Holy] Spirit.”¹¹

John Piper adds that God the Father has had an eternal image and idea of himself [Himself] that is so full it is another Person standing forth—distinct as the Father’s idea, yet one in divine. And God the Father and the Son have had an eternal joy in each other’s excellence that carries so fully what they are that another Person stands forth, the Holy Spirit—distinct as the Father and Son’s delight in each other, yet one in divine essence. There never was a time when God did not experience himself [Himself] this way. The three Persons of the Trinity are coeternal...and equally divine.¹²

The Father

Jesus refers to God as His Father, particularly in prayer, and He encourages His followers to use similar language and to refer to God as their Father as well...In addition to the Gospel tradition about Jesus teaching His disciples to address God as “Father,” even earlier and more striking are Paul’s references in Gal. 4:6 and Romans 8:15 to Greek-speaking Christian use of *abba* (along with the normal Greek term for “father” *pater*) to address God in prayer probably in

⁹ G W Bromiley, “Trinity,” in *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* edited by W A Elwell (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999), 1112.

¹⁰ J McDowell and S McDowell, *The Unshakable Truth: How You Can Experience The 12 Essentials Of A Relevant Faith* (Eugene: Harvest House Publishers, 2010), 316.

¹¹ A E McGrath *Christian Theology: An Introduction, fourth edition* (Maiden: Blackwell Publishing, 2007), 254.

¹² J Piper, *Think: The Life of the Mind and the Love of God*, (Wheaton: Crossway, 2010), 34-35.

corporate worship settings).¹³ Hence, in Christian theology, the “Father” refers to God.

- *The Father sent the Son (John 20:21)
- *The Father sent the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4)
- *The Father and the Son are One (John 10:30)
- *The Father is in the Son (John 10:38; 14:10)

The Son – Jesus Christ

A central element of Christian theology centers upon the idea of a revelatory presence of God in Christ...Jesus Christ is regarded as making God known in a particular and specific manner, distinctive to Christianity.¹⁴ The following add more weight to the Deity of the Son—Jesus Christ.

- *Jesus Christ is God – (John 1:1)
- *Jesus Christ is the exact effulgence of the Father – (Heb. 1:3)
- *He is the Son of the Most High God – (Lk. 1:32)
- *He condescended through virgin birth – (Lk. 1:34-35)
- *He is the Saviour of humanity – (Matt. 1:21)
- *He is the way to the Father – (John 14:6)
- *His miracles – (Acts 2:22)
- *He came to destroy the works of satanic forces – (I John 3:8; Col. 2:15)
- *His crucifixion – (Matt. 27: 35)
- *His death – (Matt. 27:50)
- *His burial – (Matt. 27:57-60)
- *He died for the sin of humanity – (Rom. 4:25a)
- *He resurrected to justify whoever believes in Him – (Rom. 4:25b)
- *His bodily resurrection (Lk. 24: 1-8; Acts 2:24)
- *His post resurrection appearances – (Acts 1: 3)
- *His ascension to heaven – (Acts 1:9-11)
- *He is seated at the right hand side of the Father – (Rom. 8:34)
- *He baptizes with the Holy Spirit and with fire – (Matt. 3:11)
- *He is the Alpha and Omega – (Rev. 1:8)
- *He is the author of life – (Acts 3:15)

¹³ J W Hurtado, “God,” in *Dictionary Of Jesus And The Gospels* edited by J B Green (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1992), 275.

¹⁴ A E McGrath *Christian Theology: An Introduction* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1994.), 274.

- *He is the head of the church, His Body (Col. 1:18)
- *His 2nd Coming – (Acts 1:11)
- *He will return to judge human beings (both the dead and the living) – (Matt. 24:27-30)
- *His Name is above every name – (Philip. 2:9-11)

The Holy Spirit

Though He [Jesus Christ] was going away, yet he would be with them always. What an apparent contradiction. But because of the mystery and perfect relationship of the Trinity, Jesus would be with them through the presence of the third person [Person] of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit.¹⁵ Hence, He is co-equal with the Father and the Son—

- *The Holy Spirit is divine (Gen. 1: 1-3)
- *The Holy Spirit led Israel to the Promised Land (Exodus – Deuteronomy).
- *He is the Spirit of God – (Lk. 1:35)
- *He is the Counselor – (John 14:16, 26)
- *He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment – (John 16:8)
- *He is the Spirit of truth – (John 14:17; 16:13)
- *He gives new birth to believers in Christ Jesus – (John 3:3-6)
- *He empowers believers in Christ Jesus for effective missions endeavor – (Acts 1:8)
- *He inhabits in believers in Christ Jesus for perpetual victory in the global combat – (I John 4:4).

HUMAN BEINGS

Genesis contains two accounts of God's creation of humans [humanity]. The first, in 1:26-27, simply records (1) God's decision to make humans [humanity] in his [His] own image and likeness and (2) God's action implementing this decision.¹⁶ A text of central importance to a Christian understanding of human nature is

¹⁵ J McDowell and S McDowell, *The Unshakable Truth: How You Can Experience The 12 Essentials Of A Relevant Faith* (Eugene: Harvest House Publishers, 2010), 323.

¹⁶ M J Erickson, *Christian Theology 2nd edition* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1998), 498.

Genesis 1:27, which speaks of humanity being made in God's image and likeness—an idea which is expressed with the reference to the Latin phrase *imago Dei*.¹⁷ Hence, the Christian view of humanity...is that humanity is to be understood as having originated not through a chance process of evolution, but through a conscious, purposeful act by God.¹⁸

SATAN

Satan, who is also known as the great dragon, the ancient serpent and the devil (Rev. 12:9) is a created spirit being (Ps. 24:1, Col. 1:16-17), not a mere projection of allegory of evil. Both Satan's Hebrew name, *Abaddon*, and his Greek name, *Apollyon*, mean "destroyer" (Revelation 9:1).¹⁹ For Jesus and the Gospel writers the Devil, or Satan, is the chief enemy of Jesus and the establishing of the kingdom of God.²⁰ The terms *Satan* (the adversary) and the *devil* (the slanderer) are interchangeably used as malevolent [created spirit] being [who instigates humanity to rebel against God].²¹

Satan is an ancient and extremely treacherous foe.²² The word Satan is used about fifty-five times in the New Testament.²³ The devil [another name of Satan] is many-sided and versatile demagogue. To the psychologist, he says, "I will give you new knowledge and understanding." He confronts the religionist and the moralist with a mask of integrity and promises them the very best from heaven. And finally, to the rationalist and the liberalist he says, "I am not there. I do not exist..."²⁴ Satan is neither a tribal nor a racial idol, but a global god. Jesus calls him the "ruler of this world" (John 12:31, NKJV), and Paul calls him "the god of this age" (II Corinthians 4:4, NKJV). Satan is an excellent contextualizer—he does

¹⁷ A E McGrath, *Christian Theology: An Introduction fourth edition* (Maiden: Blackwell Publishing, 2007), 360.

¹⁸ M J Erickson, *Christian Theology 2nd edition* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1998), 493.

¹⁹ M Anders, *What You Need To Know About Spiritual Warfare In 12 Lessons* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997), 7-8.

²⁰ G H Twelftree, "Demon, Devil, Satan," in J B Green, ed., *Dictionary Of Jesus And The Gospels* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1992), 163.

²¹ G V Rheeney *Communicating Christ in Animistic Contexts* (Grand Rapids: Baker House, 1991), 264.

²² F Frangipane, *The Three Battlegrounds: An In-depth View of Three Arenas In Spiritual Warfare: The Mind, the Church, and Heavenly Places* (Cedar Rapids: Arrow Publications, 2012), 7.

²³ T Evans, *The Battle is the Lord's: Waging Victorious Spiritual Warfare* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1998), 157.

²⁴ K. Kosh, *The Devil's Alphabet* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1971), 7.

an expert job at meeting [desperate] people at the point of their felt needs in culturally appropriate ways.²⁵

ANGELS

Unlike human beings who are divinely created to engage in heterosexual partnership to procreate (Gen. 1:26-26), angels neither marry nor reproduce after its kind (Mark 12:25). Billy Graham advocates that angels belong to a uniquely different dimension of creation which we [humanity], limited to the natural order, can scarcely comprehend. In this angelic domain the limitations are different from those God has imposed on our natural order. He [God] has given angels higher knowledge, power and mobility than us [humanity].²⁶

L Berkhof's exposition about angels is noteworthy;

**Cherubim* – They guard the entrance of paradise, Gen. 3:24, gaze upon the mercy seat, Ex. 25:18;

**Seraphim* – They stand as servants round about the divine throne of the heavenly King, sing His praise, and are ever ready to do His bidding.

**Principalities, powers, thrones, and dominions* – They occupy places of authority in the angelic world. With different ranks and dignity. (1) Principalities and powers *archai* and *exousiai*, (Eph. 3:10), (2) Thrones *thronoi* (Col. 1:16), (3) Dominions *kureotetoi* (Eph.1:21), and (4) Powers *dunamis* (Eph. 1:21; I Pet. 3:22).

**Gabriel and Michael* – In distinction from all the other angels, these two are mentioned by names. Gabriel appears in Dan. 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:19, 26. Michael who is also designated “archangel” is mentioned in Dan. 10:13, 21; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7.²⁷

Though angels serve as both emissaries of God and ministers to humanity, it is equally circumspect to note there are disobedience ones who are vehemently inclined in opposing God, His Word, and His salvific plan for humanity.

²⁵ C H Kraft, *Appropriate Christianity* (Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2005). 366.

²⁶ B Graham, *Angels: God's Secret Agents* (New York: Pocket Books, 1977), 31.

²⁷ L Berkhof, *Systematic Theology: New Combined Edition* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996), 146-7.

ARMOR: DEVILISH AND DIVINE

Devilish armor – Opposed to God and humanity

Armor is defensive [and offensive] covering for the body used in combat.²⁸ The global combat has weapons. D K Okai unveils that Satan uses detestable cultures, traditions, societal norms, dress codes, music, films and movies, video games among others [enticing premise] and even manipulates through science and technology, academic pursuit, and heretical philosophies as weapons of spiritual warfare [global combat] against humanity²⁹ He programs his deadly armor to entice, deceive, tempt and shatter the God-initiated dream and destiny for humanity.

Divine armor – Whole armor of God

Contrary to satanic armor are divinely dominant weapons;

“mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5 NKJV). “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this age, [and] against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (Eph. 6:10-18 NKJV).

²⁸ M Webster, *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary: Eleventh Edition* (Springfield: Merriam Webster, Incorporated, 2005), 67.

²⁹ D K Okai, *The Kingdom of God Is Spiritual Warfare: You Cannot Escape This Battle, But You Can Triumph Through Faith In Christ Jesus* (Maitland: Xulon Press, 2014), 62.

In his general epistle, Peter cautions his audience to “be self-controlled [sober-minded] and alert; [because] Your enemy the devil [Satan] prowls like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith [in Christ Jesus] (I Peter 5:8-9a, NIV).

COMBAT ZONES

Combat zones are arenas where combats or wars are waged. In this article the focus of the author is on two poignant anatomical organs of a human being—the brain (the mind) and the heart.

These are the introductory combat zones Satan wittingly wages unceasing battle in every human being and further extends to the whole human race.

THE BRAIN (THE MIND)

Since the brain is the physical anatomic organ one of its multifaceted functions is reasoning, thinking, decision making, etc., popularly known as the mind, I will use them (brain and mind) interchangeably in this context. Peter Morgan says; the brain is the major organ in the nervous system, located in the cranium (skull). The brain is the organ of thought, speech, and emotion, but its primary role in the humans...is the body’s control center...The brain receives, sorts, and interprets sensations from the nerves that extend from the CNS to every other part of the body; it initiates and coordinates the motor output involved in activities such as movement and speech.³⁰

The main reason God has given us [humanity brain] minds is that we [humanity] might seek out and find all the reason that exist for treasuring him [Him] in all things and above all things³¹ but the Devil in the form of a serpent cunningly confronted Eve with thought-provoking questions; “Did God really say, You must not eat from any tree in the garden? (Gen. 3:1, NIV). Thus, the tempter combated with Eve through her brain, dominated her reasoning faculties, and finally won her allegiance to himself (Satan). Eve foolishly parleyed with the tempter. In her

³⁰ P Morgan, *The Canadian Medical: Home Medical Encyclopedia* (Montreal: The Reader’s Digest Association (Canada) Ltd., 1992), 196.

³¹ J Piper, *Think: The Life of the Mind and the Love of God*, (Wheaton: Crossway, 2010), 15.

own mind, she [Eve] began to doubt the [divine] truth and the [incomparable] wisdom of God. The poisoned tip of sin entered in when she reasoned in her mind against the wisdom of God.³²

Consumed with devilish appetite Eve persuaded her husband Adam and both became prey to their newfound master (the devil). Blame game surfaced between them (Adam and Eve) when God visited them “in the cool of the day...the woman said the serpent deceived [combated with] me and I ate [succumbed]” (Gen. 3:8-13, NIV). Undoubtedly, there arose a persistent and aggressive combat between the two (Adam and Eve). An indelible mark of bitterness and anger in their individual life as well as their marital life cannot be under-emphasized. Based on the enemy’s antagonistic approach to the first parents of humanity it is very convenient to argue that they became slaves (Rom. 6:16) to the arch enemy who unceasingly manipulated their brain (mind) to wage fierce combat against them and their offspring from generation to generation. This is the normal subtle approach the devil uses to wage global war (individuals, marriages, families, ethnic groups, race, gender, nations, diverse religions, Christian denominations, political platforms, corporate bodies, etc). As a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44c, NKJV), Satan battles his victims in their brain through blatant deception, tempts them with sugar-coated lies, and prompts his captors to compromise God, His Word, and His benevolent plan for humanity.

THE HEART

“The heart is the center of the bodily life, the reservoir of the entire life-power (Ps. 40:8, 10, 12)...The heart is the laboratory and origin of all that is good and evil thoughts, words, and deeds (Matt. 12:34; Mark 7:21); the reservoir of evil lusts and passions (Rom. 1:24); a good or evil treasurer (Luke 6:45); the place where God’s natural law is written in us [humanity] (Rom. 2:15); ...the dwelling place of Christ in us [born again believers in Christ] (Eph. 3:17)...It is the center of the entire man [humanity], the very heart of life’s impulse.”³³ (Unger 2005, 544-545)
“The heart is positioned centrally in the chest, with its right margin directly underneath the right side of the sternum (breastbone)...The heart acts like a dual pump. Deoxygenated blood from the body arrives, via the vena cava, in the right

³² B Graham, *Angels: God’s Secret Angels* (New York: Pocket Books, 1977), 84.

³³ F M Unger, *The New Unger’s Bible Dictionary*. Oxford. Lion Hudson Plc/ Tim Dowley & Peter Wyatt. 2005.

atrium (upper heart chamber), is transferred to the right ventricle (upper chamber) and is then pumped by pulmonary artery to the lungs. There it is re-oxygenated and returns, via the pulmonary veins, to the left atrium, is transferred to the left ventricle, and is then pumped, via a large vessel (the aorta), to all parts of the body.”³⁴

“The fool has said [still says] in his heart, “There is no God” (Ps. 14:1a, 53:1a NKJV). This statement is the evil heart cry of an individual who denies the existence of his or her Creator – a serious wrestle in the heart of restless and wayward humanity. This battle goes on in the heart and subsequently propels victims into the atmosphere of hostility towards God and His Kingdom—the premise of global combat.

Jesus says; “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.” (Matt. 12:35). Blasphemous and other unwholesome utterances or pronouncements are exact manifestations of what is conceived in evil consumed hearts. The heart is the seat of all immoral and moral deeds –a place of convenience for global war. The heart is perpetually on crossroads. Thus, either to node positively to the promptings of the Holy Spirit for communion and peace with God through faith in Jesus Christ, or succumb to the enticement of the deceiver that leads to hostility, hopelessness, misery, doom, and death.

The Omniscient God foreknew the heart of the evil-doer and unveiled it through the prophet Isaiah. “For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt myself above the stars of God; I will sit on the mount of the congregation. On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High” (Isa 14:13-14 NKJV). This is the blasphemous heart’s throb of Satan whose vain aspiration and ambition is to usurp the authority and power of the Creator of the heaven and the earth. With his wicked heart’s desire Satan intrudes into the heart of humanity through dubious ways, wages war in the unregenerate heart, and subsequently dominates the combat with sugar-coated and vain promises. Subsequently, the

³⁴ P Morgan, *The Canadian Medical Association: Home Medical Encyclopedia*. (Westmouth: The Reader’s Digest Association (Canada) Ltd., 1992). 514.

heart becomes insensitive to the things of God—a strenuous combat zone for global war.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The open-secret is that “the god of this age [Satan] has blinded the minds [and the hearts] of unbelievers [those whose minds and hearts are not washed by the Blood of Jesus Christ through their faith in Him], so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ” (2 Cor. 4:4, NIV). Hence, their conscience is very blare and insensitive to the things of God. Satan and his demons are known by [the excruciating lust they deposit in the brain and heart of humanity, the doubtful atmosphere they create, the fear they instill], the discord they promote, the wars they start, the hatred they engender, the murders they initiate, and the opposition to God and His commandments.³⁵

In this article the author has unveiled the reality as well as the gravity of the global combat under discussion. Thus, the escalating tension in individuals, spouses, parents, other family members, communities, ethnic groups, towns and villages, the clergy and the laity (in the Christian community), religious leaders and adherents of other faiths, the rich and the poor, nationals of developed, developing and underdeveloped countries across the globe are consciously or unconsciously involved in agonized global combat. The combat is craftily initiated by Satan. The combatants are Satan and his agents who are unceasingly opposed to God and humanity. Various armors are discussed, as well as two human anatomic combat zones that are very convenient to the enemy in his deadly combat.

Subtle as Satan is, as well as his spiritual and physical forces, they (forces of evil) cannot be prevailed over through roundtable conferences, seemingly peace talks, workshops and seminars, mere academic pursuit, or any other human strategies, philosophies and theories—they are very fragile and inadequate to counterattack the deadly weapons and strategies of the deceitful foe of God and humanity. Hence, every person created in the image of God should not be oblivious of this grief-stricken combat and how to counter-act with the full armour of God according to divine principles in the Christian Holy Bible.

³⁵ B Graham, *Angels: God's Secret Agents* (New York: Pocket Books, 1977), 80.

Jesus Christ came to destroy the works of Satan and his allies on behalf of humanity (I John 3:8).

Christ's victory over Satan and the forces of darkness takes place preeminently in His death, resurrection and exaltation. At the Cross Christ disarmed and triumphed over "the rulers and authorities" (Col.2:15). In His resurrection and exaltation, He was raised far above all spiritual forces of darkness (Eph. 1:22).³⁶ Refusal to accept the generous invitation of Christ Jesus opens the floodgates of disillusionment and hyper depression, murder and suicidal, lies and hypocrisy, and ambition for vain glory and camouflage fame among other unhealthy human lifestyle—manifestations of the devil's global combat with humanity.

Finally, the antidote to weariness, restlessness, bitterness, selfishness, anger, discontentment, and other destructive and devilish seed that are frequently planted in the mind and heart of humanity and subsequently serve as the premise of global combat is genuine demonstration of exclusive and reverential faith in Christ Jesus. He says; "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, [with combat against self, others, and the devil] and I will give you rest [peace and victory]. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart [and mind], and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30 NKJV).

³⁶ R Love, *Muslims, Magic and the Kingdom of God* (Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2000), 95.

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