WHY I HATE WAR: AND EXPOSÉ ON HUMAN VIOLENCE - PART 1

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Apple's China + 1 Diversification Strategy, Apple Shifts Its AirPods/MacBooks Production Sites To Communist-Run Vietnam, My Difficulty In Understanding Why Apple Shifted Production To A Communist-Run Nation Where Almost 60,000 Americans Died, High School Boys Sent To Die For America, American Casualty Count Vs Enemy Casualty Count, The Vietnam War And Iraq War, Terrible Destruction Beyond Just The Actual Human Casualties, Ugly Horrible Unjustified Wasteful Destructive Wars, Marks Of Wars: Destruction Suffering Misery Death, Selfishness Greed And Lust For Power Are Root Causes Of War, Satan The Murderer And Destroyer Inspires Wars, Corrupt Governments Gaslight And Pressure The Populace To Accept Their Wars, Fear Paranoia And Patriotism Card, A Bible-Based Attitude Towards Violence And War, People Who Question Practicality Of Adhering To Biblical Principles Regarding Avoiding War And Living Fully In Peace, Misguided Christians Who Support Secular Wars, True Christians Are Not Of This World And Should Not Think Or Behave According To World's Standards, New Creatures: Renewed And Transformed Minds, Bible Verses Regarding Being Called Out From The World, Questions For Readers, Children Of The World Will Do As They Will Do, We Can't Override Free Will, Fiery Fate Of Rebellious

This current series actually started as part of another BBB article called "Confusing Tariffs Controversy: Big Business Exposed!". In the article, I discuss Apple Inc.'s so called "China + 1" diversification strategy. Without going into a lot of details, this business strategy involves Apple moving some of its manufacturing sites from China to other nations, such as India and Vietnam. Apple's primary motivation is to be as least negatively affected as possible by geopolitical tensions -- such as the USA-China tariff war, and what seems to be an inevitable war over Taiwan -- and to avoid the high tariffs which the Trump administration has placed on Chinese imports. The purpose of "China + 1" is thus to reduce supply chain risks which can exist when a company concentrates its production plants in a single location, as is in fact the case with Apple's China-based Foxconn manufacturing plants.

As I just mentioned, the communist-led nation of Vietnam is one of the nations which has benefitted from Apple's current business strategy. While Apple has focused its attention on moving some of its iPhone production plants to India, at the same time, it has likewise been shifting the production of AirPods and MacBooks so that they are now being assembled in Vietnam. It was at this point where, in my usual fashion, I began going off on a tangent in the aforementioned article. Thus, I decided to transfer the subject of Vietnam to a new and separate article, meaning, of course, this one.

Personally, I have a very hard time wrapping my head around this. Why so? Well, because whether or not a person agrees with the costly Vietnam War and the motivations which were supposedly behind it -- I personally don't agree -- the fact remains that to this day, Vietnam is still a communist-run country. Furthermore, as some of my older readers will know, it has been estimated that almost 60,000 American soldiers lost their lives there, with many thousands more returning to the USA maimed, psychologically messed up, etc. The tragedy is that many of the men who died were barely boys out of high school who still had their entire lives ahead of them. Who knows what productive things they could have accomplished, if their lives had not been suddenly cut short by that terrible, senseless war.

As is their nature, while the American mainstream media will always highlight the number of American servicemen who have died in any given conflict, it is very important for you to know -- that is, if you do not know it already -- that the other side, whoever the enemy happens to be, always gets the very worst end of the stick. In the case of the Vietnam War, estimates of how many Vietnamese soldiers and civilians died range from 970,000 to 3 million casualties. Furthermore, it has been estimated that about 275,000 to 310,000 Cambodians, as well as 20,000 to 62,000 Laotians died during the conflict as well. Even if we consider the lowest figures for Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos combined, that is a total of 1,265,000. If, on the other hand, we consider the higher figures, the total comes to 3,372,000. Please understand that my purpose here is NOT to minimize the tragedy of almost 60,000 dead Americans. Rather, it is to demonstrate the overall horrors of engaging in war in the first place.

As I believe I explain in the four-part series called "Obama, McCain and the Bush Legacy", we see a similar thing occurring with the illegal, illogical, ill-conceived Iraq War as well.

Many Americans will already know that according to published statistics, approximately 4,500 American service members died during that eight-year war, which endured from 2003 to 2011. However, how many Americans are really aware of the number of casualties on the other side? Please note that I am NOT just referring to alleged ISIS and al-Qaeda fighters. I am talking about ALL the dead, including non-combatant civilians. Well, let me just share a verbatim response which I obtained from Google Gemini. I think the statistics -- whichever ones are correct -- speak for themselves:

----- Begin Quote -----

Estimates of the number of Iraqis who died during the Iraq War beginning in 2003 vary widely, from approximately 200,000 documented violent civilian deaths to studies estimating over a million total war-related deaths, including indirect fatalities. The differing figures stem from different methodologies, with "body counts" based on documented reports typically producing lower numbers than "population-based studies" that use household surveys and statistical extrapolation. Key estimates and sources include:

Iraq Body Count (IBC) project:

This organization tallies documented civilian deaths from media reports, morgue records, and official sources. As of June 2023, the project documented a range of 186,901 to 210,296 violent civilian deaths since March 2003. They note their figures are likely an underestimate, as many deaths may go unreported.

Brown University Costs of War Project:

In a March 2023 update, this project cited an estimate of at least 270,000 Iraqis killed, mostly civilians. An earlier report estimated a minimum of 134,000 civilians killed by war's violence by 2013, with the actual toll potentially twice as high.

PLOS Medicine Study (2013):

This household survey estimated that approximately 461,000 total excess deaths were attributable to the war and occupation between March 2003 and mid-2011, with over 60% due to direct violence. This study included indirect deaths

caused by the collapse of infrastructure and health systems.

Lancet Surveys (2004, 2006):

An influential but controversial 2006 study published in The Lancet, a medical journal, estimated approximately 655,000 excess deaths as of July 2006, the majority violent. An earlier 2004 study by the same team estimated around 100,000 excess deaths up to September 2004.

Opinion Research Business (ORB) Survey (2008):

This poll-based estimate suggested an even higher number, with approximately 1,033,000 war-related deaths by August 2007 (with a range of 946,000 to 1,120,000).

Overall, the total number of Iraqis who died is substantial and widely considered to be in the hundreds of thousands, potentially reaching half a million or more when indirect deaths are considered.

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To reiterate the previous point I made regarding the Vietnam War, my purpose in sharing these Iraq War statistics with you is certainly NOT to minimize in any way the tragic deaths of approximately 4,500 American servicemen. Once again, it is to simply demonstrate the overall horrors of engaging in war in the first place. However, if we are truly being honest here, I think we can agree that what the other side suffered is way worse than what the United States suffered. Also, I think the previous death figures more than make my point. Furthermore, keeping those previous figures in mind from both the Vietnam War and the Iraq War -- not to mention the various other U.S. bombings which have occurred since the Vietnam War period, I hope it will help you to better understand why I state the hard things which I do in my article called "Who is the Real Terrorist?", which you will find listed at the end of this same series.

Let me remind you that I have only discussed the human death toll. We haven't even covered the aftermath of so devastating a war as the two aforementioned wars. The demise of hundreds of thousands of people is bad enough. However, we must also consider the destruction of a nation's military, as well the annihilation of a country's economy, the destruction of its infrastructure, the destruction of its social structure, the

destruction of its basic utility services, the destruction of its healthcare services, the destruction of its food crops, the destruction of its civilian government, and much more. We are talking about the total breakdown of that country, which can take months or years for it to fully recover from. During the recovery period, after the war has technically ended, the people -- mainly non-combatant civilians -- will continue to suffer and be in misery, possibly resulting in hundreds of thousands of new deaths being added to a nation's death toll. This is precisely what happened in Iraq, for example.

My friends, no matter how you choose to look at it, all wars are ugly. They are horrible. A lot of times -- I would even dare say usually in fact -- they are unjustified. They are a total and complete destructive waste which rarely -- if ever -- create anything good. They only leave behind destruction, suffering and misery for those people who manage to survive them. Most wars are instigated and fueled by pure selfishness and greed in one form or another, as is clearly demonstrated by the very first group of Bible verses below. That is why I absolutely hate them. And in case you are wondering who the instigator is, and who is really behind them -- not just the human instigators -- please consider the following Bible verses:

"From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, EVEN OF YOUR LUSTS that war in your members? YE LUST, and have not: YE KILL, AND DESIRE TO HAVE, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because YE ASK AMISS, THAT YE MAY CONSUME IT UPON YOUR LUSTS."
James 4:1-3, KJV

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. HE WAS A MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."
John 8:44, KJV

"Not as Cain, WHO WAS OF THAT WICKED ONE, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."
1 John 3:12, KJV

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that

through death he might destroy HIM THAT HAD THE POWER OF DEATH, THAT IS, THE DEVIL; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."
Hebrews 2:14-15, KJV

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."
John 10:10, KJV

"My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace. I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war."
Psalm 120:6-7, KJV

"And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth."
Revelation 11:18, KJV

"He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."
Revelation 13:10, KJV

So as you can plainly see, it is Satan the foul murderer and destroyer himself who inspires man to war against his neighbor for the most vile, selfish and lustful reasons. Perhaps it is a lust for more power, or to gain new territory, or perhaps to acquire new natural resources. Whatever the reason, the bottom line is that it is usually based on some selfish lust, despite what a nation's government and propaganda machine may try to tell you. As we have seen in our own nation, corrupt governments will gaslight and pressure the civilian populace until they are finally willing to accept another war. They'll spin all kinds of devilish lies, and use fear and paranoia, or even accuse you of not being very patriotic if you do not support their latest war. I know that some of my readers know exactly what I am talking about, and who I am talking about.

But concerning us Christians, exactly what should be our own attitude towards violence and war? While I am sure that the answer is rather obvious to many of my readers, nevertheless, allow me to share some of my favorite Bible verses with you, which demonstrate what should be the Scriptural foundation for our beliefs and attitude towards war. I hope you enjoy

reading them. Most of all, I hope that you live them in your own personal life as well:

"But THE MEEK SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."
Psalm 37:11, KJV

"BLESSED ARE THE MEEK: for they shall inherit the earth . . . Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God . . . But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."
Matthew 5:5, 9, 44-45, KJV

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN."
Romans 12:18, KJV

"Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, LIVE IN PEACE; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."
2 Corinthians 13:11, KJV

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."
Psalm 20:7, KJV

"And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus [meaning the Apostle Peter] stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for ALL THEY THAT TAKE THE SWORD SHALL PERISH WITH THE SWORD. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?"
Matthew 26:51-53, KJV

"And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt

thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For THE SON OF MAN IS NOT COME TO DESTROY MEN'S LIVES, BUT TO SAVE THEM. And they went to another village."
Luke 9:51-56, KJV

"When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword? And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him."
Luke 22:49-51, KJV

"Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Then said Jesus unto Peter, PUT UP THY SWORD INTO THE SHEATH: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"
John 18:10-11, KJV

"(For THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE NOT CARNAL, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)"
2 Corinthians 10:4, KJV

"No man that warreth [meaning spiritual warfare] entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."
2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

At this point in our discussion, let me interject something very important. Because I have a pretty good understanding of human nature, I already know that some people -- and this includes even some deceived, patriotic Christians -- will no doubt object to everything I just said. In the case of other Christians, some of the more patriotic ones will even rebel against the truths which are found in the previous group of Bible verses. In their minds, they will begin to invent a number of reasons -- justifiable in their own deceived minds -- regarding why we Christians just cannot possibly adhere to the Biblical advice those verses offer regarding avoiding war and living in peace in our current, evil and obviously violent world.

My friends, trust me, I have heard it all before. While what they say may seem logical on the surface, nevertheless, when it comes to us Christians, what they're saying is still very

wrong. Such misguided people may even embrace and quote some of the more popular statements which have been made by a few famous individuals, who promote the view that to do nothing in the face of certain evil is to be guilty of condoning and perpetuating that very same evil. Therefore, even though we are Christians -- so the argument goes -- nevertheless, we must still abandon our beliefs and our personal convictions, and we must support our government's war. It is a very sly argument which to some weak-minded Christians will seem to have some merit. However, does it really apply to us?

My friends, my answer is the following: If we truly believe the Bible -- particularly the Scriptures I just shared with you -- then, no, absolutely not! It does NOT apply to us. In short, you need to understand that there's a huge difference between helping the wounded man on the road to Jericho -- in other words, on a personal level -- and lending your nation support when it goes to war against another country. That kind of violence is on a whole different level. I hope you can see that. Sadly, I have seen many online Christians do this very thing. They not only support America's wars, but they likewise support Israel's wars as well. In other words, they support secular wars just like the rest of the children of the world, which is totally contrary to the Scriptures.

Are you starting to understand the problem I see? Can you see the deception such misguided brethren are under? In my view, the reason and source of the problem is that they do not recognize that as God's saved and sealed children, they are no longer a part of this present world. As such, they shouldn't think like the rest of the world, and they should not behave according to the world's standards. They should only be governed by the standards of God's Word. They should be new creatures in Christ Jesus, with changed and renewed minds, who see and understand things in a totally different and new way. That is to say, God's way, according to what is described in the Bible. Following are a few of my favorite Bible verses concerning the subject of being new creatures with renewed and transformed minds, and a new understanding and outlook:

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."
2 Corinthians 5:17, KJV

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed

by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."
Romans 12:2, KJV

"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."
Ephesians 4:24, KJV

"And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"
Colossians 3:10, KJV

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."
Romans 6:6, KJV

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation [meaning manner of life, conduct and behavior] the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;"
Ephesians 4:22, KJV

"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;"
Colossians 3:9, KJV

In short, the renewed mind of a born-again Christian should conform to the Word of God, and that most certainly includes the previous verses I shared with you regarding staying out of wars, and living in peace with our fellow human beings. As I also pointed out to you earlier, once we come to Christ and are saved and sealed by the Spirit of God, we are no longer a part of this present world. God has called us out from it, as becomes very evident by Bible verses such as the following:

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."
John 15:19, KJV

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."
John 17:14-15, KJV

"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my

kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."
John 18:36, KJV

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"
2 Corinthians 6:17, KJV

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."
Colossians 3:1-2, KJV

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."
2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."
Hebrews 11:13-16, KJV

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."
James 4:4, KJV

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."
1 John 2:15-16, KJV

My dear friends, as is my custom, I have taken you directly

to the Scriptures, so that you can see exactly what they say regarding these various issues. These are NOT just my words and my thoughts. They are God's thoughts, as He inspired the authors of the Bible to write. So the bottom line is this. Do you honestly and truly believe all of the Scriptures that I just shared with you? If you do, how can you possibly side with any country in any war, including with any wars in which the United States becomes involved? By so doing, are you not in fact betraying the very Word of God, and the faith which you claim to embrace? Are you not in fact putting the words of imperfect, fallible men ABOVE the very Word of God? Think about it.

Now, if you think that I am in error, and that I have somehow misunderstood the Scriptures, then I challenge you to show me directly from the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Apostles where they supported Christians supporting secular wars, or even fighting in such wars themselves. My friends, you aren't going to find it, because such verses simply do NOT exist. Of this I am certain. So how can you possibly justify your own wayward position? But, of course, I am sure that a few people will find a way to do it, because deceived people have been twisting the meaning of certain Scriptures for their personal convenience, and forcing said Scriptures to conform to their personal beliefs -- instead of the other way around -- for the past two thousand years.

But to those of my readers who do have ears to hear, and who have not been deceived by the sly lies and deceptions of this present evil and violent world, let me add this. The children of this world will do as the children of the world will do, and there is really nothing that you and I can do about it. After all, they are not governed by the Word of God, and much less are they constrained by the Spirit of God. You can pray and pray and pray, but you cannot override human free will. Not even God will do that, except in a few rare instances, as occurred with the Apostle Paul on the road to Damascus. But God really wanted to use that man, and he was a special case.

As you should know by now, the children of this world have their own set of rules, as well as their own code of conduct. Tragically, much of it is quite contrary to the Word of God, including in the so-called "Christian" United States. That is by their choice. They want to be their own gods and the masters of their own fates. I am reminded of the following Bible verse which reveals the depth of such rebellion:

"The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts."
Psalm 10:4, KJV

Well, for such people and such nations who foolishly decide to follow such a dangerous, rebellious and wayward path, let me share the following few Bible verses with you for your personal consideration:

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."
Psalm 9:17, KJV

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God . . . For our God is a consuming fire."
Hebrews 10:31, 12:29, KJV

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."
Revelation 21:8, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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WHY I HATE WAR: AND EXPOSÉ ON HUMAN VIOLENCE - PART 2

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Young Boys Forced Into Vietnam War By The Draft, Teenagers Who Evaded The Draft By Various Means: Education Influence Medical And Draft Dodgers, Jimmy Carter Signs Proclamation 4483 In 1977 Granting Amnesty To Many Draft Dodgers, Uproar Ensues, Thousands Of Expatriates In Foreign Nations Despite Carter's Pardon, Canada Was A Popular Destination, 1972: I Am Summoned To Home Town Draft Board, My Strong Convictions

Against Violence And War, My Aversion To Hunting And Guns, My Response to Second Amendment Gun Rights Advocates, Faith In God For My Protection, Trust In Guns Or Trust In The Lord, Lives Ruled By Fear Of The Unknown, Fear And Paranoia Rampant In The USA, Fear Is The Devil's Tool, God Has Not Given Us A Spirit Of Fear, Pacifist Shy Introverted And A Nature Lover, My Murderous Brother And His BB Gun, My Appearance Before The Draft Board, God Delivers Me From Going To Vietnam, Selective Service Voluntary Military Forces And Government Double-Speak, God Bless That Woman, Aftermath Of My Draft Board Appearance, My Time In Mexico And On The Tex-Mex Border, "Shogun" Calls Me To Japan, Birth Of Endtime Prophecy Net And Bill's Bible Basics, How God Has Moved In My Life And Provided Every Step Of The Way, It Began With A Woman Who Freed Me From Military Service, My Sympathy For Vietnam Vets, The Woodstock Festival US Anti-War Sentiments And The Stigmatized Vietnam War Vets, My Poem And Song "Another War", Millennia-Old Spiritual War Between God's Forces Of Light And Satan's Forces Of Darkness, Devil Destroys And Kills While Christ Saves And Makes Alive, Inducted Into God's Spiritual Army, Captain Of Our Salvation

Continuing our discussion from part one, having now shared with you the primary causes behind human warfare, and also having revealed to you what ought to be the proper attitude of all God-fearing, Bible-believing Christians towards war, let us backtrack to our previous discussion concerning the Vietnam War. For those of my readers who may be too young to know, a lot of those teenagers in the late 1960s and in the early 1970s most certainly did NOT want to be shipped off to fight and die in the Vietnam War. However, sadly, they had few options, because during that period of time, the draft was still very much in effect, and there were very negative consequences for those young boys who dared to defy the law.

Of course, some boys did manage to evade the draft. In some cases, they were able to get an educational deferment. Other guys were the sons of influential families who had money, so they too found a way to escape the hellhole that was the war in Vietnam. Some people also had serious medical conditions which spared them from that awful war. Then, of course, there were also the draft dodgers who fled to Mexico, Canada, or to some other country. Eventually, in fulfillment of a campaign promise he had made, on January 21, 1977, and only a single day after his presidential inauguration, U.S. President Jimmy Carter issued an unconditional pardon, and granted amnesty to

the Vietnam War draft dodgers. This executive order was known as Proclamation 4483.

While Carter's EO granted amnesty to all of the teenagers who had managed to evade the draft, it didn't pardon the military deserters. In other words, the young men who had ALREADY been drafted, and who were ALREADY serving in the military, were NOT pardoned. As was to be expected, Proclamation 4483 caused quite an uproar, both within the government itself, as well as with the American public. Some people strongly supported the president's decision, while others found it embarrassing and quite disgraceful that a US president would even do such a thing. However, the uproar eventually died down and the EO -- Executive Order -- was just accepted as a matter of fact.

However, what you may find particularly interesting is the fact that despite President Carter's pardon, many thousands of American young men still refused to return to the U.S.A., preferring instead to remain as expatriates in foreign lands. Canada was a popular place of new residence, not only due to its proximity to the United States, but also because many of the young boys who had fled the country came from well-to-do families. This of course meant that they were well-educated. As a result, it was very easy for them to acquire employment in Canada, which readily accepted them into its workforce.

As I briefly mention in a few other BBB articles, I myself was a teenager in high school at the time of the Vietnam War. Sadly, when my draft number was assigned to me -- it was by a lottery-type method as I seem to recall -- I ended up in the top thirty-three per cent. What that meant was that it was a sure thing that I would eventually be called up and ordered to report for military duty, and thus be sent to that awful hellhole of a war. Well, sometime in 1972, after graduating from high school the previous year, I received my induction letter in which I was informed to immediately report to the draft board in my home town.

By this point in my young life, I had already formed strong, Bible-based, Christian values and personal convictions. Thus, based on my understanding of the Scriptures, I was completely against war, and fighting against people who I did not even know, and with whom I did not have a personal problem. I was a complete pacifist. In fact, while my dad was a very macho hunter who each winter would proudly bring home a number of dead rabbits for my poor mom to cook, I did NOT like rifles or guns, and much less hunting. In fact, to this very day, I

have never owned a single gun or rifle. God has taken care of me for the past seventy-two years, and my life has never been seriously threatened by another individual.

Of course, I already know that there will be some patriotic individuals who may possibly read this current article, who strongly support Second Amendment gun rights. There will also undoubtedly be certain Christians amongst them as well. These people will probably be quick to retort, "Well, Bill, what if this happens to you? Or what if that happens to you? Just how in the world will you even manage to defend yourself against such an attack?" Well, it is for people such as those that I authored a few of my BBB articles, such as "Owning Guns: What Saith the Scriptures?", and likewise "School Shootings: The Second Amendment Controversy". You will find both of them listed at the end of this same article with clickable links.

Now, if you happen to be a Christian who embraces the views I just mentioned, then I must tell you that in my view, you are thinking in the ways of the world, and NOT as a firm believer who trusts in God, who trusts in His Word, and who trusts in His divine protection. Instead, you are trusting in the arm of the flesh, and in your guns, just like the children of the world do. Let me share with you again what King David wrote in the Book of Psalms:

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."
Psalm 20:7, KJV

"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."
Psalm 34:7, KJV

As I point out in the aforementioned articles, as well as in the article entitled "Divine Protection: Do You Have Fear or Faith?", that is where my personal faith lies, and frankly, it has served me well for over seven decades now. As such, I don't see any need to change my current stance. The Lord has honored my faith in His protection, so why should I alter my position now? It just makes no sense whatsoever. Now if you, as a Christian, want to trust in your guns instead of in the Lord, that is, of course, up to you, and between you and the Lord. However, I do feel compelled to tell you the following.

While some of you may not realize it, your lives are actually ruled by fear of the unknown. And let me tell you, if there

is one thing of which I am certain, it is that an environment and atmosphere of fear and paranoia has gripped the United States for a number of years now. Seriously. When you hear of people sleeping with a gun underneath their pillow, you just know that something is seriously wrong somewhere. The fact of the matter is that the Devil uses fear as his tool and weapon to weaken people, and to bring them into bondage. This is in fact one of the issues I discuss in articles such as "Free From the Fear of Death: Law and Works vs Grace" and "Dracula, Nosferatu, Twilight: The Vampire Fad". But guess what, folks? The Bible says the following:

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."
2 Timothy 1:7, KJV

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."
1 Peter 5:7, KJV

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."
1 John 4:18, KJV

My friends, in a word, if you truly trust in God's love for you, then you will not fear. Instead, you will simply trust Him for your very life, for your well-being, and even for your future. You just will not worry about any of it. I most certainly don't. And guess what folks? Following that simple advice will likewise help you to live longer as well. Or you can allow Satan to keep you wrapped up in fear your entire life if you like. It is really your choice.

Returning to my Vietnam War story, as I was saying, by the time I received my induction notice for the Vietnam War in 1972, based on my personal understanding of the Scriptures, I had already formed strong, personal convictions regarding violence, killing and war. I hated it all. As I said, and as I explain in a few other articles as well, I was a pacifist. Not only that, but I was very shy and introverted as well. I loved nature and animals, and I was totally against hunting and killing animals. That is why I detested my macho hunter dad bringing home his winter catch of rabbits which we kids then had to eat.

It may interest some of you to know that in a recent FaceTime chat with my 90-year-old mom, she informed me that she hated

having to prepare those rabbits for our dinner. Despite doing her very best to remove it, we kids were still left with some amount of buckshot in our mouths when we chewed the meat. I never really liked the wild game taste of rabbit either. Thus, biting down into buckshot made dinnertime even worse. Well, to make matters worse, when my older brother was in his teens, my dad did what many macho dads did back then. He bought him a BB gun.

My dad's annual hunting habits were bad enough. Now my older brother was absolutely delighted to have a BB gun, with which he promptly began shooting at wild birds in our neighborhood, just for the "fun" of it. He would injure robins, and I don't recall what else now. But it really angered me, and it broke my heart to see those small creatures suffer like that. I do recall trying to save one particular robin. I can't remember now how it ended up because it occurred over fifty-five years ago.

Anyway, those anecdotes should give you a good idea regarding where my head was at, at the time that I had to appear before the draft board in my home town. I really had no idea what was going to happen. All I could do was pray and trust the Lord to take care of the situation by keeping me out of the military. As it turned out, it wasn't actually a draft board, it was a middle-aged woman, as I vaguely recall, who sat behind a desk. I obviously don't recall my exact words to her now. After all, this event in my life occurred some fifty-three years ago. At any rate, I wasn't haughty or belligerent. I simply shared my Christian beliefs with her regarding violence, killing and war. What else could I do? It was in the Lord's hands.

Well, needless-to-say, the Lord was with me, and rather than order me to report for military duty, this woman advised me to report my whereabouts to her office every so often. It may have been every six months. That was exactly how my interview concluded. I wasn't given an actual deferment, but neither was I ordered to immediately report for military duty. I guess it was kind of a gray area. As to what caused that dear woman to make that determination, I could say that she looked at this 18-year-old, skinny runt of a kid who only weighed 128 pounds, and who was also near-sighted with astigmatism in both eyes, and who already showed clear signs of kyphosis -- curvature of the spine -- and then thought to herself, "Man, we send this kid to Vietnam, and he is surely dead meat on the first day."

However, I prefer to believe that the Lord did a miracle on

that day so many years ago, and that He delivered me from the mouth of the dragon, and from that god of murder, destruction and war. I believe that God touched that dear woman's heart, and that it had to be His miracle. Why? Because military folks who are constantly looking for fresh, new meat to send off as cannon fodder for their latest war, are not exactly known for being soft, kind or friendly. They've got a quota to fill, and by golly, they will fill it. At least that is the way it was back then. I really have no idea what it is like now, being as we have supposedly had voluntary military forces in the United States since 1973 when the draft was terminated.

However, what I discovered while writing this article is that signing up for Selective Service within thirty days of one's eighteenth birthday is still a requirement for men between the ages of 18 and 25. In addition, failure to comply can result in serious consequences. This includes being charged with a felony and fined up to $250,000, and/or being sent to prison for five years. Furthermore, such an individual will remain ineligible for certain federal jobs and federal job training, and may also be denied state-based student loans and grants. But for me personally, what really doesn't seem to make much sense, and which seems like a lot of nonsensical government double-speak, is the following statement that I found on the usa.gov website where Selective Service information is posted:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Military service in the U.S. is voluntary. But most young men must register with Selective Service."

----- End Quote -----

Seriously, does that make any sense at all? How in the world is military service in the USA voluntary when if you fail to ever comply with registering with the Selective Service, very nasty things will surely happen to you. Or maybe they are saying that if you fail to voluntarily comply by signing up, they will just interpret that as meaning that you voluntarily agree to be sent to prison, heavily fined, or whatever. Yes, I am being snarky. I read all of their online explanations regarding this issue, but it still seems like confusing double-speak. After all, if they ever were to re-implement the draft due to some national emergency, your name would already be listed in the Selective Service as a potential draftee, so what is the difference?

Returning again to the draft board situation in my home town,

I honestly don't know what that woman's political or religious views were. Neither do I know her name, or anything else about her. I wonder if she is still alive fifty-three years since I encountered her at that military office. I only saw her for a short while. I do not even know if she was a Christian or not. Regardless, I hope that the Lord blessed her in some small way for at least making the right decision to allow this child of God to be free from the hellfires of violence, war and death in the Vietnam War.

As per her instructions, for the next few years, I kept her office abreast of my location about every six months. During that time, I never heard from them a single time. As such, I can only assume that they either forgot about me, or possibly didn't consider me worthy cannon fodder. Or maybe, just maybe, that dear woman in some sort of way simply made my personal file "disappear" from her archives of eligible cannon fodder. I honestly don't know, of course. I am just guessing here and being a little bit sarcastic and playful at the same time.

At any rate, feeling quite relieved and seeming to be cleared from going to Vietnam, I continued to pursue my evangelical endeavors at the time. You see, I had been traveling around the country preaching the Gospel, passing out Gospel tracts, and taking odd jobs now and then to support myself. It was in late 1973 that I met a Mexican-American couple in Denver who had a burden for lost souls in Mexico. They both spoke fluent Spanish. As I have mentioned before, I had studied Spanish a total of three years in high school. So, when they invited me to go to Mexico with them on one of their missionary trips, I accepted. Thus, in early 1974, for the very first time in my young life, I crossed over into Mexico with them.

Well, I certainly didn't know God's future plans for me, but as it turned out, I ended up spending a total of approximately six years in Mexico, returning to the Tex-Mex border to renew my visa every six months. During that period, I became rather fluent in speaking, reading and writing Mexican Spanish. This was followed by another three years sharing the Gospel on city corners along the same Tex-Mex border. Eventually, I became enamored with Japan after watching a television mini-series in 1980 called "Shogun", starring Richard Chamberlain, Toshirô Mifune and Yôko Shimada. Thus, in 1983, a friend and I set off for Japan to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I didn't know a single word of Japanese at the time. However, I eventually learned to speak basic Japanese, and I could also read and write both Hiragana and Katakana, but no Kanji.

The last of my nation-hopping evangelical endeavors occurred when my three-year Japanese cultural visa expired. I really had no burden to return to the continental United States, so I ended up on this tropical Pacific island, where I have been for the past forty years. As I explain in other BBB articles, it was here in fact where I began my online ministry. First, with a BBS -- or Bulletin Board Service -- in 1993 during the days before the Internet really took off. Later, in the year 2000, I set up my first actual website, which took the name Endtime Prophecy Net for the next sixteen years. And lastly, in 2016, when I changed the name of Endtime Prophecy Net to Bill's Bible Basics. All of this is explained in my article called "The Internet: Our Final Frontier; Your Last Chance?".

But what I want you to see from previous accounts is how the Lord had taken control of my life from a very young age. Even though the Devil wanted to snag me for his secular army, and force me to go off and kill people in some foreign land who I did not even know, or have a problem with, God had quite a different plan for my life. Rather than be an instrument of death to people, He wanted me to be a bringer of life through faith in Jesus Christ. And so, He used that woman in 1972 to free me from the burden of military service, and a sure death in Vietnam, and I continued as a laborer and soldier in the Lord's army instead. This I have continued to do since that time, and God has provided for me every step of the way.

Let me also add here that I truly feel sorry for the many boys of my youthful era who were in fact shipped off to Vietnam in contradiction to their own desire. It did not matter what they thought about the war -- that is to say, whether they actually supported it or opposed it -- or if they even understood what the war was about. If Uncle Sam said that your number was up, then your number was up, and you had to go and possibly offer up your life as a sacrifice on the altar of war, for a cause you did not even believe in. Oh what a tragedy! As we have already discussed, a lot of those young boys never returned home. Others returned to their home country, but with missing arms, legs, genitals and eyes, with disfigured faces, with totally messed up minds, etc. Many had also become addicted to drugs -- which I strongly suspect the military provided to them -- just so they would be in a mental state where they'd be willing to kill the Vietnamese with whom they really had no quarrel.

Part of the Vietnam War tragedy is also the fact that despite

being forced to go to Vietnam due to the military draft, by the time some of those boys returned home, America's attitude towards that terrible war had changed significantly. As some of my older readers will no doubt already know, there was a very strong anti-war sentiment in the United States at that time. There were protests, anti-war songs, marches, etc. Of course, at the center of it all was the now-famous Woodstock Music and Art Fair, which took place from August 15-18, 1969 in Bethel, New York. One of the most powerful lyrics of that time was "And it's one, two, three, what are we fightin' for? Don't ask me, I don't give a damn, next stop is Vietnam." It was taken from a song by Country Joe and the Fish called "I Feel Like I'm Fixin' to Die Rag". Many years ago, even I sang it at times.

As a result of the strong anti-war sentiment, when those young boys returned to the USA, so many of them were stigmatized. In other words, instead of being welcomed as heroes, they were in fact treated with much disapproval, disgrace, indifference and hostility. It's my understanding that even getting VA benefits proved to be very difficult for some of them. While I did not approve of the war, nevertheless, even I see the injustice in the way that they were treated. In fact, as some of my readers will know, I have been quite the poet since 2014, and I've now composed over 1,030 poems. Many of these I have since converted to actual songs using Artificial Intelligence technology. Here is one I wrote in July of 2020 called "Another War". I hope you enjoy it:

ANOTHER WAR

by Bill Kochman

07-02-2020

For their nation they all fought,
Just like countless wars before,
Blood flowed thick in the fields,
So much pain one could not ignore.

Many weren't much older than boys,
You could almost smell their fear,
As the enemy began their charge,
A boy asked "What am I doing here?"

That young man had been a farmer,
He'd only known the ways of peace,

No quarrel he had with the enemy,
He wished the violence would cease.

Government claimed to know better,
So those boys marched thru the mud,
As the bullets made many men fall,
The earth sucked up their blood.

At last the war was finally over,
A great victory had been achieved,
The nation celebrated with parades,
While parents at home just grieved.

Their child would never celebrate,
He too had fallen on that sad day,
For a cause he did not understand,
With his life he was forced to pay.

So often this same story is repeated,
Government always finds a new fight,
When a nation is constantly at war,
Clearly something is just not right.

Rather blessed are the peacemakers,
This is what our Lord clearly said,
If we choose to take up the sword,
By that weapon we may end up dead.

If you would like to listen to the actual song version of my poem, please proceed to the following URL on my Bill's Bible Basics website. You will find both the poem, as well as two versions of the song there:

https://www.billkochman.com/Poetry/another-war.html

As I mentioned previously, while the aforementioned military woman who interviewed me may have never even realized it, by allowing me to escape America's deadly war machine, and not being sent off to die in Vietnam -- as I surely would have if they had actually forced me to go over there -- she in fact made it possible for me to actually continue my enlistment in ANOTHER army.

I am sure that many of my Christian readers already understand exactly what I'm talking about. For any of my secular readers who do not understand, allow me to explain. While I've spoken a lot about human violence and warfare, unbeknownst to quite a

few secular-minded people, there is another war which is being fought, and which has been fought, for literally thousands of years now. It is a spiritual war between God and the forces of Light, and the Devil and the forces of darkness. While earth's war forces fight, kill and destroy for a piece of land, or for natural resources, or to extend a nation's sphere of control and influence, the Bible informs us that God's war is against darkness, evil, rebellion, lies, deception, sin and death. The purpose of God's war is to save souls -- not kill them -- and to bring them to the Light of Jesus Christ, so that they might obtain Salvation, and thus live eternally in His holy Kingdom. Consider the following group of Bible verses which confirm this very doctrine:

"For the Son of man is NOT COME TO DESTROY MEN'S LIVES, BUT TO SAVE THEM. and they went to another village."
Luke 9:56, KJV

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, but that all should come to repentance."
2 Peter 3:9, KJV

"Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not THAT HE SHOULD RETURN FROM HIS WAYS, AND LIVE?"
Ezekiel 18:23, KJV

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I HAVE NO PLEASURE IN THE DEATH OF THE WICKED; BUT THAT THE WICKED TURN FROM HIS WAY AND LIVE: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"
Ezekiel 33:11, KJV

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him SHOULD NOT PERISH, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; BUT THAT THE WORLD THROUGH HIM MIGHT BE SAVED."
John 3:16-17, KJV

To continue then, when we embrace Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and accept His sacrifice as atonement for our sins, not only are we forgiven, saved, redeemed, reconciled and inherit Eternal Life, but we are likewise inducted into His spiritual army. We become foot soldiers and ambassadors

for the Kingdom of God. Furthermore, in the Epistle to the Hebrews, the Apostle Paul refers to Jesus as "the captain of their salvation" -- meaning, of course, our salvation as well -- as we can easily determine by the following verse:

"For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make THE CAPTAIN OF THEIR SALVATION perfect through sufferings." Hebrews 2:10, KJV

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

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WHY I HATE WAR: AND EXPOSÉ ON HUMAN VIOLENCE - PART 3

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Spiritual Warfare And Spiritual Weapons, Sword Of The Spirit, Satan's War And God's War Are In Opposition To Each Other And Have Very Different Goals, Come To The Light, Our Choice Is Either Salvation Through Christ Or Condemnation, A Refutation By Nonbelievers Regarding Religion-Instigated Wars, Doctrine Of Nonviolence Preached By Jesus And Apostles, True Church Vs False Church, 20th Century Wars, War Death Tolls Manipulation, 20th Century War Death Toll Tables, Millions More Have Died During 21st Century, If We Should Fail To Bring Production Of WMDs To A Halt, 21st Century Warfare: A Very Alarming Picture, Planned Resumption Of Nuclear Tests By 3 UN Security Council Members, Our Right To Explore Outer Space?, Reagan's 1987 UN Speech Regarding War And Aliens, Maintain Your Eyes On Jesus, Don't Allow World Events To Steal God's Peace, Live Your Life In Peace, Peace With God Through Christ, BBB Suggested Reading

Continuing our discussion from part two regarding the Lord's spiritual army, similar to any earthly fighting force which

uses physical weapons to fight against its perceived enemy, God's army likewise has weapons of its own. In fact, those weapons were mentioned in a verse I shared with you in part one. Consider the verse again, along with a number of other Scriptures which reveal the fact that we Christians are truly engaged in spiritual warfare against the forces of darkness, and that we have our own spiritual weapons as well. What is our primary weapon? It is the Sword of the Spirit, which is the very Word of God itself. It is the truth of God's Word which convicts people's hearts so that they will hopefully repent of their unbelief, and come to the saving knowledge of, and faith in, Jesus Christ:

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE NOT CARNAL, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"
2 Corinthians 10:3-5, KJV

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
Hebrews 4:12, KJV

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."
1 Timothy 6:12, KJV

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."
2 Timothy 2:3-4, KJV

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:"
2 Timothy 4:7, KJV

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against

principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 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, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"
Ephesians 6:10-18, KJV

"Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin."
Hebrews 12:4, KJV

At this time, allow me to reiterate one of the key points of this series. While humanity's wars only promise us violence, destruction, misery and death, and rarely ever anything good, the primary purpose of God's holy war is to defeat spiritual darkness, evil, rebellion and ignorance, and to bring us to the Light of Jesus Christ, so that we all have an opportunity to repent of our unbelief, embrace Christ, and thus inherit Eternal Life in the amazing Kingdom of God. God's war is all about Light, Life and Salvation. Period. In short, Satan's war, and God's war, are in direct opposition to each other, and have very different goals in mind.

What you also need to understand is that Jesus Christ ALREADY did His part when He willingly died on the Cross for our sins and became the Captain of our Salvation, and the Head of the Church. Now it is up to each of us to come to the Light when God himself draws us to Jesus Christ by His Spirit. Have you done so yet? I hope so. After all, we can either come to the Light of Christ and be saved, or else we can rebel against it, hide from the Light, and bring condemnation upon ourselves by our own foolish choice, as we see by the following group of Bible verses:

"He that believeth on him [on Jesus] is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were

evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."
John 3:18-21, KJV

Now, as I mentioned earlier, because I know and understand the wicked, unbelieving heart of man, I realize that by even saying these things, certain nonbelievers who still remain in a darkened state in their minds, will probably be tempted to refute what I have just stated. I can just imagine some of them offering a cutting retort by saying something such as the following:

"Now just wait a minute there, Bill! What kind of nonsense is that? How can you even say that? Many of us are fully aware of the fact that down through history, many bloody wars have been instigated due to religious differences. As an example, just look at the Christian Crusades. They certainly did not reflect the light and life of which you have spoken. Or how about the Roman Catholic Church persecuting and killing many of the Reformers and other Protestant believers. Let us also consider the ongoing conflicts between the Shi'ite Muslims and the Sunni Muslims in the Middle East. Then there is the ongoing war between the Israelis and the Palestinians, which is also a religion-based war. Or how about the long-standing "Troubles" between Irish Catholics and Protestants in Ireland and Northern Ireland? Despite the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, friction still exists between these groups. I can go on and on, bro'."

Okay, that is a very fair argument, and I will briefly address it for anyone who may possibly think that way. In fact, I have ALREADY addressed it in large part, but perhaps you missed it because you were not paying close attention. First of all, I can only speak for my own Christian faith. I cannot speak for, and do not presume to speak for, any of the other religions of the world. In part one of this series, I clearly spelled out for you exactly what Jesus and the Apostles taught regarding the issues of violence and war. Their main message is that we born-again Christians are NOT of this world, that we are to strive to live peaceably with all men, and that we should NOT engage in the secular violence and wars of this present world. As I already explained to you, that is precisely how I have lived my own personal life, not engaging in violence and war, and never even owning a gun. I have really lived by my creed.

So taking into consideration what the verses in part one say, what should that tell you concerning any so-called Christian entity which behaves in a manner which is actually contrary to the peaceful teachings of Jesus Christ and the Apostles? Is it not clear? It should be that those Christian entities are NOT a true reflection of our Christian faith, as it is taught in the pages of the Bible. Plain and simple. In short, they are in fact clear examples of the false Christianity which slyly replaced true Bible-based Christianity many centuries ago. If you do not know what I am talking about, then I encourage you to read some of my other BBB articles, including "Rise of the False Church", "Pontifex Maximus: Pagan High Priest to Roman Catholic Pope" and "Churchianity or Christianity: Which Do You Practice?". You will find all of them listed at the end of this same series with clickable links. So that is my answer to those accusations for those of you who can accept it.

To be clear, I am NOT denying that some wars have indeed been instigated by religious differences. This is true. But again, they do NOT reflect the true peaceful Christian faith that is spelled out for us in the Scriptures. It might interest some of my readers to know that back in 1999, while I was working on another series, I conducted some very in-depth research regarding the terrible death tolls which have resulted from humanity's many wars. While my research was limited to wars which were conducted during the 20th century -- which doesn't include the Russia-Ukraine war, the Gaza Strip war, ongoing conflicts in Somalia, Sudan, Nigeria, etc. -- what I actually discovered was nevertheless very mind-boggling and disturbing.

These 20th century wars included, but are not limited to, the Mexican Revolution, World War I, the Russian Civil War, the Spanish Civil War, World War II, the Chinese Civil War, the French Indo-China War, the Korean War, the French-Algerian War, the Vietnam and Southeast Asia War, Israel's Six-Day War which was followed by another Israeli war in 1973, the war in Bangladesh, the Biafran revolt in Nigeria, the Angolan Civil War, the Mozambique Civil War, the Iran-Iraq war, the war in Afghanistan, the Gulf War, civil wars in Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia, the Iraq War -- which came years after the Gulf War, the 1995 war in Chechnya and the renewed war in the same, and the various wars in the Balkans involving Bosnia, Albania and Yugoslavia.

Exactly how deadly have these wars been? As I said a moment ago, the numbers I discovered while conducting my research are nothing short of astounding. The following war figures

are provided to you courtesy of Matthew White's "Historical Atlas of the 20th Century" web page. In sharing this data with you, please understand that, as Mr. White explains on his site, it is virtually impossible to provide one hundred per cent accurate data. This is due to a variety of reasons, which I will now very briefly explain to you. In fact, the death toll figures I shared with you regarding the Vietnam War and the Iraq War reflect these very same problems.

The primary reason is that in dealing with numbers that are associated with death tolls from war, there is always some degree of manipulation involved, due to either political or personal reasons. In some cases, the numbers are purposely underestimated in order to conceal the level of atrocities which have been committed. In other cases, the figures are purposely exaggerated in order to gain sympathy for one side in the conflict. It happens all the time, and you should be aware of this point when you read or listen to the news. As the saying goes, history is written by the victor. Not only that, but during times of war, large numbers of people can be destroyed from off the face of the Earth without ever being accounted for. In such cases, one must rely upon a certain degree of educated guesswork, based upon the facts that are known.

Having said that, Mr. White assures us that he has consulted a wide variety of sources, and that he has endeavored to be as fair, accurate and conservative as possible with his data. In the following table are listed what White considers to be the top twenty wars of the 20th century, and the approximate death tolls associated with each one. Please note that these figures only represent actual military death tolls. They do NOT include civilian death tolls due to primary or secondary causes such as war-induced famine. As we saw earlier with regard to the Iraq War, non-combatant civilian casualties can in fact amount to literally hundreds of thousands of people, sad to say:

Death Toll:	War:	Dates :
20,000,000	Second World War	1937-45
8,500,000	First World War	1914-18
1,700,000	Korean War	1950-53
1,200,000	Chinese Civil War	1945-49

1,200,000	Vietnam War	1965-73
750,000	Iran-Iraq War	1980-88
700,000	Russian Civil War	1918-21
400,000	Chinese Civil War	1927-37
400,000	French Indochina	1945-54
200,000	Mexican Revolution	1911-20
200,000	Spanish Civil War	1936-39
160,000	French-Algerian War	1954-62
150,000	Afghanistan	1980-89
130,000	Russo-Japanese War	1904-05
100,000	Riffian War	1921-26
100,000	First Sudanese Civil War	1956-72
100,000	Russo-Polish War	1919-20
100,000	Biafran War	1967-70
90,000	Chaco War	1932-35
85,000	Abyssinian War	1935-36

36,265,000	Estimated Total Military Deaths	

To add some balance to this picture, I will now provide you with a second table with some data from Mr. White's website, which shows some of the same wars, but this time with actual civilian death tolls included in the totals, and other human atrocities which have been either directly -- or indirectly -- associated with war and/or political and social struggle. Between these figures and the previous ones, we should obtain a general idea of how many lives have been lost due to man's inhumane treatment of man in the events listed, during this past century. Please note that I have added footnotes to six of the death toll listings below:

Death Toll:	Event:	Dates:
50,000,000	Second World War	1937-45 a
48,250,000	China: Mao Zedong's regime	1949-76 b
20,000,000	USSR: Stalin regime	1924-53 c
15,000,000	First World War	1914-18 d
7,000,000	Russian Civil War	1918-21
4,000,000	Chinese Civil War	1945-49
4,000,000	China: Warlord/Nationalist era	1917-37
3,000,000	Korean War	1950-53
2,400,000	Vietnam War	1965-73 e
2,100,000	German Expulsions after WW II	1945-47
2,000,000	Congo Free State	1900-08
1,900,000	Second Sudanese Civil War	1983-
1,671,000	Cambodia: Khmer Rouge Regime	1975-79
1,500,000	Armenian Massacres	1915-23 f
1,500,000	Afghanistan: Civil War	1980-
1,400,000	Ethiopian Civil Wars	1962-92
1,250,000	Mexican Revolution	1910-20
1,250,000	Bangladesh	1971
1,000,000	Iran-Iraq War	1980-88
1,000,000	Nigeria: Biafran Revolt	1967-70
800,000	Mozambique: Civil War	1976-92
800,000	Rwandan Massacres	1994

600,000	French Indochina War	1945-54
500,000	India-Pakistan Partition	1947
500,000	Indonesia: Massacre of Communists	1965-67
500,000	Angolan Civil War	1975-94
500,000	First Sudanese Civil War	1955-72
365,000	Spanish Civil War	1936-39
350,000	Somalia: Civil War	1991-
320,000	French-Algerian War	1954-62

175,456,000	Estimated Total Deaths	

Footnotes:

a - Some overlap with Stalin. Includes Sino-Japanese War, but does not include post-war German expulsions.

b - Includes famine.

c - Includes World War II era atrocities.

d - Some overlap with Russian Civil War and Armenian massacres.

e - Includes Laos and Cambodia.

f - Some overlap with World War I.

My friends, isn't that absolutely horrifying? If we accept these figures as being close to accurate, between 36,265,000 and 175,456,000 individuals lost their lives during the 20th century alone due to wars, and the other atrocities and side effects which are associated with war. In all the research I conducted for that 1999 series, no other death toll figures for any of the other things I discussed -- such as disease, earthquakes, famine, smoking, floods, etc. -- came close to these figures. If we take the smaller number, that is like 77% of the current population of Australia! In contrast, if we take the larger number, that is about 51% of the current population of the United States of America! There should be

no doubt then that humanity's wars and oppression against his fellow man have clearly been the most destructive force upon the face of this planet! Let that sink in for a moment!

Furthermore, if we add in 21st century death tolls from the Russia-Ukraine War, the ongoing slaughter in African nations such as Sudan and Nigeria, the tragic genocide occurring in the Gaza Strip, etc., we can easily add several more million deaths to our overall tally. What a disgrace! Perhaps you the reader can now more fully understand why it is so imperative that the production and storage of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons -- a.k.a. Weapons of Mass Destruction -- be brought to a complete halt! If the world's wicked warmongers were able to wreak this much carnage and destruction from conventional weapons, God only knows what such vile people could -- and probably would -- do, if what occurred to the Japanese cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, were repeated on a much larger scale by many nations simultaneously, and with even more powerful weapons!

Tragically, as some of you will already know, that seems to be EXACTLY where we are headed, whether we the common people like it or not! As I explain in articles such as "Robot Wars and Skynet: Is Sci-Fi Becoming Our Reality?", it seems that these evildoers simply cannot help themselves. As if 20th century warfare was not already bad and destructive enough, now we have got AI technology, drones, hypersonic missiles, space-based weaponry, computer viruses, laser weapons, etc. In fact, as has become common knowledge, the Russia-Ukraine war is being largely fought with drones now, and robotic war machines are on the rise as well and possibly super soldiers.

Yet sadly, even that is NOT the end of the madness of Satan's warmongers. As you may know, recent news reports state that the three primary members of the UN Security Council -- the Unites States, Russia and China -- have ALL issued a public statement concerning their intentions to begin nuclear tests anew! Where will it all end? With a crispy, toasty, lifeless planet? Will some distant alien race one day suddenly notice that a particular blue heavenly body has disappeared from their night sky? Unnerving, isn't it?

This issue of humanity's many wars and human exploration of Outer Space is something I have discussed before in articles such as my eight-part series "Alien Life, Extrasolar Planets and Universal Atonement". I have given much thought to the issue over the years. As I have questioned before, given our

violent, war-prone nature, does humanity even have the right to explore Outer Space? Do we have the right to pollute it with our space junk, war machines and violent nature? Won't we simply repeat on other worlds what we have already done to our own precious planet which God has given to us in His amazing love?

As is already well known, some people in the UAP/UFO circles insist that not only do other intelligent alien civilizations exist, but in addition to visiting our planet for millennia, they have grown increasingly concerned regarding humanity's obvious destructive nature, as well as man's possession of increasingly destructive weaponry. Of course, I honestly do not know how much of this talk is really true, but I do keep a very open mind concerning it, as is reflected in some of my BBB articles. Along the same lines, while I was writing these paragraphs, I was reminded of part of a 1987 speech which US President Ronald Reagan gave before the 42nd session of the UN General Assembly. Following is a direct quote from it:

----- Begin Quote -----

"In our obsession with antagonisms of the moment, we often forget how much unites all the members of humanity. Perhaps we need some outside, universal threat to make us recognize this common bond. I occasionally think how quickly our differences worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from outside this world. And yet, I ask you, is not an alien force already among us? What could be more alien to the universal aspirations of our peoples than war and the threat of war?"

----- End Quote -----

While some people adopted the position that Reagan was simply acting a little "loopy" due to his advancing age -- he was 76 at the time -- others interpreted his message as a direct hint that there was already an alien presence amongst us. And yet others took the president's words at face value, and accepted them as meaning that they were a condemnation of war, and a desire to see unity amongst the nations of the world. Below is an actual video of that portion of Reagan's speech. If you are not reading this series on the Bill's Bible Basics site, you can easily find the video with a simple web search:

[1987 Ronald Reagan UN speech excerpt goes here.]

As I mentioned earlier, the children of the world will do as the children of the world will do, and there is really little that you and I can do about it. However, regardless of what they do in the coming years, we can't allow their wickedness to rob God's peace from our hearts. And they won't, if our eyes and minds remain focused on Jesus, as we plainly see by the following two Bible verses:

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."
Isaiah 26:3, KJV

"LOOKING UNTO JESUS the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."
Hebrews 12:2, KJV

In conclusion, my friends, please live a life of peace. Even more importantly, place your faith in the sacrifice of the Prince of Peace himself -- Jesus Christ -- so that you can be reconciled with our Heavenly Father, and be at peace with Him. Following are some closing verses for your personal consideration:

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."
Matthew 5:9, KJV

"Therefore being justified by faith, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST . . . For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."
Romans 5:1, 10, KJV

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."
2 Corinthians 5:18-19, KJV

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. FOR HE IS OUR PEACE, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the

enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father."
Ephesians 2:13-18, KJV

"For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, HAVING MADE PEACE THROUGH THE BLOOD OF HIS CROSS, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:"
Colossians 1:19-22, KJV

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
John 14:27, KJV

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
John 16:33, KJV

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:7, KJV

With these thoughts, I will bring this article to a close. It is my hope that you've found it informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would really appreciate if you'd take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were either mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server. To

read these articles, simply click or tap on any link you see below.

Alien Life, Extrasolar Planets and Universal Atonement
America vs. Iran: This Was an Act of War
Are You Committing Adultery?
Beware of Dominionism!
Churchianity or Christianity: Which Do You Practice
Divine Protection: Do You Have Fear or Faith?
Dracula, Nosferatu, Twilight: The Vampire Fad
Free From the Fear of Death: Law and Works vs Grace
Killing and the Phinehas Priesthood
Killing, Murder, War and Military Duty
Obama, McCain and the Bush Legacy
One From Beyond: Hebrew of Hebrews
Owning Guns: What Saith the Scriptures?
Pontifex Maximus: Pagan High Priest to Roman Catholic Pope
Rise of the False Church
Robot Wars and Skynet: Is Sci-Fi Becoming Our Reality?
Saddam Hussein's Execution and the Euro Dollar War
School Shootings: The Second Amendment Controversy
Science and Technology: The Forbidden Knowledge?
Star Wars: The Real Battle Wages On!
Strangers and Pilgrims: Are You an Alien?
The Heavenly Vision: Have You Got It?
The Internet: Our Final Frontier; Your Last Chance?
The Plight of the Children: School Gun Violence!
What Does Blessed Are the Peacemakers Really Mean?
Who is the Real Terrorist?

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