

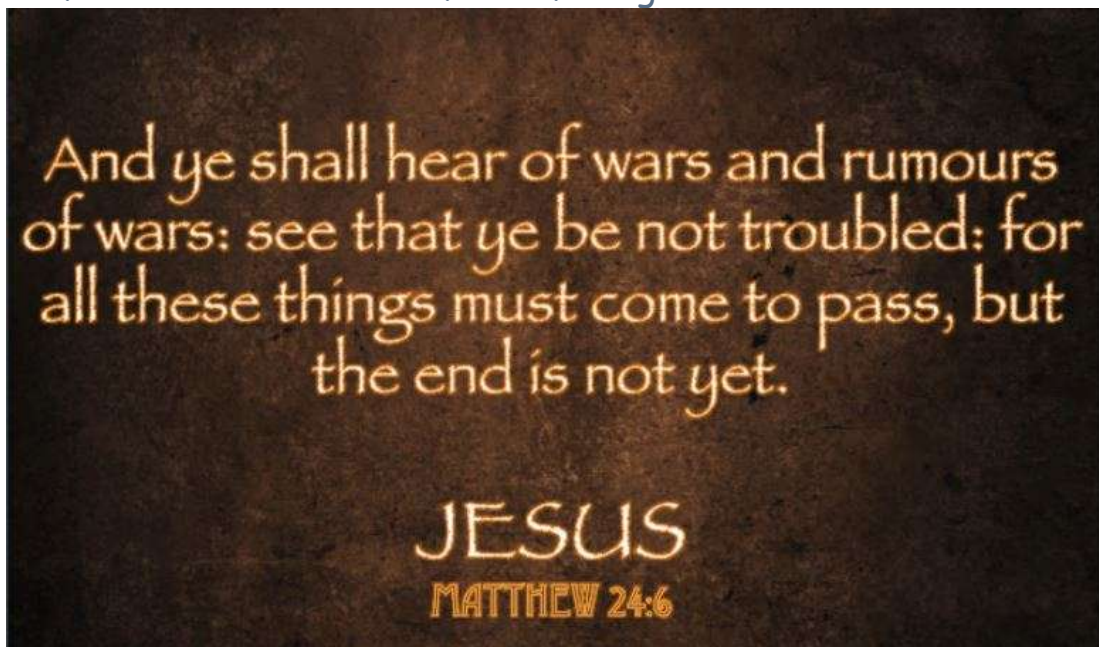
UNIQUE WARFARE – Gen 3:15

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Gen 3:15 "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

We read in Rev 6:4 "And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given unto him that sat there-on to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword." How these words strike terror in our hearts! Each war has brought with it new and more devastating weapons until we have graduated from the "great sword" of Revelation to the appalling atomic bombs.

"Wars and rumors of wars" we shall have with us until the lord Himself puts a stop to it by His appearance at the last day. Battles and conflicts are the result of man falling into sin.



Retaliation is common place in wars and weapons of revenge are constantly sought* Brutality, cruelty, hatred, wholesale slaughter: no war is without them.

But there is another battle going on in the world which is so different and unique that it is almost incredible. We shall learn about this strange conflict when we consider —

UNIQUE WARFARE

1. BETWEEN GOD AND THE SERPENT SERPENT'S CHALLENGE

The serpent, or the devil in the serpent's body, originally was a good angel and dwelt with God and the other angels in bliss and glory. Some unexplained catastrophe took place in heaven whereby a multitude of angels sinned against God and were cast out of heaven. The Bible calls the leader of the wicked angels "that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan".

Rev 12:9. He is the source of all evil and wickedness in this world and is the sworn enemy of God. Satan will do anything to destroy God's works and that is the real reason why he came into the garden and tempted Eve into sinning by eating the forbidden fruit. Jesus tells us in John 8:44 "The devil was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth." This mad, crazed spirit dared to challenge God in a fight to the finish.

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

The Triune God created man and the angels because He wished to share His goodness and glory with them. When man sinned in the garden by hearkening unto the voice of the serpent, God's love for man came to the fore and the Lord stood on man's side over against Satan. The Lord took up the challenge and declared war on the devil by saying, "I will put enmity," that is, hostility, antagonism, or animosity, "between thee and the woman," etc. That was the beginning of this unique warfare long, long ago.

HOW UNIQUE?

God promised Adam and Eve and the whole world that He would send a Savior from sin, the Seed of the woman, who would make right what the devil ruined, by crushing the serpent's head. This is the strangest battle ever fought—God fighting and overcoming the devil, not by

annihilating him, but by punishing His own Son in our stead. How wonderfully unique!!

WHO WON?

Jesus overcame the devil's temptations in the wilderness. This was a preview of His final victory. The serpent did bruise the heel of the Seed in the sufferings and death on the cross. But thereby the Seed crushed the serpent's head by destroying sin and the power of Satan. The Seed delivered the final crushing blow by His triumphal descent into hell.



FIRST GOSPEL

Thus our text is the first promise of the Savior to come and has an excellent Advent message which has brought comfort and hope to God's children for thousands of years.

The battle between these two invisible opponents spread throughout the world to include the followers of each.

2.BETWEEN GOD'S CHILDREN AND THE SERPENT'S CHILDREN SERPENT'S CHILDREN

The children of the devil are all those who are ruled by him. Or, to put it in other words, the serpent's seed are the unbelievers who hate God. In fact, anyone who does not believe the promise of our text is not of God.

GOD'S CHILDREN

All who call God their Father in Jesus are His children. All who believe that the woman's Seed overcame Satan, sin, and death, belong to their heavenly Father and will live and reign with Him in glory.

THIS WARFARE ALSO UNIQUE

What Jesus said of His disciples in [John 15:18-19](#) applies to all of God's children, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 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." The serpent's children hate God's children with all their hearts, and they are not satisfied with merely hating, they persecute also. We see Cain slaying righteous Abel, and we hear the mob crying out to Pilate, "Crucify him, crucify him." Unbelief and persecution seem to go hand in hand.

What "revenge weapons" do God's children use in their unique warfare? Their weapons, given them by their Captain, are as strange and unique as the warfare itself. "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," [Matt 5:44](#). It is a battle of love versus hate and our Captain gave us a wonderful example by praying on the cross for His enemies, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," [Luke 23:34](#). One army tries to destroy, and the other army, in love, tries to save. When Satan himself attacks God's soldiers, they ward off the blows by finding refuge In God's holy Word as Jesus did in His great temptation.

WHO IS THE FINAL VICTORY?

Before this unique battle finally ends, both sides will have lost and gained. Many children of Satan will be converted by the Holy Ghost and brought to faith in the Seed who crushed the serpent's head. On the other hand, the ranks of God's soldiers will also suffer great loss when many desert and go over to the camp of the enemy.

The Seed of the Woman

- Genesis 3:15
"And I will put enmity
Between you and the
woman, And between your
seed and her Seed; He
shall crush your head, And
you shall strike His heel."
- This is a prophecy of the
Messiah, God's Anointed
King, Who will fatally
wound Satan.



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It is a deadly and earnest battle with the eternal destiny and welfare of man at stake. But it is certain that the Lord and His army will win the final victory. The believers will revive eternal life by faith in the Seed of the woman. The serpent and his army will be lost forever in hell.

APPLICATION

Our little text is actually an outline of church history and the history of the world; the ceaseless, and nearly always invisible struggle between God and His army and Satan and his legions. This first Gospel message is an amazing text.

The Advent message is "Behold, thy King cometh unto thee," the fulfillment of a promise made long ago in Eden. We can look forward to

Christmas with new joy as we see the Seed of the Virgin come into the world to crush the old evil foe. We gaze in amazement as we see the manner of His warfare! He laid down His life to conquer. May we all give our hearts to our King and under Him fight our battle to save all men by preaching His holy cross. AMEN.

PRAYER Dear Lord, Thou hast not forgotten us nor Thy promises made so long ago. We thank Thee for sending Thy Son into the world by whom we are saved and redeemed from the devil and death. Give us Thy Holy Spirit that we may fight the good fight of faith and receive the glorious crown. We ask this, knowing that the holy Seed of the Virgin has gained eternal life for us all. Grant our petition for His sake. AMEN