

A TIME OF WAR

Jas 4:1-12; Eph 6:10-17

INTRODUCTION:

- A. War is always in the news
- B. Political war is a part of life
- C. James show us the “root” of wars Jas 4:1-2
- D. Our study now has to do with spiritual war in at least three areas

DISCUSSION:

I. WAR AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD Jas 4:1,11

- A. God's people should be at peace
 - 1. Good and pleasant to be united Psa 133:1
 - 2. Work at maintaining unity Eph 4:1-3
 - 3. Paul's conflicts in Ephesus Acts 19
 - a. John's Baptism vs 3-5
 - b. Debating vs 8-10
 - c. Imposters vs 13-17
 - d. Conflict with Demetrius vs 23-41
- B. Examples of war among God's people
 - 1. Servants of Lot and Abraham Gen 13:8
 - a. Strife because of prosperity
 - b. Separation to avoid conflict
 - 2. Disciples of Jesus
 - a. Disputes over greatness Mk 9:33-34
 - b. Diotrophes 3Jhn 1:9
- C. Work involved in avoiding and dealing with problems
 - 1. Mark those who cause division Rom 16:17,18
 - 2. Subverters must be stopped Titus 1:9-16
 - 3. Sin must be dealt with 1Cor 5
 - 4. Perverters of the Gospel in Gal 1:6-9

II. WAR WITHIN OUR OWN SELF Jas 4:1-3

- A. Unhappy with self
 - 1. Materialism 1Tim 6:3-12
 - 2. Things is not what life is all about Lk 12:15-21
 - 3. Must be content Heb 13:5-6
- B. Constant mental turmoil
 - 1. Paul involved in constant battle Rom 7:14-20
 - 2. Battle is between flesh and spirit
- C. Some things must be put away
 - 1. Evil things must be put away Eph 4:31-32
 - 2. However, they must be replaced with good Matt 12:43-45; Jer 1:10
 - 3. In physical warfare, it's not enough to just defeat the enemy, there must be reconstruction, etc
- D. Can't get even Rom 12:17-19

- 1. Must try to live peaceable
 - 2. Vengeance belongs to God
 - 3. God does give civil government the right to punish evil doers Rom 13:4
- E. Must learn self control 1Cor 9:27
- 1. Too many want to discipline and/or control others
 - 2. Yet do not discipline themselves Matt 7:3-5

III. WAR WITH GOD Jas 4:4-10

- A. Friends to and with God's enemies (world)
 - 1. Friendship with world is enmity with God Jas 4:4
 - 2. Pray to be kept from the evil one Jhn 17:14-16
 - 3. Must be separate from world 2Cor 6:17; Rom 12:2
- B. Give in to the flesh
 - 1. If the Lord will Jas 4:1,5
 - 2. Fleshly lust war against the soul 1Pet 2:11
 - 3. Works of flesh keeps from heaven Gal 5:16-21
- C. Surrender to Satan
 - 1. We must resist the devil Jas 4:7
 - 2. Example of Eve Gen 3:1-6;
 - 3. Refuse to love the world 1Jhn 2:15-17
 - 4. Weapons of our warfare are not carnal, yet they are mighty 2Cor 10:3-6
- D. We can have victory over all spiritual wars
 - 1. Submit to God Jas 4:7 - like Jesus Lk 22:42
 - 2. Resist the Devil Jas 4:7 - like Jesus Matt 4:1-10
 - 3. Draw near to God in obedience Jas 4:8 – like Jesus Jhn 6:38
 - 4. Be humble Jas 4:10; Prov 16:7 - like Jesus Phil 2:5-8
 - 5. Trust God and His word Rom 8:31-39 – Jesus trusted God with His life

CONCLUSION:

- A. Must strive for peace, be peace loving & peaceful people.
- B. Yet we are in a very real war (battle) every day of life.
- C. Jesus came not to send peace but sword Matt 10:34-37
- D. Are we using the sword of the Spirit? Eph 6:10-18

(from a sermon by J. F. Dancer)