



The Incredible
Journey

How the War ENDS

EVIL

GOOD

?

GARY KENT



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Unless otherwise noted, all Bible texts are from the
Authorized King James Version or New King James
Version

Published by The Incredible Journey
PO Box 5101 · Dora Creek · NSW 2264 · Australia

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HOW THE WAR ENDS

Thousands of ships dotted the English Channel in the early light of D-Day, 1944, creating an awesome spectacle. The American, British and Canadian military, gathering off the coast of Normandy, France, would spearhead the liberation of Europe that morning, and reclaim it from the Germans. It would dramatically reverse the course of history in the long and costly World War II. A German private on the western front named Hans would always remember the day the war ended for him. It was June 6, 1944. He had experienced many long years of fighting as part of Hitler's proud, apparently invincible army. But now he felt like an old man.

Hans and his comrades had been expecting an invasion for weeks. They were dug in amid the long German line of defence along the coast of Normandy. But they thought the threat had come and gone on the night of June 6. Thick, dark clouds had rolled over the skies. A strong wind

was blowing. It didn't seem the allies could cover an all-out assault from the air.

But then, reports started coming over the wireless. Parachutists had landed here. Gliders had come in there. And out from land, numerous landing craft were approaching.

In the middle of this turmoil, Hans got orders to take a reconnaissance patrol toward the coast. He gathered several infantrymen and prepared to set off.

Hans hid in some bushes and then tried to make his way back to the German lines, but he was captured by British paratroopers

But just then, a British tank roared up and opened fire. Everyone scattered. Hans hid in some bushes and then tried to make his way back to the German lines, but he was captured by British paratroopers and moved toward the beach. Hans felt overwhelmed and distressed. They had captured him only a few hours after the invasion - a devastating result for a soldier fighting in the most important battle of his life!

But when the sun rose the next morning, Hans saw something that quickly changed his outlook as a prisoner of war. Spread over the ocean was an invasion fleet that stretched to the horizon - ship beside ship without a break. And down on the beaches, Hans saw troops, weapons, tanks, munitions and vehicles being unloaded in a never-ending stream. Who could resist such an onslaught? Hans breathed a sigh of relief and told himself that, really, he was a lucky man to be alive! Clearly, on D-Day 1944, there was only one side to be on, the side of that allied

armada pouring into Europe!

Do you ever get the feeling you've been part of a war with some prolonged conflict in your personal life? Are you battling with family issues and relationship troubles that are getting you down? Maybe you are in the grips of a life-threatening illness that has taken hold of you or a loved one. Perhaps the battle is inside your head, with a struggle against addictions, depression, and anxiety.

You could be forgiven for thinking you are living in a war zone when you turn on the news each night and see the escalating violence, crime and social problems in our world today that remind us of the presence of evil in this world. The levels of pain and suffering people experience are heartbreaking. We think to ourselves, 'This isn't right. The world is not meant to be like this!' One author laments, 'Our default view of the world is that everything is supposed to be

good. It's as though we were made for another world'.¹

Why is evil allowed to hurt and destroy people? What even is evil? Do you ever wonder how it is all going to end - if it will ever end?

It turns out that behind the scenes, a cosmic war has been raging for millennia, which may give us insight as we grapple to understand evil and how the world got into the mess it is in today. Although it is hard to imagine, the Bible tells us that there was once a war in Heaven.

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any

¹ *A World of Evil and Suffering*. Retrieved from <https://www.cru.org/us/en/blog/life-and-relationships/hardships/a-world-of-evil-and-suffering.html>

longer” (Rev. 12:7-10).

A stunning angel called Lucifer began a rebellion against God that continued when he made planet Earth his new home (Rev. 12:12). Lucifer, who received the name Satan when he fell from heaven, tried to set up an alternative system to the government of God. And the result has been a disaster for all the universe to see.

The Bible warns us against this foe who is out to “steal, to kill and to destroy” (John 10:10).

Satan fights with deception and lies, trying to coerce human beings into falling for his destructive plans. God’s way is to fight with love, fairness, and freedom of choice. Jesus says “*I have come that they may have life, and that they*

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Sometimes we see God’s love prevailing. We feel a ray of sunshine through the love of family and trusted friends and through the selfless acts of people who spread God’s love and grace throughout the world. But other times it seems that evil prevails in this world. We see the innocent abused. We see faith trampled. We see human relationships polarized, and families falling apart. We experience heartache, pain, and suffering, and we wonder - is it ever going to end? How long until this age-long conflict reaches a resolution? Will we have to deal with sin and suffering forever? Or can love finally prevail - once and for all?

Take heart! There is good news! The battle between good and evil will end one day! The Bible tells us who will win, and how. Planet Earth will witness the most spectacular invasion human eyes could ever behold! The book of

Revelation paints a picture for us about how this awesome invasion will take place, and who will be the key players in the final struggle between good and evil. Satan knows that Jesus will ultimately win the war - that his days are numbered, but he is not going down without a fight. *“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ”* (Rev. 12:17).

In the book of Revelation, a pure woman represents the true church, the faithful followers of Jesus Christ. The dragon, or Satan, is enraged with the woman. Why? Because the church is the family of Christ on earth — His children whom He loves. And for Satan, striking out at the children of God is a way of striking out at his rival, Jesus Christ.

Satan has been angry for a long time. He

was angry in heaven because he wanted to be powerful like God. He was furious when he was cast out of heaven. He was wild with rage when Christ died on the cross and rose from the dead, because the plan of salvation had succeeded, and his future doom was sealed. He was angry through the dark ages when scattered groups of believers kept their simple devotion and faith to Christ alive despite Satan's desperate efforts to stamp out the faith of Jesus from the earth.

Every time his schemes to deceive a believer fails, he flies into a fit of rage. Whenever the gospel conquers new territory, he shudders in desperation and shakes his fists. Yes, as

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time goes by and D-Day approaches, Satan's rage grows more intense.

His maddening rage is directed toward the woman and "the rest of her offspring". Who

are the rest of her offspring? The Bible calls them the remnant - a small minority of people who will keep God's commandments and remain faithful to Him during the time of the end. This is the last church, the final group of faithful believers who will live on the earth just before the second coming of Christ. The war that began in heaven will burst out in a final drama on this earth just before the end of history.

Revelation chapter 13 describes a dragon making war against the followers of Christ. This dragon speaks blasphemy against God. Satan's hatred towards God is now out in the open. He is gathering his forces for a final assault against Christ and His followers. Satan will work through a charismatic, apostate power who will set himself up as Christ on earth, enforcing man's laws in place of God's, and deceiving the nations. He is the infamous Antichrist of Bible prophecy. The Bible tells us that during this time, almost the entire world will give Satan the

allegiance he has coveted since the war began. *“And all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast, and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”* (Rev. 13:3,4). *“And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life”* (Rev. 13:8).

Thankfully, there is another group of people who will not be swayed by this powerful figure. They are not swept up by the mob that follows the popular opinions of the day. They are God’s faithful followers in the end times - the ones whose names are written in God’s Book of Life (Rev. 13:8). The Bible clearly identifies this group. *“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus”* (Rev. 14:12). These people, set apart by God in the end time, are distinguished by two characteristics:

1. *They have an undying faith in Jesus*
2. *They have made an immovable decision to keep God's commandments.*

Both of those things are vitally important. They have faith in Jesus' power to redeem them, and the loyalty, devotion, and commitment to read God's word and obey His commandments. It is these people who are the object of Satan's attack. He is not worried about us when we compromise and become like the world around us. But he is extremely threatened by devoted followers of Jesus who by faith endeavour to reflect the love and character of Christ and share their faith with others! Satan is scheming against them with plans to annihilate their faith. He is trying to discourage the followers of Christ through the trials, temptations, and distractions of this life, ultimately leading them to

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disobey and turn away from God.

His attacks have not proven fruitless. Countless people have been seduced into following him. They have made wrong choices. They have chosen the crowd instead of conscience. They have chosen compromise instead of loyalty to the Word of God. They have become tired and discouraged and their faith has grown cold.

Whether people inadvertently slip away from God or physically choose to turn their back on Him, tragically these individuals will ultimately join forces with Satan's army.

When speaking of the signs of the last days, Jesus gives us an urgent warning against deception, knowing that this will be Satan's key tactic in the last days. *"For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand"* (Matt. 24:24,25).

This passage in Matthew, spoken by Christ, sounds similar to a direct quote out of Revelation, which provides additional detail about the actions of the false prophets. *“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying that they should make an image to the beast”* (Rev. 13:13-14).

Notice that Satan will deceive the world through miracles, so we must always test miracles and signs by the word of God (Isaiah 8:20).

Jesus’ warnings about false Christs continue. *“Therefore, if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man*

be” (Matt. 24:26-27).

These texts suggest a counterfeit second coming by a false Christ! Could this be Satan himself who will counterfeit Christ’s return to this earth in his final act of deception? 2 Corinthians 11:14 says

‘For Satan...transforms himself into an angel of light’.

Could this be Satan himself who will counterfeit Christ’s return to this earth in his final act of deception?

Matthew 24:27 gives us clear guidance as to how to avoid being deceived. It says the coming of the true Christ will be as the lightning that shines from the east to the west. When there is lightning in the sky, can it be clearly seen by all? Indeed, it can! In the same way, the Bible says that when Jesus returns, there will be no secrets, and no one will hear about the coming of Christ before you do! *“Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him”*

(Rev. 1:7).

1 Thessalonians 4:17 says that at the second coming, *“we who are alive & remain will be caught up together with them (the risen ones) to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord”*. Jesus’ feet will not touch the ground at the second coming, so any person calling oneself Christ, while walking around on the earth, is sure to be a counterfeit.

Stay on your guard! Matthew 24:24 warns us that Satan’s deceptions are so cunning, that if possible, Satan will even deceive Christians! What is the only safeguard against deception? We must study God’s Word! Instead of believing what others say, search God’s word diligently for yourself, and pray earnestly for the Holy Spirit to “guide you into all truth”. (John 16:13).

Initially, this war will not be fought with guns

and weaponry. It is a battle against truth and lies, in which every person must decide whether they will follow God's word and keep His commandments, or go with the popular tide of the day.

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14: 12).

Satan's anger and hatred against God's faithful, commandment keeping people will reach its climax when they choose to obey God's commandments rather than the laws enforced by the beast and the false prophet. One group receives the seal of God (Rev. 7:3); the other

One group receives the seal of God, the other the dreaded mark of the beast

the dreaded mark of the beast. *"He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name*

of the beast, or the number of his name” (Rev. 13:16,17). Satan will force people to receive the mark of the beast firstly based on fear of lacking the necessities of life. You cannot buy food unless you have the mark!

“He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed” (Rev. 13:15). Finally, if you still stubbornly refuse to worship the image of the beast, you will be in fear of your life! Satan’s army becomes a seemingly overwhelming force against those who are faithful to Christ, and the final battle of Armageddon begins (Rev. 16:16). For a time, it looks like evil will conquer good - God’s people will be destroyed, and Satan will win the battle. But Christ has not forgotten the ones He loves! Jesus responds by pouring out the seven last plagues on Satan’s army who have chosen to follow the beast and receive his

mark (Rev. 16:1-20). Loathsome sores, waters turned to blood, scorching heat from the sun, and darkness are reminiscent of the plagues of Egypt, which affect only the people who are not followers of Christ. Finally, Jesus stands up and says “It is done!” and the earth is utterly shaken (Rev. 16:17). *“And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent”* (approx. 26kg!) (Rev. 16:18, 20-21). God’s faithful people are tired, worn, and severely persecuted. How much more can they endure?

But suddenly, everything changes. The heavens split apart. The eyes of the whole earth are drawn to an indescribably beautiful scene! *“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And*

He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness, He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns” (Rev. 19:11,12).

What a scene! Something glorious and majestic is rushing out of eternity and into time. A figure rides on a white horse. A white horse is a symbol of conquering conquest. Yes, He’s riding to our rescue! It is our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! No one else has been so faithful and true. He promised to come. And He is coming! He promised to be with us in our hour of need. And He’s here!

Yes, He judges and makes war righteously. He’s been fighting the good fight ever since that first battle with Lucifer in heaven. He’s been fighting with love. He’s been fighting with truth. He’s been demonstrating over and over that God’s way is better. And now, He’s ready for the final battle!

He's determined. Nothing can stop Him now. His eyes are like a flame of fire (Rev. 19:12). He's going to deal with the one who's been deceiving and harassing and persecuting His people for so long. Satan is doomed.

Christ's gaze is fiery and "*on His head were many crowns*" (Rev. 19:12). *The words "King of Kings and Lord of Lords"* are inscribed on His robe (Rev. 19:16). They are like the coat-of-arms of a great warrior. And this isn't just some four-star general coming home with honours! This is the One destined to rule over the kingdoms of all the earth!

The Apostle John saw Jesus as a Great Warrior riding down the corridor of the skies to the rescue. And he has an army with Him! "*He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called the Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses*" (Rev.

19:13,14).

This Great Warrior's robe is dipped in blood - a symbol of deliverance. On the cross of Calvary, Jesus shed his precious blood, and won the victory over sin and Satan for us!

This time, Jesus does not appear on this earth as a baby in Bethlehem's manger. This is not an incarnation. This is an invasion! Jesus is coming as a conquering King! The entire host of heavenly angels have emptied heaven and are riding with Him on white horses, clothed in fine

white linen. No cavalry has ever looked more glorious coming to the rescue! The heavens are splitting open with the brilliance and majesty of

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Jesus has come with the armies of heaven, with fire in His eyes, with crowns on His head. He arrives to confront the beast and all his allies massing for attack (Rev. 19:19).

And what happens next? Revelation describes it in symbolic terms. It says a sharp sword proceeds out of Christ's mouth. And He strikes the nations (Rev. 19:15). "*And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming*" (2 Thess. 2:8). Hallelujah! The faithful followers of Christ are liberated forever from the clutches of the enemy.

Meanwhile, the triumphant voice of Jesus and the sound of a trumpet awaken the dead in Christ from their graves (1 Thess. 4:16), and with a shout of victory, they rise into the air to meet the Lord, joined shortly after by the

exuberant, faithful followers of Jesus who have not experienced death on this earth. *“Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord”* (1 Thess. 4:17). Jesus and the faithful ones who love Him go together to their beautiful home in Heaven (John 14:3), where they live and reign with Christ for a thousand years (Rev. 20:4). Awesome God! Glorious deliverance!

As for Satan who has caused all the evil, pain and suffering on this earth for millennia, Revelation 20 says he will be thrown into ‘the bottomless pit’ - bound to this earth for a thousand years - where he can *“deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were*

Jesus and the faithful ones who love Him go together to their beautiful home in Heaven (John 14:3), where they ‘live and reign with Christ for a thousand years’

finished” (Rev. 20:3).

After the thousand years are over, Jesus has made plans to move the headquarters of heaven to this earth! “*Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband*” (Rev. 21:2).

Incredibly, this sin-sick planet will be made new, and become the headquarters of Heaven itself!

And what of the dead who die at the coming of Christ? Will they ever be seen again? “*But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished*” (Rev. 20:5). The wicked dead are raised to behold the beautiful city which has descended to earth, and to face their life record (Rev. 20:12). They now have a chance to see the choices they made that have led them to this point; the numerous times Jesus has offered them life, and they have turned their

backs on Him (John 5:40). The sin they have held onto has cost them everything, and they weep and mourn because it is too late to turn around. They are eternally lost (Rev. 22:11). At the same time, Satan will be released from his prison (Rev. 20:7) and go out to deceive the nations one last time, “*to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea*” (Rev. 20:8).

Satan has already lost the war and is eternally doomed, but here we see him back to his old tricks of deception again - deceiving the lost into believing that if they join forces with him, they can take the city of God by force! “*They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are.*” (Rev. 20:9,10).

Satan and those who have chosen to follow him are consumed in the fire of God, in the same way that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were consumed in ancient times (Gen. 19:24). Death and hell are then “*cast into the lake of fire*” (Rev. 20:14). The fire purifies the old earth, and right before the eyes of the redeemed, Jesus creates a completely new and beautiful world (Rev. 21:5) that will be free from evil, death, pain and suffering forever!

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be

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their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Rev. 21:1,3,4).

One Christian author describes it this way: “The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love”.²

If the struggles of this life have been getting you down, if you feel anxious and overwhelmed by

² The Great Controversy p. 678

your personal circumstances, hold on! If you have been devastated by the loss of a loved one, or you are facing a personal battle with a life-threatening illness, hold on! If you look around you at the pain and suffering in this world and wonder why God hasn't stepped in to defend the innocent, hold on!

In the battles of life you may have lost your job, your health, your home, your family and your most significant relationship, but hold on! Help is on its way! The struggles of this life will soon be over! Jesus is going to win the battle! He's going to ride to the rescue! No force on earth will be able to stand against Him.

Jesus has earned the right to rescue us. Help from above is on its way! The only question left to decide is which side will you be on when D-Day arrives? Will you be standing with the group who look up and say "*Lo, this is our God, we have waited for Him, and He*

will save us” (Isaiah 25:9), or will you be among the ones who hide themselves from the coming King, and say to the mountains and rocks, *“Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne”* (Rev. 6:16). Clearly, there is only one side to be on when Christ’s army invades this planet!

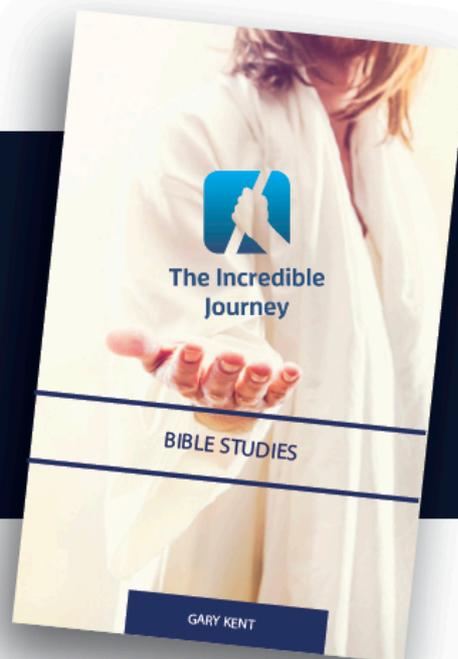
If you have not yet given your heart and life to Jesus, and would like to experience the peace of God that can carry you through every heartache, trial and storm in your life until the day He returns and wipes all your tears away, then I invite you to ask Jesus to come into your heart in the quietness of this moment.

Bible prophecy is fulfilling rapidly. The return of Jesus and the end of the war is fast approaching! It is time to make a stand today to be on God’s team of faithful ones who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus - who are not taken in by Satan’s

last-day deceptions! Join me in saying, ‘Lord, whatever you want me to do, here I am - I am all yours!’

I want to personally invite you to begin an exciting journey of faith and discovery in God’s Word by requesting our free Bible study guides. They will help to answer life’s most challenging questions. You will gain a deeper understanding as to how the war will end and how to be ready to meet Jesus. A deep study of God’s word will lead you into a personal relationship with Jesus that could change your life forever!

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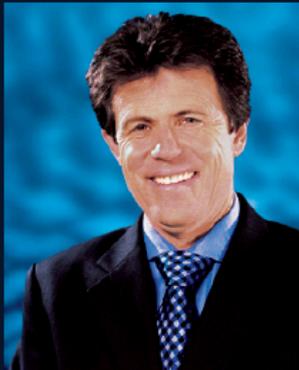
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Do you know that the conflict between good and evil will not go on for ever? The war that began in heaven will burst out dramatically on this earth just before the end of history, just before Christ comes again.

You will be greatly encouraged as Gary looks at what will happen in this last big war between good and evil.



Pastor Gary Kent is Speaker for The Incredible Journey ministry. He has spoken and produced numerous documentaries on subjects including the Bible, Bible prophecy, world events and natural health. His passion is to share the good news of Jesus' imminent return.

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