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## **“HE MAKETH WARS TO CEASE”** **Micah 4:3**

Russia’s recent invasion of Ukraine is posing a real threat to neighboring countries, people on every continent are fearful of a Third World War. God promised He would make “wars to cease unto the end of the earth,” but, considering mankind’s prideful, selfish and aggressive nature, will there ever be a time when “the nations shall learn war no more”? (Psalm 46:9)

### **Why Do the People Imagine a Vain Thing?**

“Why do the heathen [nations] rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves ... against the LORD...” (Psalm 2:1, 2) Throughout history, the power-hungry have tried in vain to conquer the world by force. Sooner or later, a new regime has sought to usurp control.

World War I was declared by the Nations to be “the war to end all wars.” But following it came the rise of communism, World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War with the Soviet Union, Viet Nam, Desert Storm, and conflicts in Israel, Ireland, Afghanistan, Central America, Bosnia, Angola, Somalia, Argentina, Pakistan, etc. And now, the Russian assault against the Ukrainian people and country threatens to spread to neighboring countries. Embedded within all of these conflicts is the conviction by the aggressor that theirs is the just cause, and their ideology worthy to be imposed upon their fellow man. But, compliance and conformity to one man’s selfish will can never bring about a true peace with lasting stability.

The vain thing spoken of in Psalm 2 is that men believe they can establish universal peace under their own selfish terms—without the Prince of Peace and his righteous principles ruling in their hearts. Without the Prince of Peace, there will always be ruthless dictators. But, thank God, a strong universal government is about to put an end to the vain imaginations of these despotic rulers. In God’s Holy Kingdom, Christ will reign with a rod of iron upon those who impose their unrighteous wills upon others. (Revelation 2:27; 20:1-4) There will be no more power-hungry dictators, for none shall “hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.” Isaiah 11:9

### **The Fifth Universal Empire**

We should not be surprised that the world is in real peril. Prophecies have pointed to the time in which we live as a “time of trouble such as never was.” (Daniel 12:1)

The best and the worst of earth’s nations are but “kingdoms of this world,” whose lease of power from God has now expired. These shall soon give place to their ordained successor, the kingdom of Messiah—the fifth universal empire of earth. But the last of the Gentile kingdoms will not give up without a fight, and hence, we see spasms of trouble such as we see now in Eastern Europe, spoken of by the prophet Isaiah as birth pangs: “The day of the LORD is at hand... and they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth ...” (Isaiah 13:6-8) Mankind must learn that all governments, even the most democratic, fall far short of the perfect righteousness to be achieved in Christ’s peaceable kingdom.

## Swords into Plowshares, Spears into Pruninghooks

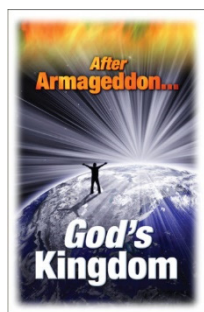
Before lasting peace and safety shall be established throughout the earth, prophecies tell us that wars will increase until men's hearts are humbled enough to admit that they, with imperfect judgment and selfish hearts, will never be successful in their own strength to bring about peace. The Bible foretells that these conflicts will build to a climactic clash between good and evil which shall change this selfish, evil world forever. Daniel prophesied that "There shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation." Jesus confirmed this prophecy and added the words, "No, nor ever shall be." Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21

This final conflict is that great Battle of Armageddon foretold in Revelation. (Revelation 16:16-17) As terrible as this trouble is expected to be, it is comforting to know its lessons will be so severe as to make no repetition of them necessary. The nations will be so satiated with bloodshed that they will willingly turn and seek for purity and peace. It will truly be the war to end all wars!

### Wars Shall Cease Worldwide

The final conflict between the kingdoms of this world under Satan's control and the peaceable kingdom of Christ will not mean the end of the physical world, but the end of evil and selfishness now contaminating this world. (Galatians 1:4) It will serve to soften men's hearts so that they will desire to live in harmony with righteousness. Selfishness, rivalry and jealousy will give place to compassion, sympathy and brotherly love.

The shaking process of the time of trouble will continue until Messiah's unshakable kingdom shall assert itself and take control of the world's affairs. The final battle between good and evil will demonstrate to the human mind the fact that nothing man can do will be able to bring order out of the chaos. The Lord assures us of the blessed result of His intervention on behalf of the world: "I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come." (Haggai 2:7) By the end of this terrible shaking, mankind's only desire will be to live in peace and harmony with their neighbors. Then "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, either shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:4) And the God of Heaven "... shall make wars to cease unto the ends of the earth. (Psalm 46:9)



Today's troubles may seem insurmountable, but the Bible describes a bright future for all mankind.

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