

The War That Began in Heaven

“The war that began in heaven ... is not yet over. The conflict continues on the battlefield of mortality.”
- Ezra Taft Benson

	Satan	Jesus Christ
Mission Statement	Better to reign in hell than serve in Heaven Isaiah 14:13-14, also Paradise Lost	Bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man Moses 1:39
His plan for the world in general	contention/war 3 Nephi 11:29	peace John 14:27
His plan for you	Miserable 2 Nephi 2:27; D&C 76:33; D&C 10:27	Immortality and eternal life Moses 1:39
What he communicates	Lies Moses 4:4	Truth Doctrine and Covenants 84:45
His behavior	Rebellious D&C 76:25, 28; 2 Nephi 28:20	obedient Moses 4:1-2
How he feels	hate/anger John 3:20; Abraham 3:27-28	pure love Moroni 7:47; Alma 24:14; John 15:13
The end result for him	hell Isaiah 14:15; D&C 76:35	Glory, right hand of the father, fulness of God D&C 76:20,23
His followers receive	Everlasting torment/hell/nothing 2 Nephi 9:8-9; Proverbs 11:7	Kingdom of God, joy, joint-heirs with Christ 2 Nephi 9:18; Galatians 3:29
How to defeat him	Prayer, fasting, testimony, sanctification through Christ, resistance to sin D&C 10:5; Matthew 17:18, 21; James 4:7; Revelations 12:9-11	Cannot be defeated.

How can we overcome Satan and win the war?

While God's kingdom has been established on the earth in times past, the people to whom the kingdom was previously committed were unable to keep it. This time, however, is different. The prophetic promise is that this time God's kingdom will not be lost but will overcome the world. ...

To ensure its ultimate success, the final restoration of God's kingdom has been commenced with unprecedented spiritual power and is being sustained by that same spiritual power and something more. Reserved to come forth in these last days and labor for our Father and His Son are some of the most valiant and noble of our Father's sons and daughters. Their valiance and nobility were demonstrated in the pre-earth struggle with Satan. There, "being left to choose good or evil," they "[chose] good" and exhibited "exceedingly great faith" and "good works." Such are the traits that are now needed to sustain the work of God in the earth and to save the souls of men from the intensifying wrath of the adversary.

Now, my young friends of the Aaronic Priesthood, you are these valiant and noble sons of our Father! You are the strength of the Lord's house, His warriors! You are those who chose good over evil and who exhibited "exceedingly great faith" and "good works." And because of your personal history, you were entrusted to come to the earth in these last days to do again what you did before—to once again choose good over evil, exercise exceedingly great faith, and perform good works—and to do so in behalf of the kingdom of God on the earth and your fellowman!

With God's kingdom restored to the earth and your entry into the world, Satan knows that "he hath but a short time." Therefore, Satan is marshaling every resource at his disposal to entice you into transgression. He knows that if he can draw you into transgression, he may prevent you from serving a full-time mission, marrying in the temple, and securing your future children in the faith, all of which weakens not only you but the Church. He knows that nothing can overthrow God's kingdom "save it [be] the transgression of [his] people." **Make no mistake about it—the focus of his war is now on you—you who seek to "keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."** ...

So, as we enter the final climactic stages of the war against Satan, be sober, my young friends. Understand that you cannot partake of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. You cannot participate in pornography or other immoral activity. You cannot lie, cheat, or steal. You cannot use false, demeaning, or dirty language. You cannot deface your body with tattoos and other piercings. You cannot do these things and be victorious in the battle for your own soul, let alone be a valiant warrior in the great struggle for the souls of all the rest of our Father's children.

Understand, my young friends, that there is only one way to win the war against Satan, and that is to win it in the same way it was won in the beginning. When victory was finally achieved in the War in Heaven, a loud voice was heard to declare:

"Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ. ...

"For they [referring to Michael and his angels] have overcome him [referring to the devil] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; for they loved not their own lives, but kept the testimony even unto death." Do not miss the significance of this declaration. **Satan was overcome in the beginning by (1) faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His atoning sacrifice, (2) testimony of Him that was steadfastly kept to the very end, and (3) consecration of oneself to the Lord and His work. If this was the means for defeating him in the beginning, you can be sure that this is the one sure way to defeat him now.** (Winning the War against Evil, Elder James J. Hamula, October 2008)