

I Wonder – July 24, 2003

I wonder if, when there was war in heaven, some of the angels picketed and protested. I mean, really, this was an entirely new thing, war. While many of us, through violence on tv and in video games and in movies and through the imposition of multi-channel, endless media coverage of actual war have become desensitized, the heavenly beings, angels for lack of a more specific term, had never seen anything like it and must have been horrified beyond imagining.

How did it start? Who fired the first shot? And talk about the "shot heard 'round the world," how about around the universe?

What must it have looked like? As the angels watched the first volley (no need for tv or reporters there, we can assume), what must they have thought?

When they saw Jesus who was their Lord and patron attacking Lucifer who was their leader amongst the ranks, how must it have seemed to them?

What did they think when the God who created them and whom they had only and always known to be nothing but kind and loving called them to arms against some of their own. Talk about a "civil" war. This war between the two sides of the members of their heavenly family was beyond their experience or imagination in every sense.

Today we have thousands of years of history of war with which to compare and measure the relative merits of each new encounter, should we be so inclined, but they had nothing with which to compare and were, in fact, complete innocents who were certainly assaulted, shocked, and stunned by what they witnessed first hand.

So I wonder if some protested. I wonder if they marched on the capital of the universe and chanted and waved banners and were arrested for disturbing the peace or creating a public nuisance or whatever the heavenly equivalent would be. Did they understand that Christ was their Paladin who would defend against all foes and would travel to earth and the grave to ensure their ultimate and eternal peace?

There is a fate worse than death; it is peace in the absence of principle. Now I didn't make that up, it's a well-established Biblical position and the fact that God was willing to go to war against his own people confirms it.

No, I don't know if there were protests in heaven when war broke out, but there's bound to be rejoicing once the enemy is defeated and peace is restored.

I guess the only question then will be who's chosen the winning side? I wonder.