

FIRST SERIES



The Wilderness Experience

INTRO

And immediately, the spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. Immediately, Jesus faces Satan before the twelve disciples are to be chosen to begin the three-year transformation.

Why does the first move begin with the transportation of Christ to the desert to confront His enemy? The first few moves in chess are to position ourselves to be assured of victory at the end of the game. The victory is not only Christ's triumph on the Cross but also for the twelve and all those who will decide to follow.

I remember a few games when, out of nowhere, my opponent would make a swift move, and immediately, I found myself on defense. A few basic openings in chess are the Queen's Gambit.

- Slav Defense.
- King's Indian Defense.
- Nimzo-Indian Defense.
- Queen's Indian Defense.
- Catalan Opening.
- Bogo-Indian Defense.
- Grünfeld Defense.

A chess opening or simply an opening is the initial stage of a chess game. It usually consists of established theory; the other phases are the middlegame and the endgame. Many opening sequences have standard names such as the "Sicilian Defense".

CHAPTER ONE

The Lion

Prepared to Devour

How do we prepare when the fear of the "Invisible Enemy" and other unseen adversaries reveal themselves? It all began in February 2020, and having just returned from Brazil for the third time, my wife and I sensed that something had changed. Chinese flight attendants were wearing masks upon arrival in San Francisco. This enemy cannot be touched, but its impact can be seen in people's lives - empty shelves, the frantic search for

food and toilet paper, unemployment, and the confinement to our homes. When we venture out in public, we maintain a distance of six feet from others and avoid touching anything, for fear that the virus might spread. The invisible enemy continues to spread fear throughout the United States and the world.

A recent experience at the zoo reminded me of this fear. As my wife and I strolled through the premises, we were suddenly frozen in our tracks by the roar of a lion. It lasted only three or four seconds, but that was enough to ignite a question within me: Will I survive? I knew the lion was contained within a structure, but could I outrun it? Although I may have been faster in my younger days, there was no chance of outrunning the lion now. We would simply become its next meal. Despite this realization, I was determined to fight this beast that showed no fear in devouring both my wife and me. Would I possess the courage of Samson or the peace of Daniel when facing the lions of this world?

The book became "The Last Battle on Planet Earth." The subtitle became preparing to enter the invisible realm and researching the idea of a chess match as the Last Battle presented an opportunity. How to prepare and endure the struggles to the end? In chess, we have the open-middle-end game. Paul tells Timothy, a young pastor, that I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course and kept the faith: Henceforth there, and will receive a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me on that day: and not to me only, but unto all of them also that love his appearing.

These seven months (February to September 2020) have provided the resources for the last chapter. We are preparing for the most significant battle facing this nation (November 3, 2020) and fighting an invisible enemy known as **COVID-19**. I will attempt to assemble a puzzle we only see clearly once all the pieces become clear. Can I put all the details together? Impossible; others have tried and failed. This book will challenge you to see within the Invisible Kingdom and obtain victory over an enemy you cannot see.

During the process of writing the last chapter, the invisible enemy has continued to multiply and spread across nations worldwide. Italy, for instance, has implemented strict measures, effectively creating an invisible wall that restricts entry and exit. Although this wall cannot be seen or physically overcome, its presence is undeniable. This raises the question of the book's purpose. It is not about an ending, but rather about how to prepare ourselves against an unseen adversary. For those who do not believe in or reference the

Bible, how can we explain the process and unveil the weapons used by our invisible enemy? Throughout our lives, we will engage in various battles, experiencing both defeats and victories along the way. Developing this book has been a challenge, as our enemy remains unseen. Is there truth in the concept of "Spiritual Warfare"? In the realm of entertainment, we often encounter movies depicting battles against unknown enemies.

One valuable resource I discovered during my journey was a study group exploring the Invisible Realms of our Christian walk, based on Tony Evans' book, "Victory in Spiritual Warfare." While teaching this subject, it became evident that many Christians, including myself, fail to grasp the responsibility we hold in representing the Kingdom against an unseen enemy. Just as in a game of chess, where an inauspicious beginning does not guarantee failure, the journeys of four individuals within this book will succeed. Some suggested titles for consideration were "Battle in Brazil" or "Game of the Century."

Looking back at my initial visit with my wife's family and friends, the notion of a chess match and our walk through the zoo laid the groundwork for my journey as an author. However, as the concept of the ending continued to evolve, I became discouraged and halted the completion of the manuscript. It was only a few weeks ago that the Coronavirus outbreak escalated into a global pandemic, reaching major cities around the world. This virus has now earned the moniker of the "Invisible Enemy," targeting humanity on planet Earth. It was at this moment that I realized the last chapter of my book was about to materialize into reality.

The striking resemblance between our current situation and the words uttered by our forty-fifth President, Donald J. Trump, who referred to the virus as an "Invisible Enemy," was undeniable. As I pondered diverse types of battles, witnessing the fulfillment of the last chapter became a profound spiritual encounter, one that had been prophesied and written thousands of years ago. We will all confront our ultimate battle on this planet we call home.

The two primary Old Testament passages that reference Satan are **Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14**. These passages convey a dual reality, as they describe historical figures - the King of Tyra in Ezekiel and the King of Babylon in Isaiah. However, these figures also serve as windows into the spiritual force that operates behind them, revealing the presence of an

invisible enemy lurking in the shadows. From the very beginning of scripture, we can discern Satan's plan unfolding. The enemy's strategy is evident in the first sin committed in the Garden of Eden, akin to the opening moves in a game of chess. Satan is relentless in catering to the needs of the body and enticing us with temptations of the flesh, all the while starving our souls.

Film and Media

Avengers Infinity War

They grossed *§2,048,359,754* worldwide. The film set records for the highest-grossing opening, reaching a staggering \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion—an impressive achievement considering the competing forces. The films incorporate Biblical references, and without proper knowledge of these references, viewers may be deceived and lose sight of the Truth, leading them astray and hindering their understanding of their relationship with the Creator. Movie directors often misrepresent and distort the true nature of the enemy we encounter in our daily lives.

For instance, in the movie, Wonder Woman defeats Ares.

Like all Olympian gods, Ares possesses immense strength, although he may now be the physically strongest among them. Additionally, he is an expert in conflict and strategy, wielding complete command over any weapon. His armor is indestructible, and he can shape-shift into any form, teleport himself and others, and manipulate reality to suit his desires. Ares is the god of death in the Greek Pantheon. In the Justice League Snyder cut, there is a scene where Wonder Woman displays fear of the dark side, despite being known as the god killer. This raises the question of why she is so terrified. This major comic book villain previously appeared in *Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice*. Wonder Woman has evolved into a significant force in future DC movies.

I have noticed that certain scenes in the entertainment industry inadvertently use Biblical references in a conflicting manner, distorting their true meaning. As believers, we are not to be ignorant of the devices employed by the enemy to deceive the chosen ones. It is crucial for us to identify the occasions where we may be vulnerable, such as in relationships, our work, our faith, and our spiritual disciplines. These vulnerabilities exist everywhere. In our current battle against the virus, as we strive to find a vaccine, we can

observe the significance of being aware of the tactics of our spiritual enemy. The most powerful vaccine we can possess in our spiritual journey is God's Word.

The enemy initiates his objective by posing a question. His attempt to tempt Eve was centered around the idea that if she were to eat from the forbidden fruit, his plan would succeed. He promised that she would become like her Creator. The enemy continues to employ similar strategies to this day. Although Satan's existence is widely recognized in our modern culture, Western society often hesitates to acknowledge his presence due to his adeptness at disguising himself.

The weapons of mass destruction in question are not conceived by humans or developed through advanced technology. They are not concocted in laboratories to be used as weapons against humanity or to manipulate natural processes such as weather or climate changes, which are the challenges we grapple with today. Throughout this series we will encounter individuals such as Job, Ruth, Mary, and Peter, who conquered the fear of death, the weapon of our decisive battle.

Discovering how they encountered the Truth and responded without knowing the outcome. In the depths of the metaphorical jungle, the roaring lion patiently awaits, taking the form of government leaders, religious zealots, and purveyors of false teachings, all working to instill fear in order to devour their next victim.

- **"I will ascend to heaven."**
- **"I will raise my throne above the stars of God."**
- **"I will sit on the mount of assembly."**
- **"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds."**
- **"I will make myself like the Highest."**

With the ongoing pandemic, our greatest fear is "DEATH." Every day, the media bombards us with news of death, particularly among the elderly or those above a certain age, caused by various means. We are desperate to find ways to halt or slow down this invisible enemy. Death lurks around every corner, infiltrating our homes, businesses, and even places of worship. Four individuals who confront death and find their fear of it diminished. The first chess match begins, others will follow.

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel (**Gen 3:15**)."

SATAN'S NAMES AND TITLES

- **Satan (adversary) used fifty-five times**
- **The devil (Slanderer) used thirty-five times**
- **The prince of the power of the air**
- **The God of this age**
- **The King of death**
- **The prince of this world**
- **The ruler of darkness**
- **Leviathan**
- **Lucifer (light bearer, shining one)**
- **The dragon**
- **The deceiver**
- **Apollyon**
- **Beelzebub**
- **Belial**
- **The wicked one**
- **The tempter**
- **The accuser of the brethren**
- **An angel of light**
- **A liar**
- **A murder**
- **The enemy**
- **A roaring lion**

Origin of Sin Begins

OPENING MOVES:

The Serpent asked Eve a question.

MIDDLE ACTIONS:

Expulsion from the Garden of Eden.

END GAME:

Cain murders his brother Abel.

FIVE MAJOR POINTS

1. The document discusses the fear and impact of the "Invisible Enemy," which is referring to the COVID-19 pandemic. It describes how this enemy cannot be touched but has visible effects on people's lives, such as empty shelves, unemployment, and confinement to homes.
2. The author draws parallels between the fear of the invisible enemy and a personal experience at the zoo, where the roar of a lion sparked the question of survival. This fear is compared to facing the lions of the world and the need for courage and peace in such situations.
3. The document mentions a book being written about preparing for the battle against the invisible enemy and the struggles faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. It discusses the concept of "Spiritual Warfare" and the need to understand and unveil the weapons used by the unseen enemy.
4. There is a reference to a study group exploring the Invisible Realms of the Christian walk and the responsibility Christians have in representing the Kingdom against the unseen enemy. The book also mentions the Old Testament passages that reference Satan and his strategies.
5. The document briefly mentions the film "Avengers Infinity War" and how it grossed over \$2 billion worldwide. It discusses the importance of understanding Biblical references in movies and not being deceived by misrepresentations of the true nature of the enemy encountered in daily life. It also mentions the character Wonder Woman defeating Ares in the movie.