

Infinity Wars

Good morning/evening everyone! Let's continue with "Blockbuster Lessons From the Movies," and today we are going to look at "Infinity Wars." The word "infinity" refers to something that is "endless" or "boundless." Scripture tells us that war has been raging in both the spiritual realm and earthly realm.

The character in the center of all the chaos is Thanos, whose name means "immortal." He suffers from a massive Messiah complex. He believes he alone holds the power to end pain and suffering in all the universe. Killing is his method of mercy. He wears a gauntlet of infinity stones, each with individual powers designed to collectively bring balance to an unbalanced world. He plans to methodically quell those that choose to not live under his dictatorial regime. Hold up! Who made him judge, jury and executioner? He certainly isn't a savior! That's Jesus' job!

Let's go to the book of Ephesians to understand how God plans on bringing an end to the war and imbalance of this world.

"making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth" (Ephesians 1:9-10 ESV).

That phrase "fullness of time" is key to understanding that God is an "Everlasting God" and "Eternal Father." He was there in the beginning, the present and the future. We can believe that God understands "infinity" and of course the struggle between good and evil.

Three things this passage tells us

- 1. that God revealed a solution**
- 2. Christ was and is the climax of the conflict**
- 3. God's plan was not to bring balance to the world, but to unite the world, not divide it.**

Thanos said, “When I’m done, half of humanity will still exist. Perfectly balanced, as all things should be... I call that mercy... I finally rest, and watch the sun rise on a grateful universe.”

Throughout the Marvel Cinematic Universe our heroes chased and pieced together every clue that helped them to figure out finally what they were up against. Every good story has essentially three things, conflict, climax and conclusion. And much like His story, the bible tells us we are living within the conclusion of “His story” or “history” here on earth. Let’s now understand that God makes it known to us what His intention is.

Write in your notes:

1. We know how history will conclude.

To fully understand that, we must understand the nature of God. We know God loves you and I. It is in His nature to love and save everyone, which is in direct contrast to Thanos who has the ability to commit universal genocide at the snap of a finger. We know that the spiritual war ended by the victory of Christ. There are no more wars! Infinite wars are now finite :). We can live in full confidence of the victory of Christ because if God be for us, who can be against us?

Some of you may be thinking, “Thanos is fictional, we have nothing to worry about!” Let’s take a closer look just to make sure.

Thanos tells Ironman, “You’re not the only one cursed with knowledge.” This of course, is similar to the scene in Genesis 3 where temptation entered the world and knowledge is worshipped. The question we can now ask ourselves is how many times have we tried to balance our world based on what we think we know, because we value knowledge, instead of the true knowledge giver. We also have to be careful to not just rely on knowledge but to rely on the One

whom true knowledge originates from. The truth is we may know a lot but, we don't know everything and we need to seek the perspective of the wisdom of the ages. Self reliance then becomes pride and pride precedes our fall of our fallen nature. Thanks to Jesus, we can rely on Him, we are perfect because of Him and live in victory because of Him.

2. The past prepared for the coming of Christ, the future reflects the glory of Christ.

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law” (Galatians 4:4 ESV).

Notice how Paul the apostle wrote, “fullness of time” in his letter to the Ephesians, then later writes the same phrase in his letter to the Galatians, where he explains the fullness of time is the culmination of the arrival of Christ. Thanos' intent was to bridge that gap by his arrival into the spotlight intending to be the savior of the world by his own definition.

7 characteristics that suggests you might be like Thanos

1. You scheme secretly for selfish gain, - It took ten years and 18 Marvel movies for us to learn what Thanos was up to.
2. You are a bully - five bad guys ganging up on one Loki
3. You steal - Thanos traveled around the universe stealing the stones.
4. You have a disregard for any parking violations - Thanos parks his vehicle right in the middle of Manhattan. Spirit of entitlement!
5. You are judgemental or being “mento” for judging :) - In the entire universe, as big as it is, you don't think anyone is on your level?

6. His squad goes wherever he goes - Thanos has his entourage with him known as the Black Order. Members of his “squad” are Corvus Glaive, Cull Obsidian, Ebony Maw and Proxima Midnight. They do his bidding, keep him safe and make sure that he looks like a VIP.
7. For you it’s all about the bling - enough said :)

We know we can’t single-handedly fix the world’s problems like Thanos thinks he can, but the one who lives in us, can! He is the one with the plan and invites all of us to be a part of His plan. In other words He invites us to “avenge” the state of our world from a cruel tyrant. Everything we do to avenge our world reflects the love that was displayed by the event that defined the “fulfillment of time.” That was the life, ministry, death and resurrection and ultimate victory of Jesus Christ.

A judge acknowledges that there is always going to be good and bad. The goal is to have the good outweigh the bad. Jesus doesn’t fuss with weights and scales. God declares all things good under the Lordship of Christ.

3. Christ came to not balance the world, but to buy it back!

What does that mean? It means Jesus, the true avenger has the power to not just balance an unbalanced world but paid for all that was stolen from everyone. We see how Thanos stole the lives of people, stole their identities, stole their dignity. Jesus establishes grace and mercy by buying back all that was stolen. What has been stolen from you? Find it in Jesus. What have you stolen from others? Return it in Jesus’ name! Maybe it can look like an act of service, quality time, encouraging words, a hug, or sending gifts.