

FIGHTING CHANCE

John 8: 31-32

Proverbs 22: 3

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FOOLS MATE

We often read references to world military or political strategy in terms of the game of chess. The earth is likened to a chess board, and we are reminded that the Soviets are master chess players. Are our players as good as theirs? Might we lose the game?

We *are* losing the game, but not as the result of master competition. My nine-year-old child can play chess well enough to obliterate the present strategy of the United States.

The goal in chess is to destroy the opponent's king, the equivalent of his homeland. Most of the game is, however, played elsewhere on the playing board. The pieces are joined in battle through dozens of relations and interrelations.

Gradually the side with the most clever, far-sighted, and careful strategy in this board-wide (world-wide) battle gains the advantage by taking the other side's pieces, while losing fewer of its own.

There are many opportunities to institute new tactics and to correct errors, but eventually one side prevails. The defending remnant falls back to protect its king, but is ultimately overwhelmed.

It is possible to lose a chess game very foolishly and very quickly, however, by not providing protection for one's king while the board-wide game is taking place. Two mechanisms are available - "fools mate" and "continual check".