

20220102 – WAR IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH

Sunday AM – Revelation 12:7-17

I. THE COMBAT IN HEAVEN

A. The combatants form two sides (vs. 7-9)

1. Michael and his angels against Satan and his angels
2. It is important to know the NAMES God uses for the devil (vs. 9)
3. The King James Bible IDENTIFIES him, but modern perversions do not!
4. ISA. 14:12 - How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!"
 - a. (Don't think I've ever included other versions in my notes before)
 - b. NIV – "How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn!"
 - c. NLT – "How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning!"
 - d. ESV - "How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn!"
 - e. They don't know who SATAN is! His name is LUCIFER!

B. The devil's side has been on the attack since the beginning

1. The devil's name AND his work is detailed in vs. 9
2. He is the DECEIVER!
 - a. He deceived in the Garden of Eden. HE CASTS DOUBT!
 - b. GEN. 3:4 – "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:"
 - c. He cast doubt upon God's Word and then LIED about it
 - d. GEN. 3:5 – "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."
 - e. This is why other translations are used of Satan (casts doubt)
3. He doesn't change his tactics! Even at the close of the Millennium
 - a. REV. 20:7 – "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, (8) And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea."
 - b. He doesn't change his tactics, so don't change YOURS!
 - c. EPH. 6:11 – "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."
 - d. 2 COR. 4:4 – "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

C. The battle ends in Satan's defeat (vs. 8)

1. The Bible says that he “prevailed” not
 - a. Webster’s 1828 – “To overcome; to gain the victory or superiority; to gain the advantage.”
 - b. EXO. 17:11 – “And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.”
 - c. If he prevailed not, then at NO POINT did he have the upper hand!
2. The result was NEVER in question in that battle
 - a. And it is NEVER in question in our lives today!
 - b. Satan is a DEFEATED foe!
 - c. Jesus has CONQUERED: Death, the Grave, and all His enemies!
 - d. Live like it! Live in victory!
3. Satan is cast out into the earth (vs. 9) – a LITERAL event (not figurative)

II. THE CHEERS OF HEAVEN

- A. There is JOY in Heaven when Satan is cast down (vs. 10)
 1. He is the accuser – accusing us of our sins before God 24x7x365
 - a. He had access to the throne room before
 - b. We see that in the book of Job
 - c. But now GOD is kicking him out COMPLETELY
 2. Oh, but WE have someone on OUR side in Heaven’s courtroom!
 3. 1 JOHN 2:1 – “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”
- B. Dear friend, there is only ONE way to overcome the accusations of that Accuser
 1. The Bible tells us how! Salvation! Service! Sacrifice! (vs. 11)
 - a. By the BLOOD of the Lamb – HEB. 9:22 – “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”
 - b. By the WORD of their Testimony – ROM. 1:16 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
 - c. By not loving their lives unto death – MATT. 7:20 – “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”
 2. Get saved, make your testimony known, make your body a living sacrifice
 3. You can have great joy, as in Heaven, when the accuser was cast down!
- C. Satan is a cornered beast – He has only a short time (3 ½ Years / 42 months)
 1. His wrath is vicious, like a wounded animal, more dangerous
 2. While there are CHEERS in Heaven, there is CALAMITY on Earth (vs. 12)

III. THE CALAMITY ON EARTH

- A. Great Wrath
 - 1. This is different than that of God's wrath upon the Earth
 - 2. Woe to ALL the earth and those inhabit the sea (so universal)
 - 3. This is also directed SPECIFICALLY at Israel (vs. 13)
 - a. We were introduced to this woman in vs. 1
 - b. She has already brought forth the child (past tense – vs. 13)
 - c. We just celebrated His advent!
- B. Satan influences the lost people on the earth to fight against Israel (vs. 15)
 - 1. The flood are the deluded masses
 - 2. Think about the hatred today of the “unvaccinated.” The vitriol!
 - 3. Now think what will happen when the devil tells the entire world that Israel is the cause of all the earthquakes, deaths, and disasters.
 - 4. He will say: Israel is preventing your happiness. Israel must die!
- C. God will take care of His People
 - 1. We see great calamity on Earth
 - 2. But also, great comfort on Earth for Israel!

IV. THE COMFORT ON EARTH

- A. Israel was given two wings to fly into the wilderness (vs. 14)
 - 1. It is important to draw distinctions here (not literal wings)
 - 2. This is a figure representing Israel, the FIGURE was given wings
 - 3. It means they fled (same word as “fly, flee, etc.)
 - 4. Don't make the obvious symbolic
 - 5. If literal wings...what would be the purpose of it?
- B. She is NOURISHED by God
 - 1. This has happened before with Manna in the Wilderness
 - 2. God prepared it for them even before the battle (vs. 4)
 - 3. God provided for them the 42 months / 3 ½ years / 1260 days (vs. 16)
- C. The EARTH itself helped them (vs. 16)
 - 1. What does that mean? Possibly many things
 - 2. But we have an example when the enemies of God's word attacked
 - 3. NUM. 16:32 – “And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.”
 - 4. Trust God to take care of His people! And give them COMFORT on Earth

V. THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD

- A. The DRAGON (Satan, the devil, the adversary) was WROTH
 - 1. He went to make war with the remnant of her seed
 - 2. Wherever he could find them
 - 3. But how will he know who they are?
 - 4. He knows what to look for (vs. 17)

- B. How do I place myself on God's side? The Bible tells us!
1. Keep the commandments and have the testimony of Jesus Christ
 2. Does that mean I must do good works for Salvation?
 3. No, here is the commandment: ACTS 17:30 – “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:”
 4. ROM. 10:13 – “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
- C. Be Saved today!