

War In Heaven & War On Earth
Lesson #36 October 7, 2020

Rev. 8:13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

Rev. 9:1-12 The 1st woe, #5 trumpet, was the plague of the demonic scorpion locusts.

Rev. 9:13-21 The 2nd woe, #6 trumpet, was the scourge of the 200 million devil-horsemen, as well as the continuing judgments of the 2 witnesses, and finally, the great earthquake that had fallen on Jerusalem which resulted in the death of 7000 men. [Rev. 11:3-13]

The Seventh Trumpet - Third Woe - Rev. 11:14-19

Rev. 11:14 The 2nd woe is past [concluded in Rev. 9]; and behold, the 3rd woe cometh quickly.

- This marks the midpoint of the 7 year Tribulation period.
- The ministry of the 2 witnesses, which had endured for 3 ½ years, is at an end.
- Rev. 11:14-19 summarize the events that will climax God's plan for the earth.
- The full reign of the beast will occupy the last 3 ½ years. [Rev. 12:6, 14; 13:5]
- The 7th trumpet, 3rd woe, will release the 7 bowl judgments which will climax in the destruction of all the wicked men and the complete purging and renewal of earth.
- The 7th trumpet [3rd woe] will take us up to the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His kingdom.

Rev. 15-19 is panoramic of the rest of the Tribulation.

- The stress is on the effects of the 7th trumpet: it ushers in the reign of Christ.

Rev. 11:15-19 The Testimony of the Elders > 3 dramatic events occurred

1. Announcement from Heaven of Victory > Christ's Reign

Rev. 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

The age-long rebellion of the kingdoms of this world against the Lord and His Christ has been allowed because God is long-suffering, desiring men to come to repentance rather than to judgment,

Acts 4:26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

Ps. 2:1-3 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

³ Let us break their bands asunder and cast away their cords from us.

There are only two kingdoms—Satan's and God's [Col. 1:13]. But through this trumpet and woe, Satan's kingdom will be totally destroyed and the world will come under the lordship of Christ.

- He will not claim His royal rights until He returns, but the victory was already won at the cross.
- A great choir in heaven is heard praising God for what is about to occur.
- The earth which He created, and which He redeemed with His blood, will soon be His own once more and never to be lost again.

"And He will reign forever ..." The millennial reign of Christ will last for only 1,000 years, but the reign of Christ will continue on throughout all eternity in the new heavens and the new earth. This will fulfill many Old Testament prophecies that look forward to the eternal rule of God when God's will - will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

- cf. Psalm 2:2-9; Dan. 2:35, 44; 6:26; 7:14, 26-27; Zech. 14:9; Matt. 6:10

2. Acclamation of Praise Rev. 11: 16-18

And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, ¹⁷ Saying, We give thee thanks, O LORD God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

- The 24 elders [the church] left their own thrones and prostrated themselves in worship before God's throne. They gave thanks for 3 special blessings:
 - a. Rev. 11:17 Christ reigns supremely.
 - b. Rev. 11:18 Jesus judges righteously.
 - c. Rev. 11:18 Jesus rewards graciously.

Note: Rev. 4:10-11 24 elders praised the Creator
Rev. 5:9-14 24 elders worshiped the Redeemer
Rev. 11:16-18 24 elders worship the King and the Conqueror

Rev. 11:18 > "table of contents" for the remainder of the book of Revelation.

These events did not take place the instant the angel blew his trumpet; he simply signaled the beginning of the process, and now these events would take place as planned.

Rev. 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

This signals the consummation of God's plan for the entire world and marks the finishing of God's judgment on sin. It occupies the book of Revelation through the 19th chapter, when Christ's Kingdom is established on earth.

Rev. 11:18a The nations were angry. Why are they angry?

Ps. 2:1-3 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, ³ Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

Rom. 1:25 They want to worship and serve the creature instead of the Creator.

Like adolescent children, the nations [heathen] want to cast off all restraint and God will permit them to do so. The result will be "New Babylon." [Rev. 17-18]

This is man's last attempt to build his "heaven on earth," utopia.

Note: Changes in attitude by the nations of the world.

- ❖ Rev. 11:2 Nations ruthlessly take over Jerusalem
- ❖ Rev. 11:9 Nations rejoice at the death of the 2 witnesses
- ❖ Rev. 11:18 Nations were angry

This belligerent attitude will ultimately cause the nations to unite to fight God at the great battle of Armageddon.

7 great events are anticipated by the elders as they worship on their faces before Christ, the Almighty Lord.

1. He has displayed His mighty power over all creation.
2. He has demonstrated Himself to be king of all kings.
3. He has observed the implacable anger of all nations against Himself.
4. He has manifested His righteous wrath against all those living in rebellion.
5. He has prepared the final judgment for all the unsaved dead.
6. He has provided a gracious reward for all who believe and obey Him.
7. He has ordained eternal destruction for all who have corrupted the earth.

3. Assurance of God's Faithfulness

Rev. 11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the ark of His testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

The focus is on the ark of God = the symbol of God's presence with His people.

- the presence of God by the Shekinah glory which hovered over the mercy seat
- the faithfulness of God as evidenced by the contents of the Ark—
 - the Law which guided God's people
 - Aaron's rod, a picture of resurrection
 - the pot of manna, a picture of the person of Christ and daily provision

It was the ark of God that led Israel through the Jordan and into their inheritance [Josh. 3:11-17]. This vision would greatly encourage God's suffering people.

Accompanying this grand revelation are manifested lightnings and voices and thunderings in heaven, accompanied by a great earthquake and hailstorm on earth.

Note: These heavenly phenomena occur are signs of doom and judgment.

- at the beginning of the tribulation Rev. 4:5
- the middle of the tribulation Rev. 11:19
- the end of the tribulation Rev. 16:18

3rd Parenthetical Passage: Chapters 12-14

3rd parenthesis: Comes between the 7th trumpet and the bowl judgments, reveals 7 personages:

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The Sun Clothed Woman | Israel | Revelation 12:1-2 |
| 2. The Great Red Dragon | Satan | Revelation 12:3-4 |
| 3. The Man Child | Jesus Christ | Revelation 12:5-6 |
| 4. The Archangel | Michael | Revelation 12:7-12 |
| 5. The Jewish Remnant | Remnant Seed Of Woman | Revelation 12:13-17 |
| 6. The Beast out of the Sea | Antichrist; World Dictator | Revelation 13:1-10 |
| 7. The Beast out of the earth | False Prophet; Religious Leader | Revelation 13:11-18 |

Rev. 12 & 13 precede the final bowl judgments in Rev. 15 -16.

These 2 chapters pick up and develop the theme of the persecution of God's people which has already appeared in Rev. 6:9-11; 7:14 and 11:7-10.

- ❖ Rev. 12 > Persecution of God's people by the dragon
- ❖ Rev. 13 > Persecution of God's people by the dragon-energized beasts

Warfare On Earth: Rev. 12:1-6 The Woman, The Child, The Dragon

Explains what Revelation is about - a parenthetical passage that is a flash-back.

- It is the consummation of a cosmic battle between God and Satan that has been going on in the supernatural world since the revolt of man in the Garden of Eden. [Gen. 3:15]
- Satan tried to stop the first coming of the Messiah.
- He will try to prevent the second coming of the Messiah.

John's vision opens with two wonders in heaven Rev. 12:1-5

- The first is a woman giving birth to a son Rev. 12:1-2
- The second is a great red dragon Rev. 12:3-4

The woman in 12:1-2 a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

- This imagery comes out of Joseph's dream in Gen. 37:9-11.
- The sun stood for Jacob, the moon for Rachel and the stars for Joseph's brothers.
- The woman is the nation of Israel, the descendants of Jacob.
- The woman is pregnant and about to give birth. Israel provided the Messiah to the world.

Rev. 12:3-4 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

- Satan's long-time hatred: Israel is the source of Jesus Christ who is the means of Satan's defeat and condemnation.
- This conflict and ultimate defeat was prophesied in Gen. 3:15.

Throughout OT history, Satan tried to prevent the birth of the Redeemer. There was always a "dragon" standing by, waiting to destroy Israel or the ancestors of the Messiah.

- Ezek. 29:3 Pharaoh is called a dragon.
- Jer. 51:34 Nebuchadnezzar is called a dragon.
- II Kings 11:1-3 The royal line was limited to one little boy.
- Matt. 2:16 Satan motivated King Herod to kill all the male babies.

Satan thought he had succeeded when he used Judas to betray the Lord and hand Him over to be crucified. BUT the cross was actually Satan's defeat.

Remember: Satan has access to heaven where he accuses God's people, but he cannot dethrone the exalted Savior. His strategy is to persecute God's people and devour them if possible [1 Peter 5:8]. He has a special hatred for the Jewish people and has been the power behind anti-Semitism from the days of Pharaoh and Haman to Hitler and Stalin.

Rev. 12:5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. [The Ascension]

Note: The colon in the middle of the verse. It represents 33 years of history.

- Jesus is waiting to rule all the nations with a rod of iron.

Ps. 2:9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Remember: One of the reasons Jesus died on the cross was to make it possible for man to reassert his rightful dominion over the earth. This is one of the many delayed benefits of the Cross. [glorified body is another one].

Jesus Christ will reclaim dominion over the earth when He returns at the end of the 7 years.

Note: There is a gap between Rev. 12:5 & 6: After Christ's Ascension > Church Age

We skip the first half of the Tribulation period and are now picking up the midpoint.

Rev. 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

❖ Verses 7-12 give us the immediate cause. Verses 13-17 provide details of persecution. An event takes place in Rev. 12:7-12 at the Tribulation's midpoint that will create the greatest Jewish persecution in history.

Warfare In Heaven: Rev. 12:7 Mid-point

Rev. 12:7-8 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, ⁸ And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Interesting Note: Michael = Who Is Like God versus

Satan's boast in Isa. 14:14> I Will Be Like God

Rev. 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Satan causes men to miss the plan & truth of God by his many methods and traps of deception.

- ❖ Trap of Occultism Mysterious, hidden, area of spiritism
- ❖ Trap of Religion Doing good deeds from a works basis to get God's blessing
- ❖ Trap of Sin Luring people deeper into sin and rebellion with the lie that happiness comes in hedonism
- ❖ Trap of Miraculous If it is miraculous, then God MUST be behind it.
- ❖ Trap of Emotionalism Seeking emotional experiences as a sign of spirituality
- ❖ Trap of Materialism Happiness comes in the abundance of your possessions

Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

A voice of praise is announcing the millennial kingdom with its salvation accompanied by the power of God and authority of Christ. Salvation in this context is the deliverance from the reign of Satan and the Tribulation and to the completion of that which God will do to establish the reign and rule of Jesus Christ on earth.

Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. [3 reasons for victory over Satan:]

- ❖ Blood of the Lamb = The basis of victory > the person and work of Christ on the cross
 - Satan was defeated at the cross.
 - We can always resist and overcome Satan IF we turn to Jesus Christ.
- ❖ The Word of Their Testimony = The activity that overcomes and defeats Satan's attacks
 - The proclamation of the Word, Bible doctrine and the truth of Jesus Christ by my life and my lip
 - By the Word of God known, believed and applied by faith in consistent Christian living, I can put to silence the accusations of Satan.
 - Jesus Christ, my advocate, answers Satan's accusations in heaven.
 - I can answer them by proclaiming and living the Word.
 - Satan and his world system claim that God is not what man needs. The world claims man's need is human knowledge, science and the material things of life.
 - We demonstrate the world to be wrong when we do not live as materialists; When we love not the world nor the temporal things of the world. [I John 2:15-17]

- When we seek to live by God's Holy Word and live as sojourners rather than by the temporal details of life, we counter Satan's accusations. [Job 1 & 2; Matt. 4:4]
- ❖ They did not love their life even unto death
 - The Attitude which overcomes Satan

There are 2 vital attitudes of faith that give the capacity to serve the Lord regardless of what Satan might throw at us.

- Perspective of Eternity = See this life as a vapor, a training ground and a preparation for eternity [I Peter 1:17-2:12]

Tozer: We are made for two worlds and as surely as we now inhabit the one we shall also inhabit the other.

This eternal perspective will lead to a second attitude of faith...

- Self-sacrifice even unto death - This life is not the end; it is only the beginning. It is vital to study God's Word and its doctrines: Doctrine of Death; Doctrine of our eternal hope and inheritance > an inheritance that is untouched by death, unstained by evil and unimpaired by time. [I Peter 1:3-5; Matt. 6:19-21; II Cor. 4:16-18; 5:10]

Rev. 12:12a Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them.

Therefore: The casting down of Satan and victory of the saints

- Rejoicing by the inhabitants of heaven
- Satan can NO MORE enter into the heavens
- God's kingdom is about to be established on earth with Satan put away.

Rev. 12:12 b Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knows that he hath but a short time.

Woe is Pronounced: Satan will then be restricted to earth and he knows his time is short.

- In the middle of the Tribulation all hell will literally break loose on earth.
- Satan becomes exceedingly wrathful. Rev. 12:13 - 13:18 describe some of his wrath. Satan, the great opponent of God, is pitted against the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Rev. 12 As the Accuser he stands in opposition to Christ as Priest and advocate of Believers.
- Rev. 13:1-10 As the Dragon and source of the beast, the world dictator, he stands Opposed to Christ as King of Kings.
- Rev. 13:11-18 As the source of the 2nd beast [False Prophet], he stands opposed to Christ as the Prophet, the one who truly reveals God.

War on Earth: Phase II - Rev. 12:13-17

The Persecution Of The Woman

Describes Satan's final activities on earth before he is cast into the abyss. [Rev.20:1-3]

- 12:13-16 The persecution of the woman who is Israel
- 12:17 The persecution of the godly remnant of believers
- 13:1 ff The rise of the system of the beast

Note: All the above proceed as a result of Satan's expulsion from heaven and restriction to earth for the last half of the Tribulation.

Rev. 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

➤ Rev. 13:2 Satan gives the Antichrist "his power, his throne and great authority."

➤ The Antichrist, energized by Satan, breaks his treaty with Israel, commits the abomination of desolation and begins to persecute the woman, Israel.

[cf. Dan. 9:27b; 11:36-41; Matt. 24:15-22] All of this is the beginning of the 2nd half.

➤ Dan. 9:27 Antichrist will stop the sacrifices at the Temple in Jerusalem.

➤ Matt. 24:15 Set up an abomination of desolation - probably statue of himself

➤ Dan. 11:36-39 Antichrist will blaspheme God.

➤ II Thess. 2:4 Antichrist will declare himself to be God.

Antichrist's purpose will be to annihilate every Jew so God cannot keep His promise to save a great remnant at the end of the 7 years. [Zech. 12:10, 13:1; Rom. 9:27; 11:25-26]

Rev. 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, [3 ½ years; 42 months; 1260 days] from the face of the serpent.

➤ The first provision of divine deliverance figuratively portrayed as "the two wings of a great eagle." Based on two OT passages: Exodus 19:4 and Deut. 32:11-12

➤ God's protection and deliverance of Israel is likened to an eagle who carried her to safety from the clutches of Egypt.

➤ God performed many supernatural MIRACLES to deliver Israel out of Egypt.

God will work to deliver Israel from the clutches of Satan. [supernatural care]

➤ Matt. 24:16 refers to this: Christ exhorts those in Judea to flee to the mountains when they see the abomination of desolation take place in the city of Jerusalem.

➤ Daniel indicates the location of the safe place. He states that the Antichrist will conquer all the Middle East except Edom, Moab and Ammon. [Dan. 11:41]

These areas are included in modern-day Jordan.

➤ Possibly a hideaway in Jordan > remarkable box canyon city of Petra. In its heyday, [4th to 2nd century BC] it contained a population of tens of thousands.

Note: Zechariah 13:8 reminds us of a sobering truth; two-thirds of the nation of Israel in the land will perish. Evidently many will ignore the warning of Matthew 24:16 and refuse to flee.

Rev. 12:15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

➤ Satan's all-out effort to destroy the Nation in the greatest anti-Semitism the world has ever known.

The most probable meaning is that of an overwhelming army dispatched by the beast and instigated by Satan. This corresponds to the same figure of speech in the OT.

When the Egyptian armies came against Babylon, Jeremiah said in Jer. 46:8

Egypt riseth up like a flood, and his waters are moved like the rivers; and he saith, I will go up, and will cover the earth; I will destroy the city and the inhabitants thereof.

God is equal to the need. Isa. 59:19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

Ps. 124:1-8 If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, now may Israel say:

² If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us:

³ Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us:

⁴ Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul:

⁵ Then the proud waters had gone over our soul.

⁶ Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth.

⁷ Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.

⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Note: Try as he will, Satan will be unable to reach and destroy the woman in the place of protection and nourishment.

Rev. 12:16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

It seems a great chasm will open in the earth, already trembling and unstable from the worldwide earth movements, and swallow them up.

- Such a terrestrial miracle is appropriate in the context. The whole situation is analogous to the pursuit of the children of Israel by pharaoh at the time of Exodus.

When the Egyptian armies were drowned in the Red Sea, Miriam sang of the deliverance:

Ex. 15:12 Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.

Not long afterward, a dangerous rebellion was thwarted:

Num. 16:32-33 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. ³³ They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

Note: Whatever the exact fulfillment of this prophecy may entail, it is calamitous and devastating to the purposes of the beast and dragon.

Their miraculous deliverance and sustenance will be traumatically persuasive to the Jews, trembling in their refuge.

As the 40 years in the wilderness prepared the people of Israel to enter the land of Canaan, their promised inheritance, so these 3 ½ years in the wilderness will make the Jews ready to receive Christ and enter the glorious Millennial Kingdom.

The Persecution Of The Godly Remnant

Rev. 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

This verse serves to emphasize that the dragon will become totally frustrated and enraged over his inability to wipe out the woman, but he will become particularly angry with the believing remnant who will turn to Jesus Christ, believe the Word, and stand ready to die for their faith in the Savior.

In Rev. 12 we are given a panoramic view of the angelic conflict and of the supernatural forces of darkness that are ever at work in the world and have been since the fall of Satan when he drew with him a host of angels who chose to follow Satan rather than God.

The Apostle Paul makes clear reference to this conflict in Eph. 2:2 and in 6:11-12.

Ephesians 6:11-12 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

The great promise of the Bible is twofold:

1. Believers are victors through the victory of the Lord Jesus.
2. Satan is a defeated foe whose days of freedom to create misery, pain and deception are numbered.

May we rejoice and praise Him now for the victory that was won at the cross and resurrection. May we live in light of eternity and look forward to His glorious Millennial Kingdom.