

War In Heaven

Revelation 12:7-10

I. Setting For Book of Revelation

- Rev. 1:1-3 → 1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things **that must soon take place**. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, **for the time is near**.
- Rev. 22:6 → things which must shortly be done
- Rev. 22:10 → seal not, the time is at hand. (Dan. 12:4)
- Rev. 6:9-10 → 9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. 10 They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.
- Rev. 17:14 → 14 They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."
- The Book of Revelation should have great meaning for us today, as we engage in a daily spiritual conflict with eternity in the balance. As we fight the good fight of faith, hold to our convictions, preserve in godliness, Satan hurls his fiery darts at us. (Eph. 6:10)
- Lesson: A look at Rev. 12 and the conflict of the ages, and how we can overcome.

II. The Characters: Revelation 12:1-6

- A great sign appeared in heaven: **a woman** clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; 2 and she was with **child**; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. 3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, **a great red dragon** having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. 4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. 5 And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. 6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she *had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.
 - **The woman** – God's people throughout the ages...not limited to Mary or Israel. (12:6,13,17; 13:7)
 - **The child** – Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In this chapter we see His incarnation, his victory over Satan, and reign. (Ps. 2:7; Dan. 7:13-14)
 - **The dragon** – the serpent, the Devil, Satan, the deceiver, (Gen. 3; II Cor. 11:2; I Pet. 5:8; Jn. 8:44)
 - Seeks to devour the child as soon as it is born
 - War in heaven
 - Being casts out persecutes the woman, making war with the remnant of her seed. (Rev. 12:17)

III. The War In Heaven: Rev. 12:7-10

- And there **was war in heaven**, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. **And the great dragon was thrown down**, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, **"Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come**, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.
 - **The war:** Not a literal, primeval conflict before the beginning of time, when Satan and his angels are literally cast out of heaven. Does not fit the context or the consequences. The language is symbolic. Pictures the victory of Jesus over the Devil through his death, burial and resurrection from the dead. (Gen. 3:15; Heb. 2:14-15)
 - **Satan cast out.**
 - Lk. 10:18 → I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. (Matt. 12:29-30)

- Jn. 12:30-31 → 31 Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.” (Jn. 14:30; 16:11) His power and hold over men is vanquished.
- **The consequences of Jesus’ victory:** Now is come...
 - Salvation → Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 4:12
 - The Power → Matt. 12:29; Lk. 11:21-22; Col. 2:15; Isa. 53:12; Eph. 4:8
 - The Kingdom → Rev. 1:9; Col. 1:13
 - The Authority → Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:20-23
- Dan. 7:13-14 → I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

IV. Overcoming The Devil’s Continued Attacks...

- Rev. 12:17 → 17And 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.
- Rev. 13:7 → 7And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them:
- They overcame him by...
 - The blood of the Lamb. (Rev. 1:5; Acts 22:16; I Jn. 1:7)
 - By the word of their testimony. (Matt. 4:4; Heb. 3:14; Rev. 22:14)
 - They loved not their lives... (Rev. 2:10; Heb. 10:33-35)