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### War in Heaven

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## WAR IN HEAVEN

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION  
NUMBER 20  
REVELATION 12:7-17

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REVELATION 12:7-17 "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 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. 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. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. 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, from the face of the serpent. 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. 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. 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."

In the first six verses of this chapter we have already studied that these verses refer to the Jews and the coming of Christ as a Jew. We saw how Satan did everything within his power to prevent Christ's birth and his earthly ministry. But in spite of the opposition of Satan Christ was victorious, was resurrected and ascended to heaven.

In between verse five and verse six the whole Church Age takes place, and in the beginning of verse six we are in the Tribulation.

REVELATION 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." "The woman" refers to the Jews. These Jews who flee are believing Jews and they flee according to Christ's instruction in Matthew 24. This will take place in the first half of the Tribulation. The wilderness described in this verse is the mountains of Edom, Moab and Ammon as specified in Daniel 11:41. God had prepared this place for them and during this 3½ year-period God cared for them and fed them. The language says "A place prepared from the original source of God".

REVELATION 12:7 "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels" Now we come to "Warfare in Heaven". This is the result of casting Satan out of heaven. Satan and his fallen angels have attended many celestial sessions but now in the midst of the Tribulation they are thrown out of Heaven. This is the second fall of Satan.

It says, "There came to pass that there was war in heaven." The conflict had always been going on, but now the conflict breaks out in open war. This is warfare between two angelic forces. The elect angels led by Michael and the fallen angels led by Satan. Evidently up to this time God had not given Michael power to strike Satan and handle him in conflict but here Michael is given that power. At another time Michael comes into combat with Satan over the body of Moses and this is described in Jude 9.

This is a specific climax battle to throw Satan out of Heaven. Michael is one of the ruling angels. This is a fantastic angelic battle and it ends in the second fall of Satan and occurs right in the middle of the Tribulation. The elect angels war against the fallen angels and overcome them and throw them out. At the Second Advent of Christ when the church comes back with Christ they will throw demons off the earth just like the elect angels threw these demons out of heaven. When Christ returns and the church returns with him they will have been prepared for this conflict. They will have their resurrection bodies, will have no old sin nature and will be stripped of all human good. In Hebrews 1:14 we are told that every believer has a guardian angel. These guardian angels are those who make up the army of Michael and they cast Satan and the demons out of Heaven. The number of redeemed who return with Christ will be equal to the task they have in defeating Satan and the demons in the earth.

REVELATION 12:8 "And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven." This is the result of that war--The dragon, Satan, and his fallen angels were defeated. They are cast out of Heaven and were never permitted to go back again. Those fallen angels had been in heaven to accuse Christians. Satan has a complete card index file on all of our sins, and he has every day been at the business of accusing us. But God is capable of handling his own children and Satan cannot confuse the issue.

REVELATION 12:9 "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." The language really means, "He received throwing out with a power that was greater than Satan's power". It really means that in a certain point of time Satan received this defeat and it is permanent.

ISAIAH 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!"

EZEKIEL 28:16 "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire."

LUKE 10:18 "And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."

The title "That old serpent" refers back to Genesis 3. It refers back to the time in the Garden of Eden when Satan led man astray.

There are two names here given to Lucifer.

1. He is called "The Devil". This is Greek from "diabolos".
2. He is called "Satan". This is Hebrew from "Shatan".

The word "Devil" means slanderer, gossip, maligner. It is used for people who gossip in these passages.

1 TIMOTHY 3:11 "Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things."

2 TIMOTHY 3:3 "Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good."

TITUS 2:3 "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things"

So we find in the Bible "Diabolos" when used to refer to people is translated slanderer false accuser.

So these words describe the kind of person the Devil is. This has always been his approach. It was his approach in the Garden of Eden. This describes the Devil's activity. Gossip and maligning are monstrous sins and this is the work of the Devil at all times. This is the constant mental attitude of Satan. So it really means that Satan uses as his most powerful weapon the sins of the tongue.

JOHN 8:48 "Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?" This means that believers can fall into the snare of the Devil.

2 TIMOTHY 2:26 "And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." These are the sins of gossiping and maligning. The warning from this Scripture to us is simply this--DON'T SPEAK UNLESS YOU KNOW THE FACTS. Now the word Satan, "Shatan" means enemy, accuser, adversary. It came over into Greek from the Hebrew.

"Which deceiveth the whole world". How can one individual deceive the whole world? Remember, he was and is the super-angel. The superior angels were Cherubs, and Satan was the most beautiful creation that ever came from the hand of God. Satan was and is the super-angel of all angels.

What method does Satan use? The answer--the method of human good. Satan is in the business of human good and through human good he tries to substitute human good for divine good. Satan tried to solve man's problems apart from God. Socialism is one of his programs. Internationalism is one of Satan's systems. The Bible says there will be poverty and war until the Second Coming of Christ. Both will end at that time. But Satan tried to duplicate only what God can do. "The greatest good for the greatest number" is Satan's method. Satan tries to duplicate only what God can do.

So Satan was cast out of Heaven and is now confined to the earth which is his own domain. (The time of this event is the middle of the Tribulation.)

REVELATION 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." This is the angelic announcement of the victory. "Now" is the word used to announce this event in its proper sequence. "Now" refers to the last half of the Tribulation. It also brings the Second Advent of Christ and the Baptism of Fire which makes possible the coming of the Millennium. "Is come the salvation" or "The deliverance" and refers to the Second Coming of Christ. "The strength" refers to inherent power in Christ.

"And the Kingdom of our God" refers to the Millennium.

"The power of his Christ" refers to the power Christ has in the Millennium. Christ will be the authority in the Millennium.

"The accuser is cast down" simply means that Satan is defeated in the angelic conflict. It means Satan is once and for all defeated.

"Accused them day and night before God" simply means that the Devil never sleeps. He is at his job 24 hours a day.

REVELATION 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 death." This is the fulfillment of the victory. Satan is a very difficult individual, but born-again souls always triumph over him. Two reasons for their victory are listed here.

1. Because of the blood of the Lamb.

This does not mean his literal blood saves us, it is referring to the thing his blood represents. His blood speaks of his spiritual death on the cross. Christ took our sins, judged them, paid for them, and they are covered in his blood.

Those who "Claim the blood" too often do not know what they are talking about. Overcoming Satan by the blood of the Lamb simply means that our victory is the cross. Blood refers to Christ entering into the plan of God. The blood eliminating us from all sin means our sins were judged at the cross and this ties in with the analogy of blood sacrifices in the Old Testament. Every animal sacrifice in the Old Testament spoke of Christ. Every time the words "Blood of Christ" are used it connects the work of Christ on the cross with every animal sacrifice which pictures salvation in the Old Testament. It is not the literal physical blood of Christ that cleanseth, but it is his work on the cross which cleanseth us from all sins. So many people somehow believe in the magic power of the blood and do not understand that in reality the thing that really saves us is the work of Christ on the cross to pay for all of our sins--and the blood simply represents this truth.

Every animal sacrifice in the Old Testament had the shedding of blood to depict what Christ did on the cross. Christ died of his own free will and when he said, "It is finished" he was still alive. He had died spiritually for every sin of the whole human race and said, "It is finished". Then he yielded up his own spirit and died physically.

In 1 Peter 1:18 the precious blood of Jesus refers to the fact that Christ was judged for our sins.

1 Peter 2:24 and 2 Cor. 5:21 tell us that our sins were poured out on him and judged.

Atonement is an Old Testament word and comes from Hebrew "Cophar" and it means "To cover". It came to mean atonement. The High Priest on the Day of Atonement would go into the Holy of Holies and cover the mercy seat with blood of the animal that had been slain. That's what atonement actually means, blood covering. Blood is the Old Testament way of presenting Christ. "The blood of Christ" refers to Christ being judged for our sins. The wages of sin is death and Christ paid it all on the cross.

2. There was a second way they overcame Satan--by the word of their testimony. They were not ashamed of Christ. They considered their love for Christ to be more important than their own safety. Christ was PARAMOUNT and their own lives was merely a detail. And remember, these people were witnessing at a time when it was more difficult than in any other period of human history. Since the Devil and his angels had been thrown out of Heaven, their activity was confined to this earth.

REVELATION 12:12 "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." The third woe is the Baptism of Fire. Here he is referring to the elect angels who stayed in heaven. They rejoice because these witnesses on earth were completely committed to Christ.

Let us look at the Baptism of Fire from the standpoint of the four civilizations. First Civilization--It is called The Anti-Deluvian Civilization. It covers the period from the creation of man down to the flood. It was terminated by a terrible disaster, the flood.

Second Civilization--It is called the Post-Deluvian Civilization. It covers the period from Noah until the Second Coming of Christ. It will be terminated by a great disaster, namely, the Baptism of Fire.

Third Civilization--It is called the Millennium.

It begins with the Second Advent of Christ and runs for 1000 years and is terminated with the Great White Judgment Throne. This is the last judgment.

Fourth Civilization--This is called the Eternal Kingdom--and it never ends.

So we have three civilizations ending with catastrophies, judgments.

So the reason Satan intensifies his wrath in the last half of the Tribulation is the fact that he realizes he has such a short time to live.

We might call verses 13-17 "The Last Great Jewish Persecution".

REVELATION 12:13 "And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child." Satan, realizing that the end for him is near, intensifies his persecution.

REVELATION 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, from the face of the serpent." The woman here is Israel. Her flight is into the mountains of Edom, Moab, and Ammon. Daniel 11:41 tells of this. There God will nourish the Jews for three and one half years. Satan wanted to destroy them, but God cared for them.

REVELATION 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." This describes the war Satan wages against the Jews. "Water as a flood" refers to armies. Often in the Bible an army is described as the coming of a "Great flood". This is the description of the great battle which will take place called the Battle of Armageddon. We will get the details of this battle in Revelation 13 and 17.

REVELATION 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." This is the divine protection God provides for his own. By using great earthquakes and other unusual natural disasters, God cuts Satan off and protects his own people.

REVELATION 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 is background for Armageddon. We will study this in detail in Revelation 16. Isaiah 63 and Zechariah 14 tell how these armies will be defeated and the Jews delivered.

Armageddon is a Satanic move.

REVELATION 12:18 "And I stood upon the sand of the sea" I know you have no verse 18 in English, but in Greek the 18th verse is the first phrase of the first verse of the next chapter and should read like this--

"And he stood upon the sand of the sea". This is referring to Satan as he plays his last trump card in an attempt to defeat Christ and His Kingdom.

In our next study we will see the two witnesses of Satan.