

War in Heaven

Revelation 12:7-12

I. Introduction

A. The Enemy

1. The Bible states there was a time when Satan rebelled against God.
2. Satan wanted to be like God & pride was found in his heart, thus God cast Satan from his position in heaven and he has been the enemy of God ever since.
3. Satan's a single being and can only be in one place at one time.
4. The Bible states that Satan splits his time now between heaven and earth.

B. In Heaven

1. In heaven Satan continues his efforts to overthrow God, His plans, and His purposes.
2. In **verse 10** of this chapter we see that Satan is the accuser of the brethren.
3. Satan spends time in heaven reminding God of how unworthy we are to be saved.
4. But, according to **Romans 8:35-39**, nothing can separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Jesus is our advocate & Satan's accusations will never succeed.

C. On Earth

1. **1 Peter 5:8** says we should be sober & vigilant because Satan is like a roaring lion, he is roaming the earth, seeking whom he may devour.
2. Satan's doing all he can now to hinder the gospel expansion & prevent the church from carrying out the Lord's will.
3. Each time Christian falls, tarnishing the testimony of Christ among men, Satan rejoices
4. Satan's hard at work on earth, killing, stealing, & destroying all who are unaware.

II. Final Battle in Heaven (Revelation 12:7-8)

A. The Cosmic War

There's coming a final battle in heaven. Satan & the demons will be cast out of heaven forever.

1. – Cause of this final battle

- a. When the rapture takes place, the redeemed of Christ will meet Him in the air, right in the middle of Satan's back yard! Possibly, Satan seeks to interfere with the rapture.
- b. **1 Thessalonians 4:16** says Jesus Himself will descend from heaven & call out His church, His bride, with the voice of the archangel, a trumpet blast, and a shout.
- c. Michael is an archangel. Apparently, Michael leads the army of heaven.
- d. This final battle in heaven will begin because Satan tries to interfere with the rapture

2. – Satan will lose.

- a. Satan and the demons will be defeated by Michael and the angels of heaven.
- b. Satan and the demons will be cast out of heaven for the last time. After this battle, Satan will no longer be allowed to accuse the brethren before our God.
- c. Satan & the demons will be restricted to earth as they wait for judgment day to come.

III. **Trouble on Earth (Revelation 12:9)**

A. **Cast to the earth**

1. Satan's mobility will be restricted to the earth.
2. Consider the implications for those who will be on the earth during the tribulation.
3. Satan will be full of wrath because he could not stop the rapture nor alter God's plan & now he is restricted in his movement & knows the time is near for his judgment.
4. In addition, restricting power of the Holy Spirit will be removed during the tribulation.
5. **2 Thessalonians 2:6-7** states that the Holy Spirit restrains evil in the church age.

B. **A deceiver**

1. He is the deceiver of the whole world. Satan is a liar and the father of all lies.
2. The Greek word for "**deceives**" is the active verb *planao* which means to lead astray.
3. Some of the ways Satan leads people astray:
 - (1.) – False religion
 - a. There are over 4,000 religions in the world, depending on how they are counted.
 - b. Satan has influenced man to worship anything except the true God who created us
 - c. Biblical Christianity is the only religion in the world, out of over 4,000, teaching salvation from sin by grace through faith apart from human works.
 - (2.) – Pride and self-exaltation
 - a. Satan's pride was 1st sin in God's universe, so he deceives man into being prideful
 - b. In the Secular Humanist Manifesto sinful man declares there is no God & that man is the sole determiner of what happens in this world.
 - c. They claim man is constantly evolving and becoming better all the time.
 - d. The secular humanist is deceived & can't see the truth of man's sinful depravity.
 - (3.) – The flesh
 - a. Satan deceives man with sinful lusts and the pleasures of the flesh.
 - b. Satan can make sin seem so valuable, beneficial or seem like no big deal.
 - c. Men and women run headlong into substance abuse, alcoholism, deviant sexual behavior, and moral depravity thinking they are living life to its fullest.
 - d. Application: Jesus is living truth & wants to set you free from Satan's deception.

IV. **Rejoicing in Heaven (Revelation 12:10-12)**

A. **No more accuser in heaven**

1. The saints in heaven rejoice as Satan is removed for the last time.
2. No more listening to him belittle and berate the redeemed of Christ.
3. The kingdom of Christ has begun in earnest with the cleansing of heaven.

B. **The accused overcame him.**

1. We who are saved by faith in Jesus have overcome Satan and his lies.
2. Those in the tribulation who are saved & living on the earth will overcome him as well.
3. Being saved in the tribulation will cost them their physical lives, they'll be murdered, martyred for their faith in Jesus. But we and they are overcomers by the blood of Jesus.
4. It is the blood of Jesus that washed us clean and made us fit for heaven.
5. We have not overcome Satan by any power of our own, it is all Jesus.
6. Application: Christians & sometimes preachers declare how they've "rebuked" Satan.
7. Caution against the use of such language or practice for Satan is far more powerful than any mortal man. We cannot rebuke or bind Satan.
8. James said, "**Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you**" (**James 4:7**). It is in Jesus that we have victory over Satan.