

**REVELATION 12:7-12**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 12 as we continue our study through the Word of God, and we continue our study of this chapter that we will finish up next week. But there is a lot here and I want us to understand all that is taking place.

We are currently in a parenthetical section here in Revelation that covers Revelation chapters 12 through 14. Then, in Revelation chapter 15 we see the set up or the preparation for the last judgments of God, the Bowl Judgments!

Back in Revelation chapter 11 we saw the sounding of the seventh Trumpet Judgment or the third woe, which will unleash the Bowl Judgments, but we will not see the effects of that until we get to Revelation chapters 16 through 18.

Remember what we read in Revelation 11:15, **“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’”**

In other words, the birth of the Kingdom Age is getting close. Those seven Bowl Judgments will be fired off in rapid succession and then the Lord will return to set up His Kingdom on this earth!

Again, this seventh Trumpet Judgment leads us into the seven Bowl Judgments and the establishment of God’s Kingdom on this earth!

But before we get to the chronological narrative being resumed, we once again are in a parenthetical section of this book that covers chapters 12 through 14, as I have said.

Last time we began looking at Revelation chapter 12 and we were introduced to some important characters in this story. Now, just like with any story, if you don't get the characters right, you will not get the story right.

Remember what we saw last time, who we were introduced to.

***THE WOMAN***, and we saw that this woman represented the nation of Israel!

***THE DRAGON***, and of course, this represented Satan!

***THE MALE CHILD***, and we said that this represented the Lord, Jesus Christ!

Listen to what we are told of this Man-Child in Revelation 12:5, **“She [Israel] bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.”**

The Messiah came from Israel, from the tribe of Judah. And, in His first coming He was crucified for our sins and then He was **“caught up to God and His throne.”**

But He is coming again to set up His Kingdom and to rule and reign on the throne of David for one-thousand years!

And then, in Revelation 12:6 we saw the persecution of the children of Israel during the Tribulation Period and how they are to flee to Petra where God will protect them for 3½ years!

Tonight we will be looking at several more characters in our story. And when I say ***“story”*** I am not speaking of some fictional story. These are real people, and these events will take place.

Here is what we will see come forth this evening. ***THE ANGEL MICHAEL*** and ***THE GREAT DRAGON***.

Then, in Revelation chapter 13 we will see, ***THE OFFSPRING OF THE WOMAN WHO IS PERSECUTED BY THE BEAST, THE BEAST OUT OF THE SEA OR THE ANTICHRIST***, and ***THE BEAST OUT OF THE EARTH OR THE FALSE PROPHET***.

Of this chapter, one writer had this to say. He wrote,

In his classic book *The Screwtape Letters*, C. S. Lewis wrote, ***“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight”*** ([New York: Macmillan, 1961], 9).

The same is true of the leader of the demons, Satan. He is pleased when people hold any unbiblical view of him, whether they deny his existence or worship him. The devil always seeks to create confusion about his true nature and purposes.

The Bible exposes Satan’s devious and deceitful nature as the “father of lies” (John 8:44), cautioning that he “disguises himself as an angel of light” (2 Cor 11:14; cf. 2 Cor 11:3) so that he can more easily deceive people.

The apostle Paul expressed his concern “that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes” (2 Cor 2:11). “Put on the full armor of God,” the apostle urged the Ephesians, “so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil” (Eph 6:11).

One of the most pervasive and persistent popular myths about Satan pictures him (complete with pitchfork, horns, and pointed tail) as being in charge of hell.

In reality, Satan is not in hell; in fact, he has never been there. He will not be sentenced to the lake of fire until after his final rebellion is crushed at the end of the Millennium (20:7-10).

And when he does enter hell, Satan will not be in charge; he will be the lowest inmate there, the one undergoing the most horrible punishment ever inflicted on any created being.

Far from being in hell, Satan currently divides his time between roaming the earth “seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8) and being in heaven, where he also engages in his doomed attempt to overthrow God’s Person, purposes, plans, and people.

One way he seeks to do that is by constantly accusing believers before God’s throne (cf. 12:10). Satan ceaselessly harangues [criticizes] God about the unworthiness of believers, hypocritically appealing to God’s righteousness to further his own unrighteous aims.

The unachievable goal of his accusations is to shatter the unbreakable bonds that inseparably link believers to the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 8:29-39). There is no possibility of that happening, however, since no one can snatch a believer out of the hands of Jesus or the Father (John 10:28-29). Still, Satan works on earth to turn God’s children against Him and in heaven to turn God against His children. But, as John proves, saving faith and eternal life are unbreakable realities.

As part of their war against God, Satan and his demon hosts also battle the holy angels. That is not surprising, since Scripture describes the devil as “the prince of the power of the air” (Eph 2:2), as well as “the ruler of this world” (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11).

His theater of operations thus includes both the heavens and the earth, and the war of the ages is being fought at every conceivable level - moral, ideological, philosophical, theological, and supernatural.

Satan’s battle plan for the earthly phase of the war of the ages is brutally simple: to eliminate all those who serve God. If he could, he would kill them all. If not that, he would destroy their faith, if that were possible.

Were he able to rid the earth of all those who serve God, the devil would achieve his goal of unifying the entire world under his rule.

It may be noted at this point that such a reality will occur when the believers on earth are raptured to heaven (John 14:1-6; 1 Cor 15:51-54; 1 Thess 4:13-18).

The Rapture will be followed by the Tribulation, in which Satan does gain the fullest rule of the planet he will ever have (13:4-10). Satan longs to be permanently what he is only temporarily, the god of an unrighteous world (cf. 2 Cor 4:4), and to be worshiped by everyone (cf. Matt 4:9).

To achieve those goals, Satan desperately wants to prevent the Lord Jesus Christ from establishing His kingdom - both now spiritually in the hearts of men and in its future millennial and eternal forms.

Satan's evil plans will not succeed, however, for Scripture reveals that he is already a defeated foe. Anticipating His victory over Satan at the Cross, Jesus said in John 12:31, "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out."

To the Romans Paul wrote, "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet" (Rom 16:20; cf. Gen 3:15), while the writer of Hebrews declared that through His death Jesus "render[ed] powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb 2:14).

In 1 John 4:4 the apostle John declared, "Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."

Though Satan was defeated at the Cross, his sentence has not yet been fully carried out. And though he understands his destiny as revealed in Scripture, Satan nevertheless relentlessly continues to fight his losing battle against God. Thus, the war of the ages will continue until Satan is incarcerated temporarily in the abyss (20:1-3) and then permanently in hell (20:10).

- John MacArthur, Revelation 12

We are in a battle and too many Christians today do not take this battle seriously. We are not living in a playground, but a battlefield and we are fighting for the souls of men and women, may we not lose sight of that.

Tonight we will see another battle take place, and as we have seen, not on earth, but this one is in heaven! Next time we will look at a battle that takes place here on earth, but not the Battle of Armageddon, not yet.

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Revelation chapter 12, beginning in verse 7 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

## **REVELATION 12**

### **VERSE 7**

First of all, how many of you ever thought about a war taking place in heaven?

Probably not too many if you have not read the book of Revelation. But it is very clear here that there is coming a war in heaven!

Now, in saying that, let me clear up this misconception that some people have. God and Satan are not equals. Satan is a created being who rebelled against God, Satan is not the creator, he is not God!

Now, in saying that, please understand that this is not a war with God against Satan that is being fought in the heavens.

Like I have said. God and Satan are not equals, although that is what we see portrayed in the world today.

God is God, the Eternal One, while Satan is a created being. There is no comparison between the two!

Now you may be wondering why did God create Satan, the Devil?

First of all, his name was Lucifer, and he served the Lord before he rebelled against God, wanted to be God, and took one-third of the angels with him!

And we get that in Revelation 12:3-4a where we are told, “**And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.**”

I believe that what we see here is that one-third of the angels rebelled with Satan, as hard as that is to believe that these creatures who served God would rebel against Him, but they did, and they continue to do so!

If Satan can get one-third of the angels to rebel with him against God, why do we think we can stand strong against Satan in the power of our own strength? We can't and we won't. We must stand strong in the Lord and the power of His might! (Ephesians 6:10-18)

Let me show you what I mean about this angel named Lucifer. In Ezekiel chapter 28 we get a glimpse of Satan and what happened to him.

We read beginning in verse 12, **“Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.’”** Ezekiel 28:12-15.

God not only created Satan but placed him in charge, the top man, and the worship leader in heaven, he was a worship instrument you might say!

He was also perfect before God from the day that God created him, but he also was created with a free will and Satan chose to exercise that free will.

And pride filled his heart and he rebelled against God, the One who created him.

This perfect creation of God became proud of his beauty. He saw himself as something special. And in Isaiah chapter 14 we see a parallel passage to what Ezekiel is speaking on.

Beginning in verse 12 we read, **“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’”** Isaiah 14:12-14.



Those five “**I will**” statements brought Lucifer, the light bearer, the shining one, down to the pit of Hell and he became Satan, destroyer, the dragon, the Devil, that serpent of old.

His appearance hasn't changed only his actions!

And Isaiah continues on by saying in verse 15, “**Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, Who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?’**” Isaiah 14:15-17.

And here in Revelation chapter 12 we see this war break out in heaven. And this war is between Michael and the angels of God, and they are fighting against Satan and the fallen angels, or this battle is between good and evil you might say!

Let me also clarify something because there are those who believe that this is Jesus who is doing battle with Satan.

The reason that they feel this way is because the name, “**Michael**” means, “*Who is like God?*”

Keep in mind that just because Satan said, “**I will be like God**” doesn't mean that he is God, not even close. (Isaiah 14:14)

If this was Jesus fighting against Satan, it would not even be a battle or a fight, because Jesus is God and Satan is not. I know, not very deep but very true!

So this is not speaking of Jesus, as some like to think. This is Michael and yes, he is like God in the sense that He represents God, but Michael is not God, He is not Jesus or Jesus is not Michael!

Because he is close to God, he is manifesting the characteristics of God just as we spend time with the Lord and His nature flows from our lives. We are not God!

And what we see here in Revelation chapter 12 is that these two angels and their forces are warring in heaven, but why?

I believe God is going to cleanse heaven because Satan still has access to God and heaven! (Job 1:6-12).

But after this war is over, he will no longer have access to heaven and what God is going to do in heaven He is going to do on this earth, cleanse it!

Now I believe this war takes place in the middle of the 7-year Tribulation Period.

In Daniel 12:1 we are told, **“At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book.”**

I believe it is at this point that the Antichrist is indwelt by the Devil, by Satan and he goes on a rampage as he demands to be worshiped as God! Sound familiar? It should because that is what the Satan wants as well!

Let me show you this battle because, again, many Christians are unaware of what we are fighting against.

In Daniel 10:10-13 we are told, **“Then, suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. And he said to me, ‘O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.’ While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. Then he said to me, ‘Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.’”**

First of all, God sent this angel to Daniel from the first day that Daniel began to pray. Then why in the world did it take him twenty-one days to get to Daniel?

Because there was a spiritual battle going on preventing him from getting to Daniel. Demonic forces kept him from completing his mission for twenty-one days!

In fact, it wasn't until Michael came and assisted in this battle that he then was able to complete his mission! Michael is the warrior angel you might say, watching over Israel!

I don't know if this troubles you or not, but it does me. What we see here is God lifting up the curtain and giving to us a glimpse of the spiritual warfare that is taking place around us. And specifically here it has to do with demons controlling nations, like the Persian Empire.

John Calvin wrote, ***“Whenever the ungodly cause us trouble, they are fighting under the banner of Satan, and are his instruments for harassing us.”***

And I will add to that, that we as Christians can also be pawns in his games, we must be wise of his schemes and resist him steadfast in the faith.

Look at our nation and how immoral, wicked we have become over the years. Good is evil and evil is good! And our government sanctions these things! We must have many demons involved in our government! Washington DC must have an unusual number of demonic forces pulling the strings of those politicians, getting them to do and pass all kinds of evil laws!

Leupold summarizes this by saying, *“Bad angels, called demons in the New Testament, are, without a doubt, refereed to here. In the course of time, these demonic powers gained a very strong influence over certain nations and the government of these nations. They became the controlling power. They used whatever resources they could muster to hamper God’s work and to thwart his purposes . . . We get a rare glimpse behind the scene of world history. There are spiritual forces at work that are far in excess of what men who disregard revelation would suppose. They struggle behind the struggles that are written in the pages of history.”*

Yes there are demonic forces over nations, cities and-so-on. And they attempt to destroy the lives of men and women and to hinder the work of God.

But let’s put this in perspective. They cannot do anything without God allowing them to. Before Satan could even touch Job he had to go to God for permission and God allowed it for the strengthening of Job.

Secondly, as strong as these demonic forces are, there are a host of heavenly angels that are there to watch over us and protect us.

Make no mistake about it, spiritual warfare is real, and we must be prepared for it.

I know many people, even some Christians, mock at the idea of spiritual warfare but the Bible is very clear on it.

Ray Stedman put this in perspective for us as he told us of an encounter that he had with very scholarly people, people who knew the Bible very well. He wrote,

It is not only atheists and agnostics who scoff at the idea of a real and personal devil. I once spent an evening in Berlin with a number of very learned and intelligent pastors and theologians.

Though we never once opened a Bible, we spent the whole evening together discussing various passages from the Bible. These men knew the Bible so well, they could quote entire passages from memory - yet they all rejected the idea of a personal devil.

By the end of the evening, they admitted that, in their rejection of the devil, they also had no answer to the problems and puzzles of life - the existence of every sort of evil from such random acts of madness as the Manson cult murders to the deliberate, methodical stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction.

The question I kept posing to them was, "If there is no devil, then how do you explain what is going on in the world? How do you explain the horrible, entrenched evil in human history and in our newspapers every day?" They had no answer.

- Ray Stedman

But we are in a spiritual battle and Paul expounds on that and he tells us what we are to do in this battle against these demonic forces.

In Ephesians 6:10-13 Paul wrote, **“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”**

Ephesians 6:10-13.

You see, our fight is against the spiritual realm, and we can't play Rambo and blow away the enemy with guns or bombs, not with carnal or human weapons. It is a spiritual battle fought with spiritual weapons!

Listen to the words that Paul said in regard to this battle we are in.

We are told in II Corinthians 10:3-5, **“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”**

So if we want to stand strong in the Lord and in the power of His might we need to utilize the spiritual weapons that He has given to us.

What are these weapons that Paul is talking about and are they available for us?

Absolutely they are here for us to use today as Paul tells us to put on the whole armor of God to protect us from the attacks of the enemy. As I have said, these are spiritual weapons for a spiritual battle!

He then goes on to tell us what the armor of God is all about in Ephesians chapter 6, which again is definitely available for us today and we are instructed to put on and use these things.

We are to ***BE READY FOR THE SPIRITUAL WARFARE!***

Again, I want you to clearly understand that even though Satan is powerful, as well as his demonic forces, he is not God's equal, but he is God's servant!

Satan is fulfilling the plans of God! I know, difficult to understand but the thing we need to remember is that God is in control!

C. S. Lewis put it like this, ***“Some dismiss the devil to their peril while others are preoccupied with him. Avoid both errors and extremes. God is sovereign over Satan. The devil has no free hand in the world. He is on a leash and can do only what God permits.”***

And keep in mind that when Satan is finally cast into the Lake of Fire, after the 1,000-year reign of Christ, there is no battle between God and Satan, it just says that he was cast into the Lake of Fire.

You see, Satan is no match for God. You have Almighty God, the Eternal One, the All Powerful One, against Satan, a created being. Do not see them as equals, for they are not!

Before we move on let me share this with you because it will lead us into what takes place next.

The Bible tells us that right now Satan is the god of this world, but he also still has access to heaven along with his fallen angels.

But that is going to change as we read on!

VERSES 8-9

This great dragon, this serpent of old, the Devil and Satan, was cast out of heaven to the earth with his followers!

Now as you look at the Scriptures you will find four falls of Satan.

The first is from his position in glory with God or a glorified position to a profane – Ezekiel 28:12-17.

Then what we just read here in Revelation chapter 12, from having access to heaven to being restricted to the earth.

Then from the earth he will be placed in bondage in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years.

And lastly, from the pit to the Lake of Fire for eternity!

That is his end and now he knows his time is short and he will try to bring down as many people as he can, he will try to destroy as many lives as he can! He is going to fight for his life, but he also knows he can't win!

Now there are many who think that Satan was cast out of heaven and the presence of God when he fell, because of his pride, in eon's past.

And they will point to what Jesus said in Luke 10:18, “**... ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.’**”

Thus, Jesus seems to be implying that Satan was cast from heaven already, past tense.

Not exactly.

Yes, Satan was kicked out of heaven as a place of permanent residence when he sinned, but he still has access to heaven and to go before God.

You see, in his fall we see his moral failure, but his geographic relocation is still in the future. And this is so certain it is spoken of as if it already happened!



I know this is hard for some, but let me show you that the Bible clearly teaches that Satan still has access to heaven.

Turn to Job chapter 1 and we will see this played out for us, that Satan still comes before God, not in a worshipful or servant sense, but with accusations against God's people, on how they give God a false love and loyalty by their actions.

And once again this is difficult for people to understand, that Satan has access to God in heaven, but that is exactly what the Scriptures tell us!

Starting in verse 6 of Job chapter 1 we read, **“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. And the LORD said to Satan, ‘From where do you come?’ So Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.’”** Job 1:6-7.

What that is telling us is that Satan still has access to the throne of God and will continue to do so until the culmination of this war takes place.

And we see here in Job that Satan is restless, very restless, like a lion stalking his prey to see whom he may devour.

Understand that Satan is out there spreading his lies, he **“deceives the whole world.”** (Revelation 12:9)

And you may think how sad for all those that are unsaved. Satan has blinded their eyes from seeing the truth. They are pawns in his hands.

And that is true, and we need to pray for the lost that God would remove those spiritual blindfolds that Satan has put on them, that they may see and receive the truth of God.

But the implication here goes far beyond the lost. He “**deceives the whole world**” as I have said!

In fact, the word “**deceive**”, *PLANAO* in the Greek, means “*the misleading of another, causing someone to wander or err from the truth.*”

Satan’s deceptive tactics also affect the saved when they are being led by the flesh and not the Spirit of God. They too can become pawns of Satan as they allow their flesh to control their actions.

So there is this war in heaven and then Michael and the angels of God defeat Satan and his forces and it is then that Satan is permanently cast from the presence of God in heaven.

The demonic hosts will not be strong enough to overtake God’s holy angel’s and thus, they will be thrown down, cast out of heaven, with Satan.

Henry Morris gives us this perspective on this spiritual battle with these angels and with us. He wrote,

With what weapons and by what tactics this heavenly warfare will be waged is beyond our understanding.

Angels cannot be injured or slain with earthly weapons, and such physical forces as we know about are not able to move spiritual beings.

But these beings do operate in a physical universe, so there must exist powerful physico-spiritual energies of which we yet can have only vague intimations, energies which can propel angelic bodies at superluminary velocities through space and which can move mountains and change planetary orbits.

It is with such energies and powers that this heavenly battle will be waged and the spectators in heaven (including John) will watch in awe.

When Michael finally prevails, and Satan is forced forever out of the heavens, a tremendous cry of thanksgiving will resound through the heavens.

- Henry Morris, The Revelation Record, p. 224

That is the war that is coming, a war in heaven!

Now what in the world is Satan doing in heaven? What is he doing as he appears before God?

What he did with Job, accuse him before God and that is what he does with us.

Let's read on and see how this plays out.

#### VERSE 10

Who is this person in heaven who is proclaiming this message?

I believe this person in heaven proclaiming this message must be a representative of the Church.

Now you may be wondering how I can be so confident, so sure about this. I will show you.

The reason I say that is because he says that Satan is the "**accuser of our brethren**" and I believe that links him to the Church.

You see, Satan continues to accuse us before the Father in heaven but as Paul said in Hebrews 7:25, "**Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.**"

Jesus is not going to lose any of us no matter what Satan says because we are cleansed by the blood of Christ!

And thus, **“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”** Romans 8:1.

Let me expound on this a little more because I believe it is very important.

Yes, Satan may accuse us before the Father but Jesus steps in and intercedes for us.

Thus, here we see the cleansing, in a sense, of heaven.

Now the accuser of the brethren and his hosts will be removed from the presence of God.

This idiom of an accuser was a well-known and well-hated figure during the first century.

This figure was called the *DELATOR*, or the paid informer. And how this person made his living was by accusing people before the authorities.

You see, they would go around and spy on what others were doing and then report their findings to the proper authorities.

These informers were obviously hated by the people, and the reason is as Tacitus said, ***“He who has no foe was betrayed by his friend.”***

In other words, they would turn anyone in for a price!

Satan, in a sense, does the same thing as the *DELATOR* did. He accuses us before God.

Think of Satan as the prosecuting attorney, who comes before the Father with all kinds of accusing facts about us. He is unrelenting in his case. He continues to spew out all of our failures, and we do have many.

For instance, he might say something like this, ***“How can this man love you, look at what he did today. His failures, his weakness. And he says that he loves you, what a joke!”***

This kind of condemnation continues day and night, as he batters us with these things.

Listen to what Satan accused Job of doing in Job 1:9-11.

We read **“So Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!’”**

Satan was telling God that Job’s love was conditional, based on what gifts or blessings he received from God. And Satan thought if this was taken away from Job, he would curse God, he would no longer love God!

But the lesson Satan found was that his love for God was unconditional, and so should ours be. And that kind of love for God drives Satan crazy as he just can’t understand it. He dangles flashy things in front of us wanting our love for him, and when he doesn’t get it, he is angry, he just doesn’t get it!

And as Christians we are not left defenseless. We are represented by the best defense attorney around, Jesus Christ.

In I John 2:1-2, we read, **“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”**

The word that John uses for **“sin”** is the Greek word *HAMARTE*, which speaks of a single act.

There is another word, *HAMARTANEI*, which speaks of a habitual sin.

This habitual state of sin John spoke of in I John 3:6, 8-9 where he said, **“Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him . . . He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.”**

We are not to be in habitual sin, but John understands that in these bodies of flesh, we will sin. And John is not encouraging us to sin, but he also knows we are not perfect in these bodies of flesh, we will sin. We will have moments where we fail and when we do, we have a defense attorney who will represent us before God the Father.

The word that John uses for **“advocate”** is the Geek word *PARAKLETOS*, which describes anyone summoned to the assistance of another.

It is the same word that is used of the Holy Spirit, the comforter.

In a legal sense, it is a defense attorney pleading the case of the person on trial. And as I said, our defense attorney is not F. Lee Bailey or any other high-priced lawyer, but Jesus Christ.

I need no one else, nor would I want anyone else to defend me!

John tells us that Jesus is the Righteous One and being righteous He just can't ignore sin.

One writer put it this way. He said, ***“Our Advocate does not plead that we are innocent, or adduce extenuating circumstances. He acknowledges our guilt and presents his vicarious work as the ground of our acquittal.”***

And remember what we read in Hebrews 7:25, **“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”**

Thus, the atoning work that Christ accomplished on the cross of Calvary, His blood being shed, covers all of our sins.

That means when Satan accuses us before the Father regarding our failures, Christ does not say that we did not do them, for He is righteous!

But He does say, “***Father, they are cleansed by My blood!***”

Positionally we are seen as perfect, but practically we still sin, and we have an advocate who will represent us, Jesus Christ!

What a comfort that is to me and I hope to you and that is why I took the time to go over this, it is that important!

And as heaven is cleansed, we now hear “... ‘**Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come . . .**’”

And in a short time, God will cleanse the earth as He sets up His Kingdom here on the earth to rule and reign the nations from!

#### VERSE 11

Here is the key to a victorious Christian life, of living in victory over the Devil.

What do we need to do?

James put it like this in James 4:7, “**Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**”

What James is saying is that we need to place ourselves fully under His authority and control and as we do, the Devil will flee!

Peter put it like this in I Peter 5:8-10, **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.”**

We are to resist the Devil by being steadfast in the faith. We are not called to bind the Devil, but to resist him in the faith. That is why we need to put on the whole armor of God because he will and he is coming after us like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour!

And look at what John tells us here in Revelation.

He tells us that our victory only comes as we apply the ***BLOOD OF THE LAMB***, Jesus Christ to our life – we are saved!

Our victory over the enemy comes as we live out our faith – what has taken place on the inside of our lives overflow into our actions – ***THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY***.

And lastly, we are not to ***LOVE OUR LIVES TO THE DEATH*** – in other words, we are to seek first the Kingdom of God and don't try to build a kingdom for yourself on this earth!

Let's take a few minutes and look at these three points.

### ***THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB!***

This is the basis for our victory - the blood of Christ applied to our lives. It gives us victory over the sting of death.

Now, without the blood of Christ applied to our lives we are dead in our trespasses and sins. Satan wins!



But, as John tells us, “. . . if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” I John 1:7.

Did you notice that the blood of Jesus Christ does not just cleanse us of some sin, or most sin, or sins of our past, but ***THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN!***

Praise God for that! And as we apply that to our lives, as we are saved, we have the victory over the Devil because now we are Christ’s!

***THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY!***

The outward showing of our victory in Christ is seen in the witness of our faith. And that witness flows from knowing God, which comes from reading His Word and applying what He has said into our lives.

The word “*martyrs*” originally meant “*witness*” but as the millions of Christians went to their death for their faith, it was their lives that witnessed of the love they had for Christ.

As Jesus said “. . . whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 10:32.

If you are in love with Christ, your life will bear witness of that relationship.

But if you just talk the talk and not walk the walk, this is what Paul says of that, “**They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.**” Titus 1:16.

Our life must be a living testimony of what God has done in our hearts. And this relationship will deepen as you stand firm on God’s Word and let it be manifested in your life.

In other words, live what you say you believe!

***THEY DID NOT LOVE THEIR LIVES TO THE DEATH!***

This reflects the inward attitude of a victorious Christian. Their focus is on the kingdom of God and not the earthly vessels which are passing away.

Jesus said, **“And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.”**

Matthew 10:38-39.

And Paul wrote in Philippians 1:23-24, **“For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.”**

Paul loved the Lord so much that he wanted to depart this life and be with the Lord. But he also knew that the Philippians needed him and his love for the Lord and for the people of God was so great that he was willing to wait. But his heart’s desire was to be with the One who loved him so much and the One he loved so much!

***“In the Roman Empire a convicted criminal, when taken to be crucified, was forced to carry his own cross. This showed publicly that he was then under and submissive to the rule he was opposing. Likewise Jesus’ disciples must demonstrate their submission to the One against whom they had rebelled. The path Jesus and his followers would travel would be a road of sorrow and suffering.”***

You see, to gain one’s life, you must give it all to the Lord. Those that are trying to live like there is no tomorrow, for their own selfish gain, will lose. Those who refuse to surrender their lives to God and instead live for their own pleasure will lose.

It is as Jesus said, **“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”** Matthew 16:26.

Many today are selling their souls for nothing. They are losing an eternity with God for just a few small pleasures in this world. How foolish they are, and we were!

Paul had the correct perspective and so must we. He put it like this in Philippians 1:21, and this is very simple and yet, very powerful. He wrote, **“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”**

Our victory over the Devil is that we are in Christ - ***THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB!***

Our victory over the Devil is that our lives are a witness of Jesus because we have drawn close to Him - ***THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY!***

And our victory over the Devil is that we understand that to depart from this present life is to be present with the Lord – ***WE DO NOT LOVE OUR LIVES TO THE DEATH!***

And notice what the response of this victory we have in Christ is and what is coming – ***THE KINGDOM AGE!***

## VERSE 12

Picture what is taking place at this time, the 3½-year mark of the Tribulation Period.

Satan is cast to the earth.

The Antichrist enters the rebuilt Temple and demands to be worshiped as God.

The Jews, many of them flee to Petra from the wrath of the Antichrist.

In other words, all Hell is breaking out on the earth! He knows his time is short and Satan will do whatever he can to destroy lives, like I have said!

Have you noticed that most animals that are cornered and believe their life is in danger, their time is short, will fight for their life? They will!

I saw this with a muskrat that was trapped in our fenced-in yard when we were living in Hoffman Estates some forty years ago.

We cornered him in our yard, and I tried to poke him into the net with a hockey stick. As I did his teeth clamped down as he fought for his life.

After several minutes of trying to shake him off the stick, he let go and we got him into the net. But then he bit through the net, and we fought with him for a few more minutes until we finally captured him in a metal cage and the battle was over.

The point is this. Satan knows that his time is very short, and in just 3½ years after he is kicked out of heaven, he will be bound in the pit. And he is going to fight and try to destroy anything and everything in his sight.

If you think it is bad now just wait till this point in the Tribulation Period.

Here is another question?

If you don't know Jesus, why don't you just give up and surrender to God's will for your life? Why does man rebel against God when he knows he can't win? You see, you can't fight against God and win and even if you could you still would lose because God has what is best for your life! Thus, surrender to Him!

And that truly goes for all of us. We need to surrender our will to the will of God and gain that victory that we have in Christ against the Devil!

Next time, as we finish up this chapter, we will look at the wrath of Satan being poured out upon the nation of Israel and what God will do to protect them.

And I will leave you with this from Jude 1:24-25, **“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.”**