

Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #23 | Revelation 12:7-17 | The War in Heaven

Introduction: A Chronological Reminder

- A note on timing: verses 1-6 cover a time from the fall of Lucifer (Satan) through the end of the tribulation.
- Verse 6 takes place at the midpoint of "Daniel's 70th Week," also known as the Tribulation. During the final 1,260 days the woman (Israel) is being pursued by the dragon. The fall of the dragon in verse 4 is *not the same* as what takes place in verses 7-17 but is rather about the fall of Lucifer in the Garden of Eden.
- The events of verse 7 also take place at or slightly before the midpoint of the tribulation, thus verse 7-17 overlap verse 6. (An argument could be made that this war takes place at the beginning of the seven years).

Revelation 12:7 | Michael the Archangel

- Michael is designated as the archangel in Jude 1:9.
- The only other time we see him outside of Revelation 7 is Daniel 10:13, 21, 12:1, where he is acting on behalf of the Jewish nation.
 - Daniel 10:13 – Michael overcomes one of the spiritual forces of darkness, the **Prince of Persia**.
 - Daniel 10:20-21 – Behind the scenes battle in which only Michael joins the struggle to help a **certain man** (Dan. 10:3) – possibly a Christophany.
 - Daniel 12:1 – Michael is mentioned in connection with the tribulation, specifically with the last half, the **time of trouble, such as never was**.
- On the earth, there is someone *holding back* the work of the Antichrist. Could this be Michael the Archangel?
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 – a rapture (**falling away**) will come first, followed by the revelation of the **man of sin** (the Antichrist).
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 – something known (v. 6) is holding back, and when this power ceases to hold, **then shall that Wicked be revealed**.
 - Theologians have presented many ideas for *the restrainer*. Typically it is said to be the Holy Spirit or the church. However, this 2 Thessalonians passage fits *hand in glove* with the War in Heaven of Revelation 7. I am convinced that Michael the Archangel is *the restrainer*.

Revelation 12:7-12 | The War

- The war is clearly between Michael and **the dragon and his angels** (v. 7).
- In vv. 8-9 there is a threefold emphasis that Satan was cast out of heaven. Since the Revelation is a future prophecy, this cannot be taken as a review of what happened at the fall of Lucifer. Rather, the access Satan has before God

will be removed. Today Satan is the accuser of brethren, accusing them before God (v. 10). That day will come to an end!

- Notice that Satan, at the point of this casting out, is not cast into the abyss. He can still practice his deception on earth...and will. Compare this deception with 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12.
- The accuser of our brethren loses access to heaven after this war.
- Note that thought we almost always say, "the accuser of the brethren" it is literally, "our brethren," and a reference to the Jewish people. Compare to Zechariah 3:1.
- In Job 1:6, long after the fall, Satan appears in heaven to accuse Job.
- While this may be true of all Christians, Satan has always been more interested and concerned with the Jewish nation.
- The Jewish people will be attacked by Satan during this time in which he has no access to Heaven but will overcome. See verse 11.
- The days of Satan being locked out of heaven are the worst of days for this earth. While he still has dominion over the earth, he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Revelation 12:13-17 | The Aftermath

- Verse 13 tells the *reason* Satan hates the Jews: *it is through her that the Messiah is delivered*.
- Verse 14 and verse 6 coincide chronologically.
- Concerning **two wings of a great eagle**, this term is used of God's work in the days of the Exodus (Ex 19:4), it is thus not necessary to see this as literal, but rather as protection from God.
- In verses 15-16 we are uncertain whether this is a literal flood of water, but certainly it is a literal attack on the Jewish people, yet even **the earth helped the woman**.
- While not perfectly clear, it appears that the remnant of her seed (v. 17) is the portion of Israel that has not been carried to the hiding place of the wilderness. Since, in the last day, God will "gather his elect" from all corners of the globe, the hiding place must be for only a portion of Israel.
- This remnant that is not in the hiding place is a specific group...they keep the commandments AND have the testimony of Jesus. That is, they are believing Jews who are not living in the church (free from the Law), but in the remaining seven-year period of the Law that is, as of now, yet to come. There seems to be a place of protection for the 144,000 (and possibly others) that is full and complete, in the wilderness, yet there are other Jews who will not be in that place. But, in the end, "all Israel will be saved."
- This same remnant is mentioned in Revelation 14:12-13 as those who do not take the mark of the beast, therefore many "die in the Lord" prior to the second coming.