

The Dragon's Defeat (Message #28)

Revelation 12: 7-17

In our last study we looked at a battle that has raged for centuries between God and His people Israel against Satan and the forces of hell. Tonight we realize that the battle continues to rage. It is here that we read of a battle that takes place in heaven.

Satan has always desired to obtain the throne of God and he will make one last stand in heaven in an attempt to do just that. Much of this chapter is hard to understand, but we can find great blessing and encouragement in these verses. Satan will one day suffer defeat and eternally be cast out of heaven. Let's look at the battle that seals [The Dragon's Defeat](#).

I. The Dragon's Devious Character (9-10) – Before we get into the battle itself, we need to look at the character of the enemy. Notice:

A. His Description (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.](#) There are several names listed in the text that describe the enemy of God. He is the [great dragon](#). We dealt with this last week, but he is pictured as a winged serpent that is evil, fearful, and relentless.

- He is the [old serpent](#). This brings to mind his 1st mention in Genesis. The Bible says that he was subtil. Satan is deceptive and sinful, wanting to lead men into sin and away from God.
- He is the [Devil](#), a "*slanderer and false accuser.*" He is also named [Satan](#), a name that means "*adversary, the one who opposes God and His will.*"

B. His Deception (9-10) – The names that Satan carries reveal his true nature and desire. He has always sought to deceive and destroy. Notice:

1. He is a Seducer (9) – He [deceiveth the whole world](#). The word [deceiveth](#) means "*to seduce, to lead astray.*" We all know that Satan operates through seduction and deceit. He always wants man to look upon the pleasure of sin, but he never reveals the consequences that come with sin. He would have you to believe that it is your life to live, be happy and forget about what God wants. He loves the lie that there is plenty of time to make things right with God.

- He is revealed in Job as [walking to and fro in the earth, walking up and down in it](#). Peter described him as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Satan is very deceptive, a seducer of men.

2. He is a Slanderer (10b) – [for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night](#). Satan is known as [accuser of the brethren](#). Has he ever reminded you of past sin? Has he ever told you that you weren't worthy of the gift of salvation? Sure he has; he has told each of us these things.

- He even takes those before the Lord, accusing us of being guilty of sin. He can bring those accusations before the Lord, and true as they may be, I no longer stand condemned! He can bring all the charges he wants, but I have been cleared of all guilt, washed in the blood of Christ. I have been pardoned of my sin, past, present, and future!

I. The Dragon's Devious Character (9-10)

II. The Dragon's Doomed Conquest (7-8; 9b-10a; 11) – Now let's turn our attention to the battle that will be fought in heaven. You probably have more questions than I can answer. We don't know exactly where this battle will take place, or who will initiate it, but we are certain of its outcome. The Bible reveals enough details to be able to rejoice in victory. Notice:

A. Satan is Overthrown by Angels (7-8; 9b-10a) – [v.7 – And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, v.8 – And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven](#). The war in heaven is fought between Michael and his angels and Satan and his angels. Remember that Satan was created as Lucifer, one of God's angels. At his fall he drew 1/3 of heaven's angels with him.

- Satan is no match for God and he won't be any match for Michael and God's angels. Michael's name means "*one who is like God*." He is described as the archangel in [Jude 1:9](#). Here we see the one who is like God defeating the one who wants to be God.
- Michael and the angels will forever rid heaven of Satan. [v.9b – he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him](#). He will eternally be [cast out into the earth](#). That alone is reason to rejoice. We are going to a place that Satan has been cast out from and he will not be welcome there!
- With Satan's defeat there is rejoicing around the throne, [v.10a – 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](#): Once again the power of God and the victory of Christ has defeated Satan.

B. Satan is Overcome by Faith (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 the death.* This verse makes reference to those who have believed in the Lord, the redeemed of God. They have overcome Satan through faith in the Lord. Through faith they received salvation and overcame by the *blood of the Lamb*. The same is true for us. If we are to overcome the attacks of Satan, it will be through the blood of Christ.

- They also overcame by the *word of their testimony*. In a time of intense persecution in Tribulation, they declared their allegiance to Christ. They would not deny the Lord.
- Satan doesn't like it when God's people begin to testify of His goodness and grace. Praise for God will send him on his way! These were so committed to the Lord that they were willing to die for Him.
- They loved the Lord more than life itself. We may never face death for our faith, but do we love Jesus more than we love the pleasures of life? Is our faith strong enough to overcome the adversary? We are already victorious in Christ; we just need to learn to overcome.

I. The Dragon's Devious Character (9-10)

II. The Dragon's Doomed Conquest (7-8; 9b-10a; 11)

III. The Dragon's Destructive Campaign (12-17) – Satan was defeated in the battle waged in heaven. He was forever cast out, but his reign of wickedness will not be over. Let's look at his destructive campaign.

A. The Reality of his Wrath (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.* As heaven rejoices his defeat in heaven there is a solemn warning to those who remain on the earth.

- I can't imagine the ferocity of his attack after he is defeated in heaven. Satan will realize that God has defeated him and will do all that he can to bring suffering on this earth in an attempt to get back at God. I know things are bad here now, but the earth hasn't seen anything yet. When Satan is cast out like a whipped dog, he will unleash his fury and wrath.

B. The Reason for his Wrath (12) – *because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.* Satan will realize that he has but a short time to continue his evil plan. He will work feverously to bring as much death and destruction as he can in the time he has left. No doubt this will only cause the persecution and misery to intensify for those left here earth.

- Satan is a defeated foe and he knows it! I believe that this is the reason for the increased evil and wickedness in the world today. Satan knows that the Lord's return is soon and he wants to deceive all he can to the torments of hell while he still has time.
- We can rejoice in the fact that Satan's time is limited. He does not have eternal access to the children of God. He will one day be judged and cast into the lake of fire, never to cause harm again! We have to put up with his evil influence now, but that won't last forever.

C. The Recipient of his Wrath (13-17) – Once Satan is defeated in heaven he will seek to persecute the woman, or Israel, God's people. There are a few things that we need to consider in these remaining verses concerning the woman.

1. She is Pursued (13) – *And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.* The persecution that Israel will face will be relentless. Satan will pull out all the stops. He will use everything within his power to defeat and destroy God's people.

- The word **persecuted** has the idea of "*making one run or flee; to pursue in a hostile manner.*" God's people won't have to seek trouble; it will find them. Satan will desire to drive them from the face of the earth. What a dreadful time of persecution.

2. She is Preserved (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.* God hasn't brought the nation of Israel this far to abandon them now. He has always made provision for them and the Tribulation will be no different. In this time of pursuit, God will come to their aid.

- The **two wings of a great eagle** she shall be given speak of God's power to deliver them from Satan's attack. He has done this before and He will do it again. *Ex.19:4 – Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.* Isn't it good to know that we serve a God of power tonight?

3. She is Protected (15-17) – *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. [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. [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.* I can't say with absolute certainty what these verses reveal. It is clear that Satan will unleash some sort of devastation in hopes of destroying Israel. That plan will be thwarted by the power of God.

- His protection described in [V.16](#) may be a literal event; it may be symbolic; or it may be a combination of the two. God may use the forces of nature and the earth itself to protect His people; or He may use the people of the earth to help Israel and prevent the wrath of Satan from consuming them.
- Whatever the case, the flood of Satan's wrath will not entirely consume the people of God. There will be those who will see and believe on Christ as the Messiah and Savior of the world.

The battle that we have studied tonight will signal the beginning of the end for Satan. The Lord conquered him at Calvary and there is coming a day when the final blow will be dealt.

We all have to face his attacks while living in this body of flesh, but it will not last forever. Lift up your head dear Christian, our redemption draweth nigh. We face a determined adversary, but we serve a risen Lord! We are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus! There is hope in the blood of Jesus.