Lesson 21

SATAN WARS AGAINST HEAVEN & EARTH

Read Revelation 12:7-17

- Discover When & Why Michael Fights Satan Head-On
- Identify Why Lucifer Is So Angry With The Commandment-Keeper

As noted in Lesson 20, the symbolism of Revelation 12 seems to depict both historical episodes of the past and events at the appointed time of the end, as though occurring simultaneously to indicate their connectivity. This chapter points out the conflict between the forces of good and evil, and ultimately Satan's demise. However, as humans we are not entirely sheltered from the raging battle, and in this sense we must be ready to unite our efforts with Jesus our Messiah, and to respond to the battle cry.

Revelation repeats the call for personal victory: "To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life" and "he who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death," 2:7, 11. The conqueror recognizes the reward beyond the struggle and by hope and faith never gives up. The last-day saints will face difficult trials during a hard and tiresome journey; but, God is not surprised. He knows every trial we face, and if we continue to trust in Him moment by moment He will guide us through the appointed time of the end and deliver us into His eternal kingdom. Jesus promised salvation and rewards to His champions of faith: "He who stands firm to the end will be saved," Matthew 24:13. Paul wrote that our best efforts to imagine the future prepared for the faithful falls short of the reality of Heaven's unseen and mysterious opportunities, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him," 1 Corinthians 2:9 (KJV).

Life is full of decisions, but none more important than on whose side we will take our stand in the final conflict of the ages. Before us are two powerful rulers—Satan, the Prince of this world (John 14:30; 16:10) and Messiah, the Prince of the host (Daniel 8:11; 11:1). The choice is ours; to whom will our loyalty be given? Will our decisions under persecution prove our faith to be authentic, or a shallow pretense?

We think of Heaven as a safe haven where no misery ever interrupts the ageless tranquility, but long ago pride entered the heart of Lucifer, and a sinful rebellion raised its ugly head. At the end of time, Heaven's harmony will be interrupted once again. Revelation 12:5 spoke of the male child who governs, and who was snatched up to God and His throne. Verse 7 continues, "Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and His angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back." The prophet John saw an intense battle rage; Michael and with His military forces battle Satan and his trained bandits. This is no ethereal conflict, nor child's play. It is real and horrific. We don't know how this conflict is fought, whether hand to hand combat, the clashing of swords or larger instruments of war; but, it is deadly, with dire consequences to those involved on both sides. Who says angels cannot die? Only our preconceived notions.

Lucifer began his career of deception in Heaven; and then, in the Garden of Eden cloaked as a lone serpent. Now, he has grown into a monster of sorts—a violent and hideous dragon backed by his evil
forces. He will take Planet Earth captive through first instigating worldwide tragedy of war and bloodshed through his human proxies. Natural disasters of earthquakes, forces of winds and waves, raging fires, mass holocaust, ruin and distress in untold forms will spike creating fear and global pandemonium; then, demonic miracles of peace will offer a false sense of hope in the risen man—the Man of Sin. The world will take Lucifer’s bated hook, but with it he will drag this planet into his net of deception, death and further annihilation. The ancient Biblical prediction warns that God allows the deception to occur for the many haters of the truth who reject Messiah’s merciful salvation: “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs” including Satanic miracles on a mass scale “and lying wonders”—apparitions telling lies. “And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion” which God allows, “that they should believe a lie,” 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11 (KJV).

1. In the vision of Revelation 12:3-4, where does this end-time battle take place? ___________________

Having brought Planet Earth under his powerful sway, he will march with armies to Heaven’s gates to claim victory and to exalt his throne above the stars of God. Satan will attempt to overthrow Heaven’s Temple and God Himself that he might achieve his ultimate dream—to sit on the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the North (Isaiah 14:12-14). He wants desperately to reign in power and majesty by deposing “the Most High.”

Lucifer’s arrival in Heaven is symbolized as a dominant geopolitical dragon with "seven heads and ten horns and seven (7) crowns on his heads," (12:3). However, Revelation 13:1 (KJV) describes the same dragon with "seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten (10) crowns." The loss of three crowns from earth's governments is because "one of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound"—a terrible tragedy of great magnitude—the national fatalities of World War III. In this fatal blow to one of the governmental heads, three "kings" or "leaders" are killed/deposed, so that only seven remain—plus, the emerging eighth, the Man of Sin.

This harps back to Daniel 7:7-8: “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things,” denoting Antichrist's authoritative rule. Daniel continues, “And he shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time,” (v. 25)—meaning, 3½ years; or, 1,260 days.

These passages prove there will be pronounced global upheaval on earth—World War III just before the 1,260 counting days begin; so, what does this expose? Satan must arrive in Heaven for battle after the great blow to the worldwide governmental dragon, which leads to a "forty-two month" (13:5)—1,260 days of rule by the demon Beast (Antichrist) over Planet Earth (Revelation 13:5). Ephesians 6:12 advises, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

2. According to Daniel, which creature’s head will be hit by mass destruction symbolized by the loss of three horns or countries (7:7-8)? ________________________________
The fourth Beast—Western Europe Union made up of ten prominent countries will be attacked by the Russian Bear (7:5) with mass destruction and a fatal blow. The wounded Bear will rise up and "eat [his] fill of [human] flesh," as symbolized in the three ribs in its mouth. Mass annihilation, on a scale beyond human consciousness lies before us with tragic loss of countless lives. Of particular concern are the southern European countries (Italy, Greece, Portugal and Spain), but only when this holocaust occurs can be known with certainty the three devastated countries. Prophecy has foretold the attack in vivid detail.

Revelation 12:8 indicates that throughout history and up to the end-of-days conflict, Lucifer lost his position in Heaven, but still has a "place in Heaven." So, although sin has been prevalent God did not totally shut the door upon Satan's entrance before God—the relentless Accuser of the brethren.

3. How do we know Lucifer has had access to God's throne room even after sin entered his heart (Job 1:6-7)? ________________________________________________________________________________

4. What does Revelation 12:10 promise about the Accuser of our brethren? ________________________________________________________________________________

His demise is certain. The Adversary has gone before God relentlessly "day and night" to accuse and dispute. Knowing his downfall and imprisonment in only a short time away, he will rise up in anger to battle Michael and His faithful angels. However, Satan's repeated attempts to usurp God's authority and take the warfare to the throne of God will lead to his imprisonment; and finally, to his ultimate demise.

5. What is said of the Satan's upcoming imprisonment (Revelation 20:2)? ________________________________________________________________________________

Cruden's Concordance says it was believed in ages past that "dragons" were "old serpents grown with age to a prodigious size." Therefore, it's not surprising to see the serpent/dragon symbolism in the book of Revelation, since the Devil presented himself as a beguiling serpent in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:3). So, by the end of the recorded Scriptures in the book of Revelation, Satan has grown into a grotesque multi-head dragon amalgamated with world governance symbolizing excessive dominance to persecute and kill any and all who opposes him.

6. What does Isaiah prophesy about Leviathan—the sea monster's punishment on the Day of the LORD (27:1)? ________________________________________________________________________________

7. Satan was also symbolized as the king of Tyre in Ezekiel 28:11-19. What type of punishment and final death is prophesied by the holy prophet, and where will it occur (18-19)? ________________________________________________________________________________

A fire will come out from within Satan himself, and it will consume him and reduce him to ashes on the earth. He will come to a horrible end, and will exist no more.

8. Isaiah 24:21-22 describes the punishment of the "powers in the heavens"; or, as the King James Version reads, the "host of the high ones on high." What is it? ________________________________________________________________________________

9. The brother of Jesus also described the fate of the fallen angels. What does he say concerning their imprisonment and future judgment of eternal fire, like that which reduced Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes (Jude 6-7)? ________________________________________________________________________________

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Peter also spoke of fallen angels who were cast down to hades, to a dungeon to be held for judgment. He wrote of God's judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah—how He burned the cities and their inhabitants to ashes, "making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly," (2 Peter 2:4-6).

10. Where will the fire blaze, according to 2 Peter 3:7? ________________________________________

The skies above and the Planet Earth are "reserved for fire, being kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction [annihilation] of ungodly men."

11. Just how complete will the fiery destruction of sin and sinners be (2 Peter 3:10-13; Malachi 4:3)? ____________________________________________________________________________________

The original Greek literally reads, "The earth and everything in it will be burned up." What we know as Planet Earth will be completely destroyed, along with Satan, all sinners and the rebellious host.

12. Once the Great White Throne judgment is over how does Revelation 20:9 describe the consuming fire that God calls from above upon Satan and all sinners? ________________________________________________

The fire "devours" them.

13. What is said about our God in Hebrews 12:29? ______________________________________________

God is a "consuming fire."

14. For whom was the judgment fire originally planned for (Matthew 25:41)? ______________________

15. Revelation 12:10 says a loud voice is heard, when Satan's rule will be totally broken. Salvation, power and kingdom of God, and authority of Christ, are declared. When does this transpire according to Revelation 11:15? __________________________________________________________________________

At the voice of the Seventh Angel (Michael), on the Day of the LORD, Messiah is given rule and Satan's demise will be sealed. For millennia the Devil has had access to God and has brought accusations against the saints, but the Day will arrive when no further arguments or charges will be entertained. At the same time, all destinies will be sealed and the door of mercy will be forever shut for all who rejected Christ.

16. What follows the proclamation, according to the prophet (Revelation 11:18-19)? ________________

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The nations of the world are stirred up in anger because God's wrath is beginning; the hour for judging the dead has arrived—who will be raised to life at the first resurrection; the hour for rewarding God's two servants the prophet and the overcomers who reverence God's name is come; and, the time to destroy those who destroy the earth.

17. Whom does John identify with this hour of proclamation (Revelation 12:11)? ________________

The victorious martyrs for Yeshua are identified—specifically, those who overcame during the final conflict, the individuals Satan most opposed and accused before God. They conquered in three ways: 1) by the blood of the Lamb sacrificed for them, 2) by the word of their testimony, and 3) by their willingness to die for the Lamb.
These faithful prisoners of persecution placed their trust in the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Their words testify of their commitment to God’s Commandments (Revelation 12:17), and to their keeping of the spirit of prophecy warnings (Revelation 19:10) found in the book of Revelation (1:2-3). Finally, these persecuted multitudes of all nations who will give their lives in loyalty to God, remaining faithful at the point of death and personal loss, will be resurrected to life at the seventh trumpet (Revelation 2:10; 6:11; 7:9; 13:10; 15:2—Pt. 18 on The Kingdom Calendar). This large group of martyrs, too many to count, will be victorious in faith over the Beast, his image and his mark; they "came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.)" Revelation 20:4-5.

18. Although there will be great rejoicing in Heaven, including this great multitude resurrected and transported before the throne and the Lamb (Revelation 7:8-17) at the seventh trumpet, to whom is the warning given concerning Satan’s fury (Revelation 12:12)?

*Satan has only a short time left—the brief but dreadful 40-day Great Tribulation—also known as the Time of Jacob’s (Israel’s) Trouble. He will explode in anger against anyone left on earth who opposes him—namely the 144,000 elect of the twelve tribes sealed for protection, but who will still be subject to Satanic resentment and trickery (Matthew 24:15-26).*

19. Revelation 12:13-14 begs the question: why is Satan so angry with the woman (Israel) who had given birth to Messiah Jesus?

*Yeshua, the Son of Man is the Adversary's arch enemy. Christ receives dominion and glory which Satan wants above all else. Since he cannot defeat Messiah and His angels, he will turn his attention to the beloved woman. Satan knows there is no better way to injure God than through hurting those He loves.*

However, the woman (Israel) will be given "two wings of a great eagle" so that she might “fly to a place of safety where she can be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.” In the last days, there will be a land of refuge and safety for Covenant-keeping Israel that only Heaven knows, but Almighty God will provide the means of safety—a land of freedom, and a home for these brave souls. The prophet John made direct reference to Isaiah 40:28-31, a passage of hope particularly for Israel. Elohim will give strength to the weary and power to the weak. The enemies who pursue the believers will grow tired and weary, even the young men of valor will stumble and fall, "but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" as they outrun the wrath of Satan and enemies of God.

20. How long will Israel be under the divine care and protection (Revelation 12:14)?

*Three and one-half years, the same period as the Beast’s rule (Revelation 13:5; Daniel 7:25). The two anointed witnesses will guide and protect them (Revelation 11:3-6); otherwise, Satan would crush them all.*

21. According to Revelation 12:15-17 Lucifer sends an overwhelming disaster to destroy Israel with a flood, but what does the earth do? What does the flood waters represent (Revelation 17:15)?
A tsunami of Gentile enemies tries to wash away and destroy the chosen ones, but the earth opens up and miraculously swallows the pursuing flood of military armies—saved against all odds. The woman, represented by the twelve tribes of Israel, is saved.

22. The woman will be safe for 1,260 days, protected by Heaven’s two ambassadors and supernatural intervention. The remnant of saints to whom Satan then turns his attention is identified by what two distinguishing remarks? __________________________________________________________________

Lucifer understands that any attempt to destroy the twelve tribes of the chosen elect will be impossible, so he turns his attention to make war against her offspring—[1] "those who obey God’s commandments and [2] hold to the testimony of Jesus."

23. What do these two characteristics mentioned above signify (Revelation 22:14; 1:2-3; 19:10)? __________________________________________________________________
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The remnant of saints, both Jew and Gentile alike, obey God’s commandments, and follow the counsel of the book of Revelation.

24. What does Satan through the Antichrist Beast attempt to destroy during the appointed time of the end (Daniel 11:28; 30-36)? The Holy ______________________________________________________

25. What is the Holy Covenant (Deuteronomy 4:13)? __________________________________________

Satan desires to stamp out the Commandment-keepers for they are the light and salt of the earth, and they most oppose the idolatrous worship that will be made popular during the appointed time of the end.

26. By what will the world be judged on the Day of the LORD (Revelation 11:19)? ________________
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At the seventh trumpet, the Ark of His Covenant will be revealed, and between the Cherubim is the throne of God. Encased below in the golden box are the Ten Commandments as inscribed and given to mankind long ago by the finger of Yahweh, which still remain today as God’s Moral Law. All ten are valid and based on the immutable character of Almighty God, including the seventh-day Sabbath; this day of rest was first given to all of mankind at creation (Genesis 2:2-3) and reaffirmed in stone with the command to “Remember”... although forgotten by even those who claim to exalt the Word of God. The commandment against idolatry and the worship of images remain as well, as do all the other commandments; because, "not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished" and "heaven and earth disappear," Matthew 5:17-18.

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