

the end (vv. 1-6). The main characters in the conflict are: Israel (nation), Christ (child) and Satan (dragon). This hot war is extended in the present section to heaven itself! Michael, the great archangel, gets involved. He is thrown into the conflict with Satan. Heaven's hosts are victorious. Heaven resounds with praise, but earth experiences a woe because Satan's wrath is now unleashed in view of his limited time to continue his ugly activities. Oh, dear friend, it is time to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ and fall under His gracious loving care! Do it now.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"War In Heaven" Revelation 12:7-12

Introduction

1. This is a tremendously important chapter. It provides a total review of events from Abraham's time through to the Tribulation (vv. 1-6). Once grasped, this segment of Revelation gives a tremendous overview of the conflict of the ages, a conflict between personalities and not abstract concepts.

2. The scene has shifted from earth to the stellar regions. God now shows us what is taking place in outer space.

3. Here is a report of Israel's air power! It is pitted against that which comes from Satan and his hosts. The victory turns to Israel and the Lord. Study the truths and get your heart blessed:

1. THE CONFLICT vv. 7-9.

a. Where?

The answer to this question is put clearly: "in heaven." This is not in the very presence of God nor the third heaven, but the second heavens. It may have been prompted by the resurrection and rapture of the church (Heb. 1:7, 14; 1 Thess. 4:16). The verb "was" means to "become" or "happen to be."

b. Who?

The war is between real persons. On the one hand are Michael and his angels; on the other the dragon and his angels. This confirms that the stars (v. 4) are in fact angels. Michael is the special guardian of Israel (Dan. 10, 12). He took a low place against Satan (Jude 9). Here he is called upon to make a frontal attack. He does! The dragon is given other names here: Serpent (to show his cunning and poisonous character), Devil (to show he is the slanderer), and Satan (to who he is the adversary). One summary statement is made about him: he deceives the whole world. "World" is the word "dwell"

and points out that the persons who are really deceived by Satan are the earth dwellers! True children of God know the deceiver!

c. What?

The dragon did not prevail or have strength over Michael. No place was found for Satan in heaven (v. 8). The result: the dragon is cast out of heaven and his angels with him (v. 9). Mark the steps in Satan's judgment:

1) Cast from his initial place (Ezek. 28:14-16; cf. Luke 10:18).

2) Cast from heaven (here; cf. Job 1:12; 1 Kings 22:31; Zech. 3:1).

3) Cast into the abyss (Rev. 20:1-3).

4) Cast into lake of fire (Rev. 20:10).

NOTE: Satan's judgment is based on Calvary (John 16:11).

2. THE COMMENT vv. 10-12.

As a result of the war and the results recorded, there is a marvelous response which rings the corridors of heaven. Here is a digest of the comments:

a. Contents v. 10.

The loud voice may very well be believers who fill glory (1 Cor. 15:52-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18). Four items are specifically mentioned:

1) Salvation This is probably a reference to the entire scope of this word, physically and spiritually.

2) Strength This is the word in Greek for "power" (same as Rom. 1:16). It is God's mighty power!

3) Kingdom This is a reference to the Lord's eternal kingdom. It goes beyond the mere millennium.

4) Power This is the word "authority" and is linked with Christ (Messiah). Hence, all opposition is over now!

NOTE: The aorist "is come" suggests the victory as already gained! Hallelujah! Oh, to see things from God's viewpoint! In fact, the conflict of the ages is now over with Satan as a declared defeated foe. It is he who has been the accuser of the brethren before God day and night. This puts the action where God sees it. We often see it on earth, but God puts the matter where it really is! Those who accuse the brethren are but mimics of Satan!

b. Concern v. 11.

Whereas the previous verse refers to saints in heaven, this one relates to those on earth. Three elements of their victory over Satan are listed:

1) The ground of it--the blood of Christ. The preposition "by" is used with the accusative case and should be rendered "on account of" or "because." This is what provided the boldness they required!

2) The expression of it--the word of their testimony. The same preposition is used here. It means "because." They spoke up against Satan.

3) The attitude of it--loved not their lives unto death. This shows that the martyr spirit was in them. They were prepared to resist unto blood!

c. Conclusion v. 12.

On account of the facts just listed in the comment relating to Satan's deportation from heaven, there is the call (present middle imperative) to rejoice. Such rejoicing is for the heavens and those who dwell in them! For the earth, there is woe. Why? Because Satan has gone down there (aorist) and has great wrath. The wrath is due to the brevity of the time which Satan has yet to operate among men. His casting down makes him to know (perfect tense) that he has a limited time. What a word!

Conclusion The conflict of the ages rages from the start of the Jewish nation (Gen. 12) and continues right up to