

Signs in Heaven

Revelation 12:1-6

- I. Two realms.
 - A. The physical realm.
 - B. *Epouranios*—the heavenly realm.
 - 1. 2 Kings 6:15–17. Elisha
- II. Outline of chapter 12 of Revelation:
 - A. Verses 1-6 The woman, child and dragon.
 - B. Verses 7- 12 A great war that rages in heaven.
 - C. Verses 13-17 The Satanic attempt to destroy the people of God, it is a failed attempt.
- III. The origin of the Christmas story.
 - A. The *Proto Evangelium*- The first Gospel: Genesis 3:15
 - B. Developed through two great covenants:
 - 1. Genesis 12:2-3 The Abrahamic Covenant.
 - 2. 2nd Samuel 7:8-16 The Davidic Covenant.
- IV. Two “Great” signs.
 - A. The sign of the woman (Verse 1-2).
 - 1. A “great” sign = a *mega* sign.
 - a. A sign— is something that is identifying something else—a greater meaning.
 - 2. Who is the woman?
 - a. Mary?
 - b. The church?
 - c. Mary Baker Eddy?
 - d. Israel?
 - 3. Another place the description is mentioned.
 - a. Genesis 37:9-11—the story of Joseph and his dreams.

- b. The dream identifies the sign is Israel.
 - 4. Throughout scripture, Israel is identified as a woman giving birth: Isaiah 26, 54, 66, Micah 4, 5, Matthew 24 .
 - 5. God promises a seed through Israel: Isaiah 26,54, 66, Hosea 16, Micah 4, 5
- B. The sign of the red dragon.
 - 1. Revelation 12:9 The dragon is the devil, Satan, the serpent, the dragon.
 - 2. The symbols:
 - a. The heads—The seven consecutive kingdoms.
 - b. The ten horns—Future kings under Antichrist: Revelation 17:12.
 - c. Crowns/diadems—one who has dominion.
- V. The crux of the passage.
 - A. The male child.
 - 1. Isaiah 9:6-7
 - 2. The “seed” of Genesis 3:15.
 - 3. The dragon has incessantly been trying to thwart the “seed”.
 - a. Geneses 4—Cain and Abel.
 - b. Genesis 6—The flood.
 - c. The nation of Israel.
 - d. Exodus 1 & 2, the pharaoh’s edict to kill all Hebrew born babies.
 - e. 1 Samuel 18—to destroy David
 - f. Haman (Esther) and his call for genocide of the Jews.
 - B. Verse 5 an overarching picture of the gospel.
 - 1. From birth to ascension.
 - 2. The rod of iron: judgement.
 - 3. Key: “**Kiss the Son**” Psalm 2.
- VI. Our three enemies.
 - A. Our flesh.
 - B. The world system.
 - C. Satan (and his demons).

Signs in Heaven

Revelation 12:1-6

Ahh...62 days until Christmas!...that's what you wanted to hear! I noticed Costco has had their Christmas merchandise up for a few weeks already right next to the Halloween stuff...this morning we will be looking at the Christmas story from a perspective you may have never looked at it before.... **No one would have been singing *Silent Night* in this perspective...**

Silent night! Holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

round yon Virgin Mother and Child,

Holy infant so tender and mild,

sleep in Heavenly peace!

sleep in Heavenly peace!

Silent night...all is calm... sleep in heavenly peace... all so true...in an earthly sense... but there was so much more going on than a calm night...this was much more than an earthly event...what happened on that first Christmas day had an unseeable reality as well as the seen.

There was a spiritual element going on that day...the same event... from a cosmic level... This is the Nativity of Jesus Christ... but it isn't the typical Nativity scene of Jesus Christ... there is no manger... no animals, Joseph, shepherds or a star... but there are angels...This nativity is cosmic... it is a nativity not seen by the human eye...

It is the nativity but it isn't physically in Bethlehem...it is in the "heavenly places" or "heavenly realms" ...which is a phrase translated from the Greek word *epouranios*,

[e-por-an-e-os] meaning "*the sphere of spiritual activities.*"

We do not think often of the sphere of spiritual activities...the spiritual world often... because

We can't see the spiritual world... but there is a spiritual reality around us at all times... We live in a world made by an invisible Being and this world is thick with invisible things. They are all "around us." My favorite example is...

In 2 Kings 6:15–17, the prophet Elisha's attendant saw something in the visible realm that overwhelmed him—the Syrian army encircling their city with horses and chariots. "**Alas, my master!**" he said. "**What shall we do?**"

Elisha, though, was not shaken. He saw a deeper reality in the unseen realm.

"Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them. Elisha then prayed and said, 'O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.' And the Lord opened the

servant's eyes and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

Elisha saw something his servant did not see: the enemies of God surrounding the city were themselves surrounded by a massive invisible force arrayed behind the scenes for Elisha's protection. **The prophet was able to see the unseeable.**

We shy away from the unseen world... As the late Michael Heiser commented... *Our modern evangelical subculture has trained us to think that our theology precludes any experience of the unseen world...*

My paraphrase... we are so entrenched in "what we can see...touch, smell.." that our view of our faith...our Christianity often does not include the unseen spiritual world... that is a bit "unreal"... in reality our physical world is a finite tiny blip amongst an infinite spiritual realm...the unseen realm is a very real realm..

We have no idea the battles being fought all around us all the time... all that to say... that nativity of two thousand years ago... the very first Christmas... had an invisible heavenly battle raging which John gives us a look at in Revelation 12.

Revelation being "apocalyptic literature"... with imagery that is literally "fantastic"...This morning I want to look at the first six verses in chapter 12...all of chapter 12 gives us a panoramic view of all of redemptive history... it looks to the past... the present and the future...

I had the entire chapter 12 read to give us some context... there are three natural breaks in these 17 verses...three movements or considerations... this morning we will look at the first one found in the first six verses...

Verses 1-6 The woman with child and a dragon.... Which make up two signs from heaven.

Verses 7- 12 A great war that rages in heaven.

Verses 13-17 The Satanic attempt to destroy the people of God... it is a failed attempt...

Last week we were given a look into the future when the redemptive story of mankind and creation comes to its glorious conclusion...when Jesus returns and sets up His eternal kingdom...

After the sounding of the 7th trumpet... John relays to us what he sees and hears... **Then the seventh angel sounded, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever."** (11:15)

Satan since Genesis 3 has enjoyed ruling this world... and will continue to do so until this event happens...**Satan knowing the final outcome does everything he can to thwart it from happening...**

So... in chapter 12... he attacks the nation of Israel... God's people... the nation and people in which the kingdom will come....In the next chapter... chapter 13... Satan attempts to derail God's plan by using two people.... Two "beasts"...to do his deeds...

In Revelation 14... God gives us a break from the schemes of the devil and gives us six scenes of hope... to remind us He is still very much in control.

As a whole...chapter 12 reveals Satan's hatred for the Jewish people...But we learn in this chapter that this hatred is directly linked to Satan's all encompassing hatred for God Himself... and will go to all lengths to derail His plan.... And it all centers on God's Son our Savior Jesus Christ.

Christmas and the story of Christmas didn't start in a manger in Bethlehem... it began many, many years before... to the very beginning... in Genesis 3...right after the fall... where Adam and Eve succumbed to the temptation presented to them by the serpent... bringing sin into a perfect world...

And sin separated man from God... fellowship with the Almighty was broken... man was lost... man was condemned... doomed to die in his sin... As a result of this tragic fall...through God's infinite love and grace... God made a promise...

That He would send a Savior to the world to save man from this condemnation... Genesis 3:15 is considered by many to be the most important verse in the entire Bible... the *proto evangelium*... the first gospel... Genesis 3:15

God speaking...speaking specifically to the serpent...: **And I will put enmity** [hostility, opposition] **Between you** [serpent] **and the woman, And between your seed and her seed;** there will from that point on be hostility between two opposing "seeds"... **He shall bruise you on the head He** [Jesus, will dethrone you Satan, He will take your kingdom away...He will give you a deathly blow] **And you shall bruise him on the heel."** [you Satan will do nothing more than bother Him... bruise Him... nothing lasting...]

This promise... which sounds a bit cryptic here... develops onward through the entire Bible...there are two great covenants that are made by God to His people that carry this initial promise all the way to fruition... the Abrahamic Covenant in Genesis 12 and the Davidic Covenant in 2nd Samuel 7...

Abrahamic Covenant: Genesis 12:2-3...God speaking to Abraham

**And I will make you into a great nation,
And I will bless you,
And make your name great;
And you shall be a blessing;
3 And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."**

All this is God carrying with His promise of the seed... Jesus Christ... God carries His promise through history... through the people of Israel... through the genealogies... to the birth of the Christ and beyond.

And Satan hasn't just kept himself on the sidelines... he has tried to derail this coming seed from ever sprouting... Davidic Covenant: 2nd Samuel 7:8-16 Pushing forward the Abrahamic Covenant...some 14 generations later... 430 years or so...

2nd Samuel 7:8-16

So now, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says Yahweh of hosts, "I Myself took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place and not be disturbed again; and the unrighteous will not afflict them any more as formerly, 11 even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Yahweh also declares to you that Yahweh will make a house for you. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up one of your seed after you, who will come forth from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me;16 And your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."'"

Did Satan sit quietly on the sidelines during David's reign

Read verses 1-2

1st sign the Woman... V.1 the first of seven signs in the book of Revelation... maybe too many times I have said I take the literal straight forward meaning of Scripture unless it is clear in the Bible it is not meant to be literal... when the Bible says something is a "sign" is one of those times...

In the Bible, a sign is a symbol or an event that points to a deeper spiritual reality or truth.

This first sign is a "**great**" sign... the Greek word *Mega*...this is a "Mega" sign!...this is huge... this is important...The same word is used to describe the dragon in **verse 9**...verse 10 says **Then I heard a loud voice in heaven...** loud is MEGA... *I heard a mega voice from heaven...*
might should pay attention to that voice!

Read verse 12 The devil...MEGA WRATH!

A sign in the Bible is simply a symbol meaning something else... it is something that is identifying something else... it is a way to point us to the reality of what God wants us to see... out by the street we have a sign... "Trinity Baptist Church"... the sign is not the church... it is simply a symbol leading one to the church...

So this is the first MEGA sign... what's it leading us to?... the sign **is a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of seven stars...**

There are three other symbolic women in Revelation... They are all different and they symbolize or represent something... back in 2:20 Jezebel (false prophetess)... chapter 17 a prostitute (Babylon the Great)... and the bride of the lamb of Christ chapters 19-22...but here is a different woman altogether:

Who is this woman?... people have been arguing over that question for centuries... the Roman Catholics say the woman is Mary... many of the reformers say it is the church... **I can't see her being the church...this is a pregnant woman...** Christ birthed the church not the other way around... others have said the woman is Israel.

Mary Baker Eddy the founder of Christian Science identified the woman... it is her...and the baby is Christian Science!...that's Christian Science which famously has been said is neither Christian nor science!

When interpreting Scripture we've mentioned often in the past... context is vital... looking at the verses before and after a verse... putting that into work... I would first ask... are there any surrounding verses that might answer the question *who is this woman?*

I can't find any... my next question is... is there anywhere else in the Bible that has anything like this description?... So what do we do... we begin reading in Genesis and read all the way through the Bible until we get to a place that has any mention the description here in Revelation 12...***Does anywhere in the Bible mention the sun, the moon and a crown of 12 stars?***...anywhere?.... that sounds like a lot of work!

But lo and behold... I had to only get to Genesis 37:9-11... in a dream that Joseph was having... he tells his dad the dream...he said ***the sun, the moon and the 12 stars were bowing down to me***... His dad immediately reacted... this is what he said...Genesis 37:10

“What is this dream that you have had? Am I and your mother and your brothers actually going to come to bow down to the ground before you?”

Why is this important?...Dad knew exactly what the dream referred to....Dad identified the three signs...the dream to reality:

The sun = Jacob

The moon = Rachael

The twelve stars =The 12 sons of Jacob who become the 12 tribes of Israel.... It is important because all that is the sign of the Jewish nation....Israel. (actually says 11, but add Jacob)

I think we can conclude with a bit of confidence that... the woman represents the people of God... the righteous remnant of Israel...

The woman is Israel... in verse 2 it says this woman was pregnant... and she's crying out in pain... she's pregnant...she's in labor... she's in agony...(if you know Israel's history... at the time of Christ's birth Israel was in agony...]

We who have fathered children can readily identify with all this...the woman with child.. crying out in pain from labor...I can identify with that.... even though every mother in this building is saying right now.... *"O no you don't!"*

You have no clue what we go through in childbirth!... they are all correct!...

All this is a really good picture...the image of Israel all through the Old Testament... a mother giving birth is a picture of Israel...I won't read them.

Isaiah 26,54, 66

As the woman with child draws near to the time to give birth, she writhes and cries out in her pangs of labor, thus were we before You, O Yahweh.

Micah 4, 5

Matthew 24

All speak of Israel in the context of a mother giving birth...suffering and in pain waiting for their Messiah to come...God promised us a seed... a Savior... a rescuer... a Deliverer...the promise is carried out through:

Genesis 3

Genesis 12

Genesis 39

Deuteronomy 18

2 Samuel 7

Psalms 2

Psalms 8

Psalms 16

Psalms 22

Psalms 23

Psalms 24...45...110...

Isaiah...Malachi...Micah...

2 But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from everlasting, from the ancient days."

HE PROMISED HE WOULD SEND A DELIVERER... AND OUR GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS WORD!

2nd Sign The Dragon

Read verse 3...

We want to know who the dragon is... So what is the first thing we do to understand who this dragon is?... we read the context... look at the neighboring verses to see if they shed light on the identity... this time we don't have to read the entire Bible!...jump to verse 9...

Read verse 9

This verse not only identifies the dragon in verse 3 to be Satan... it supports the idea that the serpent in Genesis 3 is Satan as well... **the serpent of old**...Also... note that we get the most names for Satan in this verse:

1. The Great Dragon
2. The Serpent
3. Devil
4. Satan.... All here in verse 9.

By the way... it is thought verse 3 is where people get the idea of classic picture of the devil... horns...a tale... not sure where the pitchfork came from....red... red symbolizes his murderous intentions... his wickedness... his being a great fiery danger to us...

We read this description and we should have a response of resistance... Submit therefore to God. James 4:7 **Resist the devil and he will flee from you.** we should resist the devil... he has great power... great authority... he can destroy lives... he can lead you off a cliff... he can do great damage to you...

To encounter the devil is to understand we are to have nothing to do with him... devil translated from *Diabolos*...which literally means the **accuser... the slanderer**...it says he **deceives the whole world**... he is our enemy... look at his description in verse 3:

- He is red...The color of fiery destruction and bloodshed
- He **has seven heads**...some say that seven here is used as seven is used other places in Scripture...a very significant number... seven is the number... not of perfection... but of completion...totality... seven days make a complete week... so seven heads could refer to a “*comprehensive intelligence*”.

In other words... Satan falls way short of the Almighty omnipotent God...but he is a very, very intelligent being... he has studied human nature for thousands of years... he knows all our weak points... all our vulnerable areas... he can craft temptations perfectly suited to each and every one of us.

We are impressed by AI...

Satan has the ability of AI...he knows your algorithms!...

Another strong possibility...the seven heads are thought to be the seven consecutive world empires that ran their course under Satan's dominion... Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the future final kingdom described in Revelation 17:12 ruled by Antichrist.

- **The ten horns** horns are an animal's weapons... they fight with their horns...Satan has dominated the world...Satan is known as the god of this world...

Also could be what Revelation 17:12 refers to as being a coalition of the ten future kings who will rule under Antichrist.... It is also referenced as the fourth of four beasts in Daniel 7.

- **On his head were seven crowns/ diadems**...diadems refer to royalty... a monarch... king... one who has dominion... Satan has dominion here on earth... but his power is not limited to the earth... his power reaches into the cosmic realm as well...

Verse 4 says **Read verse 4a**

I'm pretty confident that this is referring to that great event when Satan fell from heaven... Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28... Satan rebelled against God... and God tosses him out of heaven... along with him is one third of the angels...

So verse 4a linked to verse 9...**he was thrown down to earth and his angels with him**...which is where we get 1/3 of all the angels were cast out of heaven...point is... Satan had a great influence in the spiritual realm....BUT HE IS OUTNUMBERED 2 TO 1!!!

What is next is the crux of the passage... this is what I want us to grasp... This woman is about to give birth...and this dragon...Satan is there at the nativity...Satan is hovering over this woman... this is a crucial moment for Satan.... This is what he's been waiting for...

His plan is... the moment that little baby's head comes out of the womb... the dragon wants to destroy it.... Devour it... kill it.... Erase the baby's existence of the earth.

Read verse 4b.

There was violence on that Christmas day...no silent night... an attempt on the Saviors life...

This is where we link this passage to Genesis 3:15...this is so important... if we fail to see this all of history will not make sense...the Bible will not make much sense... prophesy won't make any sense...

Throughout history...this woman.... And this dragon... are linked to a third character... the male child...He is not a sign... He is a reality.

Read verse 5

Satan hates this woman... why?... because of this child... **it's all about the child**... it's all about getting to the child and destroying it... Why?... this child would one day rule the world and take away Satan's own authority... That familiar prophesy in Isaiah 9... we hear these words every Christmas:

For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us;

And the government will rest on His shoulders; He will be king... Almighty King...King of kings!.... But...**what about No Kings?... 7 million showed up to protest... NO KINGS**

No kings? That's the reality Satan longs for—a world where the promised Child does not come to reign... where there is no Messiah to establish an everlasting kingdom, and where his own power is never threatened. The absence of the true King would mean Satan's dominion over the earth would go unchallenged, and the hope of redemption would be lost.

But God's promise stands firm: this Child is destined to rule, and no scheme of the enemy can ultimately prevent His kingship...

**And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.**

**7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace
To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
From then on and forevermore.**

This child that will be born from this woman is that child who reigns!...Satan has been trying to change the promise of God he made back in the garden... no way was Satan going to be satisfied with simply bruising the heel of the woman's seed...and in no way would he settle for that seed to crush his head!...Satan and his kingdom will be crushed!

As God's words were spoken in the garden... Satan set out to destroy the promise...and he has been trying to ever since....the Bible is a story of the coming promise of God's salvation through His seed... and Satan's attempts to derail all of it...there has been an ongoing cosmic conflict throughout history!....there are so many examples of this throughout this book... here's a few...

1. Genesis 4...After Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden... they conceived two children...first Cain followed by Abel... Abel was the "righteous" son... Cain was the unrighteous one... I don't think there would be an argument against the fact that it was Satan who inspired Cain to kill Abel.

Why kill Abel?... it was an attempt to destroy the seed!...destroy the seed there would never be a Jesus.

2. God raised up Seth to continue the line of the seed...we get to Genesis 6... what happened there?... Satan attempted to corrupt the human race to the point where God would destroy everything that He had made. It almost came to that.

The LORD saw that the wickedness of humanity was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made humanity on the earth, and it grieved Him to His heart (Genesis 6:5,6).

God sent a Flood to destroy the entire world... Satan's plan and desire!...it was all going great for Satan except God saved eight persons.... The human race...and the seed was spared Satan's attempt to annihilate it....God's seed persisted.

3. An ongoing target of the Devil has been the nation Israel. Four thousand years ago God gave Abraham that promise.

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:1-3).

Among other things, God promised that the descendants of Abraham would exist forever. If the nation that came from Abraham's descendants, Israel, were ever annihilated as a nation, then the Word of God would be untrue....God then isn't the Almighty! It is for this reason that Satan has paid special attention to Abraham's descendants.

DESTROY THE SEED!

4. Genesis 27... Esau tries to kill Jacob... **Jacob?**... why Jacob?... Because Jacob was Isaac's son of promise!... Abraham...Isaac... Jacob...the 12 tribes of Israel...with the tribe of Judah... which would eventually bear the Messiah....just get rid of Jacob and the line falters.

5. Exodus 1 & 2... Pharaoh...sends out this strange edict... if a Hebrew baby is born male... it is to be killed... effectively an attempt to wipe out an entire race of people... the race that would produce?... the seed!...I believe Pharaoh was an agent for the Devil.

6. 1st Samuel 18... over and over again king Saul... like a crazy person...for no apparent reason at all tries to destroy David... David would of course be the royal line where Jesus... **"son of David"** would come from.

7. The book of Esther... a man named Haman calls for genocide for every Jew in the kingdom...so many more.

Jesus is born... Satan is unsuccessful... but he's not done!

Even in the New Testament...right after Jesus is born... a guy by the name of Herod decides that every child two years and below needs to be exterminated from Bethlehem... all Satan's attempts to get at that seed!... the seed who would crush his head.

Verse 5 is really a huge overarching picture of the gospel of Jesus Christ... From His birth... to His ascension to heaven after His death and resurrection (which is chapter 5)... and his future role in this world.

This child **who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron...** This child will have great...mega authority!

[Reminds me of that great Psalm 2... a great...I'd say "mega" Messianic passage... listen to these words penned hundreds of years before the birth of the Messiah...prophesying what we looked at last week... the exchange of kingdoms... the kingdom of this world led by Satan... to the everlasting eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ....

**“But as for Me, I have installed My King
Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”**

“I will announce the decree of the LORD:

He said to Me, ‘You are My Son,

Today I have fathered You. ‘Ask *it* of Me, and I will certainly give the nations as Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth as Your possession.

‘You shall break them with a rod of iron,

You shall shatter them like earthenware.’”

Now then, you kings, use insight;

Let yourselves be instructed, you judges of the earth.

Serve the LORD with reverence

And rejoice with trembling.

Kiss the Son, that He not be angry and you perish *on* the way,

For His wrath may be kindled quickly.

How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

Psalm 2 is the gospel in the Old Testament... kiss the Son and avoid the wrath of God for your sin!... today... kiss the Son!

The rod—Psalm 23... **Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me**...the staff pulls the lamb out of the thicket... the rod was used to prod...to spank... to discipline... His rod is judgement....]

Satan has been and always will be unsuccessful in derailing the promised seed... the seed was born and the Devil did not, could not devour the baby boy Jesus... the question this morning is not will the Devil be victorious over Jesus.... But will he be victorious over you?

1 Peter 5:8

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

This passage gives us great insight into the unseen world... into the fallen angelic world... the evil spiritual forces... If you are a Christian...you are participating in the propagating of that seed...you are now an enemy of the evil one... you are in a battle with the unseen realm...

Chapter 12 pulls back the curtain and exposes what’s going on behind the scenes of the schemes of the devil... what he is really up to and doing...

The moment you became a Christian... you inherit 3 enemies you did not have before you were a Christian.

1. The flesh—fallen nature: have you noticed... when you became a Christian your fleshly appetites didn't just disappear?...we are given the power to be victorious over the new nature... but we are under the influence nonetheless...for the rest of your life.

2. The world system in which we live in...the world philosophies which are anti-god.

1 John 2:15 **Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and also its lusts, but the one who does the will of God abides forever.**

This is why we need to continually have our minds renewed... (Romans 12)

3. Satan himself...the leader of the dark spiritual world... and that world is in direct conflict with God's spiritual world of light... and we are all in the center of this conflict...

The good news:

The most powerful force of evil in the universe has already been defeated. The timer on the end of his evil activities was set when the Son of God walked out of the tomb.... Jesus defeated sin and death, and Satan was put on notice. Therefore, his time is short.....**Read verse 12**