

## Cosmic Wars

### *Revelation 12:7-12*

- I. What do you think about Satan?
  - A. Four out of ten Christians (40%) strongly agreed that Satan “*is not a living being but is a symbol of evil.*”
  - B. “*Americans are now more confident about the existence of Satan than they are of God!*”
  - C. Two opposite errors:
    - 1. Think too little of the devil.
    - 2. Think too much about the devil.
  - D. Misconceptions about Satan.
    - 1. He does not exist.
    - 2. He is a symbol for evil.
    - 3. Satan is waiting for us in hell to torment us.
    - 4. The devil is the opposite of God—two equal opposing forces.
  - E. Satan has access to heaven.
    - 1. Job 1
- II. Chapter 12—Insight into Satan and the spiritual realm.
  - A. Outline
    - 1. War—Past (12:1-6)
    - 2. War—In Heaven (12:7-12)
    - 3. War—On Earth (12:13-17)
  - B. Schemes = Strategies. Satan reveals two of his strategies in this chapter.
  - C. Three main characters.
    - 1. The woman with child—Israel
    - 2. The red dragon—Satan
    - 3. The child—The messiah, Jesus Christ.

III. War of the past (12:1-6).

- A. Satan's first strategy is to destroy the child—the messiah.
  - 1. Destroy the child, you derail God's plan of redemption.
- B. Satan fails.
- C. Matthew 2 tells the visible, physical story—Herod is Satan's tool.

IV. War in heaven (12:7-12).

- A. Satan has God given access to heaven.
- B. Satan starts a war in heaven with Michael and his angels.
  - 1. Michael—The arch angel, the fighting angel, the protector of God's people.
- C. Purpose of this war?
  - 1. Possibility—Satan's attack on the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16).
- D. Satan loses the battle—“ **he was not strong enough**” (12:8).

V. Names for the evil one. (12:9).

- A. “Red Dragon”—Satan's description and character throughout Revelation.
- B. “The serpent of old”—Confirmation the serpent in Genesis 3 was Satan.
- C. “The devil”—slanderer; “Satan”—The accuser.

VI. Overcoming Satan (10-12).

- A. ***Through the blood of the Lamb.***
  - 1. The MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD is to be covered by the blood of Jesus Christ!
  - 2. We have a “prosecuting attorney” accusing us of our sin, but we have an “defense attorney”, an advocate to the Father, in Jesus Christ!
- B. ***The word of our witness.***
- C. ***They did not love their life unto death.***
  - 1. Psalm 34:4 - ***I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.***

VII. Wrath comes to earth—time is short for Satan. (12:12).

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### *Revelation 12:7-12*

What do you think about Satan... the devil?... How often do you think about him?... do you ever think about him?...Personally I don't want to think of him... I certainly would rather not talk about him...I don't want him to have any air time.. I'm sure he has the philosophy that even bad publicity is good publicity.

God has included Satan in many passages in His word, the Bible... God must want us to know some things about Satan so that will be as Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 2:11 “...**be ignorant of his schemes.**”

**You can't defeat an enemy if you don't know how the enemy works...** There is a scene in the movie “Patton” ...U.S. General George S. Patton has just spent weeks studying the writing of his German adversary Field Marshall Erwin Rommel and is crushing him in an epic tank battle in Tunisia. Patton, sensing victory as he peers onto the battle field from his command post, growls, “Rommel, you \_\_\_\_\_. I read your book!”

We need to know our enemies to have victory over them.

Satan... is he real to you? Or is he more like a myth?... a survey regarding Christian's beliefs about Satan put together by the Barna group eight years ago had some I think astonishing results...

Barna

*Four out of ten Christians (40%) strongly agreed that Satan “**is not a living being but is a symbol of evil.**” An additional two out of ten Christians (19%) said they “agree somewhat” with that perspective. A minority of Christians indicated that they believe Satan is real by disagreeing with the statement: one-quarter (26%) disagreed strongly and about one-tenth (9%) disagreed somewhat. The remaining 8% were not sure what they believe about the existence of Satan.*

That was only eight years ago...but a new survey concluded with this: “*Americans are now more confident about the existence of Satan than they are of God!*”

That should disturb us...it reveals a preoccupation with evil and a rejection of Almighty God...C.S. Lewis famously said:

C.S. Lewis

*“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.”*

We can make one of two mistakes... we either don't think Satan and his demons exist.... Or we are preoccupied with them...

What I have noticed since I've been a pastor is that people...Christians have many misconceptions when it comes to Satan and his demons...

1. The survey revealed it... **that Satan is not a real being**... he is a fictional character invented in our imaginations for entertainment purposes...for Halloween.

2. He is just a symbol or a picture of evil... which helps excuse why we do bad things...we say things like "*I'm battling with my demons*" which means NOT that I am battling with real demons but it explains away why I do evil things....it's putting the blame on someone else.

3. Here's one that most Christians believe... that Satan is hanging out in hell waiting for us to get there so that he can torment us...Now...Hell's a real place... we will see that as we progress in Revelation... but here's some news:

Satan is not in hell!... He has never been there!...he's headed for hell... Satan won't go to hell until the future 1000 year millennial reign of Jesus Christ..... now get this... when he does finally get there... he won't be tormenting those who have been condemned to hell.

Listen to this... Revelation 20:10

**And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

Satan won't be the final tormentor... he will be the tormented!...the most tormented.

4. Mistake—People think that the devil is the opposite of God...they think that the devil and God are two equal opposing forces... that God is always in battle with Satan... one side is good... the other side is evil and they are competing for us... God is in battle with Satan... the truth is... **God never fights... He only wins!**

5. Something else that I'm sure would surprise most Christians is the fact that Satan has access to heaven as we will see in our passage... He's not in hell... he is often in heaven... when he's not roaming the earth like a lion looking for someone to devour...

Satan is "the prince of this world" (John 14:30), but he still has *restricted* access to the heavenly realms. I say restricted because God **ALLOWS** Satan to be there... and God tells Satan what he can and cannot do....Listen to Job 1...

**6 Now there was a day when the sons of God (angels that serve God) came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. 7 The Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." 8 The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My**

**servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.” 9 Then Satan answered the Lord, “Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Have You not made a fence around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But reach out with Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will certainly curse You to Your face.” 12 Then the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not reach out and put your hand on him.” So Satan departed from the presence of the Lord.**

Nobody has explained to me exactly why God allows Satan access to heaven... maybe it is to relieve the earth of his presence... today's passage shows us his access comes to an end....today's passage also gives us great insight into Satan and his demons... how and why they do what they do.

Looking at the entire chapter 12 we could divide the chapter into three wars... three wars that the devil initiates... and remember that... Satan initiates the wars... the first war is a **past war**...verses 1 through 6 which we looked at in detail last time... the second war is a **war in heaven** verses 7-12...and the final war... the third war is a **war on earth** verses 13-17.

In these wars we will see that the devil works in strategies... you could call them “schemes”... I think when the Lord asked Satan **“have you considered my servant Job”** he was asking.... ***“what is your scheme with My servant Job”***

We should all be very interested in all this because if you are a Christian... Satan and his demons have a scheme to destroy you!

This passage reveals two overall major schemes or strategies of Satan... the first one is revealed in that first war... the past war... If you want the details of this war, listen to the last sermon...a short recap because it is important for understanding the rest of the chapter...

**We were introduced to three beings**... a woman with child... the child... and the red dragon...The identity of the dragon is revealed for us in verse 9 as being Satan... the pregnant woman is Israel (refer to my argument in my last sermon...there's much argument in the Christian brain world as to the identity... one popular view is the woman is the church.... As I said last time... the church did not give birth to Jesus.)... and the child is Jesus.

As I said quoting C.S.Lewis...two big mistakes when it comes to the dragon/Satan... think too little about him or too much.... The same can be said with the woman Israel.... Today overwhelmingly most people think too little of Israel... in fact... they despise Israel.....many in the Christian church has replaced Israel with the church... God is through with Israel.

Big mistake!

But then many think too much of Israel... They read Paul's words in Romans 11:6 that **“all Israel will be saved”** and think that all the Jews in Israel will be saved... have salvation... that

somehow this one people group has so much favor with God that they don't need Jesus to be saved....they are saved because they were born a Jew...

Some... think Israel can do no wrong... everything they do is ordained by God... read your Bible!

Some are obsessed with Israel not so much because of a love of the Jews...but because they want the blessing promised in Genesis 12:3 **“And I will bless those who bless you...”** *If I bless Israel God will give me a yacht....*thinking too much of Israel.

When it comes to the child...He is the only being... the only entity that YOU CAN'T THINK HIGHLY ENOUGH OF!...and woe to you who think too little of.

## 1. War of the past

The devil's strategy as revealed in this first war of the past...first six verses was **to destroy the child**...to kill the Messiah... baby Jesus as He was birthed... If Satan was successful...His thinking was that He would have derailed God's plan of redemption... He would be victorious over God.

Satan was ticked for being thrown out of heaven (V.4) Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 tells us about Satan's original eviction from heaven...Satan was the most beautiful angel...but Ezekiel tells us that **“unrighteousness was found in him”**... (That's where evil originated!)...and God cast him and 1/3 of the corrupted angels to earth....Satan now is in a war with God...**His strategy** is to kill the child... the future Messiah... Jesus Christ... HE FAILED.

Interesting... those six verses are the cosmic Christmas story... the invisible spiritual Christmas story... Matthew chapter 2 tells us the physical, visible Christmas story...this is fascinating to me...Who's trying to kill the newborn Messiah baby Jesus in the physical Christmas story?... King Herod!...

After Jesus is born...**13 behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph (Mary's husband) in a dream, saying, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.”**

Herod's the main player in the devil's scheme!... the first war ends with verse 6 **Then the woman Israel fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for 1,260 days.**

1260 days... 3 ½ years... the last 3 ½ years of the 7 year tribulation period known as the “Great Tribulation”... Israel has to flee for their lives... to a place prepared by God to protect them... which we will now see in more detail next week.

In these verses we also uncover some traits of Satan... the first one being **he is very persistent**...

## 2. War in heaven

### Read verse 7

Satan has been having access to heaven... he's been **going to and fro**...he starts a war with God's angels... a giant cosmic battle... in heaven!...I don't usually picture heaven a place where wars take place... this war is not a war in the past...this is a description of a future war yet to happen....sometime in the tribulation period.

Satan was defeated in his first scheme... but he is not going to give up...he is persistent...Satan knows he is fighting a losing battle... he knows how it ends... he's read the book of Revelation...he knows the Bible...He could be a star AWANA Bible memorizing wizz...

Remember when Jesus was in the wilderness with the devil?... The devil attempts to tempt Jesus to sin... he even quotes scripture to Jesus... when it is all done... this is what Luke says in Luke 4:13...**And when the devil had finished every temptation, he left him (Jesus) UNTIL AN OPPORTUNE TIME...**

Did you get that?...He is persistent... he is wickedly determined to derail God's plans....I shudder at this... that's the way the devil works... he's patient... but he's always watching...evaluating....plotting...

Michael is interesting... he's mentioned in Daniel 10:12 helping Daniel in a conflict with the prince of Persia... which is a picture of the battle in Revelation 12... he's also mentioned in Daniel 12:1 again helping Daniel's people... who are they?... the Jews....

He's mentioned in Jude 9 when he was disputing with Satan over the body of Moses... the only time he is referred to as the **Arch angel**...as far as we know he was the only arch angel...even though Jewish Rabbis believe there are seven arch angels... the Bible doesn't confirm that...his purpose was to fight for and protect God's people...specifically Israel...the Jews....Michael was a fighting angel.

He with his angels fights Satan and his fallen angels (remember, God doesn't fight He just wins.... His angels do)...Why this war?... I don't know but an interesting possibility is that it is Satan's attempt to thwart the rapture of the church...as the church is ascending into the clouds...it makes sense that Satan would have loved to derail that whole scene... Satan would have loved to squelch that idea!...so the idea is Michael takes on Satan and his angels to protect the ascending Church.

Remember Satan is also called the *Prince of the Power in the air*:

The reasoning is in 1 Thessalonians 4... the main scripture source for the rapture of the church... it says **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel** Michael is the arch angel...the protector/fighter angel... **and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.**

The “**shout**” could be the confrontation with Satan...I don’t know...interesting.

### Read verse 8

**Not strong enough**...and he’s only fighting the angels...always remember that God is ALWAYS more powerful than anything Satan has. 1 John 4:4

**4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them** spirit of the antichrist; **because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.**

You think Satan has total control over you?... God is so much greater than him

Satan loses his access pass to heaven... visiting rights revoked!...

### Read verse 9

Catch all the names for Satan?...we learn much about Satan from his names....He’s the **great dragon** ... The book of Revelation is the only place in the Bible Satan is called the **great dragon**...13 times...a red dragon becomes a description of his character...

He’s called **the serpent of old**... this is important... it identifies who the serpent was in Genesis 3... some say *The serpent in Genesis three is just a snake*... no... identified right here as Satan.

**Devil**...diabolos... “slanderer” or “accuser”.....a one who defames another... **Satan**... the adversary....he’s the enemy....what does he do?...**he deceives the whole world**...One commentator said *Satan is the pastor of the world... he feeds his flock any possible type of deception it takes to distract them from anything having to do with God.*

Notice in verse 10 he is called the **accuser of our brothers**...it says **he accuses them before God day and night**... an example in Zechariah 3, listen to this...**Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of Yahweh, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.**

*He’s not genuine God, he’s a fake...don’t let him fool you...Joshua a priest?... I don’t think so.*

This is how it works in our lives. The devil is two pronged in his method... **He encourages the believer to not listen to his conscience... God or anything else but his weakness and desires**... *go ahead... cheat on your taxes... go ahead have that affair...nobody will know... you won’t get caught... you deserve it...*

So you do!... you given in... what does Satan do?...**he accuses**... “*Look what you’ve done!... you are weak... you are worthless... you are pathetic... you don’t deserve to be alive...you call yourself a Christian...what a joke...you might as well give up...* the accuser... and you believe him.... “*I’m no good*”... “*God can never use me now*”...

He tempts us to sin... practically pays us to sin... and then we do... then he accuses us...of our failures...what a turncoat! **Read verse 10**

Now...the “**brothers**” in verse 10 are the redeemed in Christ... those who came to the Lord during this tribulation time... including the saved Jews... they are being attacked by Satan... he is continually accusing them... but look at verse 11

### Read verse 11

This is directed to those in the tribulation period but it applies to us as well...this is important...this tells us that the believer can overcome Satan and his demons... How?...**by the blood of the lamb**...remember way back in the Old Testament in Exodus 12...

Israel is captive in Egypt...God is getting ready to free them... God through Moses tells the children of Israel to kill a unblemished lamb... put some blood of a lamb on a doorpost and lintel of their house... only those houses with blood on the doorposts and lintels would be spared from God’s judgement....the angel of the Lord would “Passover” those houses covered by the blood of the lamb.

All a picture of the perfect lamb of God Jesus Christ...who was killed on the cross...shedding His blood for the sins of man...only through His blood can one possibly be spared from God’s perfect judgement... the message?... **apply the blood of Jesus to your life!**

And don’t miss what verse 10 says... through all this Satan will be next to you saying *forget it...you’re not worthy!...your sins are too big to be forgiven... you are too weak... the blood won’t cover you!*

He’s a liar!... don’t listen to him...if you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior... you are covered by His blood... and people... there is nothing... NOTHING more important in this world than that! NOTHING!

Friday morning at 11:15 I received a phone call from Joan Tozer... *Bill just died and he’s laying on the floor...* That was a jarring phone call...I wasn’t ready for that... I had just received an email from him a couple hours earlier... *On my way!..*

I got to the Tozer’s house and walked in and there was Bill’s body laying on the floor next to the kitchen... Joan was on the ground hugging him along with her two granddaughters.

Joan had a smile on her face... why a smile?... as sad as all that was for her... even though she was heart wrenched for losing her wonderful husband... Joan knew Bill was covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.

I said Bill’s *body* was on the floor... I knelt down next to the body and looked at it.... And I knew Bill was not there anymore... it was just his body... Bill is with Jesus in heaven...because of the blood of Jesus....

Since I began this series in Revelation last March... I received four to five emails every week from Bill... He really wrestled with this book.... (Like the rest of us!)... one of the emails he wrote about wanting to experience the rapture... hoping he would be alive when Jesus calls up His church....

but I don't think Bill is disappointed!!!!...in fact... remember Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 **the dead in Christ will rise first!**

After Bill fell to the floor, his heart beat until 11:02 according to the paramedics... at 11:01 NOTHING IN THIS WORLD MATTERED EXCEPT FOR BILL BEING COVERED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST...NOTHING IN THIS WORLD WAS MORE IMPORTANT FOR BILL THAN BEING COVERED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS!... NOTHING!

You and I ... we... have a **prosecuting attorney** Satan who accuses you before God...but we also have a **defense attorney**...an advocate who defends us before the father...1 John 2:1 **we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous...**

You can picture it... Satan the prosecutor says to God... *Dan is a sinner!... He sins every day... he disappoints people... his thoughts aren't always pure... he's a hypocrite... he unworthy of everything You have to offer!...he doesn't deserve Your favor...*

And I would if I'm going to be honest... for a change... would have to say *he's right...guilty as charged!...but I have a defense attorney.... Jesus!*

Jesus stands between me and the Father...and He says to His Father... *He's under My blood... none of those accusations apply anymore*

*Dan's been justified... deemed as righteous... you've heard the definition of justification... Just as if I've never sinned....that's not even close!... it's I'm as righteous in the eyes of God as His Son Jesus Christ!...that's pretty bold Dan*

Philippians 3:8-9

**8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.**

Not only the blood...verse 11... it says **AND because of the word of their witness...** their faithfulness to Christ...consistency... hearts placed on Christ... Christ on the throne...the blood of Jesus is sufficient to save... nothing else will... but **the word of their witness** is the confirmation that they are covered by the blood...their life matches their confession.

Much like James 2 **Faith without works is dead**... works cannot save you.... But they are the evidence that you truly have faith... so we can overcome Satan with the blood of the lamb.... Evidenced by our witness, our faithfulness to Christ....

And this is so important... **they did not love their life even to death.**

In Ann Dunagan's book *The Mission Minded Family* tells the true story of James Calvert a Methodist missionary to the Fiji Islands back in the 1800's...when it was a dangerous, violent place to be...

*When James Calvert went out as a missionary to the cannibals of the Fiji Islands, the ship captain tried to turn him back, saying, "You will lose your life and the lives of those with you if you go among such savages." To that, Calvert replied, "**We died before we came here.**"*

What did Jesus say?... **The one who loves his life loses it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it to eternal life.**

Here's something to consider... **if we love our life, our concerns, our activity, motivation, our attention will be devoted to preserving this life**...much of which we have little control over... and all that usually results in anxiety and fear....frustration....even anger.

We as Christians are not to live in fear.

2 Timothy 1:7—**For God has not given us a spirit of timidity/fear, but of power and love and self-discipline.**

1 John 4:18 - **There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.**

Psalms 34:4 - **I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.**

Joshua 1:9 - **Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."**

Proverbs 29:25 - **The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.**

**Do you believe this?**

I don't know how many times I've read the New Testament...a lot...I know that the time and location where Jesus lived...under Roman rule was not exactly a paradise for the Christian... persecution was rampant for the Christian... Christian martyrs were made daily...

It wasn't just the Romans... the Jewish leaders were an equal threat to anyone of the Christian faith... ask Stephen... the first Christian martyr...stoned to death for his strong faith and bold preaching... when you get to heaven sit down all the disciples... the apostles... ask them how they died... not pretty....

Only John got to spend his last days on a Greek Island... in captivity....isolation... hard labor.

Not once did Jesus tell His disciple... *go out and buy weapons the world is dangerous!*...once he told His disciples go out and don't take ANYTHING with you... no bread... no additional supplies of any kind.... Just your walking stick.... *Don't go to Tarsus Paul you'll get killed for your faith...let's start a small militia to protect ourselves....* You know why?.... **they did not love their life even to death. [Not saying sell your guns... don't protect yourself... DON'T FEAR]**

They actually believed Paul's words **that to die is gain**...each one of them WILLINGLY paid the ultimate price for their loyalty to Jesus Christ!... all that getting killed would do would usher them into the eternal bliss of being in Christ's presence.

What do you think Tozer is thinking?.... *what are you all so afraid of? Death... are you kidding!... you should see what I see!!!*

**What anyone should be afraid of is not having the blood of Jesus Christ covering you...**

You want to protect yourselves from all the evil in this world?....embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ... embrace the blood He shed on the cross for your sins... Paul gives us amazing insight into all this in Romans 8....listen to this:

**33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;**

**34 who is the one who condemns? Not Satan...Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction, or turmoil, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; *we died before we came here*...**

**We were counted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT?

Whatever the failings in our lives that Satan uses to accuse us, God will point us to the fact that Christ died for our sins and failures...He rose again from the dead...we can be secure in Him...

**Read verse 12**

The second scheme....Destroy the woman destroy God's kingdom.... Next week.