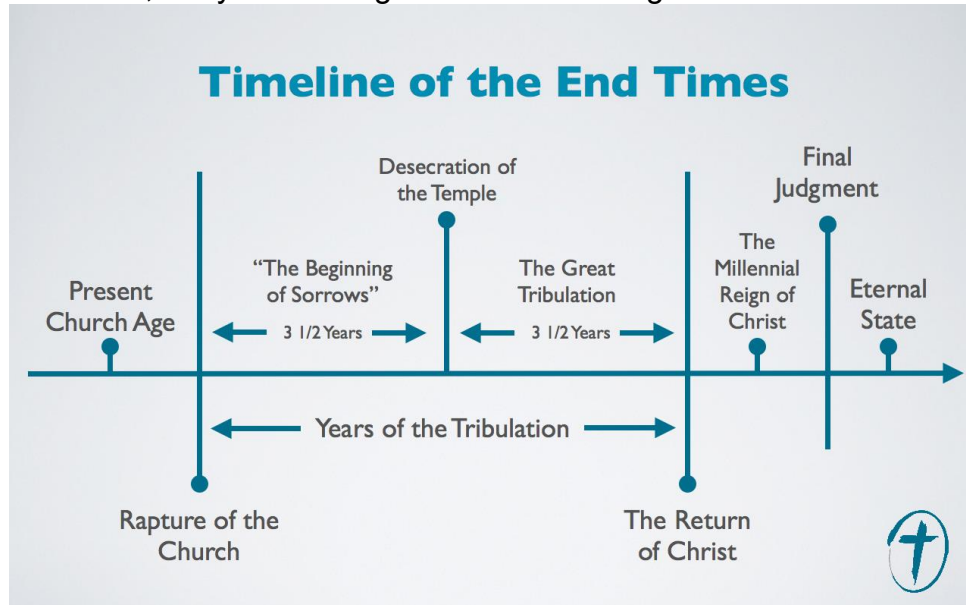


Revelation Series-“War in Heaven,” Revelation 12:7-12

8.8.18

I want to begin tonight by saying this about where we are and where we’re headed in Revelation 12 and this statement will set the tone: **The coming of Jesus to the earth was a declaration of war on Satan and his demonic forces.** We all know, Satan has been given limited power for a season of time on this earth! We saw last week in verse 5 how Jesus was born through the nation of Israel as a Jew and will one day rule and reign, keeping His promises to the nation of Israel. He’ll do so in power for 1,000 years during His Millennial Reign while Satan is chained.



You see, as we’ve said over and over, the primary reason for the Millennial Reign is for God to keep His promise to “ransom captive Israel,” His chosen people.

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

The coming of Jesus was a promise kept to the world, by God... for God so loved the world that He gave us His One and Only Son and whoever believes in Him might not perish. It’s been said: **An empty cross and an empty tomb sealed the Devil’s fate. Tonight we see: War in Heaven!**

Revelation 12:7-12

⁷ Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

Truly this passage is like a mini-seminar on Satanology. You will remember Satan was a guardian cherub, named Lucifer that was thrown out of heaven as recorded in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28. He was cast down to earth to the Garden of Eden where he deceived Adam and Eve into believing lies about God and His plan for them. Satan is a liar! The Father of Lies. You remember what Jesus said when talking to the Pharisees in:

John 8:44

⁴⁴You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

What does Satan do today? He seeks to blind people from being able to see Jesus...

2 Corinthians 4:4

⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Do you know why Jesus came to this earth? To die for us! Yes! But there is more. Let me show you...

1 John 3:8-10

⁸Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

Jesus came to this earth to destroy the work of the devil and we know our battle is with him and his demonic hosts.

Ephesians 6:12

¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

As we look at this passage found in Revelation 12, we see the past, the present and the future. We saw that last week. We saw Israel, the woman, giving birth to the male child, Jesus and Satan, the ancient dragon, trying to stop him at every turn. Here in verse 7, we see another war. This war is likely right after the Rapture of the church, or at the latest the mid-point of the Tribulation period.

Revelation 12:7-9

⁷Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Now let's think about this. First of all, who is Michael? He's an archangel of God. Only two angels are mentioned by name in Scripture: Michael an archangel (warrior angel) and Gabriel (a messenger angel). Michael is identified as the angel for Israel in Daniel 10. You may remember Michael had to come and fight off one of Satan's highest-ranking Demons so that Gabriel could get the message to Daniel about the prophecy of the Tribulation, the 70th week. **By the way**, this is not the first time Satan and Michael have fought. Jesus' half-brother Jude records in verse 9:

Jude 1:9

⁹But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."

Michael knew Satan is a formidable foe. He wasn't going to try to dispute and argue with the devil. And here Satan is again...a time in the future, when he shows back up in heaven. But, you may be here tonight and think Satan has no access to heaven, because you know the verse:

1 Peter 5:8

⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Maybe you thought, after his defeat at Calvary that he was no longer allowed access to heaven. Well, that's not true. Remember Job? Satan came before God to accuse Job before the Lord. He said, "Let me have him and I'll show you that he'll turn his back on you and curse you and plead to die." God told him Satan could have him, but he couldn't kill him and Satan was allowed to test Job. Job, of course, lost all he had: his children, his wealth, his health, his friends...but, he never turned his back on God. Satan is the Accuser.

Revelation 12:10

¹⁰And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God."

What we see in verse 10 is that Satan is in heaven accusing! Think with me. Could it be that at the Rapture, when the Church rises in the air to meet Jesus, and then we go to receive our rewards at the Bema Judgment Seat, that Satan comes to accuse one last time. He's having a Satanic-fit...one final rampage...in heaven! Oh, how furious it will make Satan to see that we're in heaven and he couldn't stop it and now we're receiving our rewards! Satan is unhinged!

There's something else I want you to consider. If this event takes place after the Rapture (and I'm pretty convinced it will)...then, you know what...we'll see this battle in heaven. Why? Because we'll be there. We'll be receiving our rewards after the Rapture at the Bema Seat and we'll see Satan with his demonic hoard trying to make one last attempt to overthrow God and stop us. But, it won't happen! Michael will throw Satan and his hoard of demons out of heaven one last time. And **why is this the case? Because of verse 11...**

Revelation 12:11

¹¹And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

I believe we see here that God will allow Satan NO MORE access to heaven! The bride (the church) is getting ready to be married to Jesus and Satan is not on the invitation list. He's kicked out! Oh church, what a scene. We are there in heaven with Jesus because OF NOTHING WE'VE DONE, but because of what He has done. Because of the blood of the Lamb. **You see, Jesus is our advocate, the bridegroom is now receiving His bride...and did you know He's protecting His bride and advocating for us even now...**

1 John 2:1-2

¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

I want to remind you of what Jesus is doing for us right now. He's performing a role in heaven at this very moment. This is one of the most encouraging passages in the Bible if you ask me. It shows us how Satan wants to take us down with his accusations... See verse 33.

Romans 8:33-34

³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hallelujah!!! Think about it. After Satan is once and for all thrown out of heaven, we'll never have to be threatened by him again. He can do nothing to us. Jesus is our advocate...

Oh, I'm so grateful...that at this moment, Jesus is at the right hand of the Father! If Satan were to be there (still with his limited access...accusing you, like he did Job), Jesus reminds him that he's a defeated foe and His blood has been applied to your life. You're safe in Him. Jesus covers you in battle. He, like a soldier, protects a fallen comrade. He carries that comrad off the battlefield. We overcome by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus! We overcome, not in our own power, but His! And we rejoice!!!

Yes, in heaven we'll rejoice when Satan is kicked out for good...but back on earth, it's going to be bad on earth...

Revelation 12:12

¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"

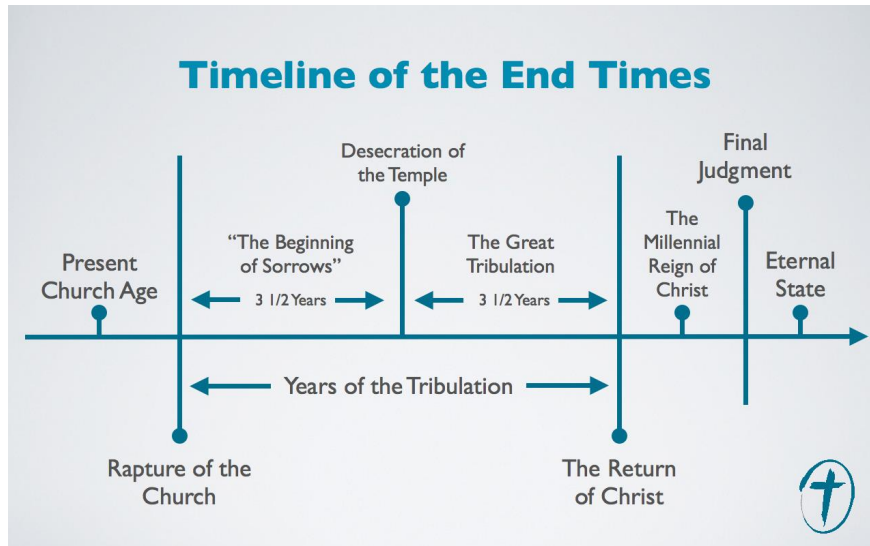
Remember, during the Tribulation, there will be demons unleashed on this earth in ways the earth has never seen. What's been invisible in the unseen spirit world (Ephesians 6:12), will become visible to all who are alive. This world will be the most demonic, evil place imaginable during the Tribulation.

Church family in the meantime, Satan knows his time is short. He reads the Bible. He knows his ultimate fate. What is that fate?

Revelation 20:10

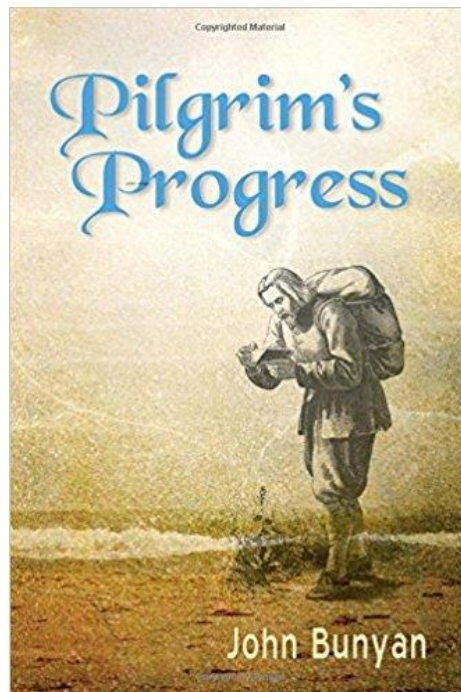
¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

See the chart:



At the end of the 1,000 year Millennial Reign, Satan will be thrown into the Lake of Fire along with all the lost...and then ETERNITY!

Have you ever read John Bunyan's classic *Pilgrim's Progress*?



It is the second best-selling book in history (the first is the Bible) and has been translated into over 200 languages. In the book John Bunyan presents an unforgettable and universal picture of the Christian life, from the time of the soul's first awakening to the truth of the gospel to the entrance into heaven.

I want to share a scene where Bunyan describes a battle between the accuser, Apollyon, and Christian (the Pilgrim seeking to make it to heaven). He and Satan are in the "Valley of Humiliation."

“Apollyon recites a list of Christian’s sins:

‘You fainted at first setting out, when you almost choked in the Gulf of Despond. You attempted wrong ways to be rid of your burden, whereas you should have stayed till your Prince had taken the burden off of you. Instead, you sinfully slept and almost lost your way. You were also almost persuaded to go back at the sight of the lions, and when you talk about your journey and what you have heard and seen, you inwardly desire prosperity and ease in all you say and do.’

Christian responds to the Accuser, Apollyon in humility and faith:

‘All this is true Accuser; and much more which you have left out. But the Prince whom I serve and honor is merciful and ready to forgive. And besides, these infirmities possessed me because I chose to suck them in, and I have groaned under them, and now repented of them, and have obtained pardon of my Prince.’

At the mention of this, Christ’s forgiveness, Apollyon flies into a rage; because Satan the Accuser cannot abide the fact that his accusations are overcome by the grace of God in Christ.”

John the Revelator says, “We overcome by the blood of the Lamb and our testimony!” Hallelujah!!