

RED DRAGON DAWN 2

Understanding Satan's Plan of War & Rule

(preached 3/13/22)

Please turn to *Revelation 12:6*.

Sermon #1:

- The Lord reveals Satan's character, plans, goals, and the effect they have upon the world in detail, so He thought it was important for us to know.
- He's compared to a Great Red Dragon.
- Jesus promised that global trouble was coming in the last days and shared details of the same.
- When trouble on this scale comes, unbelievers are afraid, have questions, and are seeking both peace and answers.
- Therefore the Church needs to KNOW and have answers!
- It's not enough to merely tell people they need to "trust Jesus" when a war starts or a pestilence is wreaking havoc.
- This is our moment to teach what the Bible says of these things then give the good news of aligning with Christ!
- We teach that Satan doesn't win, but Jesus does! Jesus has never lost a fight and isn't losing now!
- Satan wants to be God & wants to rule all of humanity.
- The empires of the past were his attempts to do so and the Revelation 13 Beast system will be his last shot—he won't succeed. Jesus will crush his head and break any rebellious nation like a pottery being thrown violently to the ground and shattered.
- All the plans, plots, and schemes of the enemy will come to nothing and God laughs at them!
- As Christians we're on the winning side and don't need to worry about Putin or anyone else.
- That being said, the "Red Dragon Dawn" is upon us as Satan makes his last move for the throne. Perilous times are already upon us and not only must we endure to the end, but we need to speak God's word and Gospel to others.
- Now isn't the time to shrink back, isolate ourselves, and hope the Rapture happens tomorrow.
- Now is the time to speak out in boldness and make disciples!

TODAY we continue our exposition of Revelation 12 to understand Satan's plans.

IMITATION. Imitation is a form of flattery and, believe it or not, Satan is trying to imitate God including what God has done and what God's Plan is.

ANGELS. Angels are an elder race of beings directly created by God in His image which is why, 6 times in the Bible, they're referred to as "the sons of God" (*Genesis 6:2, 4, Job 1:5, 2:1, 38:7.*) Every time the Bible calls someone a son, it means "made in the image of" whomever the father is.

LIKE THEIR DADS? I have 3 sons and, in different ways, don't sons want to be like their dads? Aren't you amazed, though, that even grown sons tend to follow their dads in many ways? If dad was a carpenter, his son goes into carpentry. If pops was a cop, sonny boy becomes a cop.

REBEL. Isn't it also true that sons rebel against their dads? Try everything in their power to be the opposite not just in career but character? Yet isn't it also true that, try as they might, they still imitate their dads in one or both? Dad has a temper and so does son. Dad is stubborn and so is his son.

SATAN DEPRAVED. Satan is not just a rebellious son going through a phase—he's completely depraved and given over to a reprobate mind from which there is no repentance or goodness. Whereas God's character is completely holy, Satan's is completely wicked.

SAME GOALS. That being said, the Dragon can't help but have the same goals as his Father, just with a perverted twist. He's also trying to achieve His goals the same way as Father!

WITH THAT IN MIND let's continue our exposition of Revelation 12 that we began last week:

Revelation 12:6-12 (ESV)

⁶ and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

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!"

FUTURE. Whereas the events in verses 1-5 took place in our past, those of verses 6-12 are yet in our future.

Verse 6: the woman, who is Israel, flees into “the wilderness” for 1260 days to escape the wrath of the Dragon. This will take place during the final 7 years before the return of our Savior Jesus when a violent persecution of Jews will begin and the nation of Israel is attacked by the Antichrist.

Verses 7-8: Angels—both holy and fallen—dwell in the heavenly dimensions or what the Bible refers to as “the high places.”

- Demons and fallen angels are not the same thing—demons are the spirits of the dead Nephilim some of whom live in Hell and torment the human spirits there.
- Other demons live on earth’s surface to oppose humanity.
- This is the fulfillment of the prophecy God made in *Genesis 3:15* where the **seed of** (sons of!) Satan—demons—would fight against the seed of the woman—humanity.

FALLEN IN HEAVENLIES. The fathers of the demons, who are the fallen angels, still live in the heavenly dimensions and we really need them cleared out of there!

- *They stand like a wall of dark fog between us and the 3rd Heaven where Father dwells, obscuring our vision of the Lord and His complete revelation.*

HEAVENS OPENED. At different places throughout the NT we read something foreign to modern western Christians: that “the heavens opened.” At Christ’s Baptism the heavens opened and God the Holy Spirit descended like a dove to rest on Jesus’ shoulder. When Stephen was being stoned the heavens opened and what did he see? God and Jesus sitting on the throne!

NOT PHYSICAL. Our temptation might be to make that physical—that it was a cloudy day, the clouds parted, and we could see blue sky and sun...yet that’s not what it meant.

- When the heavens open, the dark foggy wall of the Dragon and his angels are pierced making a direct line to the 3rd Heaven.
- It’s my contention, backed up by the Bible, that if they weren’t there all of humanity would look up and see more than just blue sky or nighttime stars....

In verses 7-8 of Revelation 12 the heavenly **swamp** is going to be drained...once and for all time.

- The heavenly dimensions are the seat of power over the earth, which is why Satan is referred to as “the god of this world” (2 *Corinthians* 4:4) and why he told Jesus that the earth and all its kingdoms belonged to him (*Matthew* 4:8-9).

MICHAEL. Not only is Michael the General of God’s angelic host, he also the protector of Israel. When the prophet Daniel was shown that the Antichrist would attack Israel in the attempt to wipe them out, he’s shown this:

Daniel 12:1 (ESV)

¹ “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.”

Revelation 12:7-8 is that time. We see through a glass, darkly not just because of our flesh and general human limitation, but because Satan—the cherub who blinds—is attempting to obscure the truth.

OBSCURE TRUTH. ***Any attempt to obscure truth here on earth, especially from people in power and those who have great influence, is inspired by the Dragon.***

LYING IS SIN. That’s why lying is a sin—**because it’s us acting as though Satan were our dad instead of Father God.**

- It’s us trying to be like the once great and now fallen cherub who covers.
- Sons seek to imitate their dads which is exactly what Jesus said in John’s Gospel to the crowd confronting Him.
- When we’ve done something wrong, confession—not cover—is what the Holy Spirits leads us to do.

In verses 7-8 Michael is finally **UNLEASHED** to do what he’s violently eager to—fight the Dragon. I imagine racehorses restrained inside the gates, bumping against the metal because they want to be set free so they can run. Even now I wager Michael is coiled, constantly looking toward Father and Jesus, awaiting for the nod to be given so he can draw his sword and rally his angelic brethren to battle!

NOD GIVEN. When the nod finally comes from God to Michael in Rev 12, he charges forth and these two massive forces clash in the heavenlies! Decades before this book was written, Jesus had spoken the same things to His disciples at the Olivet Discourse:

Mark 13:24-25 (ESV)

²⁴ “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

STARS & POWERS. These “stars” and “powers” are Satan and his angels being cast out of the heavenlies by Michael and his army!

- Luke’s version of the same event indicates any human being still here will be able to see—with the naked eye—this great battle and that their hearts will fail them in fear of “those things coming upon the earth.” (*Luke 21:26*).

Wait, what?!

COMING INVASION. The word “coming” denotes an invasion, like War of the Worlds. Is that what happens? When the Dragon and his angels lose the fight, where do they go and what will they do? We already read that verses 9-10: they come the earth.

6TH SEAL. Let’s go back a few chapters in God’s final book to the opening of the 6th Seal:

Revelation 6:12-17 (NKJV)

¹² I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.

¹³ And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

FALL LIKE FIGS. Satan and his angels fall to earth like overripe figs shaken by an EQ. Once he’s here on terra firma he can no longer cover the truth!

- No longer can his wings spread forward to cover the presence of God...which is the job of all cherubim, the only angels who have wings, from the beginning of time.
- Who were the 2 angels who shielded the Tree of Life from fallen Adam & Eve?
- Who are the 2 angels who atop the Ark of the Covenant and what was their role?
- Who were the two angels appearing at each end of Jesus’ burial bed who told Mary “He is not here”?

CHERUBS COVER. The job of these particular sons of God is to cover that which God wants hidden, but now that Satan’s has fallen, He attempts to blind the minds of humanity to the good news of Jesus Christ! **When He’s cast down to earth nothing will stand between humanity and the Lord. All will look up and see either their redemption or damnation drawing nigh.**

ACCUSED BRETHREN ARE ANGELS. The brethren being accused by Satan are not human saints, but fellow angels BTW, and the righteous angels who stick with God are grateful that the Devil no longer stands before God to make trouble.

KINGDOM COME. What they're REALLY grateful for, however, is found at the end of verse 9: Jesus is about to bring it! The full manifestation of the prophetic Scriptures and what we pray in the Lord's Prayer is about to come to pass: "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven."

Now that Michael and the boys have cleared that path, Jesus is about the mount up!

HUMAN SAINTS? Before that finally happens, what about the human saints on earth? Angels are greater than humans so they certainly have the power and might to fight against the Dragon and win...but what about us?

Verses 11-12 says "woe" to the inhabitants of the earth because not only with the Great Red Dragon be among us, but he's really angry.

Yet look at verse 11: **SATAN IS OVERCOME and another translation says CONQUERED.**

NIKE. The Greek word is a synonym to one you're familiar with: Nike which means "getting the victory."

The human beings who have rejected the Mark of the Beast and cleaved to Christ as Savior defeat Satan.

[ASK PEOPLE TO CHECK FOREHEAD AND RIGHT HAND]

Bring this home and answer this question: AT WHAT POINT IS SATAN MORE OF A PROBLEM IN YOUR LIFE AND MINE?

- NOW where he's still at a distance in the heavenlies, concerned mostly with bringing about His Beast system?
- OR after the fight with Michael, loses, and is cast to earth in physical form where he focuses his rage directly upon humanity?

My point is that Satan HERE is far worse for us than Satan THERE in the heavens.

- If you need a comparison, imagine that Putin and his army is invading NY instead of Ukraine.
- Putin being in Ukraine, we can mourn at the affect its having on our economy and gas prices, but were Russian tanks trundling down Main Street I believe we would all agree that's worse.

Therefore if the Tribulation Saints can conquer Satan when he's up close and personal, then how about us?

STOP COMPLAINING. Instead of constantly complaining about how he's making our lives miserable and that we're powerless to do anything, maybe it's time to start using the weapons we have: the Blood of the Lamb and the Word of our Testimony!

1/3RD ANGELS RECEIVED ACCUSATIONS. Satan brought railing accusations against his brethren, the angels, and did so with some success...33% success as a matter of fact.

- My take on what this means is that 1/3rd of the angels were convinced by the Dragon that they were more like him—his image—than they were that of their one true Father God.

WE'RE CLEANSED. Those who know Christ as their Savior are cleansed—once and for all time—by the Blood of the Lamb Jesus. Our “doorposts and lintels” are painted by the shed blood of Christ which means Satan cannot enter into our spiritual homes—he must pass over.

FALLEN SHORT BUT.... We've all sinned and fallen short of God's glory yes (*Romans 3:23*), but then we were justified and given grace through the same Jesus as a free gift (*verse 24*). ***He can accuse us all he wants to, but it won't do him a lick of good.***

SHARE GOSPEL. The word of our testimony is tell others the same—the Gospel. We can use our own stories as examples of the love and mercy of Jesus to give His own life so that we can be Saved. That, despite our sins, Christ forgave us and brought us into His sheepfold.

LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES. The last thing said about how the Trib saints overcame Satan is that they “loved not their lives even unto death” and that's where we need to be right here, right now.

It's not just their physical lives but everything else: what others thought about them, their reputation, and their earthly attachments.

SATAN THREATENS EVERYTHING. There's no doubt that, when Satan comes to earth, he will threaten everything. No just jobs, money, and wi-fi but everything.

In the here and now, with the Dragon still at a distance, are we willing to lose aspects of our lives for the sake of Christ?

Are we willing to endure ridicule and hatred, potentially from our own family members, for the sake of Jesus and His Gospel?

**When everything ceases to threaten the Christian,
then the Christian becomes dangerous and powerful.**

So powerful that not even the Great Red Dragon can stop us.

Now imagine the entire Church of Christ like this.

Revelation 12:13-17 (ESV)

¹³ And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

¹⁴ But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.

¹⁵ The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood.

¹⁶ But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.

¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

Verse 13: Satan pursues Israel as she flees into the wilderness.

Verse 14: many have speculated what or who the “two wings of the great eagle” are and I say it’s Michael the angel. Not only did we read that Michael would stand up for Israel at this particular time, but angels are also compared to eagles several times in the Bible.

Verses 15-16: some believe this to be symbolic of Satan speaking harmful words but I believe there may also be a literal interpretation, as Daniel said “the end shall be with a flood” (*Daniel* 9:26). Not a worldwide flood like that of Noah, but perhaps one involving the Mediterranean Sea which is struck by some sort of object that destroys a 3rd part of all ships on it (*Revelation* 8:9).

Verse 17: Satan returns to lay siege to Jerusalem, which he completely surrounds with his massive army. Again: the sand of the sea he’s standing on is the Mediterranean.

REV 6. What happens next? I close today and bring you back to Revelation 6:

Revelation 6:12-17 (ESV)

¹² When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood,

¹³ and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by

a gale.

¹⁴ The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,

¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,

¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

Verse 14: the sky vanished—another translation says “receded”—like a scroll being rolled up.

CURTAINS. Remember in the old days when theaters had curtains? I miss that because it gave a sense of anticipation that waiting was over and the show was about to begin. The curtains—which obscured our view—would recede like a scroll giving us full view of the movie or play we came to watch. Do you remember how you could see a little bit behind the curtain? If there was light we could sorta kinda make out some shapes, colors, or words... perhaps even discern what they were. Like seeing through a glass, darkly. Even with that, it wasn't until the curtains parted that we got full view.

SATAN NO LONGER BLOCKS. Just as the great hymn of the faith quotes, the sky will roll back like a scroll because Satan—the obscuring curtain—is no longer there to block our view. Everyone on the planet, believers and unbelievers alike, will look up and see the Lamb Jesus, mounted up on a white horse and coming to earth with power and glory!

DETAILS OF FACE. As the verses I just read to you show, they will see so clearly that they will make out the details of His face...a face of anger and wrath. ready to mete out some divine justice and crush all rebellion.

ARMY BEHIND. Behind Him will ride resurrected human saints also riding white horses and an innumerable company of holy angels. My view will be the greatest: the backside of Jesus leading the charge!!!

WE ARE NOT VICTIMS OF THE BIG BAD DEVIL, WE ARE HIS CONQUERORS.

PRAY.