



Αποκάλυψη

REVELATION

12:7-12

OUTLINE

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- 📍 The Outcome (v. 8)
- 📍 Satan Cast Down (v. 9)
- 📍 Proclamation about the Accuser (v. 10)
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- 📍 Rejoicing and Woe (v. 12)
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MAIN POINT

- 👤 This passage is about a war that takes place in Heaven during the Tribulation period
 - 👤 Satan is the accuser
 - 👤 Will be cast out of Heaven
 - 👤 With nowhere left to go (and not wanting to go to his final abode), he goes to the earth
- 👤 Satan's activities on earth will be part of the larger Tribulation scenario
 - 👤 Will see this more in the chapters to come
 - 👤 Makes his will and direction more pronounced as time goes forward
 - 👤 Becomes desperate for a victory to prevent defeat, and **Revelation 19:19** can be seen as the final expression of that
- 👤 Need to understand the spiritual dimensions to our actions and their consequences
 - 👤 There is a war all around us, and a constant courtroom scene in Heaven
 - 👤 Someday Satan will be cast out, but that has not happened yet
 - 👤 While Satan is busy accusing us in Heaven, let's not do his work one another on Earth

THE VISION



A WAR IN HEAVEN (V. 7)

👤 When does this take place?

- 👤 Before the woman flees into the wilderness
- 👤 Now getting more information to fill in the gaps
- 👤 Linked to v. 5 and gives context for the enmity that the dragon has for the Child
- 👤 **Hypothesis 1:** In John's day. Ignores the context of the surrounding passage, and the fact that Satan was not around at the Ascension.
- 👤 **Hypothesis 2:** The original fall of Satan. But Satan had already fallen when He wanted to do harm to the Child, so this argument is a bit circular, and does not align with events in **Revelation 12:10-12**.
- 👤 **Hypothesis 3:** Past and ongoing spiritual warfare in a general sense. But the specificity of 1,260 days and the involvement of Michael would not seem to fit the sense of the passage, which implies something specific. Further, Michael, in Scripture, seems to always fight on behalf of Israel (e.g., **Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1**), so applying this to a present Church sort of spiritual warfare is equally dubious.
- 👤 **Hypothesis 4:** A separate spiritual war fought with Jesus was on the Cross. Some possible reference to this in **Psalm 22:12**. But this would deny Satan access to Heaven now, which does not align with v. 10, and seems to indicate a specific period (c.f. v. 6, 12, 14).
- 👤 **Hypothesis 5:** A yet-future End-Times event. The persecution of Jews during the Tribulation. Best aligns with the passage, the nature of **Revelation** as a whole, the involvement of Michael, and passages like **Zechariah 13:9**

👤 Distinguished from:

- 👤 Initial fall of Satan
- 👤 Rebellion after the Millennium
- 👤 Current events and spiritual warfare
- 👤 This is a separate, yet-future event

THE OUTCOME (V. 8)

- 👤 The Greek implies that Satan was not just defeated, but totally defeated
 - 👤 Jesus and Satan are not equals or two sides of the same coin
 - 👤 Here Michael is able to soundly defeat Satan
 - 👤 Not told the mechanism or the war or how the defeat happens, only that it did
 - 👤 Leads to much speculation
 - 👤 Most of the speculation is likely wrong or fruitless
 - 👤 Where Scripture is silent, it's best to remain silent
- 👤 Until this happens, Satan still has access to Heaven
 - 👤 Have seen this famously with **Job 1:6**
 - 👤 Also in **1 Kings 22:19-22**
- 👤 Need to understand that Satan is accusing you and I right now
 - 👤 We have a defense attorney, and He has never lost a case (c.f. **1 John 2:1**)
 - 👤 Satan accusing us is another one of those ways that He tries to (indirectly) attack Jesus
 - 👤 Are we doing Satan's job when we accuse others in a non-Biblical manner, or when we spread gossip?
- 👤 Another tactic of Satan is to make us ineffective
 - 👤 Our Salvation has been dealt with once and for all (see **Romans 8:1**)
 - 👤 But there is still a war, and we are still combatants
 - 👤 Getting is to sin, become distracted, attack each other, etc. are all ways Satan seeks to make us less effective

SATAN CAST DOWN (V. 9)

👤 “Cast down” used 26 times in Revelation alone

- 👤 Used often in the New Testament in conjunction with judgment (**Matthew 3:10; 13:42: John 15:6**) (Thomas v2, p. 131)

👤 Identified several ways

- 👤 Great Dragon
- 👤 Serpent of old
- 👤 Devil
- 👤 Satan
- 👤 Deceiver of the whole world
- 👤 Ensures that there is no way we can mistake his identity
- 👤 Adds emphasis to the victory

👤 Note that in the titles we have:

- 👤 Reference to his working throughout time
- 👤 A Jewish and Gentile set of identifiers
- 👤 Reasons given for his being cast down
- 👤 The global nature of his acts, thus...
- 👤 The global nature of the victory/defeat

👤 Without access to Heaven, Satan has only one place and one option

- 👤 Will take up much of the rest of the chapter
- 👤 Satan now forced to work on Earth exclusively
- 👤 Knows he does not have much time (v. 12)

PROCLAMATION ABOUT THE ACCUSER (V. 10)

👤 No identification of who is singing

- 👤 Likely does not refer to angels due to “our brethren”
- 👤 Angels would not refer to people this way

👤 This praise comes from the vantage point of singers who have just seen Satan finally cast out

- 👤 Begs the question, if this is yet-future, and it takes place part-way through the Tribulation, then in all the scenes we have seen thus far in Heaven, has Satan been lurking in the background?

👤 The accusation is continuous

- 👤 We need to understand that we have an intelligent, malevolent enemy who seeks our harm and destruction
- 👤 Our modern age has separated out the physical and the spiritual realm
 - 👤 There are good reasons for this
 - 👤 But it means we do not consider the spiritual battle behind us in the same way as people did in John’s time

👤 The kingdom of God

- 👤 Includes the Millennial period (**Revelation 20:1-10**)
- 👤 And the Eternal State (**Revelation 21:1-22:5**)
- 👤 Recall that the Kingdom encompasses both these “phases”

👤 Cannot refer to the present age, even in a spiritual sense

- 👤 Would imply Satan has been thrown out of Heaven
- 👤 Implies that Satan is no longer accusing us

THE OVERCOMERS (V. 11)

👤 Debatable if this refers to all saints, or just to martyrs

- 👤 The Greek seems to indicate that this is a separate or subset of the saints; note the “they”
- 👤 Regardless, it is instructive to see how they “overcame”

👤 By the Blood of the Lamb

- 👤 The charge of the accuser has no validity
- 👤 Without this, they would have been lost
- 👤 The charges brought against them would have been valid and judgment would be required

👤 Word of their Testimony

- 👤 “refers to their evangelistic confession of Jesus” (Thomas v2, p. 135)
- 👤 This confession leads to their martyrdom
 - 👤 Recall that death is the final tool that people have
 - 👤 If the death of someone does not solve an issue, there is nothing else we can do
 - 👤 But these people demonstrated how much they valued their confession
 - 👤 Their presence here also demonstrated Jesus’ power over life and death (see also **Revelation 1:18**)

REJOICING AND WOE (V. 12)

👤 With his accusations over, there is no more reason for Satan to have access to Heaven

👤 Why did Satan have access to Heaven in the first place?

👤 What purpose did it serve?

👤 Why would God let him up there after his first rebellion?

👤 Joy in Heaven

👤 No longer have Satan up there

👤 No more accusations

👤 Another indication that things are being wrapped up

👤 Things are being set right and all is being put into order

👤 Woe on the Earth

👤 A ramping up in intensity on the earth

👤 Very little time left

👤 Satan will have to throw everything he has into this final phase

👤 Timeframe for this likely corresponds to the 3.5 years where the Two Beasts reign

LESSONS FOR US

👤 There is, in fact, a spiritual war on all around us

👤 These are not abstract ideas or forces, but literal intelligence's

👤 Our modern minds have either separated the physical and the spiritual, or denied the existence of the spiritual altogether

👤 But it is all part of one grand drama, and God is ultimately in control of it all

👤 Satan still has access to Heaven

👤 Still acting as the accuser before God

👤 While he will not win, let's make sure we don't give him material to work with

👤 When we do sin, we have an advocate and method for dealing with that sin (1 John 1:9-2:1)

👤 Satan is the accuser, so let's not do his work for him

👤 There is a scriptural way to deal with issues between people (Matthew 18:15-20)

👤 Too often we gossip or otherwise tear down one another

👤 When we do this, we are aiding the Enemy