

Passage: Revelation 12:1-6

Title: The War in Heaven (part 1)

Summary: You and I are in a war whether we want to be or not and we need to accept and realize that, embrace it and lean into it, because the war is over you the war is over me and the war was over that person to your left and to your right who drove with you to church today who lives in the house with you friends, family, and relationships that is what the war is over. Now we have to ask ourselves what is worth fighting for, we have to ask ourselves are they worth fighting for because we're in this fight regardless how you feel about it. Although this is not a message on spiritual warfare as the classical approach often is we're going to study Revelation and we're going to see amazing details regarding the last days and why things are the way they are, and for the double blessing, we will see our adversary the devil and how to defeat him on this soil we live called earth.

Revelation 12:1–6 (NKJV)¹ Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ² Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Revelation 12:7–12 (NKJV)⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. ¹² Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

Revelation 12:13–17 (NKJV)¹³ Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. ¹⁵ So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷ And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Break – Commentary before 7th Trumpet (see Timeline)

There are 7 seals, and the 7th seal has 7 Trumpets. The 7th Trumpet, will have 7 Bowls of Wrath. Now just as before we got into the 1st Trumpet we had a break with a commentary of other things that were happening (the 144,000 being Sealed and more Martyred saints), so too do we break with commentary before the 1st Bowl of Wrath is poured out, which isn't until Chapter 15. So some fascinating study here in chapters 10-14, as we will get filler information of what is happening on the earth such as:

- The Rebuilt Temple. (11)
- The 2 Witnesses Preaching in Jerusalem. (11)
- Satan thrown out of heaven for good. (12)
- Satan's attempt to destroy Israel – God protects Them (12)
- The details on the Beast (the Anti-christ – Satan incarnate), (13)

- The False Prophet arises, (13)
- The mark of the Beast demanded, (13)
- The angels preaching the everlasting gospel as God still offers salvation to man. (14)

This Study / Look at Adversary – Football Films / Exposes a Weakness / Anti-Semitism

In this study we will take a close look at our adversary, the devil. Today's football games will be played, and the outcome will be determined largely on how well the coaches and players studied their opponents, and looked for their weaknesses, looked for areas that would give them an advantage in their match-ups. This study today will expose one of Satan's greatest weaknesses, thus giving us a strategy on how to defeat him, and limit his ability to cause problems in our lives and church. This chapter will also give us insight into the history of Anti-Semitism, and why a plot of ground with only 6 million Jews and not one drop of oil is the center of the world's contentions.

You and I are in a war whether we want to be or not and we need to accept and realize that embrace it and lean into it because the war is over you the war is over me and the war was over that person to your left and to your right who drove with you to church today who lives in the house with you friends family and relationships that is what the war is over. Now we have to ask ourselves what is worth fighting for we have to ask ourselves are they worth fighting for because we're in this fight regardless how you feel about it. Although this is not a message on spiritual warfare as the classical approach often is we're gonna study revelation and we're going to see amazing information regarding the last days and why things are the way they are and for the double blessing we will see our adversary the devil and how to defeat him on this soil we live called earth

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

(Revelation 12:1 NKJV) Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

Who? / Mary – Christian Science – Church

Who is this woman? Throughout history, there have been a number of suggestions....

Many believe this is the Virgin Mary. But I disagree because if this was Mary, she wouldn't experience birth pains in heaven—a skewed image on many counts. Others believe this is Mary Baker Eddy, and Christian Science is the birthed child (they have a million who believe it today). (Courson)

Others believe it's the church. But again, this interpretation paints a twisted picture of the church giving birth to the One who will rule and reign. The church doesn't give birth to Jesus. Jesus gives birth to the church. Also, the church is to be the virgin bride, pure and spotless, so the church can't be pregnant.

Context – Israel / Bride & Wife

I believe the only contextual and theological solution to the question of the identity of this woman in Revelation 12 is Israel. Contextually, while the church is the bride of Christ, Isaiah and Hosea identify Israel as the wife of Jehovah.

First mention / Recap Gen 37 / Sun-Moon-Stars Bow Down / Jacob Interprets / Jacob - Israel

Also, theologically, the answer to questions regarding any particular issue can most often be found by looking to its first mention in Scripture. Employing this principle of first mention, we first see sun, moon, and stars in a dream that pertains directly to Israel (Genesis 37). In the Book of Genesis, we are told of Joseph's dream that he had. The first dream was he and his brothers were binding their sheaves, the sheaves of grain, and his brothers' sheaves bowed down to his. They already were jealous of him because of his father's attention and that didn't help the situation. And then Joseph had another dream and this dream even upset his father. He said, I dreamed that the sun and the moon and the twelve stars bowed down to me. And Jacob interpreted that as his mother, his father, and his brothers. And he rebuked Joseph for this second dream. But in the dream of Joseph and the interpretation by Jacob, we get the understanding of the woman because she's identified as the sun and the moon and on her head, the crown of twelve stars. Jacob's name would later be changed to Israel.

(Genesis 37:9 NKJV) Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

(Genesis 37:10 NKJV) So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

(Genesis 32:28 NKJV) And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Why doesn't God just say Israel in this verse and make things simple for everyone? Well, because he wants us to read our Bible because there's a commentary in every reference. And so we go back to Genesis 37, and then to 400 years of slavery and the entry into it, but we see is God supernaturally, preserved, protected, delivered, took them out and brought them into the land, promised them they grew into a great nation and against all odds, just a thought of many. But how in the world are you a mighty army without a sword manufacturing warehouse? And yet here we see in Exodus 17, they get manna from heaven. So somewhere along the line, God is supplying them with swords as well. There was a Joseph, a type of Jesus that protected them. There was a Moses, a deliverer sent of God that brought them out of Egypt. God's done it before and yet somehow we stop so many and say he can't do it again, that we forget that the stories in the Bible are not stories for bedtime, reading their stories of a mighty God. And there's a promise in every one of these stories to us.

Exodus 16:35 (NKJV)³⁵ And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

Exodus 17:5-6 (NKJV)⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. ⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Exodus 17:12-13 (NKJV)¹² But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. ¹³ So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

When I think of Exodus 14, and I think of Ezekiel 38, I'm thinking of a Red Sea where God supernaturally delivers Israel against all odds with no weapon, weaponry. And then in Ezekiel 38 it says, at a time of peace, when the walls are down, God will supernaturally protect them. It's what we call the mago invasion. If God did it before, then why would we think he's not going to do it again? And so many people get up in wrapped up in replacement theology saying, well, God can't be talking about Israel. So then they try to place someone else in there like the church or you fill in the blanks of all the details. But if God done it before then surely he'll do it again. Revelation chapter 12 is God taking us back to Genesis 37, back to Exodus to point out, I did it before and I'm now doing it again here in the book of Revelation. It dispels all human logic from Genesis through revelation. God is saying, I am doing it again. Romans 11:26, the resultant is all of Israel will know I am the Lord.

Exodus 14:26-28 (NKJV)²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." ²⁷ And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in

the midst of the sea. ²⁸ Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained.

Ezekiel 38:22–23 (NKJV) ²² And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. ²³ Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.”’

Romans 11:25–27 (NKJV) ²⁵ For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;” ²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.”

Here is the application for you and for me is Genesis chapter 50 verse 19, What was meant for evil against you? God meant it for good, and we can take Romans 8:28 and claim this today. Whatever the circumstances are, Lord, what the enemy meant for evil, you can turn it into good Lord, how can I use this situation to bring you joy? What does a war in heaven look like? Why is there a war in heaven? The ultimate reason the war is over you. God is willing to go to war for you. So is the devil. The whole battle is over you. That is why there is a spiritual war. Ephesians 6, don't be surprised nor disheartened rejoice because the devil considers you a threat because you're witness. You are a sign. Rejoice because God fights for you and the middle of the battle is your free will. How we handle trials tribulations? Back to Joseph. When did Joseph really believe, I believe it was back in Genesis 50 verse 19 yes, but that he had believed back in Genesis 37. Sure, he had his moments, but he believed the word of God gave him back in Genesis 37,

Genesis 50:19–21 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. ²¹ Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

(Genesis 37:9 NKJV) Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

(Genesis 37:10 NKJV) So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

Romans 8:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Beloved, as Satan seeks to destroy Israel, nationally and individually, so too he seeks to destroy you, the church, corporately and individually. For you are a chosen special people, just like Israel (but not instead of or in place of Israel). But like Joseph, like Israel, so are we..... God will see to it, He will complete that which He has started, and as we look at Joseph and Israel, emerging out of the ashes (literally), the same promise and working is for us as well. Christian don't quit, “NOR” change/replace your theology – What God has done in the past, He is doing right now!

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

Hudson Taylor founder of China Inland Mission) used to hang in his home a plaque with two Hebrew Words on it: EBENEZER & JEHOVAH JIREH. The first word means ‘Hitherto hath the Lord helped us’ and the second, ‘The Lord will see to it or provide.’ One looked back while the other looked forward. One reminded him of God’s faithfulness and the other of God’s assurances.

People want replacement theology, because they can't believe God can do it again. Forget replacement theology simply, what does the Bible say?

God is saying here in verse 1, I did it before and I'm now doing it again!

(Revelation 12:2 NKJV) Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

God Chose Abraham – Seed / Later David

So we see that it is the nation of Israel who will bring forth Jesus Christ into the world. God had chosen Abraham and had promised Abraham that He would make him a great nation and that from his seed, all

of the world would be blessed. The promise of the Messiah that would come through the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel). Later God repeated the promise to David as He is identifying the tribe and the family through which the Messiah would come. So this woman here is the nation Israel. *(Galatians 3:16 KJV) Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*

Here is part of the great sign, a virgin shall be called with child Emmanuel God with us. Isaiah seven 14, the lineage of the Messiah will come through David, who wanted to build God a temple, but God said I will build you a kingdom that shall have not end through your seed (2 Samuel seven, 12 through 16). Again, David wanted to build a temple. God says, I'm going to build you a kingdom through your seed and then we'll see that Luke one 30 through 33, Matthew one, one

Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*

2 Samuel 7:12–16 (NKJV) ¹² *“When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your 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 his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵ But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.”*

Luke 1:30–33 (NKJV) ³⁰ *Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”*

Matthew 1:1 (NKJV) ¹ *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:*

The devil wants to stop all the remembrance of what happened there 2000 years ago in Israel and in Jerusalem, the devil thinks he can stop or delay the fulfillment of Revelation. So he wants to deceive the nations to turn against Israel. He thinks he can stop Ezekiel 36 and 37, but he's not. They're returning to the land and he surely didn't stop. Can a nation be born in a day? Isaiah sixty six, eight. The so-called Palestine, They already had a two-state solution. They don't want a two-state, but a one and only they devil is behind it. He desires to stop the prophetic clock.

(Revelation 12:3 NKJV) And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

(Revelation 12:4 NKJV) His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

Dragon – Verse 9

We need not go far to interpret who the dragon is, verse 9 tells us. Throughout the remainder of Revelation, the dragon refers to Satan, as it does elsewhere in Scripture (Isaiah 27:1; 51:9). Obviously, Satan, a major figure in this book of Revelation, the Tribulation, and the world.

(Revelation 12:9 NKJV) So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Red - Murderous

fiery red – representing murderous. The red horse represented war and death back in chapter 6.

7 Heads - Rome

having seven heads - The seven heads refer to the city from which Antichrist will reign—the city referred to throughout history as the City of Seven Hills: Rome (please reference encyclopedia Encarta).

10 Horns Political Base / Daniel 2 Revived Roman Empire

and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads - While the seven heads refer to a geographical place, the ten horns refer to Satan's political base. The horns, like the ten toes of Daniel 2 & 7, typify the ten-nation confederation that will emerge from the old Roman Empire.

So Influential third Angels Rebelled / Still 2 to 1

His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth – So influential is he, that he was able to have a-third of the angels come with him. We now call them fallen angels, demons. May I point out, it is still 2 to 1, so God always has the ultimate power and edge.

Satan Ezk Perfect until Iniquity / Fell – Now Adversary – Name Means

Satan is described in Ezekiel as “perfect in beauty and perfect in wisdom, until the day that iniquity was found in him” (Ezekiel 28). He is no doubt a gorgeous creature, one of the most beautiful of God’s creation. And because of these things, he was lifted up in pride and exercised his will against the will of God, as Isaiah tells us in the fourteenth chapter. And thus fell from the position that he had in the kingdom of God and he became actually an adversary to God and ultimately to the people of God. The name Satan literally means adversary. An adversary of God.

Not Opposite or Equal – Created

Now at this point it should be noted that Satan is not an opposite of God. So many people think of Satan as an opposite of God. There is an opposition to God and his kingdom would be opposite the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is that of light and life. The kingdom of Satan is death and darkness. There are opposites there. But in no wise can Satan be thought of as an opposite of God. For God is eternal, self-existent, all-powerful. Satan is a created being and he has limited powers. He doesn’t even come in the same category as God and should never be thought as an opposite of God!

Ish 14 & Ezk 28 / 5 “I Will” / Don’t get Lulled Here to Sleep – Keep Guard Up

Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 give us the details on our adversary, our enemy, the devil, dragon, Satan. Notice the 5 “I wills” that Satan speaks in Isaiah. And notice God responds in Ezekiel with His own 5 “I will”. Important, maybe you have read this a hundred times, nothing new, nap time, daydream about the game today, then just know you have fallen into the trap of Satan, for he wants you to think of him as common, for when you do then you will diminish his power, put your guard down, and he can nail you with a blindsided punch.

(Isaiah 14:12 NKJV) "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!"

(Isaiah 14:13 NKJV) For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

(Isaiah 14:14 NKJV) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

(Isaiah 14:15 NKJV) Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

(Isaiah 14:16 NKJV) "Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms,

(Isaiah 14:17 NKJV) Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?'

Ezekiel / Worship Leader / He was a Musical Instrument / Why Praise going to Another / Be careful

According to the Book of Ezekiel, which describes Lucifer as the power behind the king of Tyre, Lucifer was not only a worship leader in heaven, but he was unparalleled in beauty and uniquely anointed. Lucifer wasn’t merely a good musician; he was a musical instrument—with tambourines for hands and a pipe organ for a voice. And there he was, year after decade after millennia leading all of heaven in worship—until the day he began to wonder why all of the praise was going to someone else.

Those who serve the Lord must keep this in mind, for that same tendency can creep in anytime we think, Here I am doing this, but no one seems to appreciate what I’m doing; no one acknowledges what I’ve done. Be careful. That’s the iniquity of Lucifer.

(Ezekiel 28:11 NKJV) Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

(Ezekiel 28:12 NKJV) "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

(Ezekiel 28:13 NKJV) You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

(Ezekiel 28:14 NKJV) "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

(Ezekiel 28:15 NKJV) You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.

(Ezekiel 28:16 NKJV) "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones.

(Ezekiel 28:17 NKJV) "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.

(Ezekiel 28:18 NKJV) "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you.

(Ezekiel 28:19 NKJV) All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever.'"

Satan, lost it all, when he lost who his audience was. He turned worship into an "I" thing, instead of a "You God" thing. God was no longer the audience, Satan wanted to be the audience, that angels would look upon him and say wow. Thus he began to sing to the angels, and they became the audience.

When did Satan fall? When did he take 1/3 of the angels? Obviously after creation and before the fall; thus I see, when God created man, you and me, where we were made to worship and adore Him, praises of thanksgiving for life and love, and our hearts explode over His goodness..... it was then Satan lost it (his position and humility), that he hated that others were the worship choir, that he was not the audience but God! And now the battle and war in heaven, as Satan hates mankind for being the image of God, and fights to destroy anyone who worships the Lord in Spirit and Truth.

Luke 10:18–19 (NKJV)¹⁸ And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

(Isaiah 14:12 NKJV) "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

John 4:21–26 (NKJV)²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

Prince and Power of Air

Satan the great worship leader; in Ephesians 2 he is called the prince and power of the air:

(Ephesians 2:2 NKJV) in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

Stay Tuned / Still Uses Music / BUT his gift Used Against Him / Send Him into Meltdown

Satan still uses his musical powers to influence the world, and I am not just talking music for the youth, I can remember the influence the words of many of secular music songs had upon me. Music has power, much power. But its power are not just an arsenal for Satan, but for we the believers. We can take music, worship music, and send Satan into a meltdown, and have victory over him. Now Christian you don't want to miss this, stay tuned in. The very gift of Satan, is the very thing that can defeat him. He does that to us doesn't he? You good in sports, good I'll get you so into it you be consumed by it. Good in music, I get you so into it you'll start a band and spend all your times in bars. Good at this job, this talent, I use your gift against you, well so too can we do the same to him.

Satan Cast Down – We can Remind him what Once Was / Fingers on Blackboard

Lucifer was cast out of heaven and became Satan, or "Adversary"; the Devil, or "Accuser." And to this day, like fingernails on a blackboard, praise and worship drive him crazy because they remind him of what he once was, but will never be again. Look at a real story, with a powerful spiritual application for us. Remember Romans 15 says the things written of old were for our learning:

(Romans 15:4 NKJV) For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

2 Chron 20 / Israel Surrounded by enemies – You Depressed, Discouraged, Defeated

In 2 Chronicles 20, King Jehoshaphat was surrounded by the Edomites, Ammonites, and Moabites—just as you may have been surrounded by depression, discouragement, and defeat. Let's look at this marvelous story:

(2 Chronicles 20:1 NKJV) It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat.

(2 Chronicles 20:2 NKJV) Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi).

(2 Chronicles 20:3 NKJV) And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

(2 Chronicles 20:4 NKJV) So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

Remind God of His Power

Look at this great prayer of Jehoshaphat as he reminds God of His greatness; now does God need to be reminded of His greatness, certainly not, so really who is being reminded, Jehoshaphat. Christian when you are going through hard times, in your prayers remind God of who He is, how great and mighty He is, and you will find yourself being empowered as you reflect on who your God is, and who then is possibly able to stand against Him:

(2 Chronicles 20:5 NKJV) Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

(2 Chronicles 20:6 NKJV) and said: "O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?"

(2 Chronicles 20:7 NKJV) "Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?"

(2 Chronicles 20:8 NKJV) "And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying,

(2 Chronicles 20:9 NKJV) 'If disaster comes upon us; sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine; we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.'

We our Helpless

Then he speaks of His weakness, saying I have no where to turn Lord, we need a miracle:

(2 Chronicles 20:10 NKJV) "And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir; whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them;

(2 Chronicles 20:11 NKJV) "here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit.

(2 Chronicles 20:12 NKJV) "O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."

(2 Chronicles 20:13 NKJV) Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the LORD.

God hears, and God gives direction, and says watch Me work.

(2 Chronicles 20:14 NKJV) Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.

(2 Chronicles 20:15 NKJV) And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.

(2 Chronicles 20:16 NKJV) 'Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.

(2 Chronicles 20:17 NKJV) 'You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you."

(2 Chronicles 20:18 NKJV) And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.

(2 Chronicles 20:19 NKJV) Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.

(2 Chronicles 20:20 NKJV) So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."

Now watch this:

(2 Chronicles 20:21 NKJV) And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever."

(2 Chronicles 20:22 NKJV) Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

(2 Chronicles 20:23 NKJV) For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

(2 Chronicles 20:24 NKJV) So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.

God gives victory and rest:

(2 Chronicles 20:25 NKJV) When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil, they found among them an abundance of valuables on the dead bodies, and precious jewelry, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away; and they were three days gathering the spoil because there was so much.

(2 Chronicles 20:26 NKJV) And on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berachah, for there they blessed the LORD; therefore the name of that place was called The Valley of Berachah until this day.

(2 Chronicles 20:27 NKJV) Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front of them, to go back to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies.

(2 Chronicles 20:28 NKJV) So they came to Jerusalem, with stringed instruments and harps and trumpets, to the house of the LORD.

(2 Chronicles 20:29 NKJV) And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.
(2 Chronicles 20:30 NKJV) Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.

Battle the Lords / Instead Soldiers – send the Choir / Enemy became Confused – Destroyed Self

After the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, a man named Jahaziel stood up and said, “Don’t fear, Jehoshaphat. The battle is not yours but the Lord’s. There is no need to fight. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.” So, instead of soldiers, Jehoshaphat sent the choir into battle, and as they began to sing, the Ammonites, Moabites, and Edomites, became so confused that they began to fight among themselves—leaving the Israelites the victors.

Prince of Air Signals Garbled / Can’t Communicate to Demons / What once Was – Never will Be

As worship went out, the prince and power of the air got all twisted and frazzled. His signals became garbled, and he could not energize and command his forces. The sent signals were so messed up they started to turn and slaughter each other. Christian this story truly has real-life application for us. When we praise, we send static over his airways, he can’t communicate clearly to his fallen demons, and they become unorganized and ineffective against us. Satan is covering his ears just trying to get through the finger nails dragging along the chalkboard. The worship of Jesus reminds him of what he once was, and never will be, and it send him into a frenzy.

Pray your Worship – Make it an Offensive Weapon / Go on Counter Attack

Make your worship, a prayer, pray your worship. Prayer is part of the offensive weapon that is given to us as we look at the Armor of God used for spiritual warfare. When you worship, don’t just sing the song, but make it a prayer from your heart. Too many times we just cover up, hoping he will back off, while we should be going on the attack, delivering counter-punches.

(Ephesians 6:18 NKJV) praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;

As He Confused – We become Focused – Settled – Eyes Lifted Up.

Now as the enemy becomes confused and disoriented, we become focused and settled. Our eyes and hearts are lifted up to the throne, where the power is, where victory resides. Our minds settle down, our hearts become settled, and it is now the enemy who has the anxiety, confused, and at unrest. It is the ultimate switcheroo. Make worship a part of your morning devotion, and you’ll find yourself singing that song in your heart all day, and therefore all day you are dragging fingernails across the chalkboard, sending your enemy into anxiety, instead of him sending you.

Satan Frazzled – Jesus took Place

I’ll tell another reason why Satan gets all frazzled and confused, and that is because who took his place as worship leader here on earth, Jesus Christ, and Satan can’t stand it, it drives him crazy:

(Hebrews 2:12 NKJV) saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."

Come out Tue – Sun / Communion too / Part of Daily Devotion

Can I encourage you in this, come out on Tuesday’s and worship with us, roll out of bed on Sunday, come and worship and you will find yourself settled, at peace, and lifted up. Might I add come here for the mid-week and once a month we have a communion service for there is power in communion and the Lord personally invites us to the commune table. Daily in your home, make worship a part of your daily devotion, partake in communion on a regular basis.

Beloved, there is great power in praise, make it a daily part of your life. Make the Devil the one that has the bad day!

(Revelation 12:4 NKJV) His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

The devil seeking to kill the Jesus at birth, went to kill all the children of Bethlehem, to be sure that he was sure through King Herod

Matthew 2:16–18 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more."

What does a war in heaven look like? Why is there a war in heaven? The ultimate reason the war is over you. God is willing to go to war for you. So is the devil. The whole battle is over you. That is why there is a spiritual war. Ephesians 6, don't be surprised nor disheartened rejoice because the devil considers you a threat because you're witness. You are a sign. Rejoice because God fights for you and the middle of the battle is your free will.

Satan hates the object of God's affection, his creation made in his image. You are more than cells in tissue. You are worth a war over!

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Isaiah 43:1 (NKJV) ¹ But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.

(Revelation 12:5 NKJV) She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

Jesus the Male Child

Jesus is the Male Child, for we clearly see through Scriptures that He is the One that will rule with a rod of iron:

(Psalms 2:7 NKJV) "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

(Psalms 2:8 NKJV) Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

(Psalms 2:9 NKJV) You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

(Revelation 2:26 NKJV) "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations;

(Revelation 2:27 NKJV) 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'; as I also have received from My Father;

(Revelation 2:28 NKJV) "and I will give him the morning star.

(Revelation 19:13 NKJV) He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

(Revelation 19:14 NKJV) And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

*(Revelation 19:15 NKJV) Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. **And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron.** He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

(Revelation 19:16 NKJV) And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

That Throne He sits at is a Throne of Grace to give you help in your time of need, what is your need to day, you who are worth a war over!

Hebrews 4:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Revelation 12:6 NKJV) Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Seeks to Israel / Gen 3 – Seed / Woman don't contribute Seed – Virgin Birth

Satan seeks to, and has always sought to destroy the nation of Israel (the 12 stars), because he knew that it is through the seed of Abraham that the Messiah would come. We can track his attempts through the Bible and through the history books, and still today through the front pages of the newspaper. Back in Genesis 3, the promise is given that the seed (notice singular) will come through the woman. Woman don't contribute the seed in conception, the male does, so from the beginning we see the picture of the virgin birth, that God Himself would be the Father through immaculate conception. And from that first promise, came the "enmity" between the woman and the devil, going on 6000 years now. For Satan, if he

can stop the Messiah from coming, then nothing can stop him from ruling and reigning over the earth forever.

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Cain – Gen 6 – Egypt – Pharaoh – Medes – Babylonians – King Herod/ Cross / Psalm 22

Immediately we see Satan energizing Cain to kill his brother, (half way there). Genesis 6 we see Satan's attempt to pollute the blood line of the Messiah by having the "Sons of god" go into the woman of man, this is some type of demonic activity which we really don't know all the details. We see Pharaoh killing all the male children born in Egypt (Moses sent into the river – imagine no deliverer), and then we see another Pharaoh trying to kill the whole nation of Israel on the Exodus. Through the OT we read attempt after attempt. So close was he when we read in Ester the decree giving to kill all the Jews. Again so close again as the Mede-Persians conquered them, and then the Babylonians. Satan attempted again to kill the Male Child after by King Herod's decree to kill all the male children 2 years and under. Then finally there on the cross, Satan thinks he has finally accomplished his goal. He and his demons were licking their lips (Psalm 22), thinking they were savoring victory. Reflect on all that Jesus would endure, for you, for me, imagine the dogs (satan and demons) circling the cross, licking their chops, laughing and saying they aren't worth it, they'll say I'd rather sleep in, ain't got time, my sin isn't so bad, yet Jesus would endure it all.....how great is His love:

(Psalms 22:14 NKJV) I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.

(Psalms 22:15 NKJV) My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.

(Psalms 22:16 NKJV) For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;

Friday – But Sunday was Coming / Now Plan B / Stop Prophecy / Hitler - Iran

But, that was Friday, and Sunday was a coming. Now, the devil has a new plan, for Plan A didn't work, and Plan B is to destroy the Nation of Israel so that there is no Israel to play a role in the final prophecies of the Scripture. If there is no Israel, then Jesus can't return, for if one prophecy fails, then Jesus fails. But, Jesus never fails. We see his attempts through Hitler, through the Palestine Terrorist in the land today, through Saddam Hussein, the threats of the Iranian president and nation, but they will all fail. So all the anti-Semitism that you read about and see today, is fueled by Satan, because he believes if there is no Israel to return for, then Jesus won't return. Keep that in your mind as you watch the evening news. Funny think, you and I know why things are the way they are, but many of the greatest minds in the world are trying to broker peace there. Just common sense would say why would anybody want to fight and die for a piece of land that has no oil on it:

(1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV) But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1260 / Last half of Tribulation

Verse 6 - Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. - There is that 1260 days again, which is 3 ½ years based on the Biblical 360 day calendar, that is the second half of the 7 year Tribulation period. We will look more at this 3 ½ year period in verses 13-17.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need