EN GARDE! A STUDY OF UNSEEN FORCES AT WORK IN OUR WORLD

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VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- > Ephesians 6:10-13 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.
- > Struggle: pale: to wrestle; a close quarters combat
- > Resist: anthistemi: withstand while opposing
- > Stand: histemi: make a stand; be established

WHO GOES WHERE

- ➤ **BELIEVERS:** Heaven Earth during millennium? New Jerusalem
- > We know that Jesus comes back with angels:
- ➤ Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.
- ➤ Revelation 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses.
- ➤ Jude 1:14 ...Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones,

UNBELIEVERS:

Hell Lake of Fire

LAKE OF FIRE

- ➤ Revelation 20:13-15 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- ➤ For believers, there is a glorious resurrection (rapture) followed by the marriage in heaven
- ➤ For unbelievers, there is also a resurrection, but one that leads to judgment and condemnation and a final habitation in the lake of fire, which seems to be eternal

OTHER INHABITANTS

- ➤ **Revelation 19:11-13** And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True; in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes *are* a flame of fire; on His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself. *He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.
- ➤ Revelation 19:20-21...the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. The rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

650 YEARS BEFORE JOHN

- > Daniel 12:1-2 "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.
- ➤ **Revelation 12:7-8** And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

TIMELINE

- Daniel's final seven years begin (tribulation) begins with antichrist's treaty
- Sometime in these 7 years, rapture of the church and marriage supper of Lamb in heaven
- 3.5 years into tribulation... war in heaven; Satan/his angels cast down to earth antichrist breaks treaty/revealed to be antichrist Satan's false trinity (antichrist and anti-holy spirit)
- End of 7 years:
 - Second coming of Christ
 - Battle of Armageddon (Satan loses)
 - Antichrist and anti-holy spirit go into lake of fire Satan bound for 1000 years in abyss
- > Satan loosed, fights, loses again; goes in lake of fire
- > Judgment of unsaved dead- lake of fire
- > New heaven and New Earth; New Jerusalem

ABOUT THE LAKE OF FIRE

- > Exists before/after the new heavens and new earth
- Matthew 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;"
- Question: can angels be redeemed? It doesn't sound like this is the case
- > There is some really good news:
- Revelation 2:11 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.'
- ➤ Revelation 12:11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

AFTER SECOND COMING

> Revelation 20:4-6 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

CONFIRMED BY DANIEL

- ➤ Daniel 12:2 "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt."
- ➤ **Daniel 12:13** "But as for you, go *your way* to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise *again* for your allotted portion at the end of the age."
- ➤ Daniel 7:18 'But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.'
- ➤ Daniel doesn't see a time gap between the resurrections mentioned in 12:2; this is common among prophets

INTERESTING FINAL THOUGHTS

- BORN ONCE, DIE TWICE; BORN TWICE, DIE ONCE
- ➤ John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.
- Luke 21:34-36 "Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."