

## The Book Of Revelation Study 61

*Revelation 12:7-12 (NKJV)*

<sup>7</sup> *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,*

<sup>8</sup> *but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.*

<sup>9</sup> *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.*

<sup>10</sup> *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.*

<sup>11</sup> *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.*

<sup>12</sup> *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."*

As we go forward in our Study of the war in heaven and on earth between God and the Dragon, we remember that the war was in the two realms, first of heaven and second on earth.

We said that this vision shows that the war in heaven may be divided into three sections:

**The battle which we have already taken time to study**

**The Victory**

**The Celebration**

We want to now move to the next section, the Victory

### THE VICTORY

*Revelation 12:9 (NKJV)*

<sup>9</sup> *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.*

As a result of his defeat, **the great dragon was thrown down** from heaven to the earth. This describes Satan's second and permanent expulsion from heaven

The **dragon** is called **great** because of his formidable power to inflict harm and bring disaster.

Earlier, he was described as having seven heads, seven crowns, and ten horns.

That description pictures Satan as the ruler of the world

First, he is called **the serpent of old,**

*Revelation 20:2 (NKJV)*

<sup>2</sup> *He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;*

This identifies him as the serpent in the Garden of Eden and emphasizes his subtlety and treachery.

The **dragon** is also called **the devil, which means slanderer, defamer, or false accuser,** a fitting title for Satan, the ultimate false accuser

*Revelation 12:10 (NKJV)*

<sup>10</sup> *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.*

Satan accuses men to God, God to men, and men to other men.

Satan is a malicious prosecutor of God's people, constantly trying to arraign them before the bar of God's holy justice.

Part of his prowling around like a roaring lion no doubt includes seeking evidence of believer's sins with which to accuse them before God's throne.

But the glorious truth is that;

*Romans 8:1 (NKJV)*

<sup>1</sup> *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,*

*1 John 2:1 (NKJV)*

<sup>1</sup> *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

Paul eloquently and emphatically states the impossibility of Satan's successfully accusing believers:

*Romans 8:31-34 (NKJV)*

<sup>31</sup> *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

<sup>32</sup> *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

<sup>33</sup> *Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.*

<sup>34</sup> *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

The text then plainly identifies the dragon as **Satan**. **Satan** is a Hebrew word that means "adversary," and is fitting proper name for the malevolent enemy of God and God's people.

Tragically, the most glorious created being, the "*star of the morning*" (*Isa 14:12*), is now and forever branded "the adversary."

He assaulted God in his original rebellion when he demanded to be "like the Most High" (*Isa 14:14*), and he deceitfully led Eve into sin by manipulating her to distrust the character and word of God (*Gen 3:2-5*)

Finally, the **dragon** is described as the one **who deceives the whole world**.

**Deceives** translates the present participle of the verb *planao* (to lead astray, to mislead, or to deceive).

The use of the present tense indicates that this is Satan's habitual, continual activity, as he constantly accuses believers, so also he **deceives the whole world**.

Beginning with the Fall, Satan has duped the human race throughout its history.

Jesus warned that he is, "a liar and the father of lies" (*John 8:44*)

Satan lures people to their destruction by causing them to pay "attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons" (*1 Tim 4:1*)

He seduces people to believe him and not God, to believe that he tells the truth and God lies (*Gen 3:4*)

His deception will dominate the world during the Tribulation as he mounts his last, desperate assault against God.

Through his agent the false prophet, Satan will deceive;

**Revelation 13:14 (NKJV)**

***<sup>14</sup> And he deceives those who dwell on the earth.***

Deceitful demons under Satan's control will gather the world's armies for the Battle of Armageddon

**Revelation 16:14 (NKJV)**

***<sup>14</sup> For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.***

**Revelation 19:19 (NKJV)**

***<sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.***

Satan will also use Babylon, the great end time commercial empire, to deceive the unbelieving world;

**Revelation 18:23 (NKJV)**

***<sup>23</sup> For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.***

All of his angels will be thrown down with him, just as they were thrown out of heaven with his initial rebellion against God.

The arrival of the excommunicated demon host (and their evil commander) on earth will add immeasurably to the horror of the Tribulation.

They will join the innumerable demons already roaming the earth, the lately arrived demons belched forth from the abyss;

**Revelation 9:1-3 (NKJV)**

***<sup>1</sup> Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.***

***<sup>2</sup> And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.***

***<sup>3</sup> Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.***

And they will join the two hundred million other formerly bound demons to create an unimaginable holocaust of evil.

**Revelation 9:13-16 (NKJV)**

***<sup>13</sup> Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,***

***<sup>14</sup> saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."***

***<sup>15</sup> So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.***

***<sup>16</sup> Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.***

So we have the battle, and we have the victory, and now we want to look at the celebration

## THE CELEBRATION

*Revelation 12:10-12 (NKJV)*

<sup>10</sup> *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.*

<sup>11</sup> *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.*

<sup>12</sup> *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."*

The defeat of Satan and his demon hosts and the cleansing of their foul presence from heaven forever will trigger an outburst of praise there.

Such sudden outbursts frequently punctuate the prophetic narrative of Revelation (4:8-11; 5:9-10, 11-14; 7:9-12; 11:15-18; 15:3-4; 19:1-8)

The identity of those whom John heard crying out with **a loud voice in heaven** is not stated. This collective voice cannot be angels, since angels could not refer to humans as their brethren. These worshipers, then, are most likely the redeemed, glorified saints in heaven.

The rejoicing begins by a loud collective voice saying, **the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come.**

Now here **Salvation** is to be understood in its broadest sense. It encompasses not only the redemption of individual believers, but also the deliverance of all creation from the ravages of sin's curse and the power of Satan.

*Romans 8:19-22 (NKJV)*

<sup>19</sup> *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.*

<sup>20</sup> *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;*

<sup>21</sup> *because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

<sup>22</sup> *For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.*

**Power** speaks of God's omnipotence, His triumphant, sovereign power that crushes all opposition and will establish His **kingdom**;

*Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)*

<sup>15</sup> *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"*

The rule of Christ is by authority from God;

*Psalms 2:8 (NKJV)*

<sup>8</sup> *Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

*Matthew 28:18 (NKJV)*

<sup>18</sup> *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*

*John 17:2 (NKJV)*

*<sup>2</sup> as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.*

So certain is the establishing of the kingdom and the rule of Christ that, though yet future, they are spoken of in the past tense.

The heavenly worshipers rejoice that the first step, Satan's defeat and final ejection from heaven has already taken place. They know that, having been expelled from heaven to earth, he will shortly be cast from the earth into the abyss

*Revelation 20:1-3 (NKJV)*

*<sup>1</sup> Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

*<sup>2</sup> He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;*

*<sup>3</sup> and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.*

And then from the abyss into his ultimate destination, the lake of fire;

*Revelation 20:10 (NKJV)*

*<sup>10</sup> The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

The event that will cause the kingdom and authority of Christ to be established is the expulsion of Satan from heaven to earth, so the Saints offer praise that **the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.**

As redeemed and glorified individuals, there was nothing Satan could legitimately accuse them of. Still, it must have grieved them that their suffering brethren on earth were subject to the devil's slanderous accusations.

Satan's defeat will put an end to those relentless accusations.

The heavenly worshipers also offer praise because of events on earth, where their brethren **overcame** Satan.

Ejected from heaven, Satan and his hellish hosts will vent their full fury on God's people on earth.

*Revelation 12:13-17 (NKJV)*

*<sup>13</sup> Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.*

*<sup>14</sup> 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.*

*<sup>15</sup> 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.*

*<sup>16</sup> 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.*

*<sup>17</sup> 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.*

But the Saints overcame him. And how?  
Our text tells us it was because of the **blood of the Lamb**.

**It was not by their own power that they defeated him.**  
**It was not by means of incantations, exorcisms, ritual formulas, or by binding or rebuking him.**

Satan being more powerful than any human is impervious to such fleshly tricks and gimmicks.

*2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NKJV)*

<sup>3</sup> *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.*

<sup>4</sup> *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,*

<sup>5</sup> *casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*

The Apostle John gives the only basis for victory over Satan when he wrote:

*1 John 4:4 (NKJV)*

<sup>4</sup> *You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

First of all by the blood of the Lamb, they were;

*1 Peter 1:18-19 (NKJV)*

<sup>18</sup> *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,*

<sup>19</sup> *but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

*Romans 8:1a (NKJV)*

<sup>1</sup> *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,*

The believers knew the forgiveness of God because of the blood of the Lamb. They knew without a doubt they were forgiven and cleansed, and no accusations from the devil could ever take them down.

**The unshakable foundation of all spiritual victory is Christ's purchase of redemption at Calvary.**

The second way these Tribulation saints overcame Satan's assaults was through **the word of their testimony**. Despite all the persecution (and even martyrdom) they suffered, they will remain faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ; their testimony will never waver or fail.

And thirdly, these dear suffering Saints deflected the onslaughts of Satan because **they did not love their life even when faced with death**.

**Their faithfulness extended all the way to death.**

Jesus said;

*Matthew 24:13 (NKJV)*

<sup>13</sup> *But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*

The passage concludes with a final note of praise;

**Revelation 12:12a (NKJV)**

**<sup>12</sup> Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them!**

Why? Because of the defeat of Satan and the triumph of the saints, the heavenly chorus call on the heavens to rejoice.

But following the praise is a dire warning;

**Revelation 12:12b (NKJV)**

**<sup>12</sup> 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."**

Great wrath (*thermos*) refers to a violent outburst of rage.

The word depicts a turbulent, emotional fury rather than a rational anger.

John Phillips wrote, "Satan is no like a caged lion, enraged beyond words by the limitations now placed upon his freedom.

He picks himself up from the dust of the earth, shakes his fist at the sky, and glares around, choking with fury for ways to vent his hatred and his spite upon humankind" (*exploring Revelation*, rev. ed. [Chicago: Moody, 1987; reprint, Neptune, N.J.: Loizeaux, 1991], 160).

Satan's rage is all the more violent because he knows **that he has only a short time**, the remainder of the Tribulation for his final assault on God's people.

His actual time will be the three and a half years of the reign of Antichrist (13:5), who Satan places in power immediately after being cast down from heaven.

It is the same time referred to in chapter 12:6, 14.

**Revelation 12:6 (NKJV)**

**<sup>6</sup> 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 12:14 (NKJV)**

**<sup>14</sup> 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.**

It is a short time because Jesus Christ will return to establish His earthly millennial kingdom.

No matter how desperate their situation looks, no matter how furiously Satan rags against them, believers can take comfort in knowing that his ultimate defeat is certain.

In the words of Martin Luther's magnificent hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,"

**The Prince of Darkness grim,  
We tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure,  
For lo, his doom is sure;  
One little word shall fell him.**