

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – 24

Revelation 12:7-17

1. **Then war broke out in heaven:** - War in heaven requires supernatural weapons (2 Corinthians 6:7, 10:4; Romans 6:13, 13:12; Ephesians 6:10-18)
2. **Michael and his angels** – See Daniel 10:13, 21
3. **fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.** – See Daniel 12:1
4. **Verse 8** – Satan may be powerful but he is not all-powerful
5. **Verse 9** –
 - a. Notice how the language of this verse emphasizes and adds to the drama, marking this as a climax
 - b. When is this event?
 - i. At Creation? Ezekiel 28:16
 - ii. During Jesus' ministry? (Luke 10:18, John 12:31)
 - iii. Or will it happen at the end of this age? See verse 10 and Romans 8:34; Job 1:7, 2:2; Jude 9
6. **Verse 10** – This voice is a human voice, not an angel:
 - a. Salvation – which angels do not experience
 - b. 'The accuser' – Satan 'accuses' believers (Job 1:9-11, 2:4-5)
 - c. 'of our brothers and sisters' – family ties are unknown among angels as they do not marry (Mark 12:25)
7. **Verse 11** –
 - a. The victory is achieved by:
 - i. The death of Christ, applied to sinners when by faith they repent and receive Jesus and live in Him
 - ii. The 'message' of their life's witness to the grace and mercy of God in Christ
 - iii. Their willingness to die to their old way of thinking and acting (and to literally die if necessary)
 - b. We overcome the devil every time we resist the devil and choose obedience to God over sin (James 4:7 (see 1 John 2:13 and the seven letters of Revelation)
 - c. This may be why heaven rejoices every time a sinner repents (See Luke 10:20; 15:7)
8. **Therefore you heavens rejoice, and all who reside in them!**
– Heaven is finally cleansed of the presence of Satan; Why was he allowed to remain for so long? We are not told
9. **But woe to the earth and the sea because the devil has come down to you!** – The third woe of 8:13
10. **He is filled with terrible anger, for he knows that he only has a little time!** – Like a cornered rat, he is desperate
11. **Verse 13** – Since the 'son' is already in heaven, he attacks the 'mother' - Israel (Jeremiah 30:5-11)
12. **But the woman . . . is taken care of** – See Verse 6, Exodus 19:4; the eagle is God Himself, not the United States! (Deuteronomy 32:11-12)
13. **away from the presence of the serpent – for a time, times, and half a time.** – See Daniel 7:25 and 12:7; the Hebrew 'times' is not a plural but a 'dual' form, meaning a pair – as in "two hands"; 'time' is a 'year' = 3½ years (see also 42 months Revelation 11:2, 13:5, and 1,260 days or 3½ years of 360 days each – Revelation 11:3; See also Daniel 12:11-12)
14. **Verse 15** – Every attack of Satan's is thwarted by God - This is a supernatural event (see Matthew 24:24) – both the attack and the rescue
15. **So the dragon became enraged at the woman and went away to make war on the rest of her children, those who keep God's commandments and hold to the testimony about Jesus.** – Since the Son is in heaven and the mother is protected, Satan attacks those who accept the Gospel after the Rapture - he seeks to destroy any who come to faith in Jesus either by offering a false 'god' – an 'anti-Christ' – or by persecuting those who refuse to abandon their faith (If I were you, I would not wait for the Tribulation to accept Jesus and live for him – it won't be pretty, and definitely won't be easy)
16. **And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore.** – The last verse of chapter 12 for some versions – the first verse of chapter 13 for others; it ties the two chapters together
17. **What are we to learn or "keep" from these verses?** –
 - a. This chapter raises many questions, answers some, and teaches us that wisdom comes from asking the right questions as much as from finding answers (1 Timothy 6:20, 2 Timothy 2:16, Titus 3:9)
 - b. We do not have to wait for Satan to be expelled from heaven to have victory over him – our victory rests in the cross of Christ and HIS victory, and every time we resist Satan we contribute to his ultimate defeat (verse 11)