

I. War in Heaven (Rev. 12:7-9)

A. This passage speaks of a war in heaven that I believe is still yet future. War breaks out in heaven between Satan and Michael the archangel. The result is that Satan will be cast down and confined to the earth. This seems to take place at the beginning of the 3 ½ year tribulation period. (Dan. 12:1,7; Rev. 12:6, 14)

1. Some teach that this war in heaven occurred at the cross and that Satan is now confined to the earth. However, we war against Satan's host operating in the heavenly places in this age. (Job. 1:6, Dan. 2:35; Zech. 10:10; Lk. 10:18; Eph. 2:2, 6:12)

B. I believe one of the unique dynamics in the end times is that Satan and all of his demons will be cast out of the heavenly realm, thus shifting his mode of exercising influence and power. In (Rev. 13:2) Satan "the dragon" will give the Antichrist his throne. He will give his full power and authority to a human. He has never done this before probably because he was never confined to the earth before this time.

II. The Song of the Victorious Church (Rev. 12:10-12)

A. John then heard another outburst of praise in heaven. A song breaks forth from the throne room in proclamation, rejoicing, and warning. This song can be broken down into 3 parts.

1. Initial Rejoicing at the Expulsion of Satan – Satan's hateful work of accusing believers unrelentingly before God will stop. Just as consistent as the incessant praise of God we saw in (Rev. 4) so to Satan stands accusing us before the Father. However, his voice will be silenced forever in heaven as he is cast down to the earth. (Job 1:9, 2:5; Zech. 3:1-2; Jude 1:9)

2. The Victorious Overcoming Church – This song proclaims prophetically that the church will overcome Satan, even though the battle upon the earth will increase after Satan is thrown down. Overcoming Satan does not mean that you won't experience trial or death. It does mean that your faith and love for Jesus flourishes in the face of those things. The song sings of 3 aspects of their warfare that overcomes Satan. The blood of the lamb, the word of their testimony, and their ability to lay down their lives. Wisdom and preparation is to grow and walk in all these realities now.

3. Warning to be Equipped to Overcome – The final part of the song warns the church to prepare themselves to be overcomers in light of the day that Satan will be thrown down. They give a stern command (Woe) for us to be diligent to grow in these overcoming aspects now, to be sober and understand this great battle.

III. They Overcame Satan

- A. By the Blood of the Lamb – The sacrificial blood of Jesus proves God’s great love for us, pays the penalty for sin, and shows us the true nature and result of sin. Almost every lie of Satan hinges on disbelief of one of these 3 realities.

We use the blood of the Lamb in spiritual warfare – not as a Christian “abracadabra,” as if chanting “The blood of Jesus, the blood of Jesus” could keep Satan away like smoke is said to keep away flies. Rather, our understanding, our apprehension, our focus – may I say our obsession with the death of Jesus on the cross as our substitute wins the battle. – David Guzik

1. Proves His Great Love. We love Him because He first loved us. There is no greater proof of this reality than the blood of the lamb which was poured out for us before we loved Him. This truth is the stability of our lives, it keeps our soul from roller coaster ride of the valleys of despair and the peaks of boasting. (Jhn 15:13-16; Rom. 5:5-8; Eph. 2:3-6; Titus 3:3-5; 1 Jhn 3:16, 4:9-10, 19)
2. Pays the Just Penalty for Sin. Satan is unrelenting in his quest that we would see ourselves as disqualified from God’s forgiveness, and disqualified from relationship with Him. He accuses us of being disqualified based upon our performance of righteousness. **The key to winning this battle is to understand that we are not qualified by our performance of righteousness but rather by the blood of the lamb.** (Ex. 12:1-30; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:13-14; Heb. 9:11-15)
 - a) “By the blood” emphasizes the death of Jesus. He did not only suffer, He died. “Of the Lamb” emphasizes the substitutionary work of His death, because the Passover Lamb died as a substitute for you.
3. Shows us the True Nature and Result of Sin. As real as I am standing here today a sinless man was brutally killed in my place, and His blood testifies of real judgment that He suffered for real sins. Our unrenewed minds want to convince us that sin is mostly harmless especially if it’s done in secret. The cross however reveals the bitter and cancerous nature of sin. (Jhn 10:10; Rom 6:23; Jas. 1:15)

Book of Revelation Study (Session 23)
The Overcoming the War

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(Rev. 12:7-17)

- B. Word of their Testimony – Knowing and remembering the work of God in your life protects against Satan’s deceptions. As a faithful witness, you have a testimony to bear. This testimony is powerful in advancing and preserving the heart in love for Jesus for not just you but others as well. (1 Ch 16:12, 24; Ps. 9:1, 14, 51:51, 106:2; Jer. 23:29; Jhn 9:25; Rom. 1:16; Acts 1:8; Heb. 10:24-25, 12:1)
- a) Your testimony also bears witness to the nature of the written word. Just as you are stirred to press into the person of Jesus through the testimony of His work in your life, you are also built up in conviction of the truth and power of the scriptures. (Eph. 6:17; 1 Thes. 2:13)
- C. They did not love their lives to the death - If you do not cling to your life in this age, then there really is no threat Satan can bring against you. If you believe to live is Christ, and to diminish and die is gain, then how can Satan’s violence against you be effective? (Mat. 16:25; Lk 12:4; Jhn. 3:26-30; Phil. 1:21-23, 2:4-8)
- a) Let us not fool ourselves into thinking that laying down our physical lives will happen without laying down our lives in the inner man first. We must be sober about the day of trial that is coming for us all. We must prepare through dying daily to ourselves. (2 Cor. 4:8-18; Jas. 4:1-5:8)

Come, my soul, you have conquered Satan by thy Lord’s victory. Will you not be brave enough to fight a vanquished foe, and trample down the enemy who your Lord has already thrust down? Don’t be afraid, but say, ‘Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.’ ” (Spurgeon)

IV. The war comes to Earth (Rev. 12:13-17)

- A. Enraged from being confined to the earth, Satan turns his full attention on destroying the woman (Ethnic Israel). All prophetic scriptures including the very words of Jesus himself proclaim that God bound His promise to usher in the Messianic Age to the descendants of Jacob (Israel). Satan will seek to destroy this group of people from the earth in order to keep Jesus from coming. (Is. 66:5-16; Luke 13:35; Rom. 9-11)
- a) I believe Satan needs to use a human vessel to accomplish this task now that he has been cast out of the heavenly realm. For the first time in history he will give all his power and authority to a man, the antichrist who will attempt set his heart to destroy the people of promise. (Rev. 13:2)

- b) God reveals His strategy to provide supernatural means of escape for ethnic Israel. They will be preserved and supernaturally nourished in the wilderness of nations. They will be taken “from the presence of the serpent” supernaturally. I believe this is speaking of a literal flight from Jerusalem itself which is about to become a headquarters for the Antichrist and his “image” in the temple. Jesus spoke of the necessity of this flight in (Matt. 24:15-22) in relation to the individuals who dwell in Jerusalem. There is speed and supernatural dimension to this flight – which is the same phrase used to describe the “flight” from Egypt during the exodus. (Deu. 32:11-12; Ex. 19:4; Is. 40:31, 63:9; Ez. 20:36-38; Hos. 2:14-16)
- c) This will be the greatest time of persecution against the Jews that the world has ever seen. This time period will last 3 ½ years and God will preserve a remnant of this nation through supernatural means. (Jer. 30:6-10; Dan. 12:1; Amo. 5:18-20)

B. Satan’s rage will then be turned to the offspring of the woman. I believe we should understand the offspring of the woman to be the concept of the “One new man” or “Bride of Christ”. The end of the age people of God will constitute the people “who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ”. The “offspring” of the woman is distinct from the woman herself. Both the woman (Ethnic Israel) and her offspring (One New Man, Jew and Gentile Believers in Jesus) are in view in this passage. The saved saints of God through Christ, both Jew and Gentile I believe to be the offspring. I believe woman represents “the unsaved remnant of Israel”. It makes very little sense to refer to both as the same group when there is a clear distinction in this passage. (Rom. 9-11; Eph. 2:10-15; Gal. 6:15; Col. 3:10)

V. In Summary

- A. The bulk of this passage is not about the conflict of the ages and the power and rage of Satan but rather about the victorious overcomers and God’s supernatural preservation and provision. To say that the church will be strong in the final days leading up to the return of Jesus is an understatement. They will be victorious over Satan and his lies and murderous rage. They will be a prepared people fueled by an eternal perspective and filled with the love of God through intimacy with Jesus.

“I don’t have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches. He has no power over me, but I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father. Come, lets be going.” (John 14:30-31) NLT