

**"The Significant Characters of the Tribulation"**

**Part 2**

**Revelation 12-14**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Revelation we looked at Revelation 12:1-6. In these verses we were given a preview of why the Nation of Israel will be so severely persecuted in the last three and one-half years of the Tribulation period. Last week in our study we looked at:

I. **The Spiritual War**

In this we could see several characters which will play a major role in the Tribulation period.

1. **The Woman.**

**Notice Revelation 12:1-2**

The woman here is representing Israel.

2. **The Dragon**

**Notice Revelation 12:3-4**

The Dragon is Satan and the third part of the stars represents one third part of the angels. There is an infinite number of angels which God created and so one third of them would be a number too great for us to count.

3. **The Child**

The Child which Satan desired to devour is Jesus Christ. This battle started back in Genesis 3.

**Genesis 3:14-15**

*<sup>14</sup> And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:*

*<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

It was this announcement which started the battle between Satan and the Promised Seed who is Jesus Christ. Now I touch on something last week that I want to touch on again just so you see it clearly in your mind.

Notice Revelation 12:4

This verse goes back to when Satan and all the other angels were created. Satan fell shortly after he was created and he had to have been created on Day One of Creation. Let me show you why I say this.

**Job 38:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> *Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.*

<sup>5</sup> *Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?*

<sup>6</sup> *Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;*

<sup>7</sup> *When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

Here we see that the MORNING STARS and the SONS OF GOD sang and shouted for joy at the creation of the earth.

This causes many to believe that the angels were CREATED before the 6 Days of Creation in Genesis 1.

But I believe the Bible teaches that the angels were created on Day 1. Let me explain why.

1. **If they were Created before the 6 Days of Creation then there would be 7 Days of creation.**

**Exodus 20:11**

<sup>11</sup> *For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

2. **If Satan was created before the earth where did he fall to?**

Notice the Words of Jesus.

**Luke 10:18**

<sup>18</sup> *And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*

If he was created and if he fell before the creation of the earth then I would have to ask, "Where did he fall to?"

**Isaiah 14:12**

<sup>12</sup> *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*

3. **Paul places the angels in one Creation event.**

**Colossians 1:16**

<sup>16</sup> *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

This verse gives the idea that there was one Creation Event and not several.

Satan and his angels were Created on Day 1 and they must have fallen shortly thereafter because man was not on earth very long until Eve was deceived and Adam deliberately him one-third of the angels.

**Notice Revelation 12:5-6**

These 2 verses take us from the birth of Jesus to the ascension and then the focus is on Israel in the second-half of the Tribulation when she will flee from Satan. This brings us to where we are in our study today.

**II. The Spiritual War in Heaven**

**Notice Revelation 12:7**

Heaven is the last place we would expect a war but here we see there is a war in heaven between Michael and his angels and the dragon and his angels. There are several points to consider here.

1. **At this present time Satan has access to part of heaven.**

This is surprising to many people but we can see this in the book of Job also.

**Job 1:6**

<sup>6</sup> Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

As we continue in this section we shall see one reason why he frequents heaven now.

**2. What is the cause of this battle?**

I believe there are 2 reasons for the battle which is fought in heaven.

**a. Satan has always desired to possess the Throne of God.**

**Isaiah 14:12-15**

<sup>12</sup> How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

<sup>13</sup> For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

<sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

<sup>15</sup> Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

This is Satan's ultimate goal and so all he does he does with this in his mind. **This certainly contributes to the war in heaven.**

But I believe there is something else that causes the situation to escalate in heaven between the righteous angels and Satan and the fallen angels.

**b. This battle is about Israel.**

**Daniel 12:1**

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

This verse in Daniel is referencing the very event in Revelation 12 which is the war in heaven. The point I want you to see is that Michael the archangel is the angel which has been designated to stand for Israel. Let me show you another reference.

**Jude 1:9**

*<sup>9</sup> Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.*

When Satan desired the body of Moses he had to deal with Michael. Satan desired the body of Moses so that he could possess it and resurrect it and then lead Israel down a path of destruction. This was another attempt by Satan to destroy the promise of the Redeemer.

Now here is what I want you to see. Michael is the angel assigned to defend the Nation of Israel.

**Hebrews 1:13-14**

*<sup>13</sup> But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?*

*<sup>14</sup> Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*

There are also angels assigned to us who defend us during the spiritual battle.

These are the forces at work within our world that science and scientists cannot explain.

Now let me get you back to Michael. He is the angel assigned to Israel and so here in Revelation 12 when Satan battles with Michael we can be sure the battle is about Israel.

I believe based upon Scripture that Satan desired to do something to Israel but the request was denied.

Let us remember that he can NOT touch God's people without permission.

**Luke 22:31**

*<sup>31</sup> And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:*

**Job 1:9-12**

<sup>9</sup> Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

<sup>10</sup> Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

<sup>11</sup> But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

<sup>12</sup> And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Satan could only do to Job what God permitted.

**Application:**

The very Truth applies to you and me also. There is NOTHING that comes into our lives that is not first filtered by God.

**Romans 8:35-39**

<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

<sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

<sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

<sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

<sup>39</sup> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let me get you back to Revelation 12. This war seems to be a result of something which Satan desires to bring upon Israel and God says NO and so Michael stands up and there is a major battle.

**3. What are the weapons which are used?**

This is something which we do not have the answer to. Angels are spirit beings so they would not have physical weapons. They however must possess some kind of spiritual

weapons which are used in this battle. It could be this battle is fought with lies from Satan and Truth from Michael.

We know that the Truth of God's Word is truly a weapon that is effective against Satan.

**Matthew 4:1-10**

*Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*

*<sup>2</sup> And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.*

*<sup>3</sup> And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*

*<sup>4</sup> But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

*<sup>5</sup> Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,*

*<sup>6</sup> And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

*<sup>7</sup> Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*

*<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;*

*<sup>9</sup> And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

*<sup>10</sup> Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

**Ephesians 6:12-17**

*<sup>12</sup> For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

*<sup>13</sup> Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

<sup>15</sup> And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

<sup>16</sup> Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

<sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

**Conclusion:**

This shows us how important it is to know the Bible. We are living in dark times and we need the weapon of the Word.