

# **WINNING THE SPIRITUAL WAR**

Part 4 of Understanding the Times. Revelation 12:1-17.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. June 11, 2023.

## **HERE'S WHERE WE'RE AT IN REVELATION**

### **TWO KINGDOMS ARE AT WAR**

**God has beaten Satan, so Satan has turned his fury on Christians. We are in a spiritual war.**

- There can be no neutrality.

### **REVELATION 12: THE SPIRITUAL WAR**

**The conflict between God and Satan - verses 1-4.**

- God or God's purposes are symbolized by a woman in labor.
- Satan is symbolized by a dragon.

**God's victory over Satan - verses 5-9.**

- God's warrior was Jesus Christ.
- Christ was victorious.
- We are spiritually protected while persecuted.
- God's victory was imposed in heaven.

**Satan's war on Christians - verses 12-17.**

- Christians are under attack but protected.
- Satan hates Christians.
- The spiritual war is winnable.

## **Winning the war against Satan - verses 10-11.**

- We fight from the victory Christ has already won.
- We fight with spiritual weapons.
  - The blood of Christ = the saving person and work of Christ.
  - Our testimony = we boldly witness to the person and work of Christ.
  - They loved not their lives = Total surrender to Christ, even martyrdom.

## **WINNING THE SPIRITUAL WAR EVERY DAY**

### **Believe the war is real even if the enemy is invisible.**

Ephesians 6:12 (NLT) For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

John Piper: “Life is war. But most people do not believe this in their heart. Most people show by their priorities and their casual approach to spiritual things that they believe we are in peacetime, not wartime ...”

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/prayer-the-work-of-missions>

### **Fight with weapons that God provides.**

Ephesians 6:13 (NLT) Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

- The armor is a combination of Christ’s victorious work and the new life we choose to live in Christ.
- Victory is standing firm in Christ and all he has done for us.

### **Fight or be defeated by Satan.**

Ephesians 6:10-11 (NLT) 10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

- Satan uses many strategies. The Gospels have many examples.
- He has sidelined many of us by lulling us to sleep.
- He has wounded some of us by demonic oppression. See Mark 9:20ff.
- The late Derek Prince spoke about demonic oppression:
  - Entice: They tempt us to do evil.
  - Harass: They study us, exploit our weaknesses - anger, lust, etc.
  - Torment: Accusations, fears, hopelessness, delusions, death wish, etc.
  - Compel: Lure us into obsessive behaviors.
  - Enslave: Intense drives to sin and self-destruct.
  - Defile: They plant nasty words and images in our minds.
  - Deceive.
  - Attack us physically. They makes us sick, tired, or dead.

## **WARTIME READINESS**

- I know that Satan is at war with me. I am resisting by:
- Claiming the full benefits of the blood of Christ.
- Boldly professing that Jesus is Lord.
- Surrendering to Christ and his will for my life.
- Always wearing the full armor of God.
- Actively engaging in fellowship with Christians.
- Meditating on and applying the Bible.
- Praying in the Holy Spirit at all times and in all circumstances.

### **Here's a sample prayer to be delivered from demonic oppression:**

In the mighty Name of Jesus, I stand in all the benefits of his person and work for me. I confess all my sins to God, and I claim the cleansing, forgiveness, and new life Christ gained for me. I renounce every lie, every temptation to sin, every obsession, and every disordered desire that Satan or demons have planted in my mind. I renounce any involvement in false religion, witchcraft, or the occult. I take my stand against every curse spoken against me or my ancestors. I ask you, Lord Jesus: Remove every curse on my life, bless me, and set me free. Amen.

# CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

## **Review Sunday's teaching on Revelation 12.**

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Summarize the main ideas in your own words.

## **Prayerfully apply the insights of the teaching.**

- Is Piper correct? Is life war? Are we really engaged in spiritual warfare? Is Satan real? Are the stakes really between heaven and hell? What in Revelation 12 or elsewhere leads you to agree or disagree?
- How have you experienced Satan's war on Christians in your life? Have there been temptations to give up on Christ, to compromise your faith, to believe lies, etc? What else?
- Do you have any of the signs of demonic oppression that Derek Prince described? Examples: Repeated sickness, mental anguish, obsessions, suicidal thoughts, etc? Prince believed that many cases of crippling arthritis had demonic causes. Look at Luke 13:10-13 - the story of the woman bent over by a "crippling spirit," and discuss Prince's claim.

**Pray together.** Be bold.

*Everyone pray aloud the deliverance prayer in the study guide.*

## **Preparation for Next Sunday**

- Read Blessed, chapter 7 - again :)
- For an in-depth look at Revelation 13, go to:

[www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/revelation/#section-23](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/revelation/#section-23)