

THE UNSEEN WAR

Part 2 of PREPARING FOR JESUS. Revelation 12:7-12.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. December 4, 2022.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

What's going on in the world and the church?

- The Christian mechanic in Pakistan (www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/stories/christian-bicycle-mechanic-sentenced-to-death-for-blasphemy).
- Political divisions in churches (The Political Seduction of the Church: How Millions of Americans Have Confused Politics with the Gospel, by Dr. Michael Brown).
- Exvangelicals (www.christianpost.com/news/hillsong-writer-reveals-hes-no-longer-a-christian-im-genuinely-losing-my-faith.html).

REVELATION 12:7-12: THE UNSEEN WAR

The Defeat of Satan: Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

The Victory of Christ: 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

The Raging Battle: 11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. 12 Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

WAR IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH

The Devil Is Defeated - verses 7-9.

- Jesus conquered Satan on earth by his crucifixion and resurrection.
- The archangel Michael imposed that conquest on Satan in heaven.
- Result: Satan was blocked from God's presence forever.
- Result: He cannot prosecute us for our sins.

Colossians 2:14-15 (ESV) (God) cancelled the record of debt (sins) that stood against us with its legal demands. This he (God) set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him (Christ crucified, raised, exalted).

Our Spiritual Status Has Changed - verse 10

- In Christ, we have the rights to salvation, power, kingdom, and authority.
- We are not condemned for our sins; we have *salvation*.
- We are not slaves to sin; we have *power* for new life.
- We are not captive to Satan's dominion; we're in God's *Kingdom*.
- We are not subject to the devil; we live free by Christ's *authority*.

The Daily Warfare Prayer: "All wicked spirits and Satan himself are under my feet. I declare they are subject to me in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We're in a Raging Battle - verses 11-12

- Satan is banished from heaven, but attacking us on earth.
- Satan's tactic is to sow lies, deceptions, false religions, hatred for God and Christians.
- Satan's goals are: 1) Destroy our faith, and 2) Derail God's plan.

THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON

Satan is at war with Christians and churches.

Revelation 2:10 (ESV) Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison ...

Revelation 2:13 (ESV) I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith ...

We're in a fight for faith.

- The battle rages, but only for a limited time. Satan's time is short.
- We fight and win by:
 - The blood of the Lamb.
 - The word of our testimony.

HOW TO FIGHT BACK

We must fight back and refuse to lose. Here's how:

- Stand firm on all we are and have in Jesus Christ.
- Remember the significance of our faithful testimony.
- Turn from sin and self to trust in Jesus Christ as God and Savior.

CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

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

Start Talking. Get the conversation going.

- What is more likely to derail your faith: complacency or persecution?

Start Thinking. Review Sunday's teaching on Revelation 12:7-12.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Jesus conquered Satan by cross & resurrection, why is Satan still so active?
- Define or describe "salvation, power, kingdom, authority" in v.10.

Start Sharing. Apply Sunday's teaching.

- What areas of your life has Satan attacked? How did you fight back?
- How can faithful Christians ensure that they do not confuse politics with the gospel? What are the inevitable results of trusting in political parties or politicians?

Start Praying. Be bold.

Lord Jesus Christ, we worship you and bow down before you. You are King Jesus and you reign over all. You conquered Satan by laying down your life at the cross where you conquered the power of sin, Satan, and death. You rose to die no more. You ascended to rule over all things forever. Lord, revive our faltering faith; give us eyes to see the unseen spiritual battle; and give us courage and conviction to fight and conquer Satan by faith in your blood and through our faithful, bold testimony. We pray these things in your Name.

Keep Reading/Watching for More Insights.

- For 12/4/22 - Blessed, Chapter 7. For 12/11/22 - Blessed, Chapter 9.
- Steve Gregg on Revelation 18: www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOEDceDS-Tg
- www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-63/babylon-is-fallen-part-1
- www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-64/babylon-is-fallen-part-2
- www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-65/babylon-is-fallen-part-3