

## 26. The Defeat of the Dragon in Heaven

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain to others why it is so important to receive the blessings of the New Covenant while they have the opportunity. In this topic, we will learn about the defeat of Satan in heaven so that he can no longer be the accuser of the brethren.

Revelation 12:1-2 says, “Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.” We will see that this is the first of seven times signs are mentioned in the book of Revelation. The word “sign” is used to introduce various things that happen in the last half of the book. We can go back to the book of Genesis to interpret this sign. Genesis 37:9-10 says, “Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, ‘Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.’ So he told *it* to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, ‘What *is* this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?’” Here, we see that this dream speaks of Jacob (Israel) and his family.

Jacob clearly understood that the sun, moon and stars spoke of his family. This dream of Joseph had a near fulfillment when the brothers of Joseph bowed down to him in Egypt. However, we see that this event was used to introduce this sign as a picture of the nation of Israel. In Ezekiel 16:32, we see that Israel is pictured as the adulterous wife of God who is not faithful to God. That verse says, “*You are* an adulterous wife, *who* takes strangers instead of her husband. Then, in Hosea 2:16-17, we see that God says to Israel, “‘And it shall be, in that day,’ says the LORD, ‘*That* you will call Me ‘My Husband,’ And no longer call Me ‘My Master,’ For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals, and they shall be remembered by their name no more.’” We see here, in Revelation, that this woman (Israel) would be in labor pain to give birth to a child.

However, then we see that another sign appeared. Revelation 12:3-6 says, “And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.” We see that this sign is a fiery red dragon. These verses also describe Israel as well as the Child that would be born from the nation of Israel, whom we will see is Christ.

The name of this dragon is given in Revelation 12:9, where we read: “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” We see that this fiery red dragon is Satan. Satan is described as a red dragon having seven heads and ten horns with seven crowns on his heads. Daniel was given a number of visions which are recorded in the book of Daniel. We will see that

some of the things in these verses are interpreted in Daniel 7.

However, first we see that this dragon drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. We see the original rebellion of Satan against God in Isaiah 14:12-15, where we read: “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.” At that time, the sin of Satan was pride. Here, the third of the stars who followed Satan in his rebellion were the angels who followed him and became demons. Satan threw most of these demons to the earth to destroy the nation of Israel and the male Child who would come from that nation to defeat Satan.

When Christ was born, Satan tried to destroy Him. Matthew 2:16 says, “Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.” When Christ began His public ministry in Nazareth, He said that He was fulfilling the words of Isaiah, in Isaiah 61:1-2a. Luke 4:18-21 says, “‘The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.’ Then He closed the book, and gave *it* back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’” This caused great anger in the synagogue and Satan used the opportunity to again try to destroy Christ. Luke 4:28-29 says, “So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff.” Here, we see Satan tried to get the people of Nazareth to kill Christ.

Christ had stopped at the end of Isaiah 61:2a. However, the entire verse of Isaiah 61:2 says, “To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.” Here, we see that the second phrase speaks of the fact that one day Christ will come as the Judge “to rule all nations with a rod of iron.” When Christ finished the payment for sin, that also meant the judgment of Satan, we see that He was caught up to God and His throne. The last part of these verses speaks about the fact that Satan will also make a final effort to destroy the nation of Israel from which Christ came, when Revelation 12:6 says, “Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.” Here, we see that God is going to protect Israel from the final effort of Satan to completely destroy the nation of Israel.

Revelation 12:7-10 goes on to say, “And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called

the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.’” Here, we see that Satan will be cast out of heaven and cast to the earth.

Satan is the prince of the power of the air. Ephesians 2:2 says, “In which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.” In this description of our life, before we trusted in Christ, we also see that Satan is called the “prince of the power of the air”. In these verses, we see that Satan uses this position to serve as the accuser of our brethren. However, we see that God is going to give Michael and the other angels the responsibility to fight against Satan and his demons and cast them to the earth so that Satan will be confined to the earth and can no longer accuse the saints. Satan is the one who has deceived the whole world from the time of Adam and Eve. He will continue to deceive until he is sent to his eternal judgment. Revelation 20:7-8a says, “Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth.” Then, Revelation 20:10 adds, “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” Satan will seek to destroy as many people as possible in the time he has left.

Meanwhile, we see that there will be rejoicing in heaven because of the fact that the accuser of our brethren has been cast down. We see that a loud voice will speak in heaven. This means that no longer will any saints be accused to God. As a result, all in heaven can rejoice because the salvation of God has come. All believers will experience the full security described in Romans 8:38-39, where we read: “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” We will see the full power of God as He judges all those who rejected Christ and chose to receive His judgment.

We see that the kingdom of our God has come. In just a short time, Christ will come to rule the earth. Revelation 19:16 says, “And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” In just three-and-a-half years, the power of Satan will be defeated, except for the final short rebellion when Satan is loosed for a little season in Revelation 20:7-10. Then, Satan and all who have followed him, will be judged for eternity. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to warn all those who reject Christ, and follow Satan, that they will share in his judgment for all eternity. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain that Christ will show His power as He judges Satan and his followers.