

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Part 2: The Devil's Domain Diminished

Revelation 12:7-12

Introduction:

A. Satan's war

1. He waged war against the child (i.e. Christ who is God in the flesh)
 - a. He attempted to d_____ Him (v. 4)
 - b. But Christ emerged the victor and ascended to the t_____ of God in heaven (v. 5)
2. He waged war against the a_____ in heaven
 - a. Satan's gathered his army of a_____ (i.e. demons)
 - b. Michael, the a_____ angel (see Jude 1:9) gathered his army of angels

B. Some questions

1. How could Satan still be in heaven after losing the war against Christ?
2. How much power does Satan still have?

Satan's presence was removed from heaven

A. Before the ascension of Christ to God's throne, Satan and his demons had access to heaven.

1. Job 1:6-12 – Satan is among the heavenly assembly and then departed from the p_____ of the Lord to test Job's faith.
2. 2 Pet 2:4 and Jude 1:6
 - a. Are often interpreted to mean that the angels who sinned were judged immediately upon sinning. But three ways of translating 2 Pet 2:4a
 - 1) If God did not spare the angels when they sinned (NAS; ESV; NIV)
 - 2) If God did not spare the angels after they sinned (Wester's Poetic Translation)
 - 3) If God did not spare the angels that sinned (KJV; Amplified; NLT)
 - b. The context of the Peter shows the point NOT to be that God immediately punishes sin, but e_____

punishes it (vv. 1-3 is about the certain judgment of false prophets)

- 1) God waited _____ years to destroy the wicked world by the flood (2 Pet 2:5; Gen 6:3,7)
- 2) Sodom and Gomorrah was wicked for quite some time before God d_____ these cities (2 Pet 2:6)
- 3) Likewise, God did not immediately punish the angels who sinned but has r_____ them for judgment (v. 4)

B. After Jesus's ascension to the throne

1. Satan and his angels were not s_____ enough to hold their domain in heaven (v. 8a)
2. There was no p_____ for these sinful angels in heaven (v. 8b)

Satan's power is restricted to earth

A. Satan and his demons were thrown to the e_____ (v.9)

1. The announcement of rejoicing is made of what has finally arrived (v. 10)
 - a. S_____ and power generally
 - b. The kingdom of God and the authority of His C_____ specifically (Col 1:13; Matt 28:18)
2. The announcement of w_____ is made to those on the earth (v. 12)
 - a. Satan is full of w_____
 - b. Satan is exercising his power in anger because his time on earth is s_____ (v. 12).

B. Does this mean we should fear Satan?

1. Satan is called the a_____ of our brothers (i.e. believers in Christ) – verse 10.
2. These believers overcame Satan because of the b_____ of the Lamb (Christ's death) and the w_____ of their testimony (faithfulness) – verse 11

Satan is powerless in the realm of grace

A. Christ's b_____ is the power of grace and our faith is the testimony of that grace.

1. Matt 26:28 – Jesus shed His blood for the f_____ of sins.
 - a. He purchased the c_____ with His blood (Act 20:28)
 - b. He purchased b_____ with His blood (Eph 1:7)
 - c. Believers are justified (i.e. declared i_____) by Christ’s blood (Rom 5:9)
 2. Satan can no longer c_____ the grace and faith that you have.
- B. Satan used to accuse believers d_____ and n_____ before God (v. 10)
1. Job is one e_____ we have in the Bible (Job 1,2)
 2. Satan did not accuse Job only, but all believers (Rev 12:10)
- C. Since Satan was cast down to earth and Jesus sits on the throne in heaven:
1. When we sin we no longer have an a_____ who stands before God.
 2. When we sin we have an a_____ who stands before God (1 Jn 2:1)

Conclusion:

Satan lost the battle against Christ and against the good angels. His battle is now against believers. But he is powerless against us in the area of grace and faith. Next message we will see where his power is exercised in his battle against believers.