

## Spiritual warfare

### *Part three: Satan's strategy against Saints*

Revelation 12:6,13-17

#### **Introduction:**

- A. This series covers three battles:
1. Satan's battle against C\_\_\_\_\_ (he lost that war by Christ's death and resurrection)
  2. Satan's battle against M\_\_\_\_\_ and his angels (no place was found for Satan and his demons and they were forever barred from heaven and cast to the e\_\_\_\_\_).
  3. Satan's battle against the b\_\_\_\_\_
- B. Today we will cover Satan's battle against s\_\_\_\_\_ and the strategy he has.
1. Satan will be b\_\_\_\_\_ for 1000 years when Jesus returns (Rev 20:1,2)
  2. Satan knows that his time is s\_\_\_\_\_
  3. Satan's strategy is to delay Christ's coming by getting believers to take their focus off spiritual a\_\_\_\_\_ and spiritual g\_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Satan has a specific strategy against you but God gives us a strategy in engaging in spiritual warfare. What is the strategy that you will use?

#### **Satan wars to deprive us of nourishment (spiritual growth) – vv. 6,13-16**

- A. The chronology of events
1. Jesus ascended to the throne (v. 5)
  2. Satan tries to persecute the w\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 6)
    - a. The woman represents the first group of believers who witnessed Jesus ascending into the c\_\_\_\_\_
    - b. That group numbered over \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 15:6)
    - c. Jesus told them that they would have to w\_\_\_\_\_ for the Holy Spirit to come before being His witnesses (Acts 1:8).
    - d. This woman is the spiritual parent of all future believers since her offspring are describes in verse 17 as those who k\_\_\_\_\_ God's commands and hold to the testimony of Jesus.
  3. The woman escapes into the wilderness avoiding Satan's attempts where she is to be nourished for \_\_\_\_\_ days (v. 6b) - The first believers retreated to an u\_\_\_\_\_ room of a house in Jerusalem and gathered there without opposition.

4. Satan wars with Michael and his angels and Satan and his demons are cast down to earth (vv. 7-12)
  5. Satan makes a second attempt to persecute the woman but God keeps Satan from being successful and he nourishes the woman for a time, times, and ½ of a time.
    - a. This is a H\_\_\_\_\_ way of speaking which we find in Dan 7:25; 12:7)
    - b. It means 3 ½ p\_\_\_\_\_ of time, the context giving the time frame
    - c. In Revelation the context was 1260 days, which is about 3 ½ y\_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The original believers and their spiritual children were persecution free for 3 ½ years.
1. Acts 4 records the Jewish council j\_\_\_\_\_ the apostles for preaching the gospel but an angel miraculously releases them.
  2. Acts 5 records the Jewish council f\_\_\_\_\_ the apostles telling them not to preach the gospel anymore.
  3. The stoning of Stephen and the persecution against the church arose on the same day (Acts 8:1). which would be 3 ½ years after Christ's ascension.
- C. How did God nourish the first believers? – Acts 2:42 states that the early believers were devoted to the apostles' t\_\_\_\_\_ and to f\_\_\_\_\_, which involved sharing meals and praying.
- D. Satan's strategy against you is to deprive you of spiritual nourishment. Your strategy against him is to focus on spiritual nourishment:
1. Nourish yourself with God's w\_\_\_\_\_
    - a. Ps 119:11 – t\_\_\_\_\_ God's word keeps us from sinning against God.
    - b. Matt 4:4 – arms us against the devil's s\_\_\_\_\_ (see also Eph 6:11,17)
    - c. 2 Tim 3:16 – guards against wrong t\_\_\_\_\_ - anything that contradicts God's word is a lie (e.g. evolution, abortion)
    - d. 1 Pet 2:2 – learning more about the God who saved us grows us (never base your understanding of God on e\_\_\_\_\_ but only on His word)
  2. Nourish yourself with f\_\_\_\_\_
    - a. Heb 10:24,25 – make gathering with others a p\_\_\_\_\_ and think about how you can be an encouragement.
    - b. Pray for yourself and one another

- 1) Keep your eyes on God and you will take it off  
t\_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 26:41)
- 2) Line your w\_\_\_\_\_ with God's (Matt 26:42).

**Satan wars to deter us from obedience (spiritual activity) – v. 17**

A. God cannot work through disobedient vessels to bring the world to Christ.

1. Jonah was disobedient to God's command to p\_\_\_\_\_ to the Ninevites and so God had to work on Jonah to bring him to repentance.
2. Satan works to get us to disobey God so God spends His time working o\_\_\_\_\_ us rather than through us. (I Pet 5:8; Eph 4:27)

B. Satan's strategy

1. Direct route - Attacks our w\_\_\_\_\_ through temptation (we know when we are being tempted)
2. Deceptive route – Get us to fill our lives with “religious” things rather than the p\_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - a. *I can worship at home. I don't need to go to church as long as I pray, read His word.*
  - b. Being r\_\_\_\_\_ oriented rather than God- oriented.

C. Our strategy is to be God's strategy – Jms 4:17

1. S\_\_\_\_\_ to the person of God
2. R\_\_\_\_\_ the devil
3. Follow the above and the devil will f\_\_\_\_\_ from you.
  - a. When you are so full of the person of God, then God is all that Satan can s\_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Since Satan no longer has the ability to war against God, he will simply f\_\_\_\_\_

*What strategy will you follow for the next 7 days?*