

Revelation 12:7-17

Revelation 12:7-9 reflect war in the spiritual realm. Satan and his host are cast out of heaven.

Revelation 12:10-12 describes the three effects of the victory. This is the salvation (v.10) that has come, victory by the Lamb (v.11), and the devil coming to earth in great wrath.

[7] Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

[8] but they were 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.

[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 brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

V.10 begins the hymn of the anticipation of Christ's glory with the Father: "the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and authority of his Christ."

Satan no longer has any access to God as the accuser of the saints.

[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.

This great victory comes, not by mighty human armor, but by "the blood of the Lamb" and the "work of their testimony." Their lives are totally given to God.

Again, the blood of the martyrs is praised.

[12] Rejoice then, O heaven and you that dwell therein! 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!"

Heaven rejoices but earth is warned. Satan has come down to earth in great wrath. He knows that his time is short!

Vs. 13-16 Since Satan cannot destroy Christ, he turns to pursue the church.

[13] And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had borne the male child.

The woman is a picture of the church, the people of God.

This is where you and I live. Satan seeks to destroy the Church. Satan comes to kill, steal, and destroy.

[14] But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.

Of course, God provides protection to the woman by the aid of two great eagle wings, denoting the double power of spiritual flight. He bears us on eagles' wings.

Even then, the Church's suffering is only for a limited time – 3.5 years.

Three and one-half years is just half of the complete number seven, therefore incomplete and limited.

Why 3.5 years? This was the time of Ahab and Elijah – a time of great persecution that lasted 3.5 years (James 5:17). Elijah and others were nourished in the wilderness (1Kings 17-18).

[15] The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with the flood.

[16] But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river which the dragon had poured from his mouth.

Satan again attempts to destroy the church by a flood, but the earth itself comes to the rescue.

[17] Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea

Each Christian is a target of the dragon. John knew this reality on Patmos. Satan attempts to capture. This again is where we stand today – waiting for the final victory which is sure to come!