

## The Reality of Spiritual Warfare Part 1

**Text: Revelation 12:1-11** And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

**Purpose:** The following section of the book of Revelation is a vision meant to explain the ultimate cause of the constant conflict between God and the world, and the ultimate way in which God will deal with Satan and those who follow Him.

**Proposition:** God wants you to rest in His constant care in the midst of this persistent spiritual warfare.

**Interrogative:** How can we rest in His constant care?

### **Truth 1: We need to understand the reality of spiritual warfare.**

**Some passages:**

**Ephesians 6:10-20** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places...

**1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour...

**1 Thessalonians 2:17** We would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us...

**2 Corinthians 2:9-11** For to this end also did I write...Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices...

**Acts 5:3** Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

**Revelation 2:9-10** I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan... the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life...

## Several Misconceptions about Satan:

- Many people incorrectly believe that Satan doesn't exist:
- Many people are overly occupied with Satan:
- Many people take him to lightly:
- Many people believe they can use Satan for their benefit:
- Many people believe in Satan in theory, but not in practice:

## Who is Satan?

- **Created by God and for His glory: Colossians 1:16** By him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him...
- **Under God's sovereign rule. Job 1:7-12** And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.
- **Rebelle d after He was created: Ezekiel 28:15** Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee...
- **Tempted Eve in the Garden: Genesis 3:1-5** Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.
- **Is active in the world : 1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour...
- **Will be eternally judged by God on that final day: Revelation 20:10** And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever...

## A Properly Balanced View of Satan:

### Satan is a powerful creature:

- **He possesses a wealth of knowledge, power, and beauty beyond humanity: Ezekiel 28:12-15** Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering... Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy

mountain of God...Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee...

- **He is diligent and well practiced: Isaiah 14:13-15** O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit... **1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour...
- **He is well organized as a king over a mighty army: Ephesians 2:2** In time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience... **6:11-12** Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places...
- **We have a fallen body and mind: Romans 1-3**
- **He works through worldly people to resist the work of God: Revelation 2:8-10** I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life... **12-15** I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication...

### **Satan has significant limitations:**

- **He is a created being: Not all knowing, all-present, all powerful...**
- **He is under God's control: Job's testing**
- **He is God's pawn: Satan filling Judas heart to betray Christ**
- **Satan always loses: 1 John 2:14** I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one...
- **God has given the believer everything that they need to overcome the Devil: 1 Corinthians 10:13** There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it...
- **His defeat is already secured in the cross: Colossians 2:14-15** Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it...
- **His defeat will be final: Revelation 17:14** These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful...

### **Three Key Satanic Tactics:**

- He **deceives** by means of lies that resemble the truth: **John 8:44** Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it...
- He **distracts** by means of allurements, the world: money, pleasure, power, intrigue: **Revelation 3:17** Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked...
- He causes **division** in the body of Christ through false teachers who entice people through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. **2 Peter 2:1** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not...

**Conclusion:** God wants us to rest in His constant care in the midst of this persistent spiritual warfare. May that be the constant state of our hearts before the Lord!