

The Blood of the Lamb Revelation 12:7-12

Big idea today: The Devil is real - our Battle is real - but through Jesus we can be overcomers.

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 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.

10 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. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

So this crusty old guy living in the countryside just outside of NYC dies. And he doesn't go to heaven. He goes to the other place.

And there in hell, the devil wants to make things really miserable for him, so he gives them a horrible job of breaking rocks with a sledgehammer.

And he turns the heat up and the humidity, and checks on him a couple weeks later just to see if the punishment is adequate enough. And he goes and he finds this man from NY singing, seems happy with a smile on his face.

And the devil goes, "hey, I've given you the worst possible job in the worst possible place. How can you be so happy?"

And he says, "well actually, this hot, humid weather reminds me of being home in NY. It's like an August day back in NY. So I sort of feel like I'm back home."

So the devil didn't like that and he decided to change

his course of action, and he brought rain and wind to that hellish place.

After a couple of weeks he checked up on this man again- and found him slogging his way through the mud with the rocks wheel barrel. And yet the man is happy, smiling, singing.

The devil goes, "how can you be so happy?" And the man said, "well, actually this is very much like an April /May day in NY. This is like the spring time out on my property, and it just is so reminiscent of me being back home."

So the devil goes away, decides one last ditch effort to make this man miserable. And he brings the temperatures so low, subzero.

He goes back to check on this man. This time he's not only singing, he's dancing, he's swinging the sledgehammer around. He's just happier than ever before.

The devil says, "now wait a minute. It's 40 degrees below zero. There's snow and ice everywhere in hell. How can you be so happy?"

And the man from NY said with a big smile "hell has frozen over." That can only mean one thing. The Jets have won the Super Bowl. 😊

Now I share that crazy little story to make an illustration.

A) People have many misconceptions when it comes to the devil.

B) Number one, that he is not real at all. He is not a being at all.

C) He is a fictional character to be used in silly little stories and jokes like the one I just mentioned.

1) Or he is just a symbol of evil.

Misconception number two is that if the devil is real, he's hanging out in hell waiting to torment people who go there.

A) Nothing could be further from the truth. Would it shock you to know that Satan is not in hell?

B) Would it further shock you to know that Satan has never been to hell?

1) And that he won't go to hell until the end of the tribulation period.

And when he gets there, and he will get there, he will not be the chief tormentor, he'll be the chief target.

A) In Revelation 20 verse 10, we read, "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." Revelation 20:10

B) And as Bible-believing Christians, we come to understand by reading our bibles

1) that the devil right now has a certain amount of freedom and access, not only to the earth but to heaven itself.

C) For when we read the Book of Job, and it says, "one day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord and Satan was with them.

And the Lord said to Satan, 'where have you come from?' And Satan said, 'from going to and fro on the earth and walking back and forth on it.'

So Satan has been on earth but now he is standing before God in heaven

A) to give some kind of an account for his actions.

B) So he has enjoyed some kind of access, not only to earth but also to heaven.

C) And That is what we see here in Revelation 12:7 Satan in in Heaven

D) Revelation ch. 12 - is what is called a parenthetical chapter in the narrative of the book of Revelation

When you hear the word parenthetical -think parenthesis -

A) The Lord is pausing in the narrative to give us insight/ details in the story

B) We have been witnessing these horrific things that have been taking place on planet earth

1) thru the Seal Ch.6 and trumpet judgments 8-9

C) Then in Chapter 10-12 we have a pause in the story

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1) the Lord is going to let us in on some details happening

D) We will be looking at chapter 10-12 in their entirety this Wed night

But today- I want us to zero in on this scene that is taking place in heaven

A) As we look at this passage today - The first thing I want us to notice are some things about our enemy the Devil

B) Told to not be ignorant of the schemes of the Devil - important to know how he operates

And here's the first notable character trait about Satan.

A) Satan is persistent. Watch this, Verse seven is a shocker. It says, "and war broke out in heaven.

B) War in heaven?

1) Now when you think of heaven, do you think of heaven being a war zone? Nobody does.

C) You think of heaven as a worship zone. You have angels and music and joy and glory.

But John, in symbolic form looking at what's next in the future, sees war in heaven.

A) Something else that's a shocker-- this is not referring to a past war.

B) This is referring to a future war in heaven.

C) This is not in reference to a past War - that Ezekiel the prophet mentions when Satan cast out Ezekiel 28:14-18

¹⁴ You were an anointed guardian cherub, for I had appointed you. ¹⁵ From the day you were created you were blameless in your ways until wickedness was found in you.....

you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I expelled you in disgrace from the mountain of God, and banished you, guardian cherub,

¹⁷ Your heart became proud because of your beauty; For the sake of your splendor you corrupted your wisdom. So I threw you down to the ground; I made you a spectacle before kings.

Isaiah 14:12-17

"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!

¹³For 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;

¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

¹⁵Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

¹⁶Those who see you will gaze at you, *And* consider you, *saying*:

'Is this the ONE who made the earth tremble,
Who shook kingdoms,

C)NOW What we are reading about here in Rev 12 is not a repeat of those accounts when Satan was first cast out of heaven

D)This is a future War - that has a similar result V.7

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.

Which leads me to make an obvious point-- Satan finds it really hard to give up.

A)I mean he's lost the battle in the past, why would he think that he would stage another coup in the future?

B)Satan is persistent. -He finds it really hard to give up.

C)He knows he's going down. He's fighting a losing battle.

1)He knows that, but he wants to create as much chaos and bring as many people down with him as he can.

D)Like when a group of friends is trying to push you into a pool -

1)you want to take as many people in with you as possible

E)Satan finds it really hard to give up. He is persistent.

Jesus himself experienced the persistence of Satan.

A)We read in the New Testament that Satan came personally to Jesus to tempt him in the wilderness.

B)Three different attempts over those 40 days - Jesus resisted each advance and tactic of the Devil

C)So The Devil was defeated in that battle in the wilderness - Luke chapter four, verse 13. "Now when the devil had ended every temptation he departed from him until an opportune time."

D)Did you get that? He's looking for an opportune time to strike.

Peter said that Satan is like a roaring lion roaming around seeking whom he may devour.

A)What kind of a picture is that? Like a lion stocking its prey and studying it, trying to find the right time to attack. So he is persistent.

B)So here is John. He sees war in heaven. It's yet future,

C)And I want you to notice this battle is specific. It's against Michael and his angels.

1)Do you see that? Michael and his angels against the dragon and his angels.

D)I hope you take a little bit of comfort in the fact that the battle is between angels.

1)It's not God against the devil.

E)One of the biggest lies Satan tries to perpetrate is that he, the devil, is the opposite of God.

So We can have this concept floating in our heads

A)that there is this cosmic battle of the universe going on. - Boxing Match

B)And in this Corner, ladies and gentlemen, is God. And in this corner is the devil.

1)And they're at it. And who's going to win this round? No.

C)First of all, God doesn't fight. He just wins. There's really no battle.

D)I mean that-- it's as ludicrous as putting your 4th grader up against the Rock. Dwayne Johnson

E)I think you know who's going to win the battle-- not really a contest here.

So this is a battle against Michael and his angels and the dragon and his angels.

A)By the way, it's not the first time they have squared off. They have fought in times past.

B)If you know your Bible, in Jude, verse 9 we are told, "Michael the Archangel contended with the devil over the body of Moses."

C)Daniel prayed - the Lord dispatched an Angel to go to Daniel with an answer to his prayer.

1)But the Angel was held up by the Devil –

D)until Michael the Arch Angel came along - to help the Angel break through

E)If we could get a look into the spiritual realm - surprised by the battle we would see.

F)So The Devil is Persistent

Now let's look further. Look at verse 9 and 10. We discover something else about Satan-- he is Perverse. V.9 So the great dragon, he's described as, 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 them.

V.10 And then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, now salvation, strength, and the kingdom of our God and power of his Christ have come for the accuser of our brethren and who accused them before our God day and night has been cast down."

Now there are several names and descriptions given to the devil in these two verses that are sort of stacked up.

A)Notice them-- he's called a dragon.

B)Do you know that the Book of Revelation is the only book that calls Satan a dragon?

1)He's called a number of other things. 13 times in the Book of Revelation he's referred to as a dragon.

C)Why? Because that will be his character revealed in the end times.

D)He's A fierce tyrant-a dragon bringing destruction

He's also referred to here as the serpent of old, now reaching back to Genesis three

A)Speaking of how cunning he was and crafty and subtle and treacherous. - THE FALL

B)He's also given the most common name we know him by, the devil.

1)The devil is a word that means slanderer.

C)You might say gossiper, one who defames another, Diabolus is the word.

D)He is also called in this passage, Satan, which means enemy or adversary.

So just put those names together and here's what you have, the composite description of the devil.

A)He's a fierce tyrant who is very subtle, very crafty, who slanders and defames you and is your enemy.

B)That should make you happy. And I'm serious about that. That should make you happy.

C)Because if you want any kind of relationship at all with the devil, you want to make sure he's your

1)enemy and not your friend--

Charles Haddon Spurgeon wrote, "there is something very comforting in the thought that the devil is an adversary. I would sooner have him for an adversary than for a friend."

Notice also in that little passage that we just read, that he deceives the whole world. let that sink in.

A)Satan is the world's pastor. He shepherds the flock of the world

B)he sends them any possible type of deception it takes just to get people not to think about spiritual things,

1)like about salvation or Christ – any distraction or deception possible. He deceives the world.

C)Then finally in verse 10 he is called the accuser of THE brethren.

Satan, who has access both to earth and to heaven appears before God, to accuse people

A)And it says, he does so day and night. He spews out his accusations.

B)I am sure - if you are like me you have heard some of his accusations in your mind: your spirit

1)thoughts like, who do you think you are?

C)You're not a child of God. How can you say you're a Christian?

1) You don't belong here. How can you pray to God?

D) You have blown it so bad this time - God quit listening to your prayers a long time ago!
1) He is done with you.

E) How many of you have heard those accusations before?

You know, Satan really is a creep. I mean, think about it.

A) He tempts us and before we sin, he just tempts us to do it and says, go ahead, you can get away with it.

B) And then as soon as we give into the temptation and we sin,

1) then Satan comes on and goes, you'll never get away with that.

C) God is done with you now! -

D) That's what he's a master of, the accuser of the brethren. He is persistent and he is perverse.

As we keep on reading, and we will, find out something else about Satan. He is pernicious. -

A) He is outright wicked - notice what v.12 says about Satan: ¹² Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

B) Notice the word wrath. It means a violent outburst of rage.

C) What makes him so wrathful? He just got expelled from heaven. Now there is no more access to heaven

1) Now he is just confined to the earth.

D) Here the world will see the outright wickedness of The Devil and how he is only bent on destruction -

1) so he is taking out his wrath on everyone.

One scholar, John Phillips, in his commentary writes, "Satan is now like a caged lion, enraged beyond words by the limitations now placed upon his freedom. He picks himself up from the dust of the earth, shakes his fist at the sky and glares around, choking with fury for ways to vent his hatred and spite upon humankind."

Having no more access to heaven, he now vents all of his anger on the people of this earth. - Thru his ruler the Anti-Christ

A) His wrath will be poured out especially toward the Jewish people.

B) Daniel 9:27 tells us that the Anti-Christ is going to make a covenant with the Jewish people - 7 years

C) Solve the middle east problem - Jews and the Arabs - help them coexist on the temple mount

1) Help the Jewish people rebuild their temple (Wed night)

D) First 3 1/2 years - peace with Israel - peace in the middle east - but in the middle - Abomination of Desolation - Matt/ Daniel

E) The Jewish people will reject him - He goes to War against them

Now listen to the words of Jesus. In Matthew 24, Jesus said, "and when you see the abomination of desolation as spoken of by the prophet Daniel, you who are in Judea flee to the mountains and pray that your flight be not on the Sabbath day."

Jesus says that because in Jerusalem the transportation is shut down on the Sabbath. It makes it very difficult to get around

So The dragon, Satan, now confined to the earth will pour out his fury on the earth,

A) But especially targeting the people of Israel.

B) There will be a wave of anti-Semitism like the world has never seen.

C) So Satan is persistent - He is Perverse - He is Pernicious - outright wicked -

D) He is not your friend - Rob kill and Destroy. - His end game! - Wake up to the war

E) Someone said concerning the church in the West - Satan has been singing us a lullaby for decades -

1) Asleep to just how bad things are getting and the battle that we are in

But there is one more thing we need to note about him and this is it -

A) Yes is he Persistent - Perverse - Pernicious - but he is also preventable. -

Notice V.11 "They overcame him." (They, believers in the tribulation period,) overcame him, (him being Satan), by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony. And they did not love their lives to the death.

B)Satan is conquerable.

C)Now I know this is referring to tribulation believers,

1)but I think we can also apply this to our own experiences now?

What do you do when you're tempted?

A)What do you do when you're accused and hassled and depressed, and you feel the pressure of satanic force against you?

B)What do you do? get in a fetal position and give up. No.

C)You can overcome him. How? Well notice what it says, 1st "by the blood of the lamb."

You remember back in the Old Testament?

A)The children of Israel put the blood of a lamb on the door post of their homes in Egypt and judgment passed over them--

B)The blood put on the doorpost was in the shape and the sign of a cross-

C)Blood of the lamb was applied and death passed over them.

1)The blood of the lamb covered them

We can do the same! Apply the blood of Jesus Christ to our lives,

A)to all of those accusations that come from Satan.

B)You're not worthy. You're not good enough. You're this, you're that.

C)Apply the blood of the lamb.

D)Recognizing that Every sin that you have committed and will commit

1)has been covered by the blood of Jesus - Cross

E)Power in the blood of Jesus/

Jesus knew what He was buying on the cross—you!

A)Not the future version of you that you think will be all clean and tidy. - You now.

B)He loved you "before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4).

C)He knows your past and sees everything in your present and still calls you child,

1)and in John 15:14, He calls you friend!

D)He won't quit you or give up on you.-

Please hear me, friend; you cannot out sin the grace of God.

A)Abortion? Apply the blood -

B)Rebellion - Apply the blood

C)Slipped back into an addiction - apply the blood.

Whatever the sin - the Devil is holding over you today - apply the blood

D)There is NO CONDEMNATION.... Christ

1)Apply the Blood

E)Not a bone broken - Perpetual flow of blood - every sin!

1)Forever APPLY THE BLOOD

In 1 John 2:1 Jesus is called our Advocate - Defense attorney

A)Picture a courtroom - Satan is the prosecuting attorney -

B)lays out the case before you - all your sins - failures

C)Strong case: You are guilty - the more he talks the worse it gets

Then Jesus your Advocate your defense attorney stands up and says - that is all true. Rob is guilty as Sin.

A)But - I remind you judge - I already paid the price for all of those sins with MY BLOOD.

B) ² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. 1 John 2:2

C) Propitiation means satisfaction - His sacrifice satisfied the righteous requirement for our sins!

1) FINISHED - PAID IN FULL

God will bless you, not on your ability to be perfect or devoted or read your Bible 24 hours a day,

A) But he blesses you and loves you because of the finished work of his son for you, on your behalf.

B) That's the POWER OF blood of the lamb.

C) Spurgeon was right. He said, "nothing provokes the devil like the cross."

1) So you remind him of the cross.

Second, how did they overcome? by the word of their testimony--

A) Because of the Blood of the lamb you have a Testimony

B) You have a story, how you came to Christ. What God has done in your life,

1) how he has changed your life.

C) Everyone here has a testimony: Some saved out of the pit and the miry clay - set your feet upon a rock

1) Testimony of how Jesus rescued you - Drug addiction - Destructive behaviors -

Others of you have this testimony - not saved out of the pit - but from the pit

A) Jesus got a hold of you before you ended up there.

B) All you have to do is look and see what happened to some of your friends or a sibling or a cousin

C) That could have been me - I would have ended up on that road - Jesus saved me from the pit.

D) Testimonies are powerful - My Dad's testimony and transformation -

1) held me when I had doubts as a teenager

Later on in my life - it was the things God had done in my own life - that held me kept me -

A) Attacks and doubts from the enemy concerning my calling.

B) I couldn't deny what God had done in my life and through my life.

C) Power of a testimony

And finally, how did they overcome - How do we overcome "they did not love their lives to the death."

They did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die! NLT

A) Years ago, a missionary named James Calvert went to the Fiji Islands, then a very hostile region.

B) The captain of the ship taking these missionaries toward the Fiji Islands tried to stop Calvert, and said to him, "don't go to those islands.

1) They will kill you. You will be dead if you go."

C) James Calvert turned to the captain and said, "we died before we came."

The Apostle Paul said this about his life - 1 Corinthians 15:31 - I die daily!

A) Daily dying to his will - dying to his flesh - knowing I exist for Jesus

B) For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.

C) Like Calvert - Paul could say - I died before I went - I am in the process of dying daily.

Jesus said, "whoever loves his life, will lose it. Whoever hates his life in this world will keep it."

A) I suggest to you, people who live that way are unstoppable people. Nothing can threaten them.

B) Once you know how to die, you know how to live.

C) There will be many people who will turn to Jesus during the Tribulation time -

1) And they will do so knowing - it probably means they are going to die for their faith in Jesus

D) They will be an unstoppable force -

What about us today: The lines are being drawn in the sand - You are either A Follower of Jesus -

A) A Follower of His word - or you are not.

B) Jesus said - For me or against me - No neutral ground -

C) The choice to be for him - might not mean YET here in the USA - that WE are going to be killed

1) But it does mean - WE will be hated - it does mean that we will be labeled as a hate monger - bigot -

D)Do we love Jesus enough - that we are not afraid to die for him -

1)to have our reputation killed - by false accusations

Do we love Jesus enough to have friendships die

A)Because people forsake us and call us fanatical for following Jesus?

B)That is how we overcome!

C)To be an Overcomer is to embrace our calling to endure the brokenness of this world

1)and let others know there's a way out.

D)That God has made a way in Jesus for life to the full.

They overcame the Devil - they Overcame the system of this world - by the blood of the lamb, -

A)the word of their testimony and not being afraid to die for what they believed

B)So convinced that Jesus died for sin - Rose to give life -

C)So convinced that - He was coming again - Rule and Reign

What about us?