

HARK



FROM THE MOUTHS OF ANGELS

December 8, 2019
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The War on Christmas Revelation 12

Background on angels

- Angels should never be worshipped. Revelation 22:8, 9
- There are two kinds of angels: 1) Good ones that serve and worship God. 2) Evil ones called demons that serve and worship Satan, the first fallen angel. Ezekiel 28:11-19
- We know the names of two key angels at work during Christ's birth and second coming:
 - **Gabriel:** a messenger angel. Luke 1:26
 - **Michael:** a warrior archangel. He is a powerful angel that watches over Israel. Revelation 12:7; Daniel 10:13; 12:1; Jude 1:9

The not so silent night of Christmas. Revelation 12:1-5

The people in the war on Christmas:

- Woman = Israel. Revelation 12:1; Genesis 37:9-11
- Dragon = Evil angel, Satan. Revelation 12:3-4, 9; Daniel 7:7-8, 24
- Man child = Christ. Revelation 12:5

The events in the war on Christmas:

- Israel, specifically Mary, is giving birth to Jesus. Revelation 12:1-2
- The evil angel, Satan, stood over the birth scene ready to "devour" the baby Jesus. Revelation 12:3-4; Matthew 2:13-18
- The promise of Christ's rule as King will be fulfilled. Revelation 12:5

The Impact of that War Against Us. Revelation 12:9-10

"And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him... for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night."

- **Devil** = to slander, accuse
- **Satan** = adversary or enemy
- We can be deceived. **Deceive** = "*planao*" to orbit around the wrong values, and not know it.
- We will be attacked and accused falsely.
(See Digging Deeper on back for specific areas where we will be attacked/deceived.)

Our Victory in the War Against Us. Revelation 12:11

"And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death."

- A faith in Jesus' sacrifice to cleanse us of sin.
"*And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb...*" Read Hebrews 2:14-18; 10:22.
- Our confidence in living boldly for Christ. "*because of the word of their testimony.*" Read Hebrews 4:14-16.
- Our faithful and selfless life of sacrifice and perseverance. "*they did not love their life even when faced with death.*" Read Hebrews 10:19-25.

Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

Below are references showing where we are vulnerable to Satanic and demonic attacks on our lives today. Read each passage and consider how the evil angels are tempting, attacking and damaging these areas of our lives.

Are any of these areas especially hard on you today? Confess any sin; rebuke evil powers in the name of Jesus; meditate on Scriptures in Hebrews from front outline; Seek help from mature believers; Read 2 Corinthians 10:3–5, II Kings 6:8–23.

- **Marital discord.** I Corinthians 7:5
"...and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."
- **Unresolved anger.** Ephesians 4:26-27
"BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity."
- **Unforgiving spirit.** 2 Corinthians 2:6-11
"forgive.... so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes."
- **Lies of your life.** John 8:44
"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."
- **False teaching.** 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
"For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." Also read John 8:44; I Timothy 4:1; II Corinthians 10:3-5
- **Physical weakness, disease and doubts of God.** 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
"...there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!"
- **Anxiety.** 1 Peter 5:6–8
"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."
- **Refuse to believe in Jesus for salvation.** 2 Corinthians 4:4
"in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

In Response:

COMMUNION: Communion is a "meal" for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The matzah bread represents the body of Christ given for us. The cup of juice represents the blood of Christ that was shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). We typically pass communion elements the first Sunday of the month. Most other weeks, communion is available at tables around the room after the sermon.

PRAYER POINTS: These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.