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There Was War in Heaven, and Satan Was Hurled Down to the Earth 12: 7-12

There was war in heaven, and Satan was hurled down to the earth DIG: Where is Satan now? Where does the battle begin? Who are the central characters? What is the outcome of this conflict? What is the significance of this outcome for the earth? For believers? What events in the TaNaKh and the B'rit Chadashah parallel this passage?

REFLECT: When has the devil seemed most real to you? Why? How do you overcome the Adversary? How could you apply this strategy to your own life?

As part of **Satan's** war against **God**, **the devil** and **his** demons also battle against **the Lord's** holy **angels**. **Satan** is described as **the ruler of the kingdom of the air (Ephesians 2:2)**, as well as **the prince of this world (John 12:31, 14:30** and **16:11)**. It is not surprising then, that **his** travels include both the heavens and **the earth**. As a result, there has been **war in heaven** since the original sin of **Lucifer** and **his** rebellion against **God's** authority (see my commentary on **Isaiah, to see link click Dp – How You Have Fallen From Heaven, O Morning Star**).



In the middle of the Great Tribulation, while **war** breaks out on **the earth** between the antichrist and the ten kings, **there was** also **war in heaven. Michael**, the defender of **God's people**, **and his** holy **angels fought against the** archenemy **Satan**, **and the dragon and his** fallen **angels fought back. But Michael** will be victorious because **Satan was not strong enough,** thus **he and his** demons will lose **their place in heaven** forever **(12:7-8).** Of course, **the LORD** could have destroyed **Satan**, **the Adversary**, and **his demons** with merely a word, but **He** chose to allow **His** faithful holy **angels** to battle **the** wicked fallen **angels**.

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, How kind and loving **You** are! **You** died for all mankind **(John 3:16)** but **You** allow each individual person to make the choice to follow **You**. It is a personal decision, not a whimsical "OK, this seems good; I will try it and see if it works for me." The choice to love and follow **You** is a covenant relationship of love for eternity**. And He said to him, "'You shall love Adonai your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. (Matthew 22:37-38).** The end times- though full of pain and much death-holds no fear for those who love **You. You** will have raptured all who love **You** before the Great Tribulation begins, but the new believers who decide to love and follow **You** during the hard and cruel days of that time, can live without any fear. Even if they do die- they will go to live with **You** in heaven forever**! For to me, to live is Messiah and to die is gain – having a desire to leave and be with Messiah, which is far better (Philippians 1:21, 23b).** We bow in love of **You**, and look forward to worshipping **You** forever in*

*heaven. In the holy name of **Your Son** and **His** power of resurrection. Amen*

Michael, who has been defending **the people of ADONAI** for millennia, will defeat the armies of **Satan** and hurl them down to the earth. In **Dani'el 10:13**, after **Dani'el** had fasted for three weeks, the angel Gabriel explains his delay in coming: **The prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, come to my aide, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.** In **Dani'el 10:21**, Gabriel tells **Dani'el** about **Michael, your prince**; and the word **your** is plural – **Michael** is the great prince or guardian of **the** Jewish **people**, who fights alongside Gabriel against **the** fallen **angels** of Persia and Greece. **Dani'el 12:1**, speaking of the Great Tribulation, adds: **At that time, Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will rise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people – everyone whose name is found written in the book** of Life **– will be delivered.**

Long restrained from **his** vengeance, **Michael** will finally be permitted to enter into direct conflict with **his** ancient rival. **They** had met before, only not **in heaven** but on **the earth**. **But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him but** said: **May ADONAI rebuke you (Jude 9 CJB)!** In our own day, **Satan** has limited access to both **heaven** and **earth**, waging spiritual battle against **God** and **His** holy **angles.** What weapons and by what tactics this heavenly war will be fought we cannot imagine. It will truly be Star Wars.

The concept of **Satan in heaven** is difficult to comprehend. It is clear that **the devil** is now the accuser of the faithful **(12:10)**. Although **that ancient serpent** was defeated at the Cross, **his** sentence has not yet been fully carried out. When **Lucifer** first rebelled against **ADONAI** eons ago and lost **his** permanent home in **heaven**, **Yeshua** said: **I saw Satan fall like lightening from heaven (Luke 10:18).** But **he** relentlessly continues to fight **his** losing battle against **God** and **he** still has access to the throne of **the LORD (Job 1:6-12, 2:1-7).** Here, at this stage, **he** is thrown out of heaven for good. But contrary to popular belief **Satan** is not in hell. In fact, **he** has never been there. **He** will not be sentenced to **the lake of burning sulfur** until after **his** final rebellion is crushed at the end of the Messianic Kingdom **(20:7-10).** And even then **the devil** will not be in charge. **He** will be the foremost prisoner, undergoing the most punishment of anyone there.

The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil,

or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his fallen **angels with Him (12:9).** The phrase **leads astray** is translated from the present participle of the Greek verb *plano,* which means *to deceive, or to mislead.* The use of the present tense points to the fact that this is **Satan's** normal activity. As **he** constantly accuses believers, **he** also continuously **leads the whole world astray.**[292] The educated and ignorant, the king and the pauper, male and female, Jew and Gentile, the strong and the weak, the young and the old, every race – all are deceived by him. All the world's philosophies, conceived ever so brilliantly by profound thinkers – whether pragmat*ism*, ideal*ism*, Gnostic*ism*, determin*ism*, hedon*ism*, material*ism*, transcendental*ism*, existential**ism**, de*ism* or any other *ism*, all are man-originated, man-centered, and man-honoring, rather than **God**-originated, **God**-centered and **God**-honoring. They are all merely varieties of humanism rather than theism, exalting man rather than **God** and, thus, helping **Satan** carry out **his** plan to usurp **God** and his throne.

Moreover, all these humanistic endeavors are based upon the denial of **the LORD's** Word as supreme, true and final. As someone once said, "**God** said it, I believe it, and that does it." Like the **tradition of the elders (Matthew 15:1-3)**, these humanists elevate the reasoning of mankind above the Bible. They get this from their **father of lies (John 8:44b). Did God really** say: **You must not eat from any tree in the garden (3:1b)?** This was **Satan's** first deception as **he** tempted Eve, and **he** has followed the same plan of attack ever since. If you haven't noticed, however, it works. If he can persuade men and women to question, to doubt, to modify, to allegorize, to compromise **God's** Word, and then to finally disobey, reject, and destroy it, then **he** will defeat **ADONAI's** purposes in the lives of **His** children.[293]

The ancient *serpent's words always appear to be truthful. But* ***he*** *whitewashes it,* ***he*** *sugarcoats it.* ***He*** *deceives people because* ***his lies*** *always have an element of truth mixed in. However, at its very core, still a lie.* ***Truth*** *and error, an ancient parable said, went swimming together and error wanted to drown* ***truth****. Yet even though there was a great struggle,* ***truth*** *was overcome and when error came up out of the water,* ***truth*** *was being carried by error. That's what* ***the devil*** *does;* ***he*** *puts a thin layer of* ***truth*** *over* ***his*** *big fat lie so it goes down easier. Don't be fooled by* ***him, he was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him*** **(John 8:44a).**

The repetition of the names and titles of the wicked one in **12:9** are striking – **the great dragon, that ancient serpent, the devil** and **Satan [the Adversary**

CJB]. The ancient serpent in **Genesis** is **the great dragon** of **Revelation**, as well as **the Satan** who tested **Job** and **the devil** who tested **Messiah**. **He** is the great enemy of **God** and **God's people** through the ages. **He** often **masquerades himself as an angel of light (Second Corinthians 11:14)**, but **he** is really a snake, a fiery **dragon** and a devouring **lion (First Peter 5:8)**.[294]

The Adversary's banishment **to the earth** will bring two results. First, **the great dragon's** access to **heaven** will be revoked, and **he** will no longer be able to stand **before** the throne of **ADONAI** and continually accuse believers**. Then John heard a loud voice in heaven** proclaim: **Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of God** the Father**, and the authority of His Son, Yeshua Messiah.** This announcement, like that of **11:15**, is in the proleptic aorist tense and describes the Second Coming as if it had already happened. **For the Accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down (12:10).**

Radovan Karadzic, once the leader of the Bosnian Serbs and accused of genocide in 1995, and had been one of the most wanted men in the world. But by growing a long, white beard, carrying false papers, and practicing alternative medicine, he fooled many by disguising himself. Right from the beginning of human history, **Satan** pretended to be an enlightened advisor, telling Eve that **the LORD** was not honest with her **(Genesis 3:4)**. **He masquerades as an angel of light (Second Corinthians 11:14)**, but praise **the Lord Jesus Christ**, **he** doesn't disown us because of our sins. **He** is faithful to **His** Word. Our salvation is not based upon our performance, but upon **His** sacrificial death on the cross. Our security is based on **God** holding on to me, not me holding on to **God**.

People often err at two extremes in their view of **Satan**. Some dismiss **him** while others attribute more power to **him** than **he** deserves. Let us not be deceived. **Satan** is powerful as **the god of this age (Second Corinthians 4:4)**. But the Church need not cower in fear, because **He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world (First John 4:4).** The day is coming when **the devil** will be **thrown into the lake of burning sulfur (20:10).** Until that day, let's not be deceived but rather live godly lives that reflect the image of **the Messiah**, for **He** is **a man of truth; there is nothing false about Him (John 7:18).**[295]

Believers will have the power to overcome **Satan** during the Great Tribulation **by** trusting in **the blood of the Lamb (Romans 3:25), and** also **by** fearlessly living **the word of their testimony. They** will **not love their lives so much as to**

shrink from the death of martyrdom **(12:11). They** loved their **Lord** more than life itself and willingly suffered death rather than deny **their Messiah**. **Jesus** said: **He who stands firm to the end will be saved (Matthew 24:13). Their** martyrdom was **their** victory over **Satan**; it proved that **his** accusations against **them** were empty **lies**.[296]

But the second result of **Satan's** confinement **is** that **he is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short**, namely, three-and-a-half-years**.** During that period of time **Satan's fury** will be directed at anyone belonging to **God**, especially Isra'el. **Satan** is already a defeated foe – and **he** knows it. Because of the **devil's** wrath, it will be a **woe to the earth and the sea (12:12b)!** Heaven's cleansing will be earth's pollution. **He** is desperate.

When **Michael** prevails, **heaven** will celebrate its great triumph after **Satan** and **his demons** have been thrown out. **Therefore, rejoice you heavens and you who dwell in them (12:11-12a)!** For us here on **earth**, no matter how hopeless your situation looks, no matter how furiously **Satan** rages against you, you can take comfort in knowing that **his** ultimate defeat is as certain as if it had already happened. Just read the back of the Book. Oh! That's right, you already are!