

SPIRITUAL WARFARE – SCRIPTURAL BASIS

Background of the Spiritual War

It Is a Cosmic War – Rev. 12:1-12

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a **woman clothed with the sun**, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars (i.e. **Israel**). Then **being with child**, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, **fiery red dragon** having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew **a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth**. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. She bore a **male Child who was to rule all nations** with a rod of iron. And her Child was **caught up to God and His throne**.

Then the woman **fled into the wilderness**, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. And **war broke out in heaven**: 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. 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**.

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. "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**.

"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."

Lucifer's Downfall – Ezekiel 28:12-19

"Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, [i.e. a type of **Satan**] and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and **perfect in beauty**. You were **in Eden, the garden of God**; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

"You were **the anointed cherub** who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, **Till iniquity was found in you**.

"By the abundance of your trading You became **filled with violence** within, And you **sinned**; Therefore I cast you as a **profane thing** Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. Your **heart was lifted up** because of your beauty; You **corrupted your wisdom** for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.

"You **defiled your sanctuaries** By the **multitude of your iniquities**, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to **ashes upon the earth** In the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; **You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever**."

The Curse on Satan & His Prophesied End – Genesis 3:14-15

So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are **cursed** more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. And I will put **enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed**; He shall bruise your **head**, And you shall bruise His **heel**." (i.e. **Satan wins some battles but Christ defeats him**)

The Final Disposition of Satan – Eternal Torment – Revelation 20:7-10

Now when the thousand years have expired, **Satan will be released from his prison** and will go out to **deceive the nations** which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

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**.

Characteristics of the Devil

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more **cunning** than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.

Eph 2:2 the **prince of the power of the air**, the spirit who now works in the **sons of disobedience**,

2Cor. 4:3-4 But even if our gospel is **veiled**, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴whose **minds the god of this age has blinded**.

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

2 Cor 11:14 Satan himself **transforms** himself into an **angel of light**.(i.e. the great **deceiver**)

John 8:44 He was a **murderer** from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is **no truth in him**. When he speaks a **lie**, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a **liar** and the **father** of it.

John 10:10 The **thief** does not come except to **steal**, and to **kill**, and to **destroy**.

Spiritual War Requires Spiritual Weapons – Ephesians 6:12-20

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the **word of God**; **praying always** with all prayer and supplication **in the Spirit**, being **watchful** to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints; and for me, that utterance may be given to me, **that I may open my mouth boldly** to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am **an ambassador in chains**; that in it I may **speak boldly**, as I ought to speak.

Taking Down Enemy Strongholds – 2Corinthians 10:3-6

For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war according to the flesh**. ⁴For the **weapons of our warfare** are not carnal but **mighty in God** for **pulling down strongholds**, ⁵casting down **arguments** and every high thing that **exalts itself** against the knowledge of God, bringing **every thought into captivity** to the obedience of Christ.

Victory is Assured if we Put Christ First – Colossians 1:13-18

He has **delivered us** from the power of darkness and **conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son** of His love, in whom we have **redemption** through His **blood**, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the **invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him **all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, **whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers**. All things were created through Him and for Him.

And He is **before all things**, and in Him all things consist. And He is the **head of the body**, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the **preeminence**.

It is the Lord's Power that Defeats the Devil, Not Ours

Matt. 28:18 All **authority** has been given to Me in **heaven** and on **earth**.

Ephesians 1:20-21 He [God] raised Him [Jesus] from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, **far above all principality and power and might and dominion**, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put **all things under His feet**,

Rev. 1:18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am **alive forevermore**. Amen. And **I have the keys of Hades and of Death.**"

The Primary Weapon of the Battle is the Word of God – Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be **tempted by the devil**. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "**It is written**, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "**It is written again**, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "**Away with you, Satan! For it is written**, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Don't Give the Enemy any Strongholds in You!

Eph 4:26-27 "Be angry, and **do not sin**": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor **give place to the devil**."

2Cor. 2:8-11 Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him. ⁹For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are **obedient in all things**. ¹⁰Now whom you **forgive anything**, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, ¹¹**lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices**.

Pride - The Genesis of All Sin – Isaiah 14:12-15

"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! For 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; **I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.**' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

Genesis 3:4-6

Then the serpent said to the woman, "**You will not surely die**. (a lie) "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree **desirable to make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate.

Characteristics of the Last Days

1Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times **some will depart from the faith**, giving heed to **deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**,