

**The Dragon
The Dragon = Satan = Lucifer = The Enemy
Revelation 12**

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Revelation 12:1–6

“A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And **the dragon** stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.” (NASB95)

As we learned last week, Revelation 12:1-6 provides us real time information about the birth of Messiah, using general revelation. This general revelation is in the form of star charts and planetary movement giving us a window of about 90 minutes in the early evening of September 11, 3BC for the birth to take place.

Isaiah 27:1

“In that day the LORD will punish **Leviathan the fleeing serpent**, With His fierce and great and mighty sword, Even **Leviathan the twisted serpent**; And He will kill **the dragon who lives in the sea.**” (NASB95)

Throughout the scripture, the image of the dragon, of a large monster also called Leviathan, comes up. In the Bible, the sea is a picture of the nations as well as a picture of chaos. “The modern sense of the word, i.e. ‘disorder’, developed only slowly and is not attested before the later Imperial Period.” (van der Horst 1999, 185)

The Greek word χάος (related to χάσκω or χάϊνω, ‘gape, yawn’) literally means ‘chasm’ or ‘yawning space’. There were various conceptions of it in Greco-Roman antiquity, because in various mythical cosmogonies Chaos played very different roles. The word occurs only twice in the Greek Bible, in Mic 1:6 and Zech 14:4, each time as a translation of the Hebrew *gy*, ‘valley’; and 2 times in the Greek fragments of 1

Enoch (10:13) and Jubilees (2:2), where it seems to be used for the abyss where the evil angels have been incarcerated forever. (van der Horst 1999, 185)

Moving beyond the basic information presented in these verses, we come to Revelation 12: 3 – 4 and what is provided other than the placement of Scorpio, Virgo, Leo.

We learn about the third player of the drama of the Great Tribulation, the great red dragon.

Δράκων – drakon is the Greek word used. It is used throughout the scriptures for a large monster which often appears as opponent of God or his people. It is often related to the sea and can be identified or associated with a snake (Serpent). In the NT the word only appears in Revelation (13 occurrences). (van Henten 1999, 265)

Mesopotamian, Hittite, Canaanite, Egyptian, Iranian and Greek myths describe battles between a figure representing chaos and causing rebellion and a (still young) supreme god who restores the order of the gods by overcoming the monster: Marduk versus Tiamat, the Weather God versus Illuyankas, Baal versus Yam (Sea), Horus versus Seth, Indra versus Vritra, Apollo versus Python and Zeus versus Typhon. (van Henten 1999, 265)

The dragon of Rev (12:3–4, 7, 9, 16–17; 13:2, 4, 11; 16:13 and 20:2) is a combination of several traditional figures, as appears from Rev 12:9. The dragon is identified with the old snake of Gen 3 (cf. Rev 12:15–16) and the one who is called Devil (Seducer) and Satan (cf. 12:10: “the Accuser”). Like in Isa 27 the context of the appearance of the dragon is transposed from primordial time or even the creation (see e.g. Ps 74) to the final period of history (cf. Sib. Or. 8:88). (van Henten 1999, 266)

There is, then, a Devil. Of this the chapter before us is authoritative proof. If there were no other passages on the subject, this would be sufficient to settle the question. But we read of him from the very beginning. In the Pentateuch, in Job, in the Gospels, and in the Epistles there are the most direct allusions to him, his origin, his malignity, and his works. The Bible tells of evil spirits, and of Satan as the head of them. Reason is reluctant to receive such doctrine. It is one of the favorite resorts of Satan to try to persuade men that no such being as he exists. Some think it impossible for such an evil power to find place in the realm of almighty Goodness. But there is no greater difficulty in explaining or construing the existence of wicked angels than the existence of wicked and devilish men. The very nature of moral government implies and necessitates the possibility of evil. God never made an evil being; but, having constituted moral agents, the ability to do wrong as well as good had to be in them. And with the ability to do wrong, there is nothing improbable in the doctrine that some have exercised that ability, perverted their being, and lost their character, standing and place as holy creatures. (Seiss 1901, 296-297)

We also see that a third of the stars, a third of the heavenly host, ceased to be faithful and followed the dragon in his rebellion.

“So verse 4 here refers to the initial victory when Satan seduced a third of the heavenly host to join him, and 12:7–9 tells of the actual battle when they are cast out of heaven and become “fallen angels.” After his partial victory in heaven (Satan’s view), the dragon takes the conflict to earth, first against Christ and then against his followers. He “stands in front of the woman” so as to devour the child as soon as it is born.” (Osborne 2016, 206-207)

The declaration of war against the rebellion was announced by God in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:14–15

“The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”” (ESV)

Jesus referred to that event from the past in Luke 10:18, “And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” (ESV)

The dragon and his fallen ones have already been cast out.

We see this dragon, after being thrown down to earth with a third of the stars, standing before the woman, Israel, in order to destroy Messiah, referring to a historical event that took place. The attempt by Herod to destroy Messiah.

Matthew 2:13–21

“After they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt,” he said. “Stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and kill him.” So Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left at night for Egypt. He stayed there until Herod’s death in order to fulfill what was declared by the Lord through the prophet when he said, “Out of Egypt I called my Son.” Herod flew into a rage when he learned that he had been tricked by the wise men, so he ordered the execution of all the male children in Bethlehem and all its neighboring regions, who were two years old and younger, according to the time that he had determined from the wise men. Then what was declared by the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled when he said, “A voice was heard in Ramah: wailing and great mourning. Rachel was crying for her children. She refused to be comforted, because they no longer existed.” But after Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. “Get up,” he said. “Take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead.” So Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went into the land of Israel.” (ISV)

About the dragon already being cast out.

Isaiah 14:12–15

“Look how you have fallen from the sky, O shining one, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the ground, O conqueror of the nations! You said to yourself, “I will climb up to the sky. Above the stars of El I will set up my throne. I will rule on the mountain of assembly on the remote slopes of Zaphon. I will climb up to the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High!” But you were brought down to Sheol, to the remote slopes of the pit.” (NET)

Paul makes reference to this in 2 Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 4:3–4

“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 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.” (NASB95)

Also, recall that when Satan tempted Jesus right after He placed the fallen ones on notice that He was here, Jesus did not argue about a point that Satan brought up.

Matthew 4:8–11

Again, the devil took Him to a very 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 fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’ ” Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him. (NASB95)

Here, for the first time, we learn that these satanic angels constituted a third of all the angels. That the stars in the sign correspond to the devil’s angels is evident from verses 7–9. When Satan was cast to the earth out of his position at God’s throne, the great host of angels who followed him in his rebellion were also forced to follow him out of heaven, thereby all becoming “the rulers of the darkness of this world” (Ephesians 6:12). They are now “the principalities and powers” who were “spoiled” at the cross by the Lord Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:14, 15). (Morris 1983, 219)

The attempt by Satan to stop Messiah at His birth was not the first attempt to destroy Him. The first attempt was Cain killing Abel. This was followed by Genesis 6 and the descent to Mount Hermon. The attempt to destroy the threatened Messiah promised in Genesis 3 by destroying the human gene pool and corrupting man.

By the time of Moses birth, Satan was working in Pharaoh to destroy all the male children. Over and over again Satan has attempted to stop the plan of God by attacking those who would be the source of Messiah.

Exodus 1:22

Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive." (NASB95)

Saul and his numerous attempts to kill David. Attempts to destroy the line of David during the period of the two kingdoms.

Haman's almost successful attempt to kill all Jews stopped because of Queen Esther.

Esther 4:13–14

"Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (ESV)

Recall Satan thought he had won when he incited the Jews and Romans to crucify Jesus, but instead he signed his own death warrant.

1 Corinthians 2:6–8

"However, when we are among mature people, we do speak a message of wisdom, but not the wisdom of this world or of the rulers of this world, who are passing off the scene. Instead, we speak about God's secret wisdom that has been hidden, which God destined for our glory before the world began. None of the rulers of this world understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory." (ISV)

What we have seen since the coming of Messiah is a change in tactics to destroy all of the Jewish people. If there is no Jew left to ask for Messiah to come and save them during the tribulation

Zechariah 13:9

"And I will carry over the third part through fire, and I will make them red-hot like silver tried by fire, and I will test them like gold that has been tested. He will call on my name, and I will hear him, and I will say, 'This is my people,' and he will say, 'The Lord is my God.'" (LES2)

Zechariah 12:10

"I will pour out on the house of David and on the residents of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and of supplications, and they will look to me—the one whom they pierced." Then they will mourn for him, as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for him, as for a firstborn son." (ISV)

Zechariah 10:6

"I will fortify the house of Judah, and the house of Joseph I will save. I will surely bring them back, because I care about them. They will be as if I had never cast them away. Since I am the LORD their God, I will answer them." (ISV)

Instead of devouring the child and the woman, Messiah is resurrected and ascends to the Father.

Revelation 12:5–6

“And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.” (NASB95)

The term used here for “caught up” is the same Greek work used in 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

1 Thessalonians 4:17

“Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.” (ESV)

The phrase “caught up” is based on the word ἀρπάζω (harpazo), in the Latin raptura. Not only is the male child caught up, but so are His followers.

Now that we have arrived at the mid-point of the Tribulation period, the beginning of the Great Tribulation, it is time for the woman, Israel, to go into hiding, which we see referenced in verse 6. She is the only one left for the dragon to attack.

Matthew 24:15–16

“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” (ESV)

Daniel 12:11–12

“From the time that the daily sacrifice is removed and the abomination that causes desolation is set in place, there are 1,290 days. Blessed is the one who waits and attains to the 1,335 days.” (NET)

Escape to Moab 1,260 (42 months). From start to finish, 1,290 (43 months). From start to Kingdom, 1,335 days (44.5 months.)

Matthew 25:31–36

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’” (ESV)

1,290 days?

Isaiah 16:1–5

“Send rams as tribute to the ruler of the land, from Sela in the desert to the hill of Daughter Zion. At the fords of the Arnon the Moabite women are like a bird that flies about when forced from its nest. “Bring a plan, make a decision! Provide some shade in the middle of the day! Hide the fugitives! Do not betray the one who tries to escape! Please let the Moabite fugitives live among you. Hide them from the destroyer!” Certainly the one who applies pressure will cease, the destroyer will come to an end, those who trample will disappear from the earth. Then a trustworthy king will be established; he will rule in a reliable manner, this one from David’s family. He will be sure to make just decisions and will be experienced in executing justice.” (NET)

Daniel 11:36–45

“The king will do as he pleases, exalting himself and claiming to be greater than every god, even blaspheming the God of gods. He will succeed, but only until the time of wrath is completed. For what has been determined will surely take place. He will have no respect for the gods of his ancestors, or for the

god loved by women, or for any other god, for he will boast that he is greater than them all. Instead of these, he will worship the god of fortresses—a god his ancestors never knew—and lavish on him gold, silver, precious stones, and expensive gifts. Claiming this foreign god's help, he will attack the strongest fortresses. He will honor those who submit to him, appointing them to positions of authority and dividing the land among them as their reward. Then at the time of the end, the king of the south will attack the king of the north. The king of the north will storm out with chariots, charioteers, and a vast navy. He will invade various lands and sweep through them like a flood. He will enter the glorious land of Israel, and many nations will fall, but Moab, Edom, and the best part of Ammon will escape. He will conquer many countries, and even Egypt will not escape. He will gain control over the gold, silver, and treasures of Egypt, and the Libyans and Ethiopians will be his servants. But then news from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in great anger to destroy and obliterate many. He will stop between the glorious holy mountain and the sea and will pitch his royal tents. But while he is there, his time will suddenly run out, and no one will help him.” (NLT)

Just as when Israel fled Egypt into the wilderness and was kept and fed by YAHWEH for 40 years, He will do the same as they escape to the east of Israel and are kept for 1,260 days.

Attention is then directed, however, to the mother of the child, again represented as Israel. Here she is seen in the time of great tribulation as fleeing into the wilderness to a place prepared of God where for 1,260 days she is cared for (again the exact length of three and one-half years). (Walvoord 2008, 191)

At this point in the Tribulation, there is one final attempt by the enemy to take the ground they have desired and wanted for thousands of years, refer to Isaiah 14:12-15 again.

YAHWEH has a distinctly different opinion as it pertains to the idea of the dragon being successful in his endeavor.

Revelation 12:7–9

“And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 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.” (NASB95)

Ezekiel 28:12–19

“Son of man, sing a lament for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: “ ‘You were the sealer of perfection, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every precious stone was your covering, the ruby, topaz, and emerald, the chrysolite, onyx, and jasper, the sapphire, turquoise, and beryl; your settings and mounts were made of gold. On the day you were created they were prepared. I placed you there with an anointed guardian cherub; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked about amidst fiery stones. You were blameless in your behavior from the day you were created, until sin was discovered in you. In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned; so I defiled you and banished you from the mountain of God— the guardian cherub expelled you from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom on account of your splendor. I threw you down to the ground; I placed you before kings, that they might see you. By the multitude of your iniquities, through the sinfulness of your trade, you desecrated your sanctuaries. So I drew fire out from within you; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth before the eyes of all who saw you. All who know you among the peoples are shocked at you; you have become terrified and will be no more.’ ”” (NET)

This event in Revelation 12 is the same event that Daniel revealed in Daniel 12.

Daniel 12:1

“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.” (NASB95)

“This event marks the beginning of the great tribulation defined in Daniel 12:1. It is undoubtedly the same event as in Revelation 12. Of course it seems strange that Satan should have access to the very throne of God, yet this is precisely the picture of Job 1, where Satan along with other angels presents himself before God and accuses Job of fearing God because of God’s goodness to him. Thus early in biblical revelation Satan is cast in the role of the accuser of the brethren, the title given him in Revelation 12:10. Beginning at this point in Revelation, therefore, Satan and his hosts are excluded from the third heaven, though their temporary dominion over the second heaven and the first heaven continues. Satan’s defeat in heaven, however, is the occasion for him to be cast into the earth and explains the particular virulence of the great tribulation time.” (Walvoord 2008, 192)

This is a war that has been going on for a long time. It appears that access at present is available to Satan but that is to end with great finality in Revelation 12.

Zechariah 3:1–2

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. The LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?” (NASB95)

Job 1:6–12

“Now the day came when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD—and Satan also arrived among them. The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” And Satan answered the LORD, “From roving about on the earth, and from walking back and forth across it.” So the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a pure and upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil.” Then Satan answered the LORD, “Is it for nothing that Job fears God? Have you not made a hedge around him and his household and all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his livestock have increased in the land. But extend your hand and strike everything he has, and he will no doubt curse you to your face!” So the LORD said to Satan, “All right then, everything he has is in your power. Only do not extend your hand against the man himself!” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.” (NET)

Job 2:1–7

“Again the day came when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also arrived among them to present himself before the LORD. And the LORD said to Satan, “Where do you come from?” Satan answered the LORD, “From roving about on the earth, and from walking back and forth across it.” Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a pure and upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil. And he still holds firmly to his integrity, so that you stirred me up to destroy him without reason.” But Satan answered the LORD, “Skin for skin! Indeed, a man will give up all that he has to save his life! But extend your hand and strike his bone and his flesh, and he will no doubt curse you to your face!” So the LORD said to Satan, “All right, he is in your power; only preserve his life.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and he afflicted Job with a malignant ulcer from the sole of his feet to the top of his head.” (NET)

John 12:31

“Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.” (NASB95)

Romans 8:31–34

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns?

Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.” (NASB95)

Hebrews 7:25

“Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” (NASB95)

Jude 9

“But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”” (NASB95)

Daniel 10:13

“But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.” (NASB95)

Daniel 10:20–21

“Then he said, “Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come. “However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.” (NASB95)

Satan’s being cast out of heaven to the earth is the result not of his contest with the Lord Himself, of which it is only an incident leading to a new phase, but of the appointed conflict with his faithful fellow-angels led on by the archangel Michael. (Alford 1976, 669)

Satan and his army is not strong enough to defeat Michael. Note, there is no intervention even needed by God as Michael and his army is sufficient for the task before them.

These words mean that evil is already hurled from its seat of power which it had hitherto held, and that the first and most important stage in the conquest of Satan had already been achieved. His sphere is henceforth more limited. (Charles 1920, 324)

In 12:4 this war is seen from Satan’s perspective as he sweeps a third of the angelic realm from heaven to earth. Now the whole story is told, and we see how short-lived that seeming victory was. The actual battle was not between God and Satan; Michael and the heavenly host were more than enough to fight and defeat Satan and the fallen angels. There is no dualism in the book between Satan and God; they are not equal. The dragon’s adversary is the archangel Michael, and he is the more powerful of the two. (Osborne 2016, 209)

2 Enoch 29:4 – 5

But one from the order of the archangels deviated, together with the division that was under his authority. He thought up the impossible idea, that he might place his throne higher than the clouds which are above the earth, and that he might become equal to my power. And I hurled him out from the height, together with his angels. And he was flying around in the air, ceaselessly, above the Bottomless. (Charlesworth 1983, 148)

What we see, is the warfare that goes on everyday, coming to a head during the mid-point of the Tribulation, and the fallen ones being losing all access and knowing that their time is indeed very short. This is after demons terrorizing earth dwellers as well as killing earth dwellers, now they and the fallen ones are earth dwellers as well.

We also learn that terms that we have seen throughout the Bible, are all about the same person.

Revelation 12:9

“And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil (slanderer) and Satan (accuser), who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.” (NASB95)

We also clearly see that he has angels with him, those who believed the lie and followed.

Revelation 12:10

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.” (NASB95)

This verse shows us that an element of salvation is total deliverance from Satan and all his accusations. He no longer has access to accuse.

That individual who was a covering cherub (Ezekiel 28:14), one of the two cherubs whose wings are over the throne of God, seen in the imperfect image we have of the Holy of Holies.

Satan and his forces are defeated in battle and must forfeit their place in heaven. Until this time Satan, in some sense, had a place in heaven. It is the irretrievable loss of any further opportunity to fulfill his wicked plan that sends Satan out in such great anger against the church. The dragon and his angels are hurled down to the earth. It is the beginning of the end. (Mounce 1997, 237)

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.” (NASB95)

Not only does Satan and his followers suffer defeat at the hands of Michael and his angels, but he also suffers defeat at the hand of believers.

Matthew 16:15–18

“He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” (NASB95)

The fact that Jesus said His church would be built by taking people from one destination and pointing them to another points to the defeat Satan suffered on the cross. Our savior has already won. We are not fighting for victory, but from victory.

The fall of Satan and his angels to earth and their limitation to earth means we are at the mid-point, the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

Revelation 12:12

“For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.” (NASB95)

The voice from heaven continues, exhorting the listeners, especially those in the heavens, to rejoice because of this great victory. At the same time the voice pronounces a solemn woe upon the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea. The awfulness of the hour ahead is attributed to the fact that the devil has been cast into the earth and has great wrath because he knows his hour of confinement is near. The word for “wrath” (Gr., not *orgē*, but *thymos*) means a strong passion or emotion but carries less weight than *orge*. It is an emotional rather than a rational state of mind and stems from his own awareness that his days are numbered. (Walvoord 2008, 193-194)

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