

## 1 **A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

### **LESSON 39**

## 2 **OPENING REMARKS**

- We are continuing in our study of the end times
- If you haven't been here for all this Bible study it really isn't something you can start in the middle of and fully understand what has been happening
- Hopefully you will be able to get something out of this portion we are dealing with now
- It will help tremendously to get the floor plan layout chart

## 3 **FLOOR PLAN GRAPHIC**

## 4 **CONTINUATION OF CHAPTER 12**

- Starting in chapter 12 we have changed from heaven's viewpoint to the viewpoint of the earth
- We are seeing on earth the result of what happens in heaven

## 5 **WAR IN HEAVEN**

Revelation 12:7-11

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ : for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

## 6 **WAR IN HEAVEN cont.**

- There is a lot to study in these few Scriptures so we'll take it one verse at a time
- We see when the Rapture takes place and that child, which is symbolic of the bride of Christ, comes out of the church, which is symbolized by the woman, Satan starts a warfare in heaven
- We have a lot of Scriptures that show us that his domain is the powers and principalities of the air
- This is heavenly places
- Verse 7 says there was war in heaven, this is in heavenly places
- The war is between God and Satan but Michael and his angels fought and Satan and his angels fought

## 7 **WAR IN HEAVEN cont.**

- We know that Satan has been fighting battles for about 6,000 years during which he has won and lost many battles
- These have only been skirmishes in the battle of the earth
- Seemingly, Satan is continuously victorious; just about all the world belongs to him
- This will be his first disastrous defeat; for the first time he will actually lose ground
- Satan is much more powerful than we like to suppose
- He is not more powerful than the Word of God teaches us
- He is the most formidable enemy

## 8 **WAR IN HEAVEN cont.**

Jude 9

9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

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- We see from this that Michael the archangel, the most powerful of all of God's angels now, did not himself accuse or bring an accusation against Satan

- Michael used the power of the name of Jesus Christ against Satan as he understood Satan's power
- When Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of the world, it would have been no temptation if Satan had not had them to give

## 9 **WAR IN HEAVEN cont.**

- The church has always seemed to fight a losing battle against Satan or a gain one-lose one struggle
- We see this in the parable of the Sower where different types of ground are seen, but the seeds are the same, and only 1 out of 4 makes it
- The meaning, as explained by Jesus, is that the seed represents the word of God, and the different soils represent different human responses to it.
- When we looked at church history we found that when Satan could not score an outright victory he would sow the tares within the church
- In our study right now we are in the time period of the Rapture which is the next prophetic event to take place

## 10 **THE RESURRECTION**

- The Rapture is the "catching away" of the bride, those that are ready at that moment, in the twinkling of an eye
- This First Resurrection, that of the dead and the "catching away" of the live saints, will bring a crisis in heaven, even more so than on the earth
- Consider the untold numbers that this would include going all the way back to Stephen the first martyr
- All of these have fought against Satan through the millennia and have come out victorious
- It does not seem that long ago that the church was born in the New Testament
- Jesus commanded them to wait until they received the power from on high

## 11 **THE SAINTS**

- The New Testament church was born with the power of the Holy Ghost
- They went out with this power and spread the Gospel worldwide
- These same ones are going to be caught up and we which are alive are going to join them in the air
- Most of them in the early church were martyred, some were crucified
- They gave their lives for the Gospel; they never gave up
- These are the ones, along with those who are ready, who have sacrificed their lives and put God first, that will be caught up to heaven

## 12 **THE RESURRECTION**

- There is a great move in heaven at this time, a great crisis, much more so than on the earth
- The earth could cast out its dead without anyone realizing what was happening
- Even the catching up of the living saints will not cause more than a ripple of excitement outside of the Christian circles
- The Resurrection itself will change the earth and its ways very little
- For heaven it will be a momentous event; untold millions will be arriving all at once
- Not only that, but these new people will be the most important individuals ever to inhabit the spirit world

## 13 **THE RESURRECTION cont.**

- At the Rapture we will be translated and have spiritual bodies that are flesh and bone (no blood!)
- These new arrivals in heaven are people for whom the angels are ministering spirits
- Ministering: to take care of, to wait on, to meet their needs
- The Raptured saints will be a whole new ruling class in heaven, actually sharing the throne of Jesus Christ ruling and reigning with

Him

- This will necessitate a new heaven: whenever a new earth is mentioned a new heaven is usually included
- These saints that are going to fill the heavens have a characteristic not shared by the angels; they are overcomers of Satan

#### 14 **THE RESURRECTION cont.**

- These have met him on his own ground and come off victorious
- Such a company arriving in heaven would spell the downfall of Satan in short order
- Thus Satan must prevent the Rapture, or Resurrection, at all cost
- This why the specific time of the Rapture is a total secret known only by the Father
- Why didn't Jesus know the exact hour? If the human side of Jesus knew this Satan would have found out
- The Rapture has to be a secret from Satan, period
- If mankind knows a secret, Satan will know it

#### 15 **SATAN'S DOMAIN**

- Satan occupies all the territory between earth and heaven (Ephesians 6:12)
- Job chapter 1 verse 6 states that Satan has access to the throne of God
- Recall that Satan took one third of the angels with him and we know the worst of these are chained in the Bottomless Pit and are under the river Euphrates
- Whether some of the rest of these fallen stars occupy heavenly bodies, stars, or planets we do not know
- We do know that things have been made and put in the sky that must be shaken out when God cleanses the heavens

#### 16 **SHAKING OF THE HEAVENS**

Haggai 2:6-7

6 For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

7 and I will shake all nations, and the Desire of all nations shall come:  
and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.

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- We know the order God does things in, He is a very orderly God
- God does not do anything without a purpose

#### 17 **SHAKING OF THE HEAVENS cont.**

Hebrews 12:26-27

26 whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised,  
saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those  
things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things  
which cannot be shaken may remain.

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- The only things not shaken are those things made of God
- The reason that God is going to shake the heavens is that there is something there that does not belong there; God is going to shake it out

#### 18 **SHAKING OF THE HEAVENS cont.**

- There is going to be some house cleaning when the saints arrive
- We have studied this shaking in the sixth chapter of Revelation
- The Rapture is a crisis for Satan and his principalities and powers (organized governments)
- Satan cannot allow the Rapture and still retain his position power
- Recall that Michael contended with Satan over the body of Moses (Jude 9)
- Daniel said that it was Michael the archangel who will stand up for the children of his people at the Rapture
- Paul mentions the voice of the archangel (Michael) at the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

#### 19 **WAR IN HEAVEN**

- Revelation tells us that it will be Michael who will make war against

- Satan and prevent him from devouring the child as soon as it is born
- In Revelation 12 verse 4 we see the church, the woman, and out of the church a small portion of it is ready to be delivered, that is referred to as the child
  - The child is to be caught up or separated from the church and taken up to God and to His throne
  - We see also in verse 4 that Satan and his angels are waiting and ready to devour the child
  - As the bride goes up the war starts in heaven
  - We are in a warfare with right here and now, battling the forces of evil

#### 20 **WAR IN HEAVEN cont.**

- We must have the power of the Holy Ghost, the indwelling of the Holy Ghost
- We cannot fight against Satan and our old nature without it
- It seems that Michael is always there for the saints; to minister to them, to watch out for them, to fight for them
- This war with Satan and his angels has two results:
  1. It allows the bride safe access to heaven
  2. It drives Satan and his angels out of heaven
- The exact time of the Rapture must be kept secret as it must take Satan by surprise

#### 21 **SIGNS OF THE RAPTURE**

- This time of the Rapture is heaven's top secret
- Even though we know the times and the season we do not know the day nor the hour
- Some of the signs the Rapture is imminent:
  1. Pestilences, and earthquakes, and famines, in divers places
  2. Sin (iniquity) abounding
  3. A great falling away from the faith,
  4. Men's hearts failing them for fear of what's coming upon this world

- 5. Stress of nations, with perplexity
- 6. Wars and rumors of wars

22  **SIGNS OF THE RAPTURE cont.**

- It is the generation during which these things happen that the Rapture is going to take place
- Jesus tells we will know by these signs that our redemption drawth nigh
- We must pray that we are worthy to escape these things that are coming to pass
- There must be great excitement in the spiritual world right now as the time draws near
- The Rapture will be in the twinkling of an eye, very quick
- At that time the door shuts on this Dispensation of Grace

23  **SIGNS OF THE RAPTURE cont.**

- For those left behind after the moment of the Rapture, martyrdom, through persecution by Antichrist, will be the only way to salvation
- If it were not for the suddenness of the Rapture the saints might be caught between two battle lines
- There are no Scriptures that tell us that Satan can read your mind
- Satan does have great powers therefore he most likely will be able to catch our thoughts from time to time

24  **NOW IS COME SALVATION**

Revelation 12:10

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ : for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

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- Salvation is connected with the kingdom of God
- This is not referring to the saving of individual souls as we know it today

- This is the consummation of salvation; when those who are saved will receive the reward of their labors
- This final and glorious phase of salvation depends upon the defeat of Satan

## 25 **THE ACCUSER**

- The reason Satan must be defeated in this consummation of salvation is because he accuses the saints before God day and night
- Satan never ceases to accuse them – just as he did with Job
- This war with Satan is not one of just brute force
- This is the same with Jesus at the Battle of Armageddon
- The sword used in both instances is the Word of God
- There is something else involved here which is much more mysterious than just brute force
- There is the aspect of a court trial
- Michael's contending with Satan for Moses' body was not brute force

## 26 **THE DEFENDENTS**

- The word "contend" – to challenge
- Here Satan shows cause why he should retain the bodies of the saints, similar to when Michael contended with him over the body of Moses
- Satan takes up each case separately and prefers charges
- He will fight over every single body
- Then the accused answer much like in a court room
- They give testimony to offset Satan's accusations
- They overcame Satan by the blood of the Lamb and by the Word and this is not just in our everyday life as this is the warfare that is happening at this time

## 27 **THE ADVOCATE**

- We must have the right answers in this court room scene
- Accusations cannot be answered with accusations
- There will be no excuses, no amount of good works, or comparison

to others that will work

- Satan is a master prosecutor so we need a good lawyer

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I John 2:1

1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

## 28 **ANSWERING THE CHARGES**

- An advocate is an attorney or a judge
- We overcome Satan's accusations by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony and that our life is not what's most important to us
- The only answer that will win this case is: "I have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ."
- All our sins have been put under the blood and we have repented of it
- We have been baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of those sins
- And we the Holy Spirit which is our righteousness
- This is the word of our testimony

## 29 **END GRAPHIC**