

## A Star Wars Christmas

**Introduction:** John gives us insight into one of the reasons why Jesus came to earth (1 John 3:8)... “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.” Jesus came to destroy Satan’s work (Rom 5:12; Heb 2:14). Christ’s coming to earth was the beginning of spiritual warfare... and Satan wasn’t about to surrender without a fight!

We are given a revelation of the great conflict between God and Satan in Revelation 12. Since his fall from heaven there has been a great conflict between Satan & his fallen angels and God & His holy angels. In the Garden of Eden, Satan dragged man into the conflict.

Revelation 12 – note two aspects of John’s revelation of the conflict:

### I. The Wonders 12:14-5

#### 1. The woman and her child 12:1-2, 5

- 1) The child is Christ (Psalm 2:9; Rev 2:27)
- 2) The woman is Israel (cp Joseph’s dream in Gen 37:9-11; Israel is often pictured as a woman with labor pains looking for Messiah - Isaiah 54:5; 66:7; Jer 3:6-10; Micah 4:10; 5:2-3; Rom 9:4-5)

#### 2. The dragon (Satan) 12:3-4, 9

- 1) He is a dragon – indicates his character as a murderer 12:3; John 8:44
- 2) He uses men to carry out his evil purposes 12:3
- 3) He is a rebel 12:4; Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28
- 4) He is the serpent who deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden 12:9
- 5) He is the “slanderer” (the devil) 12:9-10
- 6) He is the adversary of God’s people 12:9; 1 Pet 5:8

### II. The War

There are three conflicts that illustrate the battle between God & Satan:

- 12:4 – conflict between Satan and Christ at His birth
- 12:7-12 – conflict between Satan and Michael in heaven
- 12:13-17 – conflict between Satan and Israel during the Great Tribulation

Note the conflict that took place when Christ was born (12:4). It was declared by God when Satan was cursed and the Redeemer was promised in Genesis 3:15). Satan has tried to thwart God’s plan from the beginning:

- Genesis 6 – Satan attempted to totally corrupt the human race
- Exodus 1-2 – Pharaoh attempted to wipe out the Israelites
- Esther 3:8-15 – Haman signed a decree to destroy the Jews

Note the ways in the gospels in which Satan attempted to kill Christ and prevent God’s redemptive plan from being accomplished:

#### 1. The birth of Christ Rev 12:4; Luke 2:9-14

The phrase “heavenly host” in Luke 2:13. The Greek word STRATIA in classical Greek most often refers to an army or company of soldiers. In the New Testament it is used in reference to Roman armies or soldiers but also to spiritual forces (Mark 5:8-9; Mat 26:53). The angels that appeared to the shepherds appeared as an angelic army to defend Jesus from being destroyed by Satan and his legions.

**2. Herod’s attempt to kill Christ Mat 2:13, 16**

**3. Satan’s temptation to Christ to cast Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple Mat 4:5-7**

**4. Satan infuriated a crowd to throw Christ over a cliff Luke 4:28-29**

**5. At the cross** (Satan’s plan failed when Jesus rose from the dead) John 19:30; Rev 11:15  
The last words of Jesus on the cross – “It is finished” – was a victory cry. The ransom for sin had been paid and battle over sin and Satan had been accomplished.

The resurrection of Christ disarmed Satan’s power and doomed his fate (Col 2:14-15; Rev 20:10).

**Conclusion/Application:** The battle between God & Satan began in heaven and was taken to earth beginning in the Garden of Eden. It continues in the heart of every person born today who is either on Satan’s side or on God’s side. There is NO neutrality (Mat 12:30).

Those who follow Christ will share in His victory and in His reign.

- We have been saved from the penalty of sin Romans 8:1
- We are being saved from the power of sin Romans 6:12-14  
(even death’s sting has been removed – 1 Cor 15:56-58; Jo 14:19; Phil 1:21; 1 Tim 2:11-12)
- We will someday be saved from the presence of sin 1 John 3:2

**Study Questions:**

1. Why is it important for Christians today to be alert to Satan’s power, purposes and plans? See Romans 6:11; 2 Cor 2:11; 1 Peter 5:8.
2. How can we be confident to experience victory over Satan according to Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 John 4:4; John 10:28-29; Rev 12:11?
3. What are the dangers of underestimating Satan’s power over Christians? What are the dangers of overestimating Satan’s power over Christians?
4. In light of Romans 6:1-14, how can we experience victory over temptation in our present Christian experience?