

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
_____ Satan’s work (Rom 5:12; Heb 2:14). Christ’s coming to earth was the beginning of
spiritual _____...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 _____ 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 _____ (Psalm 2:9; Rev 2:27)
- 2) The woman is _____ (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 _____ 12:3; John 8:44
- 2) He uses _____ to carry out his evil purposes 12:3
- 3) He is a _____ 12:4; Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28
- 4) He is the serpent who _____ Eve in the Garden of Eden 12:9
- 5) He is the “_____” (the devil) 12:9-10
- 6) He is the _____ 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 _____
- 12:7-12 – conflict between Satan and _____ in heaven
- 12:13-17 – conflict between Satan and _____ 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 _____
- Exodus 1-2 – Pharaoh attempted to wipe out the _____
- Esther 3:8-15 – Haman signed a decree to _____ 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 _____ forces (Mark 5:8-9; Mat 26:53). The angels that appeared to the shepherds appeared as an angelic army to _____ Jesus from being destroyed by Satan and his legions.

2. Herod's attempt to _____ Christ Mat 2:13, 16

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

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

5. At the _____ (Satan's plan failed when Jesus _____ from the _____) John 19:30; Rev 11:15

The last words of Jesus on the cross – "It is finished" – was a _____ cry. The ransom for sin had been paid and battle over sin and Satan had been _____.

The resurrection of Christ disarmed Satan's _____ and doomed his _____ (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 _____ (Mat 12:30).

Those who follow Christ will share in His _____ and in His _____.

- We have been saved from the _____ of sin Romans 8:1
- We are being saved from the _____ 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 _____ 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?