

Revelation – A Study of the End Times

The Devil is Cast Down Twice

Revelation 12:1-17

Miracle Place Church
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- I. With the first fall of the devil, his tail drew a third part of the stars of heaven and did cast them to earth. (Revelation 12:4)
 - A. As we come to Genesis 1:31, God says everything is very good. God did not and does not create anything evil.
 - B. Then we come to Genesis 3 and hear the serpent question God's Word and will, "Did God actually say?"
 - C. Next, he says, "If you eat you will not die. God knows that when you do eat you will be like Him knowing good and evil." Jesus said the devil is both a liar and a murderer from the beginning. (John 8:44)

- II. "Who is the great red dragon that old serpent, called the devil and Satan which deceives the whole world." (Revelation 12:9)
 - A. Jesus calls him the evil one and the ruler (prince) of the world. (Matthew 13:19, John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
 - B. The Pharisees call him Beelzebub the prince of demons. (Matthew 12:24)
 - C. Paul, the great Apostle, calls him the god of this age (world) and the prince of the power of the air. (II Corinthians 4:4, Ephesians 2:2)
 - 1. The devil we meet in Genesis 3 is already evil.
 - 2. He is a deceiver and a murderer already.
 - 3. The "old serpent" identifies his character as crafty and venomous. "Old" brings to remembrance his first temptation and accusation in the Garden of Eden. (II Corinthians 11:3)
 - 4. The dragon is the devil which means to slander or falsely accuse. Satan is a prosecutor in the courts of heaven before God now, but will be cast down a second time to take this authority away from him. (Revelation 12:7-12)
 - 5. The dragon is Satan which means adversary, the enemy of God and His people, the one who deceives the whole world. To mislead, delude, lead astray, deceive. (Revelation 12:9)
 - 6. It seems that the devil and demons left their appointed position of authority for a desire to have more power and authority.

Remember, any power and authority that is not sanctioned by God is illegal. Satan is a created angel who rebelled against God. (Jude 1:6)

- III. Why does God tolerate Satan, evil? Why doesn't God just take the devil out?
- A. Some people say the devil and demons had free will and that God could not influence them enough to keep them.
 - B. Why would a perfect holy angel in God's presence suddenly hate God or choose to go against God?
 - C. Why do some people choose not to love God more than themselves?
 - D. Is God helpless when it comes to free will? Is there a power outside God Himself that limits His will, rule over them?
 - E. Does the Bible teach us that God has the right and the power to restrain Satan anytime He pleases?
- IV. God really is sovereign
- A. Satan is called the ruler of this world. (II Corinthians 4:4, John 12:31)
 - B. The Bible teaches us the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whom He wishes. (Daniel 4:17)
 - C. "The Lord nullifies the counsel of the nations, He frustrates the plans of the people." (Psalm 33:10)
 - 1. Yes, Satan is the ruler of this world but God has the final say according to His will, purpose and plan.
 - 2. Even in the deception and evil of Satan and demons everywhere in the world yet Jesus Christ has all authority in heaven and earth. (Matthew 28:18-20) Demons obey Jesus. (Mark 1:27)
 - 3. Satan is like a roaring lion seeking to devour. (I Peter 5:8-9) The kingdom of darkness tries to use suffering to cause us to doubt God, become discouraged and quit living for God. "It is better, if it is GOD'S WILL, to suffer for doing what is right than for doing what is wrong." (I Peter 3:17) If God should will it then the roaring lion must get permission to test and try us.
 - 4. "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this and that." (James 4:15) "The Lord gives and the Lord takes and we call His name: Blessed is the Lord." (Job 1:21)
 - 5. When Satan tried to prove that Job loved his family, possessions and even his own life more than God, he asked for permission to attack. God said, "Behold all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." (Job 1:12)

6. When Satan wanted to tempt Peter into denying Jesus, he asked God for permission. Listen to what Jesus said, “Simon Peter, Satan has asked to sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail you and when you have turned again strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:31-32)
- V. God is the governing authority of the universe.
- A. God therefore permitted Satan’s fall because He had a purpose for it.
 - B. God is never taken off guard, therefore, His permission is always purposeful. If God permits it’s always for a reason.
 - C. Because in this world we only know in part, it’s hard to understand how sin and pride entered into Satan’s heart. (I Corinthians 13:12)
 - D. What we do know is that God is sovereign over Satan and he operates only by permission but when cast down the second time he will lose his ability to approach God. Then Satan will only have three and a half more years left on earth this side of the millennial. Therefore, every move of Satan is part of God’s overall purpose.
 - E. “All things were created through Christ and for Christ.” (Colossians 1:16) God is teaching us His grace, mercy, love and power through what we see, feel and experience, good and bad. It takes it all to give us the revelation of God and who He is and what He really means. God is gracious.
 - F. God will receive more honor and respect in the end when He defeats Satan through longsuffering, patience, humility, servanthood, suffering and death rather than through His raw power. This is where our joy comes from by the love, power and wisdom of our God. We know Him in the fellowship of His suffering. (Philippians 3:10)
- VI. “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.” (Romans 16:20)
- A. The blow was struck by the offspring of the woman, Jesus Christ. (Genesis 3:15, Revelation 12:4-5)
 - B. The Bible teaches us what God does for those who trust in Jesus Christ, when He died on the cross. (The record of debt that stood against us Jesus has set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers of darkness and put them to an open shame by triumphing over them. Colossians 2:14-15) When Jesus died for our sins, Satan was defeated and disarmed. His weapon was accusation before God that we are guilty and should perish with him.

- C. “All who put their trust in Christ will never perish. Nothing, no not even Satan, can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ.” (Romans 8:37-39)
 - D. “Now is the Son of man glorified and God is glorified in Him.” (John 13:31) “Now we preach Christ crucified, the power of God and the wisdom of God.” (I Corinthians 1:23-24)
 - E. Paul said, “Lest I should be exalted from the revelation God gives me, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me. For this thing, I asked the Lord three times that it might depart from me. He said to me, ‘My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake, learning when I am weak then am I strong.’” (II Corinthians 12:6-10)
- VII. The second fall of Satan and his angels (Revelation 12:7-12)
- A. War in heaven: Michael and his angels fight the dragon and his angels.
 - 1. Satan and his angels were not strong enough and lose the battle in heaven. There was no longer a place found for them in heaven. Great! No more access to accuse us before God. The great dragon was thrown down. The word cast out means once and for all. No more access to heaven.
- VIII. Three weapons to overcome Satan according to Revelation 12:11 “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.”
- A. The first weapon is the blood of the Lamb. The blood of the Lamb shed on the cross states that God has forgiven us and our sin debt is paid in full. We honestly admit the truth that we are sinners and need a savior. The blood is then activated and released with God Himself coming to live in us with all His power. (Romans 8:31-34)
 - B. The second weapon is the word of our testimony. When we speak of God and what He has done in our lives it releases the power of God into other people’s lives. We are salt and light. (Matthew 5:13-16)
 - C. The third weapon is living for God and not for anything else. “They loved not their lives unto death.” Be willing to give up your reputation, status and possessions and even your own life for the glory of God. Live for God!