

The End Times and Last Days – “What to Expect and How to Prepare”

Lesson 23 “Satanic Warfare and Worship”

The midpoint in the Tribulation will mark a major turning point in the end times.

There are three significant events occurring that pave the way for the final half of the Tribulation:

1. Satanic warfare in heaven and on earth.
2. Worship of the Anti-Christ – creating an idol of him.
3. The death and resurrection of the Anti-Christ.

Satanic warfare: people are typically surprised to note the Bible says satan has access to the presence of God in heaven – Job 1: ⁶ One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the LORD, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them. ⁷ “Where have you come from?” the LORD asked Satan.”

- That access will soon be cut off forever!
- According to Rev 12, this exclusion of the enemy from heaven is coming.

Rev. 12: ⁷ Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. ⁸ And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. ⁹ This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the entire world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, “It has come at last— salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ, For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth— the one who accuses them before our God day and night.”

Rev. 12 depicts two great conflicts involving satan [the dragon] and his demonic forces: 1. In heaven. 2. On the earth.

Though distinct, they are closely related.

Phase 1: War in heaven – angels and demons – Rev. 12:7-12

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of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth—the one who accuses them before our God day and night.”

Vv. 7-8 ⁷ Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. ⁸ And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven.

There is a titanic clash in heaven between satan and his forces with Michael the archangel with the angelic hosts resulting in satan and his demonic horde being cast to the earth.

- When satan is kicked out of heaven at the midpoint of the Tribulation and significant changes will occur.

Questions: When is satan kicked out of heaven?

1. At his original fall?
2. At the end times angelic battle of Rev. 12?

Satan was permitted into the presence of the Lord multiple times after his fall:

Job 1:1-2:8 appears before the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and satan also came among them.” Same in chapter 2 when he reappeared to appeal to the Lord to touch Jobs’ flesh and he would curse God.

Zech. 3 – satan appears before the Lord to accuse Joshua, the high priest.

“Then the angel showed me Jeshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD. The Accuser, Satan, was there at the angel’s right hand, making accusations against Jeshua. ² And the LORD said to Satan, “I, the LORD, reject your accusations, Satan. Yes, the LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebukes you. This man is like a burning stick that has been snatched from the fire.”

Matt 4:1-11 satan tempts Jesus to worship him.

Question: So, if satan had been cast out from heaven before the world was created, why is he free to be in heaven and on earth?

2Cor 12:2-3 Paul provides a major revelation that there are three heavens:

1. First heaven – the atmosphere in which we live.
2. Second heaven – the universe or outer space
3. Third heaven – where Paul and others were caught up where The Father dwells.

In this current age we live in, satan is allowed to operate, attempting to hinder God’s plans for earth and mankind opposing even the angels of the Lord – Dan. 10:10-14 [Michael warring with the Prince of Persia to bring Daniel revelation and answers concerning Israel’s future.]

- Satan will be expelled from the middle heaven [as the prince and power of the air-Eph 2:2] and there will be great rejoicing since he will be forever banned from accusing and tormenting the elect.
- He will become more violent realizing his time is short to reign and deceive anymore and be cast into the bottomless pit.
- This is why he will use the Anti-Christ to afflict with great misery during the Tribulation period.

So, at the midpoint of the Tribulation period, satan will no longer have access to God's heaven, he will no longer have permission to test and tempt God's saints, he will realize his time is short, so he will wreak as much havoc as possible on the earth.

During the Tribulation, the extreme rage of satan will be revealed.

Phase 2: War on Earth – satan vs. Israel Rev. 12:13-17

¹³ When the dragon realized that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ But she was given two wings like those of a great eagle so she could fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness. There she would be cared for and protected from the dragon for a time, times, and half a time – [3 ½ yrs].

¹⁵ Then the dragon tried to drown the woman with a flood of water that flowed from his mouth. ¹⁶ But the earth helped her by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that gushed out from the mouth of the dragon. ¹⁷ And the dragon was angry at the woman and declared war against the rest of her children—all who keep God's commandments and maintain their testimony for Jesus."

Immediately after his expulsion from heaven, satan will turn his anger towards Israel attempting to erase them from the face of the earth.

This is the 2nd war of Rev. 12.

It's a picture of Israel as a woman "clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of 12 stars."

This description is an allusion to Joseph's dream of Gen. 37:9-10 where the people of Israel are clearly in view.

⁹ Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. "Listen, I have had another dream," he said. "The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!"

¹⁰ This time he told the dream to his father as well as to his brothers, but his father scolded him. "What kind of dream is that?" he asked. "Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow to the ground before you?"

The woman gives birth to Jesus in Rev. 12:2, 5 further linking the woman to Israel since scriptures saying the Messiah will come from Israel –

Isa 9:6

“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us.

The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

satan’s longstanding attempts to wipe out Israel will promote this anti- Semite attitude worldwide. But it will backfire. Every time he attempts to wipe out Israel, they end up with a holiday.

This period of his fury will last 1,260 days or 3 ½ yrs. according to Rev. 12:6, 14

⁶ And the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place to care for her for 1,290 days.

¹⁴ But she was given two wings like those of a great eagle so she could fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness. There she would be cared for and protected from the dragon for a time, times, and half a time.”

- Supernatural protection by their God will cause Israel to overcome this onslaught from hell.
- As the Anti-Christ conducts his scheme against Israel, he will break covenant at the midpoint of the Tribulation which begins his reign of terror for Israel.

The Primary Activities of satan in the End Times

1. He will lead the false, unholy trinity – Rev. 13:2; 16:13
2. He and his demonic army will be cast out of heaven by Michael the archangel – Rev. 12:7-9.
3. He will persecute the Jewish people – Rev/ 12:3-15.
4. He will know his time is short, so he will pour out his wrath on the earth – Rev. 12:12.
5. He will accuse God’s people before the throne – Rev. 12:10
6. He will deceive the world – Rev. 12:9, 20:8, 10.

Prophetic Names and Titles for the devil

1. satan – Rev 2:9
2. The devil – Rev 2:10; 12:9
3. A great red dragon – Rev 12:9
4. The serpent of old – Rev 12:9
5. The accuser – Rev 12:10
6. The one who deceives the whole world – Rev 12:9; 20:10

Satanic Worship: – The Abomination of Desolation

As satan war rages in heaven spilling onto the earth, an earthly event is set in motion with the world being influenced to worship the Anti-Christ.

It will involve the worship of the Anti-Christ, the false prophet, and the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem. Being the 3rd Temple or the Tribulation Temple.

During the first half of the 3 ½ yrs of the Tribulation period, the Jewish people will be in a peace treaty with the Anti-Christ and he will allow them to rebuild their Temple and begin offering the sacrifices – Dan. 9:27 ²⁷ The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him.”

Midway through the Tribulation period, all that peace talk will end.

“In the middle of the week, he will put a stop to the sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”

- He breaks the treaty and commits an act called “the abomination of desolation.”

Dan. 9:27; 12:11; Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14.

What is this abomination of desolation?

1. Abomination refers to an idol or image.
2. Its first reference in Dan, 9:27 linking it to Anti-Christ’s breaking his covenant with Israel. “On the wing of abominations’ refers to the pinnacle of the Temple, emphasizing the idea of overspreading influence.”
 - What begins in the Temple will spread to the entire world.
 - The abomination of desolation is an idol or image that desolates the Temple and spreads out from there to the entire world.
 - It will be the image of the beast set up in the Temple to desecrate it.
 - Since satan could not demand to be worshiped in heaven, he will demand it on earth at the Holy Place where God’s people worship Him.
 - It’s a get it back in Your face God for the devil’s last stand!

Two Phases of the Abomination

1. In the Anti-Christ’s initial takeover of Jerusalem, he will sit in the very Holy of Holies declaring to the world that he is god, establishing a false religion he imposes on the entire world – 2Thess 2:3-4 ³ Don’t be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is

revealed—the one who brings destruction.⁴ He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.”

He will not be able to sit in the Temple 24/7, so he will commission an image or idol of his likeness to be constructed to sit in the Temple in his place – Rev 13:11-15

¹¹ Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth. He had two horns like those of a lamb, but he spoke with the voice of a dragon. ¹² He exercised all the authority of the first beast. And he required all the earth and its people to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. ¹³ He did astounding miracles, even making fire flash down to earth from the sky while everyone was watching. ¹⁴ And with all the miracles he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast, he deceived all the people who belong to this world. He ordered the people to make a great statue of the first beast, who was fatally wounded and then came back to life. ¹⁵ He was then permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue of the beast commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die.

The Anti-Christ’s right-hand man, the false prophet, will be given the authority to do great signs and wonders, deceiving the people into worshipping the Beast.

His greatest deception will be the construction of an image or likeness of the Anti-Christ that will come alive.

The two phases of the abomination of desolation, will be the two events that take place inside the Jerusalem Temple’s Holy of Holies.

1. The Anti-Christ’s declaration that he is god.
2. His setting up an image of himself to be worshiped.

This idol will remain in the Temple for the final 1,260 days or 3 ½ yrs of the Tribulation period.

Dan. 12:11 ¹¹ “From the time the daily sacrifice is stopped and the sacrilegious object that causes desecration is set up to be worshiped, there will be 1,290 days.

Why the extra 30 days from the 1,260 days?

- After Jesus sets up His reign on the earth, it may take an extra 30 days to complete, so the image will remain in the Temple for a completion of 1,290 days.

The conclusion of the Tribulation will be marked by an angelic war in heaven that will overflow to the earth when satan and his fallen angels are expelled from heaven.

Realizing his time is short, satan will unleash the full fury on the earth, with Israel at the center of his attack.

The Anti-Christ will be his chosen instrument to eradicate Israel as antisemitism rises to levels beyond what we are currently experiencing.

As the Anti-Christ pursues breaking his covenant treaty with Israel, attempts to subdue the land, and desecrate the Temple by requiring the world to worship him as god in the Holy of Holies – HE WILL VERY SOON MEET HIS FATE OF DESTRUCTION BY THE SON OF GOD WHO APPEARS AS A CONQUERING KING OF GLORY!

There is an event at the midpoint of the Tribulation period concerning the Anti-Christ that will shock the world and catapult him to be the world's leader.