

THE INVISIBLE WAR Text: Revelation 12

Understanding the Invisible War and How to Win our Invisible War Within

“We have found all the questions that can be found. It is time we stopped looking for questions and started looking for answers.” —G.K Chesterton

- 1. We all have questions—especially after the year we just went through...**
 - a. Questions are good—when they cause us to search for the answers...
 - b. Questions are not good when used as an excuse to avoid the answers we don't want...

Aristotle wrote: “All men by nature desire to know.” We desire to know the truth
 - 2. The title of the last book of the Bible is taken from the Greek word: Apocalypse—**
 - a. The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ: Translated ‘Revelation’
 - b. Apokalypsis: To uncover, to draw back the veil of what was previously hidden.”
 - 3. Revelation Pulls Back the Veil and Uncovers the Reality Behind History**
 - a. An Invisible War We Would Not Have Known About—Except By Supernatural Revelation
 - b. Given to the last living Apostle—banished to the Alcatraz of the Ancient World: Patmos
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I. UNDERSTAND THERE IS AN INVISIBLE WAR (v.1-6)

A. GOD’S WORD REVEALS THIS INVISIBLE WAR...

1. THE WOMAN (v.1-2)

- a) Some believe this is Mary, the mother Jesus, but the description is Symbolic...
- b) In the OT, Israel is pictured as a woman and mother in Travail (Micah 4:9-10, 5:2–3)
- c) A Symbolic picture of God’s covenant people—the lineage of Messiah

2. THE DRAGON (v.3-4)

- a) The Dragon is also identified for us in Scripture... (12:9)
- b) The word Satan in OT means: Adversary (enemy)
- c) Satan is also called: the Accuser. (v.10)
- d) Jesus called Him a ‘Murderer from the Beginning...’
And a ‘Liar and the Father of all lies’ (Jn 8:44)
- e) Jesus called Him ‘The Evil one’ and the ‘Prince of this World’
- f) Peter referred to Him as a Roaring Lion Seeking Whom He May Devour
- g) Paul called Him the ‘god of this age’ (lower-case g)
- h) Satan is a created spiritual being who rebelled against God

3. THE CHILD (v.5-6)

- a) The Male Child is Jesus the Christ—who would rule the nations w/ rod of iron (Ps 2)
 - b) Christ ascended into Heaven at the Right Hand of God
 - c) The Woman (God’s Faithful Bride) Flees Into the Wilderness to be Protected by God
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“There is no neutral ground in the universe. Every square inch, every split second is claimed by God and counterclaimed by satan.” (C.S. Lewis)

B. THE INVISIBLE WAR IS IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM—

BUT IT ALSO AFFECTS THE PHYSICAL REALM AS WELL

1. Revelation 1-11 describes the Outward Manifestation of this War
—between the Church and the World...
2. Revelation 12-22 describes the Reason—the Invisible War Satan is Waging
Against God...
3. Beginning in Genesis... the Assassin in Eden sabotaging God's plan
4. Exodus—God protecting the Woman in Egypt and Later in the Wilderness
5. Haman attempting to annihilate the lineage of the Messiah,
6. Esther a Woman of Faith who tells the King
7. To Bethlehem when King Herod tried to Kill the Child Jesus who was taken
down to Egypt for Protection
8. To the Judean Desert, when Satan comes out of the shadows and tempts
Jesus in the Wilderness
9. To the Cross when Satan entered Judas to Assassinate Jesus
10. And Just Like Haman who fell into his own traps—
—Satan's Attack Against Jesus Became His downfall!

C. GOD'S WORD REVEALS THE TRUTH—Even the Truth Behind the Truth

1. GOD IS REAL > SATAN IS REAL
2. ANGELS ARE REAL > SPIRITUAL WAR IS REAL
3. HEAVEN is REAL and HELL is REAL, and JUDGEMENT is REAL
4. YOU ARE REAL and Your INVISIBLE WAR WITHIN is Real

II. UNDERSTAND GOD HAS ALREADY WON THE WAR (v.7-12)

A. THE WAR IN HEAVEN (v.7-8)

1. Michael is an Archangel mentioned in Daniel 12:1
 - a) Who stands as a protector of God's people
 - b) All whose names are in the book of life
 - c) Michael is called an Archangel in Jude 9—again defending God's people!
2. All through History Satan Has Tried to Sabotage God's Plan and People
 - a) From the Garden of Eden—to persecuting Job
 - b) From entering Judas — to trying to Sift Peter like wheat...

B. THE DEFEAT OF SATAN (v.9)

1. Satan stood in the presence of God as an accuser against Job (Job 1)
2. Satan stood before God as an accuser of Joshua High Priest in Zechariah 3
3. Even When the Disciples Were Empowered by the H.S. to Cast Out Demons
Do you remember when Jesus said: (Luke 10:17–18)

4. **Within Hours of the Cross Jesus is wrestling with this Invisible War Within**
 - a) The Agony in the Garden, The Struggle Within (**John 12:27**)
 - b) Jesus Knew Satan's Fall Was Eminent in the Shadow of the Cross (**Jn 12:29–33**)
5. **Satan the Accuser is Thrown Down**
 - a) **Satan had Continually Accused** the Saints Before God Because Perfect Atonement Had Not Yet Been Made—The Whole World Stood Guilty!

C. THE REACTION OF SATAN'S DEFEAT (v.10-12)

1. **REJOICING IN HEAVEN (v.10) —Why?**
BECAUSE THE KING HAS RECEIVED HIS KINGDOM WITH POWER
 - a) Jesus Died on the Cross for Sin
 - b) He rose from the Dead and Ascended into Heaven and was Crowned King
 - c) And Now Salvation has arrived Because of the Blood of the Lamb!!
2. **THEY OVERCAME THE ENEMY BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB (v.11)**
 - a) The Blood of Christ Paid our Debt of Sin in Full at the Cross
 - b) Satan Could No Longer Accuse the People of God Day and Night
 - c) The Weapon of Fear—Fear of Death—that Satan Uses has been taken away
 - d) Jesus Defeated Satan, Sin and Death (**Romans 8:33–34; 8:1**)
3. **BECAUSE OF THIS DEFEAT—SATAN IS FILLED WITH WRATH (v.12)**

III. UNDERSTAND THIS IS A WAR FOR OUR SOUL (v.13-17)

A. THE WAR IN HEAVEN RESULTED IN WAR ON EARTH...

1. **Since Satan Can No Longer Accuse the Saints Before God in Heaven**
(in the Spiritual Realm)
2. **He Will Now Persecute Them on the Earth (in the Physical Realm)**

B. NOTICE THE LINE OF ATTACK...

1. **Satan Attacked the Child—Jesus Christ...**
But he is Defeated—Jesus is king with all authority in heaven and earth
2. **So He Attacks the Woman, the Bride, the Holy People of God (OT/NT)**
But His Attack on the Woman is Defeated... (v.13-16)
 - a) God Protects the Church in the Desert Wilderness of this Earthly Life
—away from Satan's most direct and deadly attacks.
 - b) God nourishes His Church with the Manna from Heaven—His Word
—the Truth that Keeps us Free
 - c) The Devil Tries to Drown the Church in a Stream of Lies and False Teachers,
—even disguising himself and his ministers as angels of light!
 - d) but the True and Faithful Church is Not Fooled
—the gates of Hades cannot prevail against the Church
3. **So in Wrath Against the Christ... and Against the Woman...**
He Attacks the Offspring of the Woman, who are Faithful Christians

C. SATAN NOW ATTACKS INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS (v.17)

1. **He Failed to Destroy the Christ, He Failed to Destroy the Church...
He Now Seeks to Destroy You—Individual Christians**
 - a) This is the War He Wages Against God
 - b) He Cannot Hurt God except By Hurting God's People
 2. **(1 Peter 5:8–9) He seeks who he can devour**
 3. **This world is no longer a Playground—it's a battleground
—and we are behind enemy lines.**
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IV. UNDERSTAND HOW TO WIN THE WAR WITHIN (v.11)

A. WE KNOW WHO WINS THIS WAR—GOD WINS...

1. **But Even Though the War is Won—the Battle for Your Soul Continues**
2. **There's An Invisible War Within Every One of Us...**
3. **Who Will Win That War — the War For Your Soul?**

B. LETS NOTICE HOW THEY OVERCAME THE ENEMY... (v.11)

1. **By the BLOOD — the blood of Jesus, the Passover Lamb of God**
2. **By the TRUTH—the word of their testimony based on Truth**
3. **By their FAITH—they loved God more than their own lives**
 - a) When You Know You have been saved by Grace by the Blood of the Lamb
 - b) When You Know This Truth that Sets You Free
 - c) You Can Have the Faith that Overcomes the World and the Evil One

C. YOU CAN WIN THE WAR WITHIN!

1. **By the Blood of Jesus—We are saved by Grace (Revelation 7:13–14)**
2. **By the Truth—that Sets us Free! (John 8:31–32)**
3. **By Faith—that can Overcome the World! (1 John 5:4)**

CONCLUSION:

I. In 1974, Over 30 years after WW2 Had Ended... Hirō Onoda

- A. A Lone Japanese Soldier Was Found on a Forgotten Island in the Pacific.
- B. He Thought the War Was Still Going—Leaflet were dropped by Allied Bombers
- C. But He Thought it was a Trick by the Enemy—
- D. He Refused to Believe Until Orders Were Given for Him to Be Relieved of Duty

II. How Many People Don't Realize the War Has Been Won?

- A. A Letter Has Been Sent to You—Written by a Messenger of the King—
- B. You Can Have Peace with God but You Must Surrender to Him

III. We Know who wins—God wins!

- A. And God is patient—not wanting any to perish but all to repent and be saved
- B. God could've ended this already—but He wants His wedding feast to be filled with guests!

IV. We can Be There—We can win the war within with His help! (Revelation 1:5–6)