

Revelation 12

Good morning, church.

Let us pray...

Well, September 23, 2017 is behind us now.

But for much of this year, that date excited many in the church.

It was predicted that the stars would align for the first time in 2000 years to fulfill the prophecy of Revelation 12.

The sun, moon, and stars were too all align perfectly to tell the narrative of Revelation 12.

Now I watched many videos of many excited teachers, try to put this all together.

I am a super skeptical person when it comes to these things.

We are often inundated with these events; remember the Blood Moons, the Great American Eclipse, and perhaps you have heard of planet X, that is scheduled to hit our planet at any time?

Now with the Revelation 12 prediction, we were told the church would be raptured, perhaps it was a trigger for the end of the world would to take place, or the Antichrist would reveal himself.

You know I have to say, each time the church works itself into a frenzy about these ominous signs, it really impacts the testimony of the church negatively.

The Media begins to mock the church, as each date passes.

There have been over 200 such public predictions all with the dates all passing, and the validity of the gospel message diminished.

I remember my first event growing up watching the church get excited about... Y2K.

People in our church were building bunkers, food storage; one man even built underground gasoline wells, where he stocked up on fuel.

Everyone was a mess.

I also remember Bill Clinton was supposed to be without a doubt, according to many, the Antichrist when I was a child.

But do you ever notice when these predicted dates finally arrive, or these events pass, almost immediately, the day of, new predictions start coming out, well it must be later.

Listen church, it is important for us to be grounded in God's Word, to put our faith and trust in what God says.

The stars, sun, and moon will not tell you a complete story.

And I hate to say this, but many Christian authors capitalize and profit on the fear.

Hollywood has done this for years, with many of its blockbuster films having apocalyptic themes.

Humanity, with all of creation seems to know that something is coming; there will be end to this world.

However, the Bible is very clear about **Matt 24:36** "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

And Jesus further instructs **Matt 24:44** Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

I wish people would stop predicting dates, every time a date is set, we can know according to God's word that that will not be the day.

Listen we are to live our lives as though Jesus can come back at any moment, and that is a right perspective to have.

But use wisdom next time one of these signs comes again.

I admit, the attraction and excitement of these signs is alluring, I have had to pull myself out of the charm of some of these events.

Yet, the date setters will always find something else, the world was suppose to have ended over at least 10 times in my lifetime.

You see apocalyptic warnings are very profitable, and really confusing a great many people today.

So what does Revelation 12 speak about then, if it is not a cosmic sign?

Well, hopefully we will have clarity this morning...

Remember John at this point has seen and heard the final trumpet blow.

Now, before John moves on chronologically in the Revelation, he will see many insights and details that pertain to the tribulation period.

In these parenthetical sections, John will introduce seven characters of the tribulation.

This final trumpet, which we saw last week, will be continuation of the final half of the tribulation, and will take us through the Millennial Kingdom, to the edge of eternity.

But we must understand some details before we move on.

This morning we will see Chapter 12 will have a broad timeline, starting with the history of the Jews, and it will end right in the midst of the tribulation period.

Have you ever watched a show, that spends a whole episode on one character, giving a back story that develops that person's importance into the plot.

Well we will have that type of episode this morning, John will receive these very prominent character's development throughout history, to ultimately give them their place in the Great Tribulation.

So let us read the first couple verses to meet the first character within this section.

The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon

12:1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. 2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

Now, remember our approach to Revelation, we take these things literally, unless John tells us it is symbolic, and John is very clear when something is symbolic.

And here, he tells us a sign appears in heaven, this is an important symbol that he is seeing here.

Now again, remember how dangerous it is when we look outside the scriptures to make sense of these symbols.

Many people today, claim to have special revelation into these signs.

Many claim to have visions and dreams as to decipher the symbols of Revelation.

Some even claim that Hollywood is a source of translating these images, because the movies are prophetic and help make sense of these things.

Some turn to numerology and patterns.

Some even look to use their emotions and feelings to find meaning.

Some claim the stars tell the story for us.

Many of the Revelation 12 astrologists kept using words like “I feel this means something.”

“Something is telling me that Jupiter is actually to represent Christ.”

And we simply cannot trust that kind of interpretation....

Now many today claim, this woman is the Mother Mary, and Virgo, since it means virgin represents her.

Some people have even made the case that the woman of Revelation 12 is the church, but we can easily dismiss that as well, the church is the Bride of Christ in Revelation, and the church’s history does not line up with the picture before us in this chapter.

Remember the church will be with Jesus in heaven during the tribulation.

Now you and I, we do not look to the stars or new revelations, we look to God’s Word to explain plainly, what John is seeing.

When you go outside of scripture, anything goes, and anyone who had pizza too late at night, can have a new revelation about Revelation.

But, when you look at scripture to find who and what this woman is representing, it really becomes clear.

There is a clear answer when you look to God's Holy Word.

You remember when Joseph had his dreams in Genesis 37.

In his second dream, describing his ascent to power, he says...

Gen 37:9-11 ..., "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

It is an interesting dream, but really not clear until Joseph's father Jacob translates it for us...

10 So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the

earth before you?" 11 And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

It was clear to Jacob that the sun and moon were Jacob and Rachel, and the stars were Joseph's brothers.

Now, in Revelation 12, Joseph takes his place among the stars, and we see 12 stars.

The whole picture clearly defines Israel for us.

So, I don't want to spend much time on why the woman is not Mary or the church, because it is too plain in the scriptures.

We have Israel now before us and in verse two we see the woman with child, crying and laboring in pain.

Now this can easily tell the history of the Jews here, they have known travail and torment like no other nation.

Their days have been arduous and hard as in childbirth.

However, we can see even more clearly, why they had to endure through these enormous trials.

Way back in the Garden of Eden a promise was given to the serpent about a coming woman who would bring a Child that will crush his kingdom.

Gen 3:15-16 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Then notice God speaks to the woman; the very thing that would bring this hope for the nations into the world was labor pains.

16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children;

It is amazing how Revelation is the completion of the story that began in the Garden of Eden.

And the Bible follows a certain lineage throughout history, of this Promised Seed of a Woman, who would clearly come through the Israelites.

Satan has hated the Jews, ever since it was made known to Abraham that his decedents specifically

would be the progenitor of this Seed, **Gen 22:18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.**

And then God spoke to Abraham's chosen son Isaac...

Gen 26:4 And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

This promised Seed, not seeds, would be the means of salvation for all of humanity.

Now from the Garden of Eden until Christ came, Satan has waged war on this prospective Woman, and her Seed.

He has tried to corrupt this line from the time the promise was given.

His first attempt was when Cain killed the righteous Abel.

And from there, Satan had his fallen angels mix with and corrupt humanities bloodline, trying to create his

own seed and offspring, and they even had sex with the daughters of Adam.

And Satan almost prevailed, had not God spared the only pure man and his family, who remained untainted by Satan's attempted takeover of humanity, as God brought a mighty flood to this earth to destroy the mutant human race.

Satan although heavily disarmed by the Great Deluge, kept the battle fierce.

He rose up Nimrod, the great hunter of men's souls, and built a great city to oppose the godly men of the earth.

Babel was where Satan lifted men up against God and His people, and Babel has opposed Yahweh ever since, and it will finally be destroyed in the Great Tribulation.

After Babel was struck by God with confusion, many years went by, and Satan then used Egypt and their king Pharaoh to isolate and humiliate this chosen race of Hebrews.

But God's Word would stand, and in a mighty spectacle Satan's puppet fell as his army washed away in the Red Sea, and all the first born of that mighty nation were left dead.

Satan then used idolatry and harlotry and sexual perversion as the Jews approached the promise land, but his attempts came up short.

The Devil used the people of the promise land to bring accusation against the people of God, when that did not work he brought the Babylonians, Assyrians, the Persians and the Medes.

But God always had a remnant that was pure and true.

Even in the days of Esther, as Satan used wicked Haman to try to completely wipe out the bloodline where this Promised Child would arise from, but even then, God intervened, and they continued on.

Until finally, the most brutal empire of all had dominion over God's People, the Romans were the final satanic attempt to put an end to all hope that humanity could have a Savior.

And that is where John's vision picks up next in Revelation...

12:3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. 6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Now we have our second player appear here in this drama.

We have a fiery red dragon, red speaking to his murderous ways.

John will clearly decipher for us what this great sign represents in verse 9.

Now many have misrepresented this dragon as being many different things, but John makes it easy for us and calls him by many of his names.

Rev 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world.

Now, it is interesting here, in this sign, Satan is seen here bearing the symbols of the final empire that will be on earth in the Tribulation, this Revived Roman Empire as represented by his description.

The Last Empire and the Beast will both be ruled by this fierce serpent of old.

We see here this dragon is described as 'great,' and Lucifer was the greatest created being.

Ezek. 28:12 "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

He was the greatest before his fall, until he lifted himself up against the Most High and iniquity was found in him.

Even Jesus while being tempted here on earth, did not dispute the kingdoms of this earth were Satan's to give if He just bowed before him.

Satan is a great and powerful being.

We see here in verse 3, he has seven heads speaking to complete wisdom.

The ten horns speaks to his power, and that final empire that will rule in the Tribulation.

We see seven diadems representing kingly rule on his heads.

Notice his tail drew a third of the stars of heaven to the earth.

Now this speaks to the influence of Satan that a third of the stars, or angels were cast down with him.

He was not a slimy, squirrely, sleazy being.

He is not the forked tail *creature*, with the pitchfork and horns, *it is a mistake to think of Satan looking like that.*

In reality, that probably is the *demonic* god Pan of the Romans and the Greeks. Chuck Smith (*italics mine*)

Lucifer was a mighty, cunning leader, his commanding demeanor allowed him to convince a third of the hosts of heaven to rebel against their Creator.

In **Dan 8:10** speaking of the final earthly conflict and heavenly conflict that is happening in the tribulation we see...

10 And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them.

We gather stars represent the fallen beings that make up Satan's army.

We see here this mighty dragon in verse 4 before the woman who was about to give birth... to devour her Child.

Now in this battle between Satan and God's Promised Seed, we remember....

The world Jesus came into on that first Christmas season, there was no welcoming party and no celebration, no Christmas lights or presents.

Jesus came to the fallen rock we call earth, through the miseries of childbirth, and Satan's wrath awaited Him, and immediately tried to destroy Him.

Matt 2:16-18 Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: 18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more."

Satan through that Roman Empire, and King Herod, was there to try to destroy the Child immediately.

But God's Word will prevail 100% of the time, and the Child was on His way to Egypt before that satanically barbaric scene took place.

Satan would use that same Empire, through Pontius Pilate to end the Child's life upon a cross, but Satan's victory at the cross unbeknownst to him would be his final crushing blow.

As Satan was simply a tool in God's redemptive plan. In verse 5 the Child was born, the one that will rule the nations with a rod of iron.

There is no mistaking who this third player is in this sign, it is none other than Jesus Christ Himself, who was the fulfillment of all the Prophecies of Old.

Jesus is the Promised Seed of the woman, the Seed of Abraham and Isaac.

Speaking of this future Child the Psalmist in the Messianic Psalm 2 says this...

Ps 2:9 "You shall break them with a rod of iron;

You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

Jesus is the Child that will fulfill this prophecy as He was brought forth from Israel.

And today we are saved through that promised Seed.

1 John 3:9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

Now that period (.) in Revelation 12:5 represents Jesus' 33 years here on this earth.

And in the second part of that verse we see His ascension to glory.

And you know much of today's Christianity really does not deal with the Glorified Christ.

Today the main focus is on the Carpenter from Nazareth.

But Jesus is on His Throne in heaven.

He has a heavenly ministry right now, His Holy Spirit is currently working through the Church here on earth.

But presently our Messiah is in heaven.

He is currently in His position as Mediator and working as His Church's Advocate before the Father on our behalf.

He battles in the heavenly realm against the dragon who we will see in a moment currently holding the office as the Accuser of the Brethren.

Now, we see there in verse six, the woman is forced to flee for 1260 days, speaking once again to the second half of the tribulation period known as the Great Tribulation.

Jesus foretold of these days as well.

He gave a certain sign for the Jews to watch for...

Matt 24:15-21 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be

great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

We see here in Revelation 12, when the Jews eyes are opened at that midpoint of the Tribulation, that they are instructed to flee.

God has prepared a place for them; some say the Rock city of Petra is this place in the wilderness that will serve as a holding place.

But that is only speculation, perhaps in the days of spears and swords that Rock City would have been a great fortress, but in the Tribulation the Satan through the Beast will have horrible weapons that will destroy any fortress.

There is no way to know for sure how God will protect them, but it seems to be in supernatural way as He did the 144,000 Jewish Evangelists.

It most definitely seems to be in the wilderness somewhere, according to Jesus' instructions.

And we see here at the midpoint of the Tribulation, the battle is not just here on earth, but a heavenly war will break out.

Many people have trouble with the fact that Satan has access to heaven currently, but the Bible tells us he does, until this moment we will read about.

He is there to accuse us before God.

Remember in **Job 1:6-7** Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?"

So Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

Satan with this audience before God, began to accuse Job the righteous man of God.

And currently Satan is the **Eph. 2:2**

prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience

We currently battle this unseen foe in the realm of faith.

Eph. 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

We as believers are engaged in a battle of faith with this enemy of our souls.

But one day, Satan will once and for all be cast out of heaven after a great battle, we see this next...

Satan Thrown Out of Heaven

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Michael's name means 'Who is like God,' he is a mighty Archangel.

Many cults and even Seventh Day Adventists see Michael as Jesus, but he is clearly not Jesus in the scriptures.

He is a powerful being, who apparently here rules over angels.

In Daniel 10:13 we see he is one of the chief princes in heaven.

We see Michael in Daniel 10 at war with other princes from the heavenly realm.

Telling us there are more Archangels. Lucifer possibly was another of this class.

We see here, Satan too has his angels who follow him.

In Jude 9 we see clearly Michael and Satan have been battling centuries.

Perhaps since the fall of Lucifer from his position, they have been in this heavenly battle with one another,

intertwining their war with the earthly struggles throughout the ages.

Here at the midpoint of the Tribulation Michael is granted victory once and for all, and we see Satan fall from heaven.

Verse 9 associates him with the serpent in the Garden, and he is also called the Devil *Greek **diabolos**, from the verb **diaballo**, which has the meaning of ‘defaming’ or ‘slandering.’* Guzik

Also here called Satan or accuser.

We see he is described as having the world deceived.

This world that we seek our education from, that we amuse ourselves with, that we entertain our mind with, is all under the deception of this enemy of God.

This powerful ‘being’ is defeated here in heaven at the midpoint of the tribulation, and how dangerous his vengeful wrath will be when he knows he is forever locked out of the third heaven.

He will turn his fury toward God's people on earth in a way that will be so terrible; Jesus explains if those day were not shortened there would be no life left.

Next, we read...

10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

Now it is not clear who this loud voice is, but it seems to be the Martyrs who were praying before the throne during the fifth seal who prayed **Rev 6:10**

"How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

If it is not the Martyrs it is from some member of the Redeemed from earth, because they rejoice at the fact the accuser of "our" brethren is cast to earth.

Now verse 11 really gives us three tools and keys to victory for the saints over the great enemy of ours.

We see they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, this is the beginning to victory, our faith in the death of Jesus upon the Roman cross, being our Propitiation, our Substitute.

His blood was spilled so we might find eternal life, that is where our faith walk begins.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto Salvation.

Then it says they had the word of their testimony.

Understand Christian when you share your story of Christ's redemption you do great damage to Satan's deception.

People can repudiate many things, but they cannot dispute the changed life the gospel has produced in you.

Now, if you are at a lull in your walk, then go, simply tell someone about what Jesus has done in your life.

You know every time I tell someone about Jessica and I in our early years and all that has happened in our life up to this point, it strengthens and emboldens my love for her.

The same with Christ, when I share with other all the mighty things He has done, the bondage He saved me from, the darkness He turned into light.

Jesus saw me dying a slow miserable death, and He gave me life, the old things passed away, behold all things became new.

When I share my testimony, it strengthens me, and reenergizes my commitment to Christ.

Tell your testimony often, now understand it is a tool to use against Satan, many focus on telling their testimonies before other Christians.

Christians do not need to hear your testimony, the unsaved do; the degenerate person is the person who will test your story to see if it is true.

When you tell your testimony to your co-workers right after you just cussed, they will reject your story.

They will test you to see if it is real.

And when your life backs up your testimony, it is a powerful tool against Satan, and it can be used to save those around you.

But your life has to line up with your words and actions or you will be powerless.

Notice here too, they did not love their lives to death.

You want to thrive in your Christian walk, and prevail against the accuser of the brethren, then love Christ more than this life.

Where are you investing your future? Into this life or the next.

John 12:25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

The victory over Satan is when he can hold all the worlds' riches and success before you, and you are dead to it.

You will not bow, you will not sell your soul to his world, but your life is committed to the next.

There you will find victory.

Look at the two reactions when this venomous serpent is cast out of heaven in verse 12.

Rev 12:12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

We see rejoicing in heaven, but then woe on earth.

This fallen cherub will now be fighting in desperation because he knows his time is short.

He will work diligently to convince humanity to turn and even fight the coming King.

And for those who are found during the tribulation who are from this nation, Israel, who brought forth the Messiah, they will pay the brunt of this dragons fury...

The Woman Persecuted

13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. 14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

And we see anti-Semitism here in the tribulation like never before in the history of the world.

The Jews have historically been hated by the world, and all who are under the dragon's deception.

Even after the Child's birth, Satan has raged against this race.

Rome destroyed the Holy City, Satan also used leaders like Hitler to Stalin, to even more modern times with

Saddam Hussain, and the Jews have found no rest from the dragon's wrath.

And here in the Tribulation Satan will give his final effort to erase this nation that was chosen to bring forth the Child to save humanity from the Devil's slavery.

And there in verse 14 the imagery that has been throughout Israel's history and has been a source of hope and truth is found again.

When Pharaoh was the dragon's pawn, God declared **Ex 19:4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.**

And God is still true to this relationship to the Jews in the final week here of Daniel's Prophecy a time also known as Jacob's Sorrows or the Great Tribulation.

Next... We see Satan sends forth a torrent...

15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. 16 But the earth helped the

woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

Now it is not clear if Satan spews forth a literal water here, or perhaps an army to go after those fleeing Judea.

But God does something supernatural to thwart the efforts of the dragon.

Perhaps similar to what happen to Korah and his family in Numbers 16, when the earth opened up and swallowed all those who rebelled against Moses and Aaron.

We see similar imagery used in Isaiah as well...

**Isa 59:19 When the enemy comes in like a flood,
The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.**

God will intervene on behalf of those Jews who flee... and Satan in his frustration will turn to the rest of her offspring throughout the world who have put their faith in Jesus.

17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

There will this double antagonism with those of the Jewish race in the tribulation.

Not only are they from the woman who brought the Child into the world, they have also now put their faith in Jesus Christ.

And this is maddening for Satan, who has deceptively been keeping the Jews from their Savior for all these years.

But their blinders will come off in the Tribulation, and Revival will break out in Israel when the Antichrist defames their temple.

Now chapter 12 on a whole sets forth the introduction and setting for chapter 13.

We have here the historical background and main characters of the tribulation.

Israel, Satan, Christ, Michael and the godly remnant of Jews in tribulation are important figures for the closing scenes of human history.

Next time, we will get the two main human characters the Beast out of the Sea and the Beast from the Earth. They will be Satan's final puppets in the Tribulation period, and they will make up a false trinity, an unholy trinity with Satan.

Now for much of the Lukewarm church today, they have stopped talking about Satan, much of the liberal church today has the idea he does not exist, they are not troubled by him, in their minds he is fictional character or symbolic character.

I don't know how they justify this ideology, the Holy Scriptures clearly tell us this enemy exists, he is no illusion or symbol.

This morning we have learned through the scriptures his purpose, his rage, and his weaknesses.

We have seen clearly through these signs, that John saw, that the Devil is very real.

These passages are valuable for our understanding of this unseen war, no wonder Satan has tried to get us to look to the stars for our answers, the scriptures expose him for who he is.

On our own, Satan is much too powerful of a being to go up against.

You know while in battle over Moses' body, Michael could not even stand on his own before Satan.

It says in **Jude 9** He... **dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"**

And today, we resist our enemy by our faith in Jesus, Christ, the Blood of the Lamb brings us victory, the word of our testimony, and by not loving this world that Satan rules over.

You understand this world is his master decoy.

Satan wants you consumed with this life, he wants you chasing success, he loves to see you stressed out maintaining your lives in this world, he loves watching you run the rat race, killing yourself just make this place more comfortable and easy to bear.

This is his master delusion, that this world is all that there is and that he does not exist.

See through it this morning.

Now we also saw, one of his greatest attributes today, is he is the accuser of the brethren.

Now many of you perhaps have been affected by his accusations.

He whispers, you are lost, the things you are hiding are detestable to God, He will never love a person like you.

Your wickedness is too great, you will never be free of your sins.

Perhaps many of you are defeated by that voice this morning that is unrelenting.

Although you come to church, although you can even talk the Christian lingo, you know the right places to “amen, and praise the Lord.”

Your outside image is covered, you present yourself well, to hide what is really going on inside.

And you are hiding your shame, you make yourself look spiritual to hide the guilt.

On the inside you feel trapped, the Devil has you in bondage to the allegations he is constantly reminding you of.

Perhaps you have cheated on your wife, perhaps you are ensnared in pornography, perhaps you are using drugs secretly, perhaps you are maintaining some lie in your life.

Whatever it is, it weighs on you greatly, all the accusations Satan is whispering in your ear are true.

Well, listen, there is another voice that you must hear to be free of that bondage.

It is the Voice of Truth, you see the Holy Spirit also convicts of us of our sin.

What is the difference between accusation and conviction?

Well the lying serpent's charges against you come with no solution, just misery and guilt, he beats you down, and keeps you in that place of guilt.

The conviction of the Holy Spirit leads you to the solution.

The Holy Spirit does not convict you to keep you in your sin; He brings you to the One who can free you of that sin.

Listen, we just read in our daily manna this week an enormous truth.

1 John 2:1-2 ...And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

You see the conviction of the Holy Spirit brings you to the Advocate, Jesus Christ the Righteous.

You see when you come to Jesus, honestly about your sin, you confess your sin before Him; He will now stand before the Father on your behalf.

You see I like to beat Satan to the punch.

If Satan, the accuser is going to present my sin before God and come against me like that, I want to confess it before Satan does.

You know just leave that proud angel with no reviling accusation.

You see, when you keep it hidden and unconfessed, the guilt will make you mad, and it will destroy you.

You can find healing this morning through confession, and handing it over to the Advocate, Jesus paid a great price for the sins you have committed, turn them over to the only One who can bring healing to your life this morning.

By the Blood of the Lamb you can be free from Satan's bondage!

Listen we are here to pray with you this morning.

Come forward during this last song, and be free of the accuser, come confess your pride, be free of the perversion you are ensnared in.

He will heal those relationships you have destroyed, healing will not come from hiding your sin.

Confess, and start that healing process today.

Jess and I confession and healing...

Also, I want to encourage you, if you know someone who is trapped by Lucifer's lies, who cannot break free of that voice of condemnation, know that we battle Satan through faith and our prayers.

Come up this morning and pray for that prodigal to come home, pray for your family members who are caught up in Satan's deception in this world.

Pray for your lost friends and co-workers; let us battle in the heavenly places this morning.

Amen?