



Satan the Destroyer

Revelation 12 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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Today in Revelation chapter 12, the Lord has given us a **Christian world view** in apocalyptic imagery. The Lord has painted a picture for us of a **cosmic battle** that affects every single one of us.

*Satan*¹, pictured in Revelation as *The Destroyer* Rev 9:11 who slanders God and persecutes His People, is now seen as a *Great Red Dragon*, who tries to destroy Christ during His time on earth.

- † You may remember the **Slaughter of the Holy Innocents**; where Satan was at work through King Herod, and they killed all the boys in Bethlehem 2 years old or younger in an attempt to kill Christ.
- † Satan tried to **tempt Christ in the wilderness**, but Jesus overcame the temptations by holding to the Word of God
- † Frequently Jesus would **cast out demons** from people and **undo** Satan's destruction in people's lives
- † **On the cross**, Jesus destroyed the Destroyer by His death, and triumphs over him in His Resurrection from the dead!
- † Finally, **on the Last Day**, Christ will cast Satan and His demons into the Lake of Fire forever!

In Revelation 12, the death and resurrection of Christ was a battle of who gets to stand in God's presence and speak on our behalf.

The *Dragon, Satan*, would stand to *accuse you of your sin*.

¹ Even though recent studies show that most Christians have abandoned belief in Satan, the Book of Revelation references him in **13 of the 22 chapters**! Satan is revealed as the one behind all secular powers that persecute Christ and His People; and he is behind all religious ideologies that deceive people and lead them away from Christ and His Word of Truth. In Revelation, Satan is a doomed and desperate beast bent on destroying Christians by any means possible!

The **Lord Jesus**, stands to *absolve you of your sins*.

Now war broke out in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was **no longer any place for them in heaven**. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world--he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, **for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God**." REVELATION 12:7-10

This is some wonderful Gospel – good news for us. **What this means is that there is NO ONE IN HEAVEN to accuse you of sin.** Satan has been cast out; and the crucified and risen Son of God now stands in God's presence to **absolve** you of all sin!

The Dragon
Accuses
The Son
ABSOLVES!

- † There is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus Rom 8:1
- † Your sins will **never be brought up against you** --- there is no one in heaven who will remember your sins.
- † Every single sin you commit, especially those that you regret the most, are completely forgiven because of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**The Lord Jesus does not accuse you of sin:
HE ABSOLVES YOUR SIN.**

Absolution is a Latin word that means to **officially announce that you are set free** from your sin and its punishment. It is like Jesus has opened your prison cell door and said: **You are free!** That prison was sin and guilt and death and the power of the devil; Christ opened your cell door, and you are set free! You are absolved! You are forgiven! You have been given a new life of freedom to live!

- † Your new life began at **Baptism**, where God put His Name on you and washed your sins away.
- † Your new life is filled with the **Holy Spirit** leading and directing you

- † Your new life is a life of **faith, and love, and good works.**
- † Your new life in one of **holiness and godliness**
- † Your new life is guided by the **10 Commandments**
- † Your new life is one of striving to be **biblically literate, doctrinally sound, mission minded, and passionately engaged** in the Kingdom of God . . . and,
- † **UNFORTUNATELY**, your new life in Christ also makes you **A TARGET OF Satan and all of his demons.**

Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her **OFFSPRING**, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. • REVELATION 12:17

You are the offspring who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus!

Revelation reinforces --- in apocalyptic imagery --- what Jesus and the Apostles have already taught us: **you can expect persecution, trials, and temptations from Satan and his demons.**

Temptations are everywhere for us.

The Devil and His demons **never tire of their work.**

They are always at work lying and deceiving you!

Remember: They have 6,000 years of practice under their belt!

Satan

REAL. PERSONAL. EVIL.
 ACCUSER. ADVERSARY.
 LIES. DECEIVES. LIAR.
 ROARING LION. WOLF.
 DEMONS. ABYSS.
 KING OF DEMONS.
 ABADDON. APOLLYON.
 DESTROYER.
 ENEMY. MURDERER.
 DRAGON.
 ANGEL OF LIGHT.
 SERPENT. TEMPTER.
 WICKED ONE. BEELZEBUB.
 CAST INTO LAKE OF FIRE!

- † *Satan* can take any good and perfect gift from the Father in Heaven and turn it upside down and make it work against you.
- † *Satan* can whisper false accusations to you in order to get you to doubt God's absolution of your sins
- † *Satan* can cloud the truth and confuse you so much that you will think good is evil and evil is good.

† *Satan* can convince you to sin and then give you reasons to rationalize it so you keep on doing it.

Do not be deceived; *Satan* is your enemy, and He is pictured as a defeated and desperate dragon who knows that his time is short.

But **in Christ**, you are not a helpless victim to *Satan*

You have been “**absolved**” of your sins and your guilt.

You have been **set free** from the power of *the devil and his demons.*

You can live a holy and godly life, resisting *the devil!*

You have been baptized and belong to the Lord!

Christ has empowered you, and the Holy Spirit lives within you!

The Lord works through His Word and His Sacrament to keep you strong in the faith. The Holy Spirit is given to you through Word and Sacrament so that you can live a faithful Christian life resisting *the devil.*

Here is how Martin Luther talks about the devil:

Now, what is the devil?

Nothing else than what the Scriptures call him, *a liar and murderer.*

A liar, to lead the heart astray from the Word of God, and to blind it, so that you cannot feel your distress or come to Christ.

A murderer, who cannot bear to see you live one single hour. If you could see how many knives, darts, and arrows are every moment aimed at you, you would be glad to come to the Sacrament of Holy Communion as often as possible. Martin Luther, *Large Catechism*, Sacrament of the Altar 81-82

The Lord works through His **Word and His Sacrament** to keep you strong in the faith. The Holy Spirit is given to you through Word and Sacrament so that you can live a faithful Christian life resisting *the devil.*

Revelation gives us an understanding of the world around us and *our own personal lives* as we live in these terrible Last Days and these ever increasingly evil End Times.

Satan is your enemy!

- ✓ His goal is to destroy you and lead you away from Christ.

- ✓ But He is defeated by the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

You belong to Christ

Your sins have been absolved.

Resist the devil and all of his evil works and all of his wicked ways.

AMEN!