

I. Introduction

- A. Christmas (the Incarnation) was a declaration of war on all God's enemies.
  - 1. Genesis 3:15
  - 2. This was God keeping His promise to "ransom captive Israel."
- B. Christmas is so much bigger than presents, decorations, parties, etc. It is the definitive execution of God's plan to love and redeem all humanity.

II. The battle

A. Now a war arose in Heaven

- 1. Non-specific time
  - a. Original fall of Satan
  - d. During the work of Jesus
  - c. Midpoint of the Great Tribulation
    - 1) End of the age half-way through the seven-year tribulation
    - 2) Outpouring of the Spirit - endurance, grace, and power for witness
    - 3) Daniel 8:9-12

"Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land. It grew great, even to the host of Heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them. It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper."
    - 4) \*What happens here is accomplished by the advent of Christmas!
- 2. What we know for sure: the result of this cosmic conflict is the defeat of the dragon and the victory of God.

B. Michael and his angels

- 1. Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9

Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."  
(Daniel 10:12-14)

At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. (Daniel 12:1)
- 2. Guardian and protector of God's people

C. Dragon and his angels

1. Defeated—by God's armies
2. Dismissed—from the presence of God
3. \*See Job 1:6ff

D. Characterization of our enemy

1. Great dragon: ferocity and terror (no Puff the magic dragon or dragon tails ... dragon tails, dragon tails, it's almost time for dragon tails ...)
2. Ancient serpent: Genesis 3 connection (not Serpentor)
3. The devil: accuser/slanderer
4. Satan: literally the adversary or the enemy
5. \*John 8:44  
*You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*
6. \*Even with this characterization, he is a defeated foe!

III. So what?

A. *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:10-12)*

1. The reality: our fight is spiritual with physical symptoms (Do we believe in treating the problem or do we just want the symptoms to go away?)
  - a. \*We are often satisfied with the absence of symptoms and live our lives distant from Jesus.
  - b. You must fight with spiritual power if there is to be any lasting change
  - c. Don't use a pain reliever to feel better about how we are doing!
2. In order to defeat/defend against spiritual powers we must use spiritual weapons.
  - a. Scripture, prayer, fasting, generosity
  - b. Unity (John 17:20-26)
  - c. Don't believe what ANYONE tells you unless they have fully embraced the truth of this fight and surrendered to the weapons Jesus has given us rather than using the weapons of the dragon. (I've been fighting this battle since I was 6 years old)

B. What do we do in light of Satan's defeat?

1. Expect (1 Peter 4:12)  
*Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed. (1 Peter 4:12-13)*
2. Endure (1 Corinthians 13:7; Mark 13:13)  
*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:7*

*And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (Mark 13:13)*

3. Expose (Ephesians 5:11; 6:12)

*Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. (Ephesians 5:7-14a)*

COMMUNION