

## Revelation's Star Wars Battle for the Throne

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1

### Revelation's Star Wars Battle for the Throne

Tonight we are going to sweep aside the curtain and look at what is really going on in the universe.

We will discover a star wars' conflict beyond our wildest imagination. This war of the worlds features an amazing battle between good and evil angels.



2

Angels are heavenly beings originally created by God to loyally serve Him and enjoy the glory of His presence throughout eternity.



3

**Angels** are one of the dominant themes of the book of **Revelation**.



4

The book opens with Jesus sending His angel to John to reveal to him the truths of Revelation.

Angels reveal God's message in each age of human history.



5

In **Revelation 2 and 3** angels are God's messengers to the Seven Churches.



6

In **Revelation 7** four angels stand on the four corners of the earth holding back the final winds of destruction from totally devastating the earth before the coming of Jesus.



7

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**Revelation 10** pictures a mighty angel crying with a loud voice of warning to all of earth's inhabitants.



8

In **Revelation 14** three angels are pictured swiftly carrying God's urgent, end-time message to "every nation, tribe, tongue, and people" Revelation 14:6—to prepare them for the coming of Jesus.



9

An angel unleashes the 7 vials of **Revelation 16**.



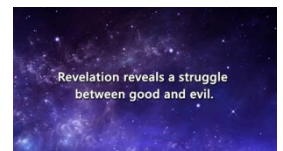
10

And a mighty angel carries God's last day message in **Revelation 18**. Angels are major characters in the book of Revelation. They are heavenly beings commissioned by God, invisible to human eyes, but nonetheless—real.



11

**Revelation reveals a struggle between good and evil, between Christ and Satan.**



12

Good angels exist, but so do evil angels.

The book of Revelation tells us that a war broke out in heaven.



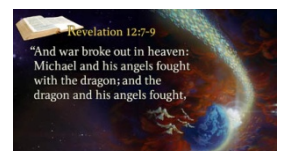
13

Combat erupted in paradise.

Angel armies took sides for a dramatic showdown. The story is presented in dramatic symbols in **Revelation chapter 12**:

### Revelation 12:7-9

***“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,***



14

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***but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.***



15

***So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world;***



16

***he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."***



17

War in heaven? Angels involved in combat?  
Christ and Satan battling in heaven?  
How can this be?  
This brings up other perplexing questions.

**Why was there war in heaven?**

**Where did this dragon come from?**



18

Fortunately we can find some clues in the Bible.

Let's repeat our theme for these meetings:  
**If it's in the Bible, I believe it.**  
**If it disagrees with the Bible,**  
**It's not for me.**



19

In fact, we're able to piece together a kind of pre-history of Satan.

You can never fully understand the pain and suffering in our world unless you understand what really went on behind the scenes in heaven.

The book of Ezekiel in the Bible gives us a look into the heart of Lucifer himself.



20

It reveals what he was thinking, what was going on in his

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mind.

Let's read it together.

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### Ezekiel 28:12

***“Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.’”***



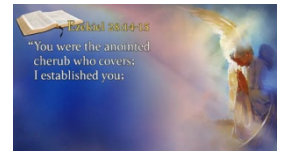
21

This angel had a special place near the throne of God. He was the “seal of perfection, full of wisdom, perfect in beauty.”

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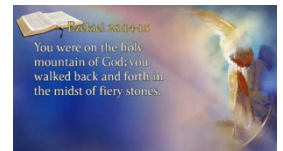
### Ezekiel 28:14-15

***“You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you;***



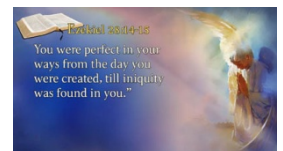
22

***You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.***



23

***You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.”***



24

**God did not create a demon.** He did not create the devil. According to the Bible, He created a perfect angelic being.



25

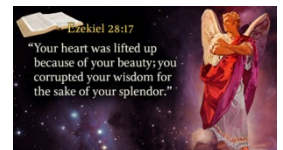
The picture of Lucifer walking back and forth among the fiery stones, suggests someone who existed in the midst of the glory of God, near the brilliance of the Holy One.

But something happened to this wonderful angel:

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### Ezekiel 28:17

***“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.”***



This angel became focused on his own splendor, mesmerized by his own beauty. And his pride led him into sin.

How could this happen in a perfect universe?  
There is only one way.

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Love can never be forced or coerced.  
It must come voluntarily from the heart.



27

And if you take away the opportunity to love,  
you take away the ability to be truly happy.

Since God desired the ultimate happiness of all His creatures He gave them the power of choice.  
He wanted all of His creation to love Him voluntarily.

God gave Lucifer the power of choice.  
He had the freedom and right to choose to love God.  
This meant he also was capable, as all of us are, to choose to not love.

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God did not want robots or puppets.  
God wanted real, thinking intelligent beings who could love and experience joy.



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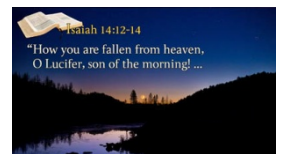
That could not happen without the power of choice.

Isaiah the prophet shows us how Lucifer himself chose to rebel against God and change to become a fallen angel.

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### Isaiah 14:12-14

***“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! . . .***



29

***For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;***



30



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***I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;***



31

***I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.”***

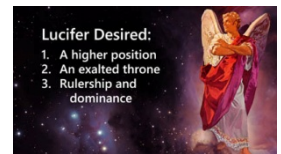


32

Did you notice the focus of these thoughts of Lucifer are all on himself?

**Lucifer Desired:**

- 1. A higher position**
- 2. An exalted throne**
- 3. Rulership and dominance**



33

That's what started it all. That's how this angel began his tragic fall, a fall that would pull a lot of other angels down with him.

By contrast, the Bible says in **1 John 4:8**

***“God is love.”***



34

**Love is the foundation of God's government. Not force.**

You can never successfully force love.



35

Love was all around Lucifer but Lucifer turned away from love.

Finally turning farther and farther away from God, Lucifer began to see God as a rival!

His twisted mind began to picture God as the enemy.



36

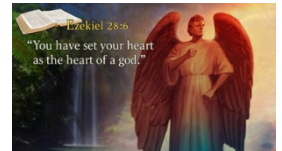
The Bible describes the result:

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### Ezekiel 28:6

***“You have set your heart as the heart of a god.”***



37

Lucifer began to think, “Why should God have all the power and authority?” He imagined himself a god just as qualified as God to run things.

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Try to imagine what kind of disturbance this caused in heaven.



38

Imagine a place where jealousy and slander and malice don't exist – had never existed!

It never occurred to anyone to question the wisdom and love of God.

Suddenly, this brilliant Lucifer, this cherub so near the throne of God, starts making subtle remarks, not openly challenging God but questioning how He was doing things.

He questions why God has to have all the glory.  
Why every created being has to obey God.

He suggests that maybe there's an alternative, a better way to run the universe.

Carefully, artfully he shared this lie among the angels claiming that God was unfair and unjust in His administration of the divine government.

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### **How would God face Lucifer's challenge?**

Many may wish that God would have simply destroyed Lucifer.



39

They reason this way.

Because if this was the origin of evil, if Lucifer was the first to cut himself off from God's love, then why not nip evil in the bud?

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**Why not eliminate evil before it spread to other worlds?**  
Why didn't God just execute Lucifer? Good question.



40

Think for a moment. Think about what this would have said to all the watching angels.

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If someone spreads lies about the king or president of a country, and then the liar is executed, would this prove that the lies were false? Or, would people always wonder if the lies maybe were true after all?



41

God's reputation and credibility were at stake when Satan delivered his haughty challenge.

The question raised was: Is God really just?  
Is His way really best?  
Destroying the opposition wouldn't have answered that challenge.

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Instead, **God chose a wiser course.**

He would allow sin to exist in the universe for a period of time.



42

It would fully demonstrate that rebellion against God does not bring happiness, but disaster.

The universe, including each one of us, had to see for ourselves. We had to know that God is love and His way is best, beyond a shadow of a doubt because that was the only way God could solve the problem of evil once and for all.

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**Love depends on free choice.**

But, we will not choose to love one we do not first trust.



43

God wants us to trust Him, to see His way brings joy, happiness, and security to the Universe so no one will ever choose evil again. So every question must be answered.

But Lucifer could not remain in Heaven.

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### Revelation 12:9

***“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world;***



44

***he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”***



45

But, we ask,

**How did planet earth become involved in the cosmic conflict?**

Was Satan dumped off on earth? Or did earth's first inhabitants open the door to him?



46

The Bible's first book, **Genesis**, tells us that everything was “good” when God created earth,



47

And that included the first human beings. They too were perfect, moral beings, capable of loving. They also were given **Freedom to Choose**.



48

God gave them that opportunity by creating two trees, the Tree of Life, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

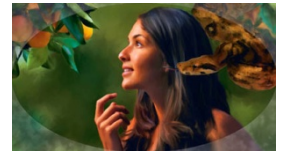
By choosing to eat of the Tree of Life, they showed their loyalty to God.

But God forbid them to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. By disobeying, and eating of that tree they would be choosing against God, and for Satan's side of the war.

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When Eve wandered over to the forbidden tree Satan, disguised as a serpent, had the opportunity to spread his lies.



49

God had said that if they ate of the tree they would die.

But Satan said:

### **Genesis 3:4-5**

***“You will not surely die.***



50

***For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”***



51

Satan was essentially saying, “You will have greater happiness if you follow me. God is restricting your freedom.”

Tragically, Eve and her husband, Adam accepted that lie.

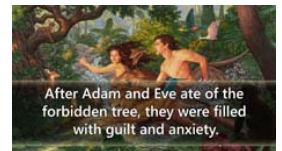
Today we can see the results of this choice all around us. Satan’s alternative is not anything like what that serpent in Eden advertised.



52

We live on a planet in rebellion, a planet full of decay and death.

**After Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden tree, they were filled with guilt and anxiety.**



53

When God came looking for them in the garden, they hid from His face.

And we’ve been running and hiding ever since.

Sin produces alienation between us and God. It produces conflict and alienation between people.



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The seeds of the first war were planted in the hearts of our first parents when they sinned.

54

The reason there is abuse in the home and so much animosity in this world is that sin has infected the human heart.

When human beings are alienated from God, they become alienated from their fellow human beings as well.

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### **Sin Produces: Anxiety, Fear, Suffering, Death**



55

Sin, choosing Satan's form of government, has produced all the sickness, heartache, and death all around us,

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### **Who is responsible?**

Jesus told a parable about a good man who planted good seed in his field. But some time later his servants went out and found terrible weeds growing among the good plants. When they asked the good man what happened,



56

### **Matthew 13:28**

***“He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’”***



57

When we are perplexed and ask why there are the tragic weeds of sickness, heartache, atrocities, and brokenness, we also find an answer in these words.

God is not responsible. “An enemy has done this.”



58

God planted good seed.  
He didn't sow sickness and suffering and death.

An enemy of God and man came with deception and lies sowing seeds of destruction in the good that God had created.

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The Bible consistently identifies this enemy as **Satan**, the **adversary**, the **accuser**, the **devil**.



59

He is the one who rebelled against God and unleashed the whole sin problem.

In Scripture, the devil isn't some fairy-tale figure that flits around with a pitchfork.

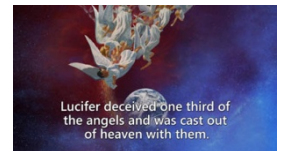
He is a very real being who causes very real tragedies and is a clever deceiver.



60

**He deceived one third of the angels and was cast out of heaven with them.**

They knocked on the door of planet earth.



61

God wanted that door to be forever shut.

As Satan knocked, Eve responded.  
She opened the door.

Satan said to Eve, "God is unjust; God is restricting your happiness. You'll be happier if you listen to me and partake of the fruit."



62

She opened that door and Adam followed her lead.  
As a result, sickness and suffering, heartache and death came into this world.



63

This earth got caught in the crossfire because the deceiver tricked our first parents into rebellion. It became a world in rebellion.

But you say, "**Why doesn't God do something?**"



64

Right there in the **garden** of Eden God made the most magnificent **promise** in all of scripture to rebellious humanity.



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God promised He would restore everything that was lost by sin.

65

### Genesis 3:15

***“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed;***



66

***He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”***



67

He, “Christ”, the Messiah will come. Right there in the Garden of Eden the Messiah promised He would come.

He would give to Satan a deadly striking blow. He would crush his (Satan's) head, but in the process receive a wound on His heel.

In the process of striking a fatal blow to Satan, Jesus would receive a tragic wound Himself on the cross.



68

The blow would not annihilate the Savior however.

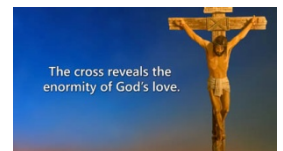
He would rise victoriously as our Redeemer, Savior, Lord and Coming King.



69

How would God answer Satan's challenge?  
How would love stand out in contrast to selfishness?

Christ would come;  
He would be suspended on a cross.



70

Nails would be driven in His hands.

Hanging there between heaven and earth He would demonstrate to the whole universe that God cares. That God loves.



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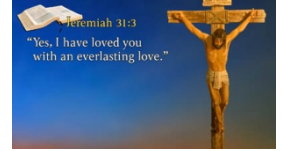
In the death of Christ we would see principalities and powers of hell cast down.

**The cross reveals the enormity of God's love.**

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Our Lord cries out in **Jeremiah 31:3**

***“Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love . . .”***



71

God would come to a world in rebellion.  
He would come as a baby born of the womb of Mary.  
He would face Satan's challenge head on.



72

**“Why doesn't God do something if He loves us.”** we ask?



73

**He has!**



74

Adam and Eve sinned.  
They rebelled against God.



75

God did not destroy this world.  
He did not push this world into outer space.  
Heaven responded to Satan's challenge with love.  
Heaven answered Satan's questions with love.  
Heaven revealed that love had a plan.



76

The Bible says—

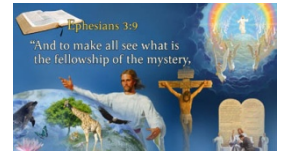
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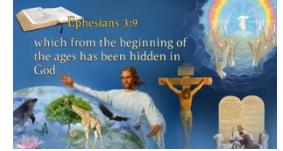
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### Ephesians 3:9

***“And to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery,***



***which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God***



***who created all things through Jesus Christ;”***

What is the mystery of the ages?  
The mystery of the ages is this—  
How could God love us so much?



**Lucifer challenged God's government in heaven.**  
He accused God of being unfair.

The mystery of the ages is that God loves us.  
The mystery is that God's love will go to any depth to save us.



There is no valley so deep, no pit so dark where God's love cannot reach you, friend.

There is no place where you can wander that God's love cannot reach you.

There is no place you can run so far from Him that His love will not seek you out.

Satan is a liar, He says, God doesn't love you.  
He makes you feel worthless.



**“But Look at the nails in My hands,” Christ says.**

Satan says that God doesn't love you.  
But Jesus cries out—



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“But look at the crown of thorns on my head”.

Satan says that Christ doesn't love, but Jesus responds,  
“I went all the way to the cross and the grave for you.  
I took the penalty of sin.”

He hung His head and died on that dark Friday long ago.  
He said, “It Is Finished.”

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And then the next day, on Sabbath, in the quietness of the tomb He rested.



83

But the next day, the first day of the week,

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Hallelujah, Hallelujah!  
An angel descends and the stone is rolled away and Christ comes forth alive.



84

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN!  
And He ascended to heaven.

The good news is: He's alive today.  
God has done something about the problem of evil. He has provided a Savior for those tricked in to the slavery of the Devil.

He sent Jesus Christ to suffer and die.

Why doesn't God do something? He did.  
He entered this snake pit of a world with all of its evil and fought in the decisive battle of human history in mortal combat to defeat Satan for you.

Satan is a defeated foe.  
Christ triumphed over him on the cross.

There, Jesus revealed His eternal love for all the universe to see. There, Jesus paid redemption's price for our sins.

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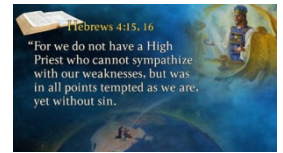
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But that is not all, listen:

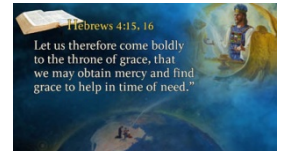
### Hebrews 4:15, 16

***“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.***



85

***Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”***



86

Why doesn't God do something?  
He is doing something. He is our Lord.  
He is our great High Priest in heaven.  
Pleading the merits of His own sacrifice on our behalf.

Right now His grace is available to you, whatever your situation.

But there is more. God has done something, He is doing something, but the book of Revelation says, God will yet do something.



87

One day, sin and wickedness will come to an end.  
God will destroy Satan forever.  
Satan will not tempt us through all eternity.  
He will not have his way forever.

The Garden Promise will be fulfilled. Christ will yet totally crush and stamp out Satan and all evil forever.  
Here's how Revelation puts it—

### Revelation 20:10

***“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.”***



88

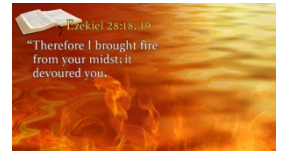
The prophet Ezekiel adds these words.

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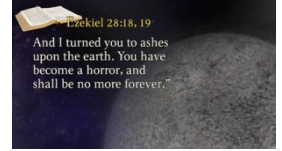
### Ezekiel 28:18,19

***“Therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you,***



89

***And I turned you to ashes upon the earth. You have become a horror, and shall be no more forever.”***



90

One day Satan will be consumed.  
He will be turned to ashes.  
He will be gone forever.

One day the universe will be clean.  
Jesus and His people will reign triumphantly.

The Bible, this ancient book that has survived the test of time, tells us that a time is coming when only peace and love will remain.



91

Sin, sorrow, suffering, and heartache will be no more.

God is love. His way is best. And one day that way will prevail.

Would you like to learn more about what the Bible has revealed about the Love of God and His plan?  
We will continue in this series of studies to look at the big issues in this war that has caused such heartache and loss.

The Bible tells us so much. We will learn why Satan has such hatred toward God and His people. We will learn more about how the plan to save people has been implemented and how you and I can have assurance that His offer of eternal life is real and can be ours.

We will study more about the ministry of Christ in Heaven right now as our High Priest.

We will study what Christ has revealed about the manner in



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which He will return the second time to earth and what happens then.

We will see what the issues are surrounding the Mark of the Beast and the Harlot of Babylon.

We will also learn more about the glorious home of the redeemed.

Did you know that the Bible says that God will move the capital of the Universe to this planet? We will find out when that is going to happen and what it is going to be like.

You will find in these studies a beautiful picture of God, so much in contrast to the ugly empty system the Devil offers.

Satan rebelled in heaven and he follows the same tactics today.

He leads us to rebel against God on some point in our lives. Our only safety is to totally, completely, surrender our lives to the living Christ.

It is never too late or too early to chose God's way. Right now, we can commit to join Christ's side of the war.

We cannot close this study without giving you an opportunity to make a special commitment to God. To the degree that you understand His love and wisdom in dealing with the problem of rebellion in the universe, would you like to choose to be on His side in this war? If so, we can all join in a prayer right now of commitment to Him.

If there is some need in your life and you need special prayer, just raise your hand right now as we pray.

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