



2023 Q2 Three Cosmic Messages: Lesson 1 Jesus Wins – Satan Loses

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SABBATH

The information in Revelation 12 we are studying today is in preparation for the Three Cosmic Messages, or Three Angels' Messages in Revelation 14. This is the theme for 2nd Quarter this year.

Revelation was given to the Apostle John while he was on the rocky island of Patmos, where he was exiled by the Roman Emperor Titus Flavius Domitianus in AC 95 as a criminal because he could not be killed with boiling oil. He was the last of the Apostles to die, most of which had been put to death by sword or crucifixion. While all the distractions of a busy life were gone, John grew even closer to Jesus. Is there a parallel to our lives with Jesus?

Revelation starts off with a statement of the reason this book is needed, I'm using the New International Version/NIV:

“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw – that is, the word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.”

Let's read Revelation 12, so we can “get the lay of the land” we are about to explore.

For many people, the symbolism of Revelation is very perplexing, so they prefer to focus on the easier books of the Bible. Leave Revelation to the scholars! But what if we read Revelation and skip the symbols? What could we learn about Jesus, his mission, our mission and our future? Here's what I read when I summarized each page of Revelation in my Bible, leaving out the symbols:

- This calls for taking it to heart
- He loves us and has freed us from our sins
- Repent, go back to your first love, do what you did at first, overcome
- Do God's will to the end, remember what you received and heard, obey it and repent, be earnest
- Worthy is the Lamb (allow me a bit of symbolism here, as I'm pretty sure we have all figured out that the Lamb is “The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” John 1:29, which are the words John the Baptist spoke about Jesus), He purchased men for God
- God will lead to springs of living water – we will never again thirst for spiritual life
- Repent of the work of your hands and acts
- It is time for God to judge the dead



- Overcome by taking the remedy for sin Jesus created with His life, death and resurrection, as well as your testimony about him
- Obey God's commands, hold to the testimony of Jesus
- This calls for faithfulness, patient endurance and wisdom
- Stay awake and keep your clothes on – He comes like a thief!
- Abandon the confused messages about God, so you don't sin or receive plagues.
- God's Judgments are just and true – He gives us the righteous acts we do
- The dead are judged by what they have done
- God will live with us, wipe every tear from our eyes and make everything new
- Worship God – "I AM coming soon" to give to everyone according to what he has done

Try it yourself and see what comes to your mind as you do this. Revelation is less of a march through time, and more like examining the facets of a beautiful diamond, viewing the same thing from different angles.

Now, this lesson's title, "Jesus Wins – Satan Loses" is pretty self-explanatory, and is what we are praying will happen very, very soon. We live inside a life and death spiritual war, in the prisoner-of-war camp of the universe. Satan has held us prisoners, where, as far as we know, only Enoch and Elijah were taken to heaven without dying. So, very few people get out alive.

When prisoners hear of rescue plans their hearts leap for joy and they pray that those who are coming to rescue them will be stronger than their captors. The Bible assures us that our "Savior" is indeed stronger than our captor. And could it be that our captor is ourselves, our own beliefs and actions that have aligned us with Satan's beliefs and methods?

- Isaiah 1:24, 25 says, "Therefore the Lord, the Lord Almighty, the Mighty One of Israel, declares: 'Ah! I will get relief from my foes and avenge myself on my enemies. I will turn my hand against you. I will thoroughly purge away your dross and remove all your impurities.'"
- Isaiah 35:3, 4 says, "Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, 'Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.'"

We know Satan is doomed, no matter how strong he may appear. He is depicted as the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night. Earthlings are warned in Revelation 12:12, that even though Satan and his angels were thrown down from heaven, he has come to us, "filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

Satan is described as sleepless, relentless, ruthless, destructive, malevolent, and exceedingly deceptive. A roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. He knows us better than we know ourselves, better than our spouse knows us. He knows just what buttons to push, where our weaknesses are and how to manipulate us. He may not be able to read our thoughts or our unspoken prayers, but he is really good at interpreting our body language.



Isaiah 14 Talks about the end of the one who oppresses the people with unceasing blows and relentless aggression, calling him the “king of Babylon”. He is described as the one who fell from heaven, from being the morning star, son of the dawn, because he said in his heart that he would ascend to the heavens, enthroned on the mount of assembly and make himself like the Most High. He is accused of making the world a wilderness, overthrowing its cities and not allowing his captives to go home. He will be brought down to the realm of the dead, and his followers are slain by the sword. The final judgment against him comes in verse 20, “you have destroyed your land and killed your people.” This is the result of the war we are part of.

But just because Jesus wins, does that mean we do? We are in the same situation that Israel was when thinking about leaving Egypt and heading for the promised land, and when leaving the desert for the promised land on the West side of the Jordan River. To them, and to us, God says:

Deuteronomy 30:11-20:

“Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, ‘Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?’ No, the word is very near you, it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, ‘Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?’ No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

Ezekiel 18:23:

“Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign Lord. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?”

Ezekiel 18:32:

“For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!”

So, the overview is about choosing the winning side; weighing the consequences of life and death and choosing Life, who wins over death and Satan.



Memory Text: “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.”
Revelation 12:17

SUNDAY

The Battle in Heaven

The importance of freedom is highlighted in Sunday’s lesson. This has been one of the key points of Come and Reason Ministry and of the Bible.

The third paragraph says: “The power of choice is closely aligned with the ability to love. If you take away the power of choice, you destroy the ability to love, for love can never be forced or coerced. Love is an expression of free will. Every angel in heaven was faced with the choice either to respond to God’s love or to turn away in selfishness, arrogance, and pride. Just as the heavenly angels were confronted by love with an eternal choice, Revelation presents each one of us with eternal choices in earth’s final conflict.”

So, why do so many Christians say, “God is in Control?” If He were in control of Satan, would Satan have sinned, along with a third of the angels, as mentioned in Revelation 12: 4, 7-9

What is God in control of?

- His actions – loving, forgiving, creating, serving, judging (diagnosing) - living and dying for us to create the remedy for our lethal problem of sin, healing of our mental, spiritual and physical issues, protecting us from Satan’s design to kill us and destroy everything we are and have, allowing us to torture and kill him so that we could understand who He really is, and who Satan really is
- His laws – They way He created the universe – physics, science, music, art and beauty, upholding and maintaining them

The last paragraph on Sunday’s lesson says, “...all we have to do, using our free will, is choose to be on His side, the winning side. How great to be able to choose a side in a battle that you know, beforehand, it will win.”

But the Bible warns there is a cost to our decision, either decision:

Choose Jesus:

- Matthew 16:24-27 – “The Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and they he will reward each person according to what they have done.’”



Choose Satan:

- Isaiah 33: 14-16 – “The sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling grips the godless. Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who of us can dwell with the everlasting burning? He who walks righteously and speaks what is right, who rejects gain from extortion and keeps his hand from accepting bribes, who stops his ears against plots of murder and shuts his eyes against contemplating evil – this is the man who will dwell on the heights, whose refuge will be the mountain fortress.”
- Luke 23:28-31 – “Jesus turned and said to them, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, “Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’. Then “they will say to the mountains “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!”’. For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”
- Job 38:1, 17 – “Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: ...Have the gates of death been shown to you? Have you seen the gates of deepest darkness?
- Job 10:20-22 – “Turn away from me so I can have a moment’s joy before I go to the place of no return, to the land of gloom and utter darkness, to the land of deepest night, of utter darkness and disorder, where even the light is like darkness.”

MONDAY

Satan’s Attack

Shall we plunge into the symbols and see if we can’t decipher and understand them? Revelation is not a sealed book, like Daniel’s was. It is meant to be understood by us, here in the very toenails of the end of time. World events, natural disasters, and the other fulfillments of prophecy are shouting to us, “The end of all things is at hand.”

Monday’s lesson starts with Satan trying to kill Christ when born, during the wilderness temptation, before and at his death on the cross. The attack actually started in heaven...a character assassination of Michael (who we know as Jesus) and God. Isaiah 14 says that Satan is described as the one who fell from heaven, from being the morning star, son of the dawn, because he said in his heart that he would ascend to the heavens, enthroned on the mount of assembly and make himself like the Most High. He was jealous and suspicious of the ruler of the universe and thought he could do better, have a better result.

What do these symbols mean?

- Dragon – Satan – Revelation 12:9 – “The dragon was hurled down, that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth and his angels



with him.” Described as being enormous and red, having 7 heads, 7 crowns on his heads, and 10 horns.

- Woman – Church – Ephesians 5:25-27 – “Husbands, loves your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.” Described as being clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. Pregnant, crying out in pain and about to give birth to a male child.
- Male Child – The Messiah, Christ, Jeshua, Jesus – Ephesians 5:32 – “This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church.” Described as ruling all the nations with a rod of iron. He was snatched up to God and to his throne.
- Rod of Iron – Or Scepter of kingship. – Psalms 2:4-11 – “The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, ‘I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.’ I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: “He said to me, ‘You are my Son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth you possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter (or rod); you will dash them to pieces like pottery.’ Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”

The second paragraph of Monday’s lesson points out that a rod is a symbol of dominion or rulership. A rod of iron is a symbol of an unbreakable, all-powerful, invincible rulership. Jesus faced every single temptation that we experience, but He came off a conqueror. When we accept Jesus by faith, His victory is ours.

Jesus is the only being in the universe safe with ALL power. He will not use it to beat us, his sheep, but to lead, protect, serve and provide all things needed....healing of our lethal sin condition, and cleansing us from all unrighteousness, which makes us perfect and healthy.

TUESDAY

Accepting Jesus’ Victory

I would like to examine the difference between “Accepting Jesus’ victory by faith, and being cured by Jesus through faith.

For those who value E.G. White, Desire of Ages, pg 309,

“The greatest deception of the human mind in Christ’s day was that a mere assent to the truth constitutes righteousness. In all human experience a theoretical knowledge of the truth has



been proved to be insufficient for the saving of the soul. It does not bring forth the fruits of righteousness. A jealous regard for what is termed theological truth often accompanies a hatred of genuine truth as made manifest in life. The darkest Chapters of history are burdened with the record of crimes committed by bigoted religionists. The Pharisees claimed to be children of Abraham, and boasted of their possession of the oracles of God, yet these advantages did not preserve them from selfishness, malignity, greed for gain, and the basest hypocrisy. They thought themselves the greatest religionists of the world, but their so-called orthodoxy led them to crucify the Lord of glory. The same danger still exists. Many take it for granted that they are Christians, simply because they subscribe to certain theological tenets. But they have not brought the truth into practical life. They have not believed and loved it, therefore they have not received the power and grace that come through sanctification of the truth. Men may profess faith in the truth; but if it does not make them sincere, kind, patient, forbearing, heavenly-minded, it is a curse to its possessors, and through their influence it is a curse to the world."

E.G. White, Christ's Object Lessons, pgs 311-314,

"Nothing can man devise to supply the place of his lost robe of innocence, No fig-leaf garment, no worldly citizen-dress, can be worn by those who sit down with Christ and angels at the marriage supper of the Lamb. Only the covering which Christ Himself has provided, can make us meet to appear in God's presence. This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put upon every repenting, believing soul....This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us. 'All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.' Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin. But the Son of God 'was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin.' Sin is defined to be 'the transgression of the law.' But Christ was obedient to every requirement of the law....By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us, He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah....All must pass the scrutiny of the great King, and only those are received who have put on the robe of Christ's righteousness. Righteousness is right-doing, and it is by their deeds that all will be judged. Our characters are revealed by what we do. The works show whether the faith is genuine. It is not enough for us to believe that Jesus is not an impostor, and that the religion of the Bible is no cunningly devised fable. We may believe that the name of Jesus is the only name under heaven whereby man may be saved, and yet we may not through faith make Him our personal Saviour. It is not enough to believe the theory of truth. It is not enough to make a profession of faith in Christ and have our names registered on the church roll...'Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.' This is the genuine evidence of conversion. Whatever our profession, it amounts to nothing unless Christ is revealed in works of righteousness....Every jot and tittle of the word of God is to be brought into the daily practice....When a soul receives Christ, he receives power to live the life of Christ."



This lesson talks quite a bit about our debt being canceled, and our sins forgiven, and that means we stand perfect in the sight of God. But something seems to be missing here.

We must know God well enough to trust Him, open ourselves to Him and allow Him to clean up the utter mess that is inside our brains. Christ's life and death provided the right to do this work, and the means to complete it. He must rewire us with new hearts and minds that are "up to code." He must fill us with unselfish love and compassion, clip off all bad ideas and habits, heal our wounds, hurts, resentments. This work is done intimately, between us and God. This is what it means to "know Him." To be "united to Him." To have "a new mind", "a new heart", "a new spirit", "the mind of Christ", "a heart of flesh". It cannot be done by hope and wishing alone. "Many people will be fat wishing and hoping to be thin." To be thin, you must take action. To be saved, you must hold on to your relationship with Christ for dear life. Don't let anything else take priority in your life.

WEDNESDAY

The Woman in the Wilderness

Revelation mentions three different periods that are all the same – 1,200 days 3 1/2 years (Time = 1 year, times = 2 years, half a time = half a year), or 42 months. If we do the math, they all come out within a day or so of one another. If we use 30-day months (as many prophecies do), they come out exactly 3 ½ years to the day.

Revelation 12:6, 14-16 mentions a 1,260 year timeline, one of which describes the 1,260 years as "time, times, and half a time." This same time period is found in Daniel 7:25, and Revelation 11:2. We know from Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:4-6 that a day stands for a year in prophecy.

A prophetic calendar year of 360 days, or twelve months of 30 days each, is used in prophetic chronology.

So, the 1,260 years of this prophecy is generally understood to be the period of AD 538 to 1798. This time period of oppression and persecution by a corrupt church together with a corrupt state we now call "The Dark Ages." It started when the barbarians, who did not accept the Catholic religion, controlled the city of Rome until 538, when the armies of the eastern Byzantine Empire under general Belisarius began a series of victories in the Gothic wars that would ultimately allow Rome to become an effective center for the Roman Catholic authority that ruled during the Middle Ages, It ended when Berthier, one of Napoleon's generals, at his command, took the French army to Rome, made the bishop of Rome, Pope Pius VI, prisoner, and carried him to France, where he died. The civil power of the papacy was curtailed and a republic was set up in Rome.

The woman or God's church, fled into the desert (Rev 12:6) to a place "prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days." In verse 14, the woman was given 2 wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place "prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care



of out of the serpent's reach." Fleeing and flying refer to the same thing, leaving quickly to go into hiding. During the Dark Ages, the Waldenses hid in the mountains, for example.

Satan's methods of oppression and persecution were used by the serpent to try to sweep away God's people from the earth, but "the earth helped the woman." God provided for his church while they were in hiding, as he will for his end-time people, "the remnant." The wicked will use Satan's time-tested methods in the end, as well.

THURSDAY

God's End-time Remnant

Since Satan couldn't kill Jesus or cause His mission to fail, he turned to "make war against the rest of her offspring – those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

The third and fourth paragraph of Thursday's lesson state,

"Earth's last war is not centered in the Middle East and the various conflicts there; it is centered in the minds of God's people scattered all over the world. It is a battle between two opposing forces, Christ and Satan. Again, no one is neutral. The central question in this final war is, 'Who has our loyalty? Where is our allegiance?' Heaven calls for believers who are so charmed by Christ's love, redeemed by his grace, committed to His purposes, empowered by His Spirit, and so obedient to His commands that they are willing to face death itself for His cause."

E.G. White, Council to the Churches, pg 261,

"Great blessings are enfolded in the observance of the Sabbath, and God desires that the Sabbath day shall be to us a day of joy. There was joy at the institution of the Sabbath. God looked with satisfaction upon the work of His hands. All things that he had made He pronounced 'very good.' Genesis 1:31. Heaven and earth were filled with rejoicing. 'The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.' Job 38:7. Though sin has entered the world to mar His perfect work, God still gives to us the Sabbath as a witness that One omnipotent, infinite in goodness and mercy, created all things. Our heavenly Father desires through the observance of the Sabbath to preserve among men a knowledge of Himself. He desires that the Sabbath shall direct our minds to Him as the true and living God, and that through knowing Him we may have life and peace. When The Lord delivered His people Israel from Egypt and committed to them His law, He taught them that by the observance of the Sabbath they were to be distinguished from idolaters. It was this that made the distinction between those who acknowledge the sovereignty of God and those who refuse to accept Him as their Creator and King. 'It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever,' the Lord said. 'Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.' Exodus 31:17, 16. As the Sabbath was the sign that distinguished Israel when they came out of Egypt to enter the earthly Canaan, so it is the sign that now distinguishes God's people as they come out from the world to enter the



heavenly rest. The Sabbath is a sign of the relationship existing between God and His people, a sign that they honor His law. It distinguishes between His loyal subjects and transgressors.”

E.G. White, Desire of Ages, pg 308,

“Till heaven and earth pass,' said Jesus. 'one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.' The sun shining in the heavens, the solid earth upon which you dwell, are God's witnesses that His law is changeless and eternal. Though they may pass away, the divine precepts shall endure. 'It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.' Luke 16:17. The system of types that pointed to Jesus as the lamb of God was to be abolished at His death; the but precepts of the Decalogue are as immutable as the throne of God. Since 'the law of the Lord is perfect,' every variation from it must be evil. Those who disobey the commandments of God, and teach others to do so, are condemned by Christ. The Saviour's life of obedience maintained the claims of the law: it proved that the law could be kept in humanity, and showed the excellence of character that obedience would develop. All who obey as He did are likewise declaring that the law is 'holy, and just, and good.' Romans 7:12. On the other hand, all who break God's commandments are sustaining Satan's claim that the law is unjust, and cannot be obeyed. Thus they second the deceptions of the great adversary, and cast dishonor upon God. They are the children of the wicked one, who was the first rebel against God's law. To admit them into heaven would again bring in the elements of discord and rebellion, and imperil the well-being of the universe. No man who willfully disregards one principle of the law shall enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Revelation 12:11 gives us the type of people who are victors with Christ in this war. It says, “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”

Why do you think the Bible talks so much about the blood of the Lamb? Leviticus 17:11 says that “the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.” Today, we think of blood as carrying the DNA, the individuality of each person or animal.

According to News Medical & Life Sciences, Dec. 10, 2019, prior to and for four years after his stem cell transplant from an unrelated donor, a forensics lab tested a colleague, Chris Long, and found that by four months after transplant, only the DNA in his chest and head was still Long’s own. At four years, “Chris was no longer present at all.” Even his semen was the donor’s DNA.

When Christ refers to his blood, he is referring to the complete transformation that will happen to us when we allow Him to give us His blood, His rightness, to replace our terminal condition, our wrongness. His goal is to restore us to what we would have been if we had not been marred by sin. I love to see old dilapidated Victorian homes be restored to their original beauty. How glorious! Restoration of all that has been taken from us by living in this prisoner-of-war camp.



FRIDAY

Further Thoughts

E.G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, pg 34, 35,

“So long as all created beings acknowledged the allegiance of love, there was perfect harmony throughout the universe of God. It was the joy of the heavenly host to fulfill the purpose of their Creator. They delighted in reflecting His glory and showing forth His praise. And while love to God was supreme, love for one another was confiding and unselfish. There was no note of discord to mar the celestial harmonies.”

Imagine life without fear. The war is over. Jesus wins! Satan loses! We are no longer trapped on this earth with a roaring lion. We are restored. We have access to the wisdom, knowledge and beauty of the universe's eternity. We are free. Heaven can't come soon enough!