

Lesson: 59 **Satan's Warfare Against the Church** **Part A** **Volume:** 6

NOTE: This conflict, begun in heaven, continues on earth. Near the close of Christ's ministry, He said, "I beheld Satan as lightning *fall from heaven*."

Luke 10:18. "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be *cast out*." **John 12:31.** From the councils of the representatives of the various worlds to which Satan, as the prince of this world, was formerly admitted (**Job 1:6-7; Job 2:1-2**), he was cast out when he crucified Christ, the Son of God.

7. What shout of triumph was heard in heaven following the victory gained by Christ?

"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, *Now is come _____, and _____, and the _____ of our _____, and the _____ of His _____*: for the accuser of our brethren is *cast _____*, which accused them before our God day and night. . . . Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them." **Revelation 12:10-12**

8. Why was woe at this same time proclaimed to the world?

"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! *for the _____ is come _____ unto you, having great _____, because he knoweth that he hath but a _____ time*." **Revelation 12:12, last part.**

NOTE: This not only shows that, since the crucifixion of Christ, Satan knows that his doom is sealed, and that he has but a limited time in which to work, but that his efforts are largely if not wholly now confined to this world, and concentrated upon its inhabitants. Better than many professed Christians, Satan knows that time is short.

9. What did the dragon do when cast to the earth?

"And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, *he _____ the _____ which brought forth the man child*." **Revelation 12:13**

NOTE: The persecution of Christians began under pagan Rome, but was carried on far more extensively under papal Rome. **Matthew 24:21-22**



FOUNDATION PROGRESSIVE SABBATH ADVENT MINISTRIES
(FPSAM), Inc.

The Foundation Bible Lessons

PART 6: The Sure Word of Prophecy

Topic: Satan's Warfare Against the Church

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Part A

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MISSION STATEMENT

Foundation Progressive Sabbath Advent Ministries (FPSAM), Inc. exists to build upon the four **PILLARS** (*Mental, Physical, Spiritual and Social*) that **GUIDED** Jesus' life.

VISION

All Foundation Progressive Sabbath Advent Ministries (FPSAM), Inc. members will use the four pillars to establish and build their personal life and that of others.

SLOGAN

"Don't Accommodate Eliminate"

MOTTO

"Building on FOUR"

TEXT

"And Jesus increased in wisdom (Mental) and stature (Physical & Spiritual), and in favor with God (Spiritual) and man (Social)." **Luke 2:52**

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1. UNDER what figure was the Christian church represented to the apostle John?

"And there appeared a great wonder [margin, sign] in heaven; *a* _____ clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars." **Revelation 12:1**

NOTES: Frequently in the Scriptures a woman is used to represent the church. See **Jeremiah 6:2; 2 Corinthians 11:2**. The sun represents the light of the gospel with which the church was clothed at the first advent (**1 John 2:8**); the moon under her feet, the waning light of the former dispensation; and the twelve stars, the twelve apostles.

"Woman in her innocence was attacked by 'that old serpent, called, the Devil, and Satan.' . . . At the end of that first crafty assault and speedy victory the dragon met with his rebuff, in words like these: 'The seed of the woman shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.' . . . In the Revelation the scene is changed from Eden to the heavens, and before you stand again the woman and the serpent, in the same position of antagonism as before, the serpent still the assailant, only this time more openly so. . . . The woman is no longer a simple, childlike personage, but *a wonder*; she walks not among the trees and flowers, but amid the orbs of heaven. She is clothed with the sun, the moon is under her feet, and upon her head is a coronet of twelve stars. In her you see the great cause of truth and righteousness embodied - she is, in fact, the church of God in all ages, the woman whose Seed blesses all the nations of the earth." - **C. H. Spurgeon, in The Tabernacle Pulpit, March 15, 1886**

2. How is the church at the first advent described?

"And she being with child cried, _____ in birth, and _____ to be delivered." **Revelation 12:2**

NOTE: The church is in labor and pain while she brings forth Christ and her children, in the midst of afflictions and persecutions. See **Romans 8:19,22; 1 John 3:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:12**.

3. How are the birth, work, and ascension of Christ briefly described?

"And she brought forth a man child, who was to _____ all nations with a _____ of iron: and her _____ was _____ up unto God, and to His throne." **Revelation 12:5**

NOTE: Specifically this must refer to Christ (see **Psalms 2:7-9**); but through Him is also prefigured the experience of the people of God, who finally in the judgment are to share with Christ in ruling the nations with a rod of iron (**Revelation 2:26-27**), and, like Him, when their work on earth is accomplished be "caught up," at His appearing, to God and to His throne. **1 Thessalonians 4:15-17**

4. What other sign, or wonder, appeared in heaven?

"And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold *a* _____ red _____, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born." **Revelation 12:3-4**

5. Who is this dragon said to be?

"And the great dragon was cast out, *that old* _____, called the _____, and _____, which deceiveth the whole world." **Revelation 12:9**

NOTE: Primarily the dragon represents Satan, the great enemy and persecutor of the church in all ages. But Satan works through principalities and powers in his efforts to destroy the people of God. It was through a Roman king, King Herod, that he sought to destroy Christ as soon as He was born. **Matthew 2:16**. Rome must therefore be symbolized by the dragon. The **seven heads** of the dragon are interpreted by some to refer to the "**seven hills**" upon which the city of Rome is built; by others, to the seven forms of government through which Rome passed; and by still others, and more broadly, to the seven great monarchies which have oppressed the people of God; namely, Egypt, Assyria, Chaldea, Persia, Greece, pagan Rome, and papal Rome, in either of which Rome is represented and included. See **Lesson 60**. The ten horns, as in the fourth beast of Daniel 7, evidently refer to the ten kingdoms into which Rome was finally divided, and thus again identify the dragon with the Roman power.

6. How is the conflict between Christ and Satan described?

"And there was war in heaven; Michael and His angels _____ against the dragon; and the dragon _____ and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." **Revelation 12:7-9**