

War In Heaven

Commentary for May 15, 2024 – Who fights ... When Will They Fight? How It Ends

In Revelation 12:7 there is an interesting verse about a conflict of two opposing forces of Satan and Michael the archangel:

“And there was WAR in HEAVEN: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and HIS ANGELS.”

• *Revelation 12:7 King James Version*

“And a BATTLE occurred in HEAVEN. Michael and his messengers battle with the dragon, and the dragon battles, and ITS messengers.”

• *Revelation 12:7 Concordant Literal Version*

The dragon (identified as Satan in verse 12:9) has **“ITS messengers.”** Satan’s “angels” deliver Satan’s lying messages in various ways to their human subjects. The humans then put forth the lying messages that Satan the Dragon wants presented to the world. We do not know how Satan’s messengers **“in heaven”** fight against Michael and his messengers.¹ The “war” (KJV) or the **“battle”** (CLV), occurs **“in heaven”** (singular) and not on earth.

The Old Testament Hebrew word “heaven” is always plural. However, it is often translated with the singular **“heaven”** in the King James and most English versions. Revelation 12:7, uses the singular Greek term **“heaven.”** The first heaven is where the flyers (birds, bats, and insects) travel above the earth, meaning the land. The second heaven is where the stars are located, far above earth, much farther than the writers of Scripture indicate or could imagine. The battle was fought in the **“third heaven”** (2 Corinthians 12:2) where New Jerusalem, God’s throne, and the presence of God Himself dwell.

“And they are not strong enough for him, neither was their place still found in heaven [singular]. And the great dragon was cast out, the ancient serpent called Adversary and Satan, who is deceiving the whole inhabited earth. It was cast into the earth, and its messengers were cast with it. And I hear a loud voice in heaven saying,

‘JUST NOW [not before] came the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brethren was cast out, who was accusing them before our God day and night.

And they [Michael and his messengers, verse 12:7] conquer him [the dragon and its messengers] through the blood of the Lambkin, and through the word of their testimony, and they love not their soul, until death.

Therefore, make merry [rejoice], you heavens [plural], and THOSE TABERNACLING in them! Woe to the land and the sea, for the Adversary descended to you having great fury, being aware that BRIEF is the season that he has.”

• *Revelation 12:8–12, CLV*

¹ We will learn how angels fight each other, and what weapons they use, after our resurrection.

"[Tabernacle](#)" in *Easton Bible Dictionary*² lists four types of "**Tabernacle**" ... quoting Easton:

- (1) A house or dwelling-place Job 5:24, 18:6, etc.
- (2) A portable shrine (compare) Acts 19:24 containing the image of Moloch Amos 5:26 margin and Revised Version, 'Siccuth'.
- (3) The human body 2 Corinthians 5:1, 4, a tent, as opposed to a permanent dwelling.
- (4) The sacred tent (Heb. *mishkan*, '**the dwelling-place**'); the movable tent-temple which Moses erected for the service of God, according to the '**pattern**' which God himself showed to him on the mount Exodus 25:9; Hebrews 8:5."

By definition as noted in (1) above, a tabernacle does not always refer to a religious structure. It can refer to any type of temporary dwelling, especially in the time of Job.

Reread verse Revelation 12:12 above. All three levels of the heavens, plural in the Greek, are populated. Some kinds of creatures live in the heavens. There is no reason to believe any of them are physical. Only some of them are "messengers" or angels.

They actually have places where they reside, but at present these created beings are "tabernacling" which means they are in temporary dwellings. These created spiritual beings are likely the principalities, powers, and other spirit beings in high places that the apostle Paul refers to in Romans 8:38; Ephesians 3:10, 12; Colossians 1:16, 2:15; and Titus 3:1. Some are messengers or angels, most are not. All shall, kneel before and voluntarily "**confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father**" (Philippians 2:10-11).

In item (3) of Easton's list, the human physical body is a "tabernacle," a temporary dwelling place of God's Holy Spirit — temporary until we receive our immortal spiritual body that will be like Christ's body is now (1 John 3:2). The apostle Paul tells us in his Philippians epistle:

"For our realm is inherent in the heavens, out of which we are awaiting a Saviour also, the Lord, Jesus Christ, Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation, to conform it to the body of His glory, in accord with the operation which enables Him even to subject all to Himself."

• **Philippians 3:20–21, CLV**

The battle of the forces between Michael and Satan did not occur when Christ was born; it will happen in our future before Christ returns. These events will be visible to the world as "**signs in the heavens**" (Jeremiah 10:2; Luke 21:11). Those signs likely will quickly lead to the beginning of Israel's Tribulation.

The prophesied battle in heaven will be futile for Satan and his minions to fight, but fight they must; they have no choice. If God wills it to happen, it will happen, all to the glory of God.

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² "[Tabernacle](#)" in *Easton Bible Dictionary*, Third Edition, 1897 by M.G. Easton, M.A., D.D., ASCII edition, 1988 Ellis Enterprises, Inc. Public Domain.