



Sunday, April 18, 2021

Pastor Don Denyes

## **Intro to The Cosmic Battle**

The gospel is the good news that, in Jesus, God has made full and final atonement for our sins and has defeated our greatest enemies—Satan, sin, and death. This good news is central to the story of the Bible. Not only does it appear at the heart of the entire Bible in the stories of the Gospels, but it develops progressively from the very beginning of the Bible.

In Genesis 3, all hope seems lost. Adam and Eve had sinned against the God who made them and provided them with everything to enjoy. Their sin brought not only themselves but the entire world under the righteous curse of God. This meant that life was going to be difficult, painful, and short. What's worse, even though they made their own choice to sin, they had done so at the urging of one of the creatures they were meant to rule over—the serpent.

So, part of the chaos the world was thrown into as a result of sin was that humanity would be subject, not to God alone, as we had originally been created to be, but also to one of His creatures—Satan himself.

Satan would prove to be a cruel master. He is exacting in his own demands for obedience, but there is no hope or offer of redemption, only more misery. But God, in His great love for His creatures, committed from the very beginning to fighting the battle on our behalf and winning the decisive victory to secure our salvation.

What a great comfort it is to us to know that in Christ our greatest enemies have been defeated and we have assured hope of eternal life free from Satan, sin, and death.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Gen. 3:15; Rev. 12:9; John 19:30; Rev. 11:15

“The Cosmic Battle”

Protoevangelium

Protos – First

Evangel – Good news

Who is the serpent?

Who is the woman’s seed?

Serpent seeks to destroy the woman’s seed

Rev. 12          Dragon stood over the woman

Mt. 2            Herod killing infants

Mt. 4            Face to face in the wilderness

Mk. 1            Have you come to destroy us?

Mk. 5            My name is Legion for we are many

Arrested in the garden, Jesus said: “This is your hour—  
when darkness reigns.” (Luke 22:53)

When does He crush the serpent’s head?

Jesus said: “It is finished.” (John 19:30)

Why does it matter?

The seed of the woman is the Savior of the world!

## Discuss

- 1) How conscious are you of the spiritual battle going on in your own life and in the lives of those around you?
- 2) Read Matthew 4:1-11. How does Jesus use Scripture to resist the devil's temptations?
- 3) Read Mark 1:21-28. How does Jesus's power over evil spirits give us confidence as we fight the spiritual battles in our own lives?
- 4) What should our response to God be knowing that He defeated Satan once for all when Jesus died on the cross?
- 5) How does knowing the reality of the spiritual battle help us empathize with people in our lives who are struggling?