

The Great Fall of THE DRAGON

REVELATION 12:7-17

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • OCTOBER 7, 2012
All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. Pastor Joe's personal commentary is in brackets and modify words underlined with dots. You can find this passage in your Pew Bible on page 1199.

War in Heaven

1. The Dragon Revealed.

Revelation 12:7–10, NIV84 -⁷ *And there was war in heaven. Michael [Michael is always seen in Scripture as a defender of God's people against Satanic destruction] and his angels [lit., had to fight—it was Satan who started the fight] fought [lit., "waged war"—this was no skirmish but an all out battle] against the dragon [i.e., Satan], and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough [to defeat God], and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent [a reference to the Garden of Eden] called the devil [meaning, the "perverter"], or Satan [meaning "adversary"], who leads [lit., seduces] the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down."*

- The Dragon's **Names**: Dragon, Serpent, Devil, Satan
- The Dragon's **Nature**: Accuser, Deceiver, Perverter, Adversary

2. The Dragon Removed.

Revelation 12:9–11, NIV84 -⁹ *The great dragon was hurled [lit., ejected] 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. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. ¹¹ 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."*

They Used Three Weapons to Defeat Satan

- A. The Blood of the Lamb
- B. The Word of their Testimony
- C. Their Supreme love for Jesus.

3. The Dragon's Rampage.

Revelation 12:12–17, NIV84 -¹² *"Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short." ¹³ When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman [i.e., Israel] who had given birth to the male child [i.e., Jesus Christ]. ¹⁴ The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle ["eagles wings" were symbolic of God's protection of His chosen people—Israel; **Exodus 19:4, NIV84** -⁴ 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.'], so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach. ¹⁵ Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷ Then the dragon was enraged at the woman [Israel] and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring [Christians]—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.*

- The **Fury** of the Devil's Attack (Violent rage)
- The **Focus** of the Devil's Attack (Israel and Christians)