



The War Behind Every War

AMERICA'S FINAL TEST · BOWLING GREEN, OHIO

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon.”

Revelation 12:7

1. A WAR THAT STARTED IN HEAVEN

Revelation 12:7-9

War broke out in heaven. The dragon and his angels did not prevail, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

Notice where the loser landed: “He was cast to the earth.” The war did not end. It changed addresses.

2. DID GOD CREATE THE DEVIL?

1 John 4:8

“God is love.” Not that God has love, the way we have moods — love is what He is.

Genesis 1:31

When God finished creating, everything He had made was “very good.” No defects. No monsters.

Ezekiel 28:12-15

The seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty — the anointed cherub who covers, perfect in his ways from the day he was created, till iniquity was found in him.

Take Note: God created Lucifer — “light-bearer.” He did not create a devil. He gave His most glorious creature the same dangerous gift He gave you: a will of his own.

3. HOW EVIL BEGAN

Ezekiel 28:17

“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your

wisdom for the sake of your splendor.” The trail starts in front of a mirror.

Isaiah 14:13-14

Count the five “I wills”: I will ascend ... I will exalt my throne ... I will sit ... I will ascend above the clouds ... I will be like the Most High. Every rung of the ladder climbs toward the throne.

Luke 10:18

Jesus was there and saw how it ended: “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”

4. THEN WHOSE FAULT IS ALL THIS?

Matthew 13:24-28

A farmer sowed good seed; while men slept, someone sowed weeds. The master’s answer is four words long: “An enemy has done this.”

Luke 13:16

Jesus called the woman bent double for eighteen years one “whom Satan has bound” — and He straightened her back on the spot.

5. WHY DOESN'T GOD JUST DESTROY HIM?

Matthew 25:41

There is a fire prepared “for the devil and his angels.” The trial ends — but it ends at the end of the evidence, not instead of it.

Isaiah 1:18

“Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD.” God persuades. He does not compel.

Take Note: Trust cannot be commanded at sword-point. It can only be earned in the light. God put the accusations on trial before a

watching universe rather than silence His accuser.

6. THE GIFT TOO DANGEROUS TO SKIP

Joshua 24:15

“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.” God has never taken the choice away from anyone.

Revelation 22:17

“Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.” The last invitation in the Bible is still an invitation.

You cannot have love without choice. The moment God made beings who could truly love Him, He made beings who could truly refuse Him. There was no third option.

7. THE GOD WHO BLEEDS

Genesis 3:15

The same chapter that records the fall records the promise: the Seed of the woman would come, and the serpent would bruise Him.

Romans 5:8

“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” The Commander took the wound Himself.

Isaiah 43:2

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you ... when you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned.” He does not watch your pain from a safe distance.

“The whole conflict, in two words: liberty and tyranny. God persuades. Satan forces.”

See Revelation 12:9