

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

December 7, 2018

## War in Heaven

There was war in Heaven! I know that is difficult to imagine, but it is true. The Bible says, *“Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels.”* Revelation 12:7. This war must have begun with the rebellion of Lucifer Isaiah 14:12-15, who had been God’s anointed covering cherub. Ezekiel 28:14. Lucifer’s ambition was to exalt himself and become like God. Isaiah 14:12-15. Perhaps no one knows for certain when his rebellion began, but there is strong scriptural evidence that the deception of Eve in the garden and the occasion that iniquity was discovered in Lucifer are the same event. Through the prophet Ezekiel, God tells Lucifer *“Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering,”* and then he says, *“...Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”* Ezekiel 28:12-16. Since the garden of Eden was not planted until God created man Genesis 2:8, it seems evident that Lucifer could not have fallen into iniquity until after Adam and Eve were placed in the garden. Still, it is not as important as to when Lucifer fell and this war began as it is to understand how and when the war was brought to an end.

The first promise of redemption tells of the “seed of the woman” who would bruise the head of the serpent. Genesis 3:15. Satan had exalted himself and his power through Adam’s

transgression and humanity became his captives because of the presence of Sin in our heart and nature. Christ came into the world as “the seed of the woman” to destroy the devil Hebrews 2:14 and deliver us from Sin. Matthew 1:21. The blood he shed on the cross was not like the blood of any other man. It was the holy blood of Christ, the one by whom all things were created. There is something about his blood that has the power to destroy the work of Satan and purge iniquity wherever it is found.

It was the Heavens themselves, which were the first things purged by the blood of Jesus Christ. The Bible says Moses, when instituting the Law, “*sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.*” Hebrews 9:21. Only after this was accomplished, was blood sprinkled for the sins of the people. The apostle explains this, saying, “*It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these (the blood of goats and lambs); but **the heavenly things themselves** with better sacrifices (the blood of Christ) than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:*” Hebrews 9:23-24. Heaven itself had to be purified from the scourge of Satan’s iniquity.

Shortly before going to the cross, Jesus told his disciples, “*Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.*” John 12:31. Jesus knew that if he shed his blood, the Heavens would be purged and Satan would be cast out. He had seen it of his Father Luke 10:18 and it was part of the joy set before him. Hebrews 12:2.

When Christ shed his holy blood “...*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 12:9. We know this happened when Christ died because the next verse says, “*And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, **Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb...***” Revelation 12:10-11. The angels of Heaven were the first ones who “overcame” Satan “*by the blood of the Lamb.*” In the same hour that our salvation came, the Heavens were purged, Satan was cast out, and the Holy Place was sanctified. All things were now ready for our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ, to enter his eternal ministry as mediator of the New Covenant.

The angels of Heaven had no need of redemption for themselves, but the Apostle John saw them join with the elders and the innumerable multitude around the throne saying “*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*” Revelation 5:12. Jesus Christ had purified the Heavens with his own blood and brought the war in Heaven to an end. Those who inhabited Heaven rejoiced Revelation 12:12 along with the redeemed who are lifted up to dwell in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:6.

Finally, my friend, know this. If the blood of Jesus Christ was sufficient to purge the Heavens from the power and presence of Satan and his

angels, it is equally sufficient to purge your heart and nature from the power and presence of Sin if you will believe the gospel and trust in Christ!

***“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.”*** Hebrews 13:12.