



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

“There was a War in Heaven” September 29-Oct. 1, 2018

(Revelation 12:7-12) And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. {8} But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. {9} The great dragon was hurled 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. {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."

(These verses are a portion of a vision that depicts events from the beginning of the New Testament age until the Last Days and Final Judgment. For the complete vision, read Revelation, chapter 12.)

1. Have you ever visited the site of a historic battlefield? What was the significance of that battle in history?

2. Who are the combatants in the war described in v. 7-9?

3. Some Lutheran commentators regard Michael as another name for the 2nd Person of the Trinity. What evidence supports that view? (Dan. 12:1) What supports the view that Michael was a created angel? (Daniel 10:13, Jude 9)

4. Commentators differ on when this battle took place. Some say these verses describe Satan's original rebellion vs. God shortly after creation (2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6). Others see it as more closely connected with the New Testament age (Luke 10:18, John 12:31, Rev. 12:10-11). Which view do you lean toward? Why?

5. Verse 10 says that Satan accuses us before God. What might those accusations sound like? (Give examples.)

6. How does the Gospel silence each of Satan's accusations from Question 5?

7. How do these verses answer the question, "Why is there so much pain and suffering in the world?"

8. Think about someone you know who is weighed down by the realities of life in a fallen world. What hope can you offer to that person (and yourself?) from the verses of today's text?

9. For further discussion: What are some proper (and improper) attitudes about angels?