

# THE BATTLE OF CHRISTMAS

(Revelation 12)

## Jesus was born into a world at war.

- **We live in a world at war**

- **Who are the adversaries in this war?**

<b>Good</b>	vs.	<b>Evil</b>
○ A pregnant woman—Mary, Israel (1-2) [Gen 37:9-10]		○ A dragon (3-4, 7-9, 13, 16-17)
○ Her son—Jesus, the Messiah (5, 10a)		✓ The serpent (9, 14-15)
○ The archangel Michael (7)		✓ The devil = <i>accuser</i> (9, 12)
○ Two-thirds of the angels (7, 4)		✓ Satan = <i>adversary</i> (9)
○ All her offspring—us (17)		✓ The accuser of God's family (10b)
		○ One-third of the angels (4)

- **When did the war begin?** (7-9) Genesis 2:1-2, 15; 3:1, 15

- **What was the Battle of Christmas?** (1-5)

- **What is our role in this war?** (11, 17)

## QUOTES OF NOTE

Christianity isn't a religion about going to Sunday school, potluck suppers, being nice, holding car washes, sending our second-hand clothes off to Mexico—as good as those things might be. This is a world at war. Something large and immensely dangerous is unfolding all around us, we are caught up in it, and above all we doubt we have been given a key role to play. (John Eldredge, *Waking the Dead*)

To live in ignorance of spiritual warfare is the most naïve and dangerous thing a person can do. It's like skipping through the worst part of town, late at night, waving your wallet above your head. It's like walking into an al 'Qaida training camp, wearing an "I love the United States" t-shirt. It's like swimming with great white sharks, dressed as a wounded sea lion and smeared with blood. And let me tell you something; you don't escape spiritual warfare simply because you choose not to believe it exists or because you refuse to fight it. (John Eldredge, *Waking the Dead*)

There is a great battle going on all over the world, which, in the final analysis, is a struggle for men's hearts, minds, and souls. ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

This battle we are in is a battle against the principalities of darkness, not against people who are different from us. (Donald Miller, *Searching for God Knows What*)

*Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.... The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. (Genesis 2:1-2, 15)*

*How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit. (Isaiah 14:12-15)*

*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made.... "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (Genesis 3:1, 15)*

The attitude of so many Christians today is anything but fierce. We're passive, acquiescent. We're acting as if the battle is over, as if the wolf and the lamb are now fast friends. Good grief—we're beating swords into plowshares as the armies of the Evil One descend upon us. (John Eldredge, *Waking the Dead*)

War is not just one among many themes in the Bible. It is the backdrop for the whole Story, the context for everything else. God is at war.... Until we come to terms with war as the context of our days we will not understand life. We will misinterpret 90% of what is happening around us and to us. (John Eldredge, *Waking the Dead*)