

When War Began

Cosmic Controversy Series: Part 1

Study Guide

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I. THE ORIGIN OF WAR

Revelation 12:7-9

⁷Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸but they were defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent – who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

A. Tides of War

1. War began a long time ago in another place far removed.
2. We are caught up in a conflict that is both personal and cosmic.
3. We are the theater of a war that did not start here.
4. The Bible is very clear that war arose in Heaven. It did not start here – it started there (Revelation 12:7-9).

Ezekiel 28:13-17

¹³You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, carnelian, topaz, and jasper, chrysolite, beryl, and onyx, sapphire, carbuncle, and emerald; and wrought in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴With an anointed guardian cherub I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. ¹⁵You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. ¹⁶In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and the guardian cherub drove you out from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground...

Isaiah 14:13-15

¹³*You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'*
¹⁵*But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.*

B. Iniquity Found

1. Sin arose in Heaven where the entire universe was united into an organized and universal family of worlds that interacted directly with the Creator of the universe.
 2. The great dragon, that ancient serpent – who is called the Devil and Satan – was the guardian cherub placed by God in Eden, the garden of God.
 3. The guardian cherub was adorned in beauty and created by God blameless in all his ways until the day wickedness was found in him.
 4. The guardian cherub and elect servant of God desired no longer to serve, but to be served and to be God!
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Job 1:18-19

¹⁸*While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁹and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you."*

Job 38:1

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind...

Revelation 7:1

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree.

C. Testing of Job

1. When the mighty wind came and blew down the house killing Job's children inside, the book of Job indicates that the wind was part of a war between God and Satan and a contest in Heaven Job was unaware of (Job 1:18-19).
2. When God appeared at the end of the book of Job, Job found God in the whirlwind – not the devil, but God in the storm (Job 38:1).
3. The Book of Revelation says that the four angels are standing at the four corners of the earth holding back the four winds of strife so people can

turn to God before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. We are living in the time of storms (Revelation 7:1).

II. WHAT AND WHERE IS HEAVEN?

Hebrews 9:11-12

¹¹But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

Hebrews 9:24

For Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

2 Corinthians 12:2-3

²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—

A. The Holy Place

1. According to the Book of Hebrews, Heaven is a prior creation to the creation of this earth and far removed from here by space and time.
2. The Holy place that is not of this creation is identified as Heaven itself.
3. Heaven is also identified as Paradise (2 Corinthians 12:2-3).

2 Corinthians 12:3

And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows--

Hebrews 9:11

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)...

Revelation 2:7

...To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

B. Paradise

1. Paradise and Heaven refer to the same place. Paradise was in Heaven before God planted it here at the creation of the earth (2 Corinthians 12:3; Hebrews 9:11).
 2. Jesus told the thief on the cross that he would be with Him in Paradise (Luke 23:43).
 3. Revelation 2:7 states that the tree of life is in the Paradise of God.
 4. The Paradise of God is Eden because the tree of life was in the Garden of Eden.
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Genesis 2:7-8

⁷then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Ezekiel 28:14

With an anointed guardian cherub I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.

C. Garden of Eden

1. Eden was created before the creation of this world. God planted a Garden in Eden – literally ‘Miggedem’ in the Hebrew which means ‘from the East’ (Genesis 2:8).
2. The East is the beginning of time, and the garden was planted at the dawn of time in the East.
3. Adam was made on the outside of the garden, and God put him inside the garden (Genesis 2:7-8).
4. Lucifer was in Eden before he fell from Heaven. Eden and the mountain of God are treated as heavenly equivalents (Ezekiel 28:14).
5. Eden was a star gate to a reality, a place, and eternal life where angels lived and God walked in the cool of the evening with His creation.

III. WHO IS MICHAEL?

KEY NOTE: Jesus is the preexistent, non-created, eternal God, and Lord and King.

Colossians 1:12, 13, 15-17

¹²Giving thanks unto the Father...¹³Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: ¹⁵Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: ¹⁶For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Jude 9

But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, disputed about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a reviling judgment upon him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."

Revelation 12:7

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

Daniel 10:13, 21

¹³The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me... ²¹But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.

Daniel 12:1

At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble...But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

A. The Archangel, the Heavenly Commander

1. Michael means "Who is like God?" derived from the Hebrew name Mikha'el. A rhetorical question, implying no one is like God, but God.
2. The heavenly commander Michael only appears in three books of the Bible: Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9; and Revelation 12:7.
3. In the Book of Daniel, Michael is identified as the only prince who can overrule the demonic prince of Persia (Daniel 10:13).
4. He is called one of the chief princes (Daniel 10:13, RSV). The Hebrew meaning can also read: Michael, "number one of the chief princes."

5. Michael is Daniel's prince who works with Gabriel to defeat evil (Daniel 10:21).
 6. Michael is the heavenly prince who has charge of the children of Israel (Daniel 12:1).
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Revelation 12:7

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought.

B. The Protagonist in the War over Good and Evil

1. The protagonist and the *antagonist* in the war are clearly named in Revelation 12:7.
 2. The Bible says Michael and his angels fought with the dragon and his angels.
 3. Michael is the opposite of the dragon in Revelation 12:7.
 4. Michael is the one who has the power to defeat the devil.
 5. Michael is the one wiser and more powerful than Satan.
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Jude 9

But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

1 Corinthians 15:54

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

C. Jesus, the Archangel

1. Archangel means “ruler of the angels” or “angel ruler” (Jude 9). Archangel comes from two Greek words to create its meaning: *arch* meaning “ruler” and the second meaning “angel.”
2. In Daniel 12:1, Michael saves everyone whose name is found written in the book of life.
3. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Jesus has the voice of the archangel that raises the dead – only God can raise the dead.
4. Only the Resurrection and the Life can bring people back to life.
5. Only the Son of God who is God can be Ruler of the Angels (Matthew 28:18).
6. Michael is NOT a created being – Michael is the Angel Ruler.
7. Jesus has won the victory over Satan, death, hell and the grave (1 Corinthians 15:54). Amen!