

Christmas Conflict

19 December 2004

Christmas Conflict

Revelation 12.1-17

1. The Conflict of Christmas
2. The Christ of Christmas
3. The Confidence of Christmas



Earth at Night

More information available at:

<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap020811.html>

Astronomy Picture of the Day

2002 August 11

<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>

Revelation 12

¹A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ²She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. ³Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. ⁴His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.

Revelation 12

The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.

⁵She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. ⁶The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

Revelation 12

⁷And there was war in heaven.

Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹The 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.

Revelation 12

¹⁰Then 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. ¹¹They
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.

Revelation 12

¹²Therefore 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."

¹³When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

Revelation 12

¹⁴The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.

¹⁵Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. ¹⁶But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

Revelation 12

¹⁷Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring--those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

The Conflict of Christmas

The Christ of Christmas

The Confidence of Christmas

“the spirit of the antichrist,
which you have heard is
coming and even now is
already in the world”

--1 John 4.3

The Conflict of Christmas

– Satan the accuser

v. 9 “ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray”

v. 10 “accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night”

The Conflict of Christmas

– Satan the accuser

“This name for the evil one would have made a specially strong impact in the first century, for there was a well-known and well-hated figure called the *delator*, the paid informer. He made his living by accusing people before the authorities.”

Leon Morris

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal

vs. 3 & 4 “Then another sign appeared in heaven: *an enormous red dragon...*

His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.”

“Horse... *a fiery red one*. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men *slay each other*”

Revelation 6.4

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal

“...there before me was a fourth beast--terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.”

Daniel 7.7

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit

v. 3 “seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads”

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ”

2 Corinthians 4.4

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit

“locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions... they have as *king over them the angel of the abyss*”

Revelation 9.3,11

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit

“The Dragon has seven heads, increasing his hideousness... multiple heads symbolize multiple manifestations of a single kingdom. In the same way, Satan manifests his power through multiple channels and in multiple institutions and events. Seven, the number of completeness, suggests the Dragon has extensive power and many manifestations. He aspires blasphemously to imitate the completeness of God.”

Vern S. Poythress

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- 

v. 7 “Michael and his angels fought against the dragon”

“Michael, the great prince who protects your people”

Daniel 12.1

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack



v. 7 “And there was war
in heaven.”

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

v. 9 “that ancient serpent”

“...the devil...He was a *murderer from the beginning*, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him.

When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the *father of lies.*”

John 8.44

v. 4 “His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.”

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

“suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground...It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it *threw some of the starry host down to the earth* and trampled on them.”

Daniel 8.5,10

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

“Those who are *wise will shine* like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, *like the stars* for ever and ever.”

Daniel 12.3

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

v. 10 “For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.”

v. 13 “When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.”

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

“Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour”

1 Peter 5.8

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy”

John 10.10

“the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will”

2 Timothy 2.26

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
 - Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future
- 

v. 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.”

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
 - Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future
- 

"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."

Luke 10.18,19

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland

vs. 1 & 2 “A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant...”

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- 

“The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

Isaiah 7.14

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- 

“As a woman with child and about to give birth writhes and cries out in her pain, so were we in your presence, O LORD.”

Isaiah 26.17

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland

"Before she goes into labor, she gives birth; before the pains come upon her, she delivers a son. Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children. Do I bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery?" says the LORD.

Isaiah 66.7-9

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland

But you, Bethlehem...out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. Therefore Israel will be abandoned until *the time when she who is in labor gives birth*...He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD”

Micah 5.2-4

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland

“She comes standing upon the Old Testament revelation of reflected light and clothed with the New Testament revelation which is as the sun shining in his strength.”

Thomas F. Torrance

“I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.” Revelation 21.3

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission

v. 5 “She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.”

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
he is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2.11

“in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form”

Colossians 2.9

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
 - Mission:
Destroy & Deliver
- 

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.” 1 John 3.8

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”

Hebrews 2.14,15

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
Destroy & Deliver

v. 4 “The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.”

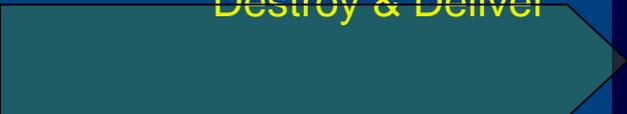
"What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!"

Mark 5.7

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
 - Mission:
Destroy & Deliver
- 

“Herod... was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under”

Matthew 2.16

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
Destroy & Deliver

“At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.” Mark 1.12,13

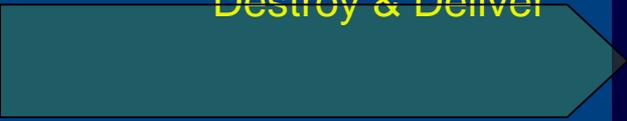
“When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.” Luke 4.13

“Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot...” Luke 22.3

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
 - Mission:
Destroy & Deliver
- 

He said to me,

"You are my Son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

Psalm 2.7-9

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
 Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared

v. 6 “The woman fled into the desert to *a place prepared for her by God*, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.”

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
 Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared

“Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God. Speak tenderly
to Jerusalem, and proclaim to
her that her hard service has
been completed, that her sin has
been paid for, that she has
received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins. A voice of
one calling: "In the desert
prepare the way for the LORD;
*make straight in the wilderness a
highway for our God.*"

Isaiah 40.1-3

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
 Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared

v. 14 “The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the *place prepared for her in the desert*, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.”

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared

“You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how *I carried you on eagles' wings* and brought you to myself.”

Exodus 19.4

“those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will *soar on wings like eagles*”

Isaiah 40.31

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
 Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared

“when the time had fully come,
God sent his Son, born of a
woman” Galatians 4.4

“...the wilderness will rejoice
and blossom... say to those
with fearful hearts, "Be strong,
do not fear; your God will
come, he will come with
vengeance; with divine
retribution he will come to save
you.” ...

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
 Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert...And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it...

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
 Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared

But only the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.”

Isaiah 35.1-10

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
 Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared
 - Power
- 

v. 8 “But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.”

v. 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.”

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
 Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared
- Power

v.15, 16 “Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.”

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared
- Power

“Obviously, John uses metaphorical language (the earth has no ‘mouth’), but the truths he communicates through symbols are as real as if they had been told in nonmetaphorical terms.”

Bruce Metzger

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
 Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared
- Power

“If the LORD had not been on our side...the raging waters would have swept us away...

Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

Psalm 124.1,5,8

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared
- Power

“...Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. *They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.* Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness”

Acts 4.27-29

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
 Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared
- Power

“his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was *declared with power to be the Son of God* by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 1.3,4

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
 Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared
- Power
- Pain

v. 1 “*she cried out in pain as she was about to give birth*”

“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are *the beginning of birth pains...*” Matthew 24.6-8

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
 Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared
- Power
- Pain

“A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.

So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.”

John 16.21,22

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
 Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared
- Power
- Pain

v. 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.”



The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
 Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared
 - Power
 - Pain
- 

“The evil one has been cast out of heaven. His power on earth is terrifyingly real to believers. But it is not because he is triumphant. It is because he knows he is beaten and has but a short time. Let the church take heart. She will have her martyrs, but ultimately triumph is sure.”

Leon Morris

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared
 - Power
 - Pain
- 

“our salvation is nearer now
than when we first believed”
Romans 13.11

v. 17 “Then the dragon was
enraged at the woman and
went off to make war against
the rest of her offspring--those
who obey God's
commandments and hold to
the testimony of Jesus.”

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
 Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared
- Power
- Pain

“If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns?

The Conflict of Christmas

- Satan the accuser
 - Colossal
 - Counterfeit
- Saints under Attack
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future

The Christ of Christmas

- Motherland
- Mission:
Destroy & Deliver

The Confidence of Christmas

- Prepared
- Power
- Pain

Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

Romans 8.31-37

Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace
goodwill towards men.

