

Notice the following phrases in Revelation 12: “a place prepared by God” (v. 6); “nourished for a time” (v. 14); and “the earth helped the woman” (v. 16) Every time the devil attacks a child of God, God has a place of refuge prepared for His children. Christ has called us to victory, not defeat; to triumph, not loss; to success, not failure.

Episode 4: Satan Will Viciously Attack the Remnant, God’s Faithful Last-Day people.

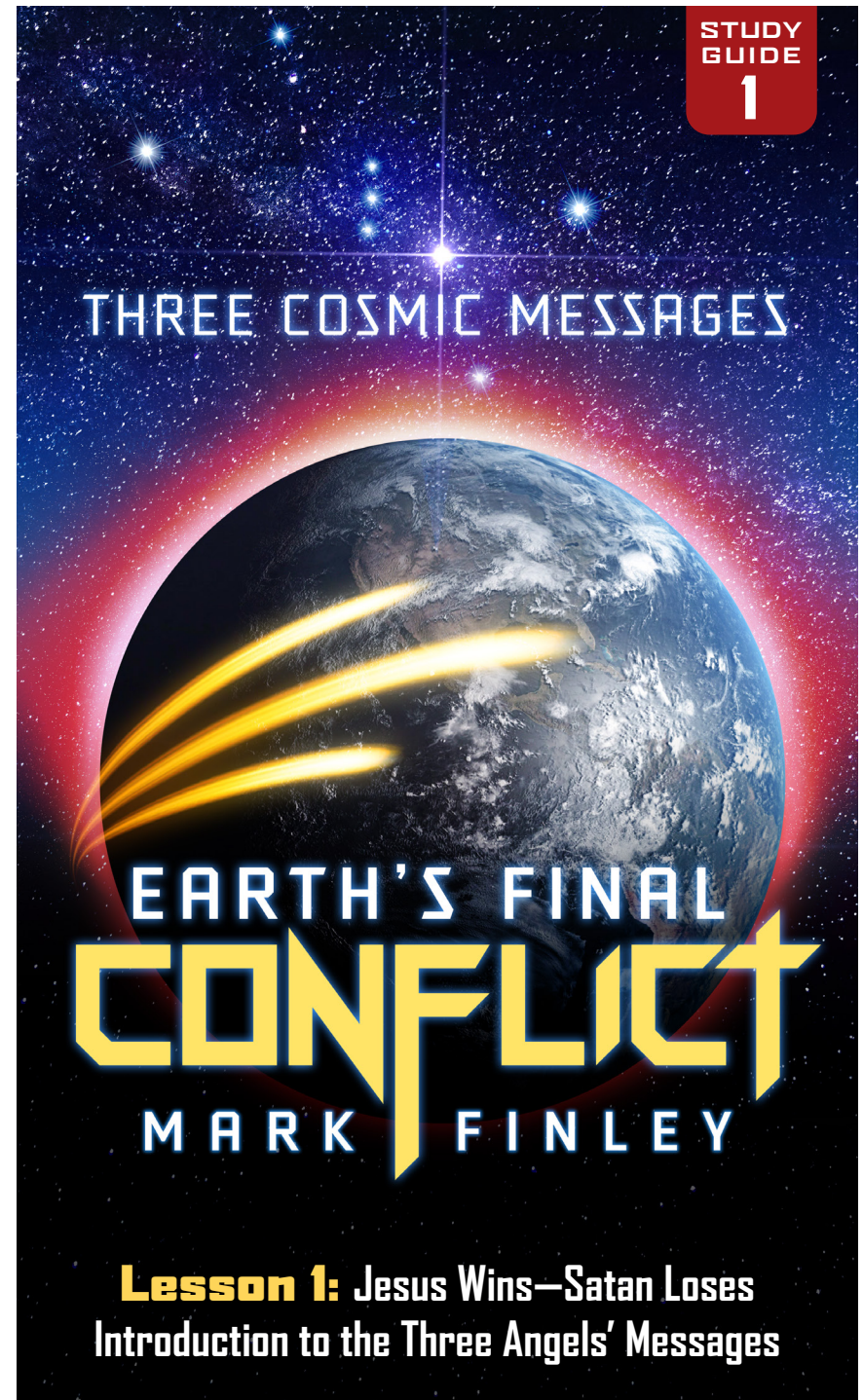
4. **What are the characteristics of God’s remnant—His last-day church?**
(Revelation 12:17)

According to Revelation 12:9, the dragon represents Satan. In this passage, Satan is angry with the woman, God’s church. The devil is furious with a people who keep the commandments of God, and he will do everything he can to destroy them.

Eventually, he instigates a decree so that they cannot buy or sell and will be imprisoned and face torture and death. Earth’s last war is not centered on the Middle East; it is focused on the minds of God’s people. It is a battle between two opposing forces—the forces of heaven and the forces of hell.

The central questions in this final war are, “Who has our loyalty? Where is our allegiance?” Heaven calls for a final generation of believers who are so charmed by Christ’s love, redeemed by His grace, committed to His purposes, empowered by His Spirit, and obedient to His commands that they are willing to face death itself for His cause.

Our world is headed for a major crisis. We are on a collision course. But here is the incredibly good news: We are on the winning side. Christ and His church are going to triumph. In Jesus, by Jesus, through Jesus, and because of Jesus, we will triumph at last.



ENGLAND WAS FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL. JUST TWENTY MILES ACROSS THE ENGLISH CHANNEL, Hitler's powerful forces seemed poised to conquer Britain. But in underground war rooms—which London visitors can still see today—Winston Churchill and his team plotted a strategy that would bring them victory. One important part of their strategy: They broke the enemy's code!

In the great cosmic war between good and evil, we too are able to break the enemy's code. The Bible's last book, Revelation, is a code breaker. It unmask the plans of Satan and reveals God's plan for complete victory. It reveals, in great detail, God's strategy for victory in earth's last war. Revelation 12 provides the backdrop for the great controversy between good and evil waging in the universe. It provides the setting for heaven's most urgent message for an end-time generation described in Revelation 14.

The theme of the Bible's last book, Revelation, is:
Jesus Wins—and Satan Loses

Earth's last great battle in the cosmic war is outlined in Revelation 12. This chapter presents four episodes—snapshots from the opening of the battle in heaven to the closing of the battle on earth.

Episode 1: The Battle for the Throne: Jesus Wins—Satan Loses

1. **Describe the cosmic conflict between good and evil. What stands out to you in this verse about eternal choices?** *(Revelation 12:7–9)*

Every angel had to make the all-important choice regarding whose side they would be on. In earth's final conflict, there is no neutrality. The messages from the throne room of God, and especially Revelation 14, are God's final messages to humanity. These messages reveal choices that will decide our eternal destiny.

The freedom to choose is a fundamental principle of God's government, but we will be held accountable for the choices we make. There is a powerful statement that was written in 1899 by one with deep spiritual insight:

“Christ shows that there can be no such thing as neutrality in His service. The soul must not be satisfied with anything short of entire consecration—consecration of thought, voice, spirit, and every organ of mind and body. It is not enough that the vessel be emptied; it must be filled with the grace of Christ” (Ellen White, *Letters and Manuscripts*, vol. 14, Manuscript 78, 1899).

There is no neutrality in earth's final war. But here is the incredibly good news: Revelation 12 describes Christ's triumph in the great controversy, a conflict that began in heaven so long ago. In that battle, Jesus defeated Satan. Satan was cast out of heaven, and as Revelation 12:8 describes it, the devil and his evil angels “*did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer*” (emphasis supplied). Jesus has never yet lost a battle with Satan.

Episode 2: Satan Attacks Jesus. Jesus Wins—Satan Loses

2. **In the second episode of the conflict, where does Satan focus his attention? Define the symbols below.** *(Revelation 12:4–5)*

- a. Dragon _____
b. Woman _____
c. Child _____
d. Rod of Iron _____

In the Bible, a rod is a symbol of dominion or rulership. A rod of iron is a symbol of an unbreakable, all powerful, invincible rulership. Jesus faced every single temptation that we experience and came off conqueror. The devil is a defeated foe. Christ has triumphed in his life, death, and resurrection. Since Jesus has already defeated the devil on Calvary's cross, we can be victorious too. Christ's victory over Satan was complete, but the great controversy between Christ and Satan is not over yet. Satan was defeated at the cross, but the battle still rages.

The lamb is a central figure in the book of Revelation. The Lamb of God, our perfect Savior who gave His life in a perfect sacrifice, is mentioned twenty-eight times in the book of Revelation.

When we accept in faith what Christ has done for us, our debt is canceled. Our sins are forgiven. If we are forgiven, there is nothing for which we can be accused.

In His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus conquered and overcame forever the worst that sin and evil could do to Him. He made the full assault on evil and overcame it. When we accept Jesus by faith, His victory is ours.

Episode 3: Satan Attacks in the Middle Ages

3. **What is the meaning of the time periods in Revelation 12? How do these passages relate to your own life? What encouragement do you get from them?** *(Revelation 12:6, 13–14)*
