

The Christmas Story: The Battle

Pastor John Carmichael

[Luk 2:4-7 NASB95] 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, 5 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. 6 While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

[Rev 12:4 NASB95] 4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

[Rev 12:1-6 NASB95] 1 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; 2 and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. 3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads [were] seven diadems. 4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. 5 And she gave birth to a son, a male [child,] who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. 6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

- Stay strapped or get clapped. Pastor was carrying a pistol.
- There is a battle. It is a cosmic battle: God, Satan, and us.
- We see the beautiful nativity scene. There is another side. The spiritual conflict (Rev. 12:1-6.)
 - She (Mary, Israel, Church) was righteous. Sun, moon, 12 stars. V. 1
 - She was pregnant with the promise. V. 2 and 5
 - She had to labor and cry out for the birthing. V. 2
 - The devil came to stop the whole thing as soon as he was to be born. V. 3-4
 - She gave birth. God accomplished His plan. God protected her. V. 5-6
- Just like in the nativity scene, God wants to birth His promises from His Word in your life.

How does seeing the spiritual battle of the nativity help us today?

When we know the strategy of the devil we can know what how to counter him and birth the miracles God wants us to enjoy.

I. The strategy of the devil.

- a. Don't interpret the battle as a sign you are wrong.
 - i. For sure, we can cause our own problems.
 - ii. [Rom 8:35-39 NASB95] 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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- iii. We can be totally right with God and in a battle. The battle is not sign we are not right with God. It may be a sign you are right with God.
 - b. Understand there is a battle.
 - i. The quickest ways to lose a battle is not know you are in one.
 - ii. [1Pe 5:8 NASB95] 8 Be of sober [spirit,] be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
 - iii. Stay woke.
 - c. Recognize Satan tries to stop things at the beginning.
 - i. Exodus 1:15-22 – Pharaoh/Moses.
 - ii. [Mat 13:19 NASB95] 19 "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil [one] comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.
 - iii. Satan will try to stop the plan of God at the beginning.
- II. How to counter the devil and birth the miracles God wants us to enjoy.**
- a. Get renewed in the righteousness of God.
 - i. When we question ourselves we are not as fierce.
 - ii. [Eph 6:10-17 NASB95] 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual [forces] of wickedness in the heavenly [places.] 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil [one.] 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
 - iii. Get established in who you are in Christ!
 - b. Use spiritual weapons.
 - i. God has not left us defenseless.
 - ii. [2Co 10:3-5 NASB95] 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 [We are] destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and [we are] taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,
 - iii. Use the weapons: prayer, praise, speaking God's Word, fasting, etc.
 - c. Never quit on what God has for you.
 - i. God has a plan for you. God has given you promises in His Word.
 - ii. Fight, and never give up on what God has for you.
 - iii. [2Sa 23:11-12 NASB95] 11 Now after him was Shammah the son of Agee a Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered into a troop where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the people fled from the Philistines. 12 But he took his stand in the midst of the plot, defended it and struck the Philistines; and the LORD brought about a great victory.
 - iv. His promises in your life are worth fighting for!
- **Don't let the fact there is a battle deter you from fighting for what God has for you.**

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