

The Parish VISITOR



"Be Transformed...By the renewing of your minds." - Romans 12:2 - NIV

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
4011 Clinton St., Los Angeles, CA 90004-2298
The REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY, Pastor

cpchollywood.org

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The **WAR** in HEAVEN



your pastor writes

By REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to all the readers of the *Parish Visitor*!

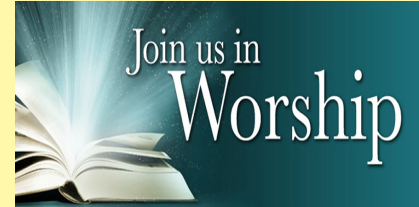
This month I continue my messages on Revelation, chapter 12. If you want to hear these messages, or any of the messages on the Revelation, you can access them on our website, cpchollywood.org. Simply click on the "Messages" tab at the top of the site.

The War in Heaven, Rev. 12:7-13, originally given on July 19, 2020, at CPC

Introduction: The War Behind All Wars. Rev. 12:7 begins, "Now war arose in heaven." These words startle me every time I read them. I think to myself, "How can there be war in heaven? Don't we pray each week, 'Father, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'"

Jesus taught us to pray that things on earth would be as they are in heaven. Our hearts long for heaven. We long for a place where we don't have to worry about things like war, and death. Yet, here it is. "Now war arose in heaven." This is what John sees in this vision.

Continued next page



Join us in
Worship

With the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, CPC remains closed to safeguard the health of its members and congregants. We continue to hold a virtual worship Service every Sunday at 11:00am, using Zoom. Service ends around 12:30pm.

The invitation for joining the service can be found at the events page on our website at cpchollywood.org.

**Christ Presbyterian
Church of
Hollywood
is an intentional,
healing community;
proclaiming and
demonstrating the
wholeness of life
offered in
JESUS CHRIST.**

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12, ESV)

Like last week, John’s vision gives us a heavenly perspective on an important topic. Last week, John’s vision gave us a heavenly perspective on the birth of Jesus. This week, John’s vision gives us a heavenly perspective on why humankind’s struggle with sin and evil is so intense.

John’s vision reveals the “war behind all wars,” as Darrell Johnson puts it¹. John’s vision helps us interpret what the Apostle Paul writes in Eph. 6:12, which says, “*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*” (Ephesians 6:12, ESV)

These verses in Ephesians remind me of a conversation I had with the pastor of my home church in Reno when I was in seminary. He told me something that came from his years of experience as a pastor. He said, “Steve, I’ve learned that people are never the problem. It’s the dark powers influencing the people that are the problem.”

That is what Paul is telling us in this Ephesians passage. Behind the scenes, there are powers of darkness constantly working against humankind, and against God’s people. John’s vision is going to pull back the curtain on this truth.

Yet, before we start, I want to state the good news up front. The war in heaven is won through an event

that happens on earth. The war in heaven is won through the birth of the child.

Rev. 12:5 tells us, “*She [the woman, Mary] gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne.*” (Revelation 12:5, ESV) The birth, life, death and resurrect of the child, here on earth, is what wins the war.

The war is won! Yet, until Jesus Christ returns, the battle on earth rages on. Let’s see why.

Satan is thrown down: I am going to read Rev. 12:7-9. “*Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And 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.*” (Revelation 12:7–9, ESV)

Here, the combatants in the war in heaven are identified. First, we have Michael, the archangel. In the Old Testament, Michael is understood to be the guardian of Israel. So, this war has something to do with God’s people.

Next, we have the dragon. The dragon who is

called “the devil and Satan.” Now, understand, Satan is also an archangel. So, we have these two powerful archangels battling each other.

Why are they fighting? Traditional Christian teaching says Lucifer [another name for the dragon] was the most beautiful of all the created angels. As a result, Lucifer became exceedingly prideful. So much that Lucifer decided that he wanted to be like God. He wanted to sit on God’s throne.

So, Lucifer rebelled against God. And a third of the angels in heaven followed him into rebellion. Rev. 12:4 seems to confirm this. It reads, *“His tail [the dragon’s tail] swept down a third of the stars [remember angels are called stars in the Revelation] of heaven and cast them to the earth.”* (Revelation 12:4, ESV)

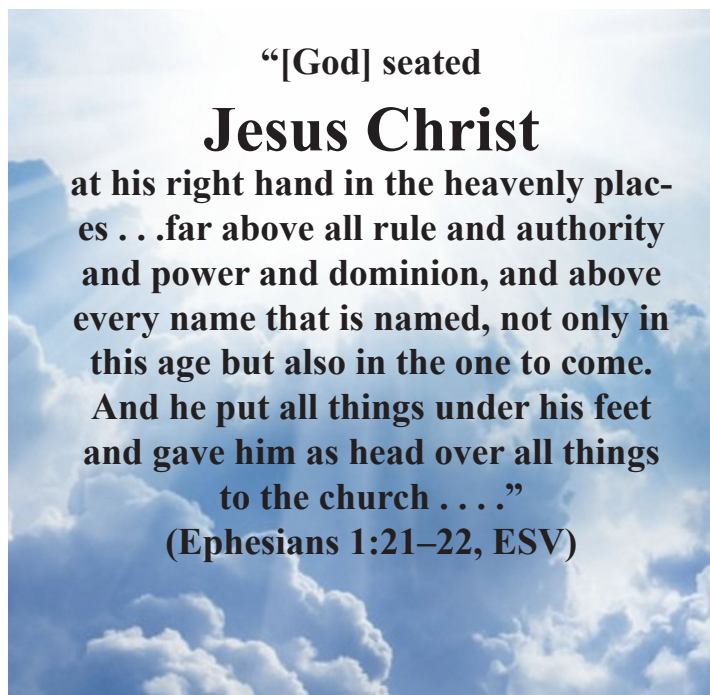
So, Michael, and his angels, are fighting against the rebellious dragon and his angels. Yet, it is no contest because God is backing Michael and the still obedient angels. So, Rev. 12:8 tells us, *“but he [the dragon] was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down.”*

The great dragon was thrown down! And for emphasis, we are told this again in Rev. 12:9. Rev. 12:9 says, *“he [the dragon] was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”* And we are told it again in verse 10 and verse 13. In other words, this is big! This is important. And we will see why in a minute.

After the dragon loses the war in heaven, he and his angels are thrown down. That word “thrown down” literally means “to be bounced.” Satan and his angels are bounced from the throne room in heaven. I love hearing that. I love picturing that, don’t you? My spirit rejoices in that image!

What John sees here emphasizes this important truth. God is more powerful than Satan. God’s loyal warriors, Michael and his angels, bounce Satan and his angels from the throne room of heaven. This is good news! God always wins. Everything Satan does he can do only as allowed by God.

Before we move on, I want to make sure we receive this important truth. God, the Father, is more



powerful than any created being or evil system in this universe. Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit are more powerful than anything in this universe.

Again, the Apostle Paul puts it this way in Eph. 1:21-22, *“[God] seated Jesus Christ at his right hand in the heavenly places . . . far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church”* (Ephesians 1:21–22, ESV)

Again, the war in heaven is won by Jesus Christ on earth. Jesus wins! Yet, how we experience this victory, while still on earth, is always a matter of our obedience and God’s timing.

Jesus wins! This is the good news. Now, here is the bad news. Yes, Satan and his angels have been bounced from heaven. Yet, until Jesus Christ returns, the battle still rages on earth.

His time is short: So, let’s move to Rev. 12:10-12. It reads, *“And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and*

Continued next page

the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!” (Revelation 12:10–12, ESV)

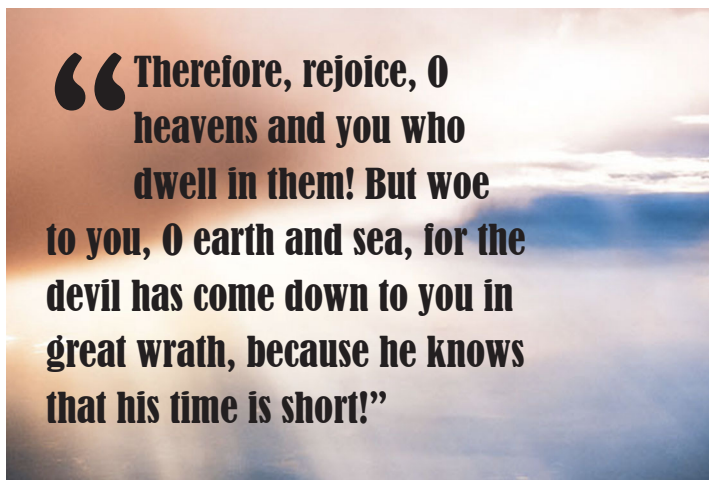
Rev. 12:12 says, “Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

Why are things so bad on earth? Why is there so much struggle? Why does evil seem to break out everywhere? It’s because the devil is mad. The devil has been bounced from heaven and has come down to earth in great wrath because he knows his time is short!

The devil knows he is defeated. He knows he is destined for the lake of fire. So, he and his fallen angels are determined to kill, steal and destroy as much as they can in the short time they have left.

So, Rev. 12:13 says, “And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.” (Revelation 12:13, ESV) Remember, the woman here represents Mary and the people of God.

And, Rev. 12:17 says, “Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to



make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.” (Revelation 12:17, ESV)

The devil and his fallen angels will make war on the followers of Jesus Christ until Jesus Christ returns. This is why things are so bad on earth. The war in heaven has moved to the battlefield on earth.

So, let me ask. Are you prepared for this spiritual battle? Do you know what to do when either yourself or someone you know is wrestling against these powers of darkness? We will discuss this in just a few minutes.

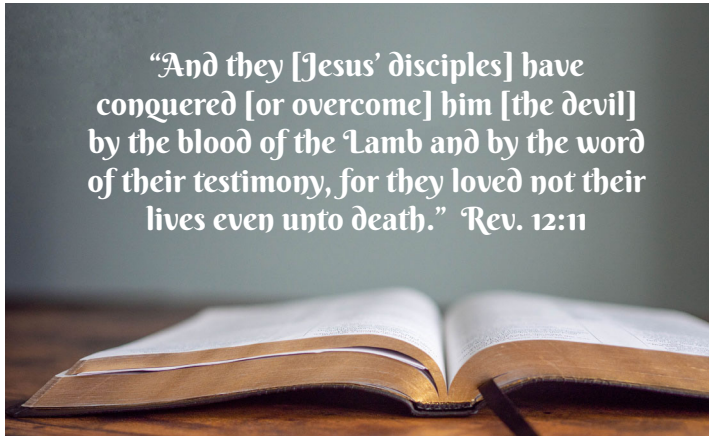
We have overcome: Now, even though the battle has come to the earth, those who follow the Lamb rejoice. Verse 12 begins, “Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them!”

The followers of the Lamb rejoice, even in the midst of the battle on earth, because we are seated with Christ in the heavenly realms.

The Apostle Paul tells us this in Eph. 2:4-6. “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,” (Ephesians 2:4–6, ESV)

So, the followers of Jesus Christ, even now, are seated with Christ in the heavenly places. And the devil no longer has access to these heavenly places. So, no matter what happens to us here on earth, our home is now in heaven. If we die, we simply go home.

“And they [Jesus’ disciples] have conquered [or overcome] him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.” Rev. 12:11



Therefore, we rejoice.

We also rejoice because of what John heard in verse 10. Verse 10 says, *“And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.”*

We are not unarmed in our fight against the devil. The birth of the child, talked about in Rev 12:5, brought the salvation, and the power, and the authority of the kingdom of God to earth. It is all accessible to us now. Now!

Salvation is available now. The power and authority of Jesus Christ are available now. The kingdom of God is here now. If we are being harassed by the devil, we have all we need to fight back now. Jesus Christ has already won!

Rev. 12:11 reveals two spiritual weapons that allow us to overcome the devil. Rev 12:11 says, *“And they [Jesus’ disciples] have conquered [or overcome] him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”*

The first spiritual weapon we use to overcome the devil is the *“blood of the Lamb.”* The blood Jesus shed on the Cross of Calvary. Jesus’ shed blood, his death in our place, for our sins, and his resurrection, has robbed the devil of his main weapon, the fear of death. We no longer fear death because we know, even if we die, yet shall we live. Again, if we die, we simply go home. So, we love not our lives even unto death because we know where our true home is.

Also, Eph 1:7 says, *“In him [in Christ] we have*

redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,” (Ephesians 1:7, ESV) Jesus’ blood sets us free. Jesus’ blood purchased our freedom. Jesus’ blood redeems us from the power of the devil. And, through Jesus’ blood. our sins are forgiven. Amen!

So, the only thing the devil can do to Jesus’ followers is use lies and deceit to harass them. Yet, we have a spiritual weapon for that also. Rev 12:11 says, *[We have] have conquered him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of [our] testimony.”* In Christ, we have conquered the devil. Not will conquer. Have conquered. It is a done deal. The war is won.

Yet, we need to speak this truth to the devil. This is our second spiritual weapon. We need to tell the devil he is defeated. And we need to remind ourselves he is defeated.

While on earth, Jesus defeated the devil in the wilderness by quoting the word of God to the devil. Likewise, we need to do the same. We overcome the devil by giving testimony to the truth of God’s word.

And when we testify, we need to testify out loud. We need to speak God’s word out loud. This is how we keep the devil from harassing us. The combination of the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony is unbeatable.

So, rejoice! The war in heaven is won. Darrell Johnson puts it this way. “The war in heaven is won through an event on earth, through the birth of the child on earth. The war is won through the life of the child. The war is won through the preaching, teaching, healing ministry of the child. The war is won through the resurrection of the child. [And] the war is won through the ascension of the child to the throne.”ⁱⁱ

The war is won! Therefore, let us not fear this battle with the powers of darkness. Let us walk confidently in this battle knowing the war is won. And let us remember that we overcome the devil by the blood of Jesus and word of our testimony. Amen!

See you next month.

Pastor Steve

ⁱJohnson, Darrell W., *Discipleship on the Edge*, (Vancouver, B.C., Regent College Publishing, 2004) p.223.

ⁱⁱIbid

BERNICE KOMODA

Present with the Lord



*⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
---I Corinthians 15:58 (NKJ)*

Due to Covid-19, there was a private outdoor Virtual Burial service held for Bernice Komoda, 87, who went to be with the Lord on Saturday, August 22. Bernice passed away at the California Mission Inn in Rosemead, California. The service was officiated by Pastor Steve Baroldy, on Saturday, Sept. 5, at Inglewood Park Cemetery. After the gravesite service, the Memorial was concluded at a restaurant in Torrance.

Bernice was born in Pasadena, California. The Komoda family lived near their relatives, the Onishi family in Pasadena, and both families were relocated to Gila, Arizona. After camp, both families decided to live in Cleveland, Ohio. The weather being so cold in Ohio the Komoda family went to live with their relatives, the Saibara family, in West Jordan, Utah. They all lived on a farm. Later, the Komoda family lived in various places in and near Los Angeles.

Bernice graduated from Belmont High School in Los Angeles. After high school, she attended Los Angeles City College. During Bernice's working career, she was an executive secretary with the Southern California Gas Company.

Bernice joined Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood during the Christmas Sunday Service, on December 21, 1958. She joined through a confession of faith and was baptized by Pastor Dr. Tadashi Akaishi. Bernice was then ordained by Dr. Akaishi as a Deacon. During her multiple three-year terms as a Deacon, she served as Deacon moderator several times and she also served as

clerk. Earlier years from '60 to '66, she taught Sunday school in the first grade class for the Primary Department.

On Sunday, December 15, 1996, Rev. Ted Esaki ordained Bernice as an Elder. Bernice served as Clerk of Session during most of her years on Session. While on Session, she served on the Mission Assessment Committee and the Pastoral Review Committee. She also served on the Congregational Life, Christian Education and Discipleship, and Worship committees. In 1967, Bernice served on the Parish Visitor editing crew when the newsletter was published every week. She typed the weekly worship service programs for Sunday morning worship services.

Through the Evergreen Baptist Church, Bernice enjoyed studying the Word of God with the Monterey Park Bible Study. In her later years, she participated and served in various leadership roles at the Aglow meetings in Orange County.

In her younger years, Bernice loved skiing. She went to ski at various ski resorts in different states with skiing friends. She also enjoyed being on a bowling team, and playing bridge. She enjoyed playing games of any kind. She was quite competitive even in family gatherings.

Although she will be missed by her family and friends on earth, she is now in heaven enjoying seeing her Lord Jesus, family and friends. We rejoice we will see her again one day.

CORRECTION

On Page 5 of the June, 2020 issue of the Parish Visitor we ran an article with the heading “Fourth Generation Tajima Family Member.”

The *Rafu Shimpo* newspaper on Tuesday, June 16 on Page 2 ran a “For The Record” notice regarding their mis-identification of names of the Tajima family.

“The grandfather of Jason Tajima, principal analyst with the Los Angeles County Chief Executive office in the Census Unit, was misidentified as ‘Ted Tajima – long-time journalism teacher at Alhambra High School.’

“Jason’s grandfather is actually the late Calvin Tajima, who was featured in the *Rafu Shimpo*’s October 19, 2016 issue – (“At long last, the Thrill of a Lifetime”) when Calvin, a die-hard Cubs fanatic for most of his 92 years, got to experience ‘his beloved team ... actually playing in [World Series] for the first time since 1945 [and] he’s going to see the game in person.’

“Calvin’s loyalty paid off when the Chicago Cubs did win the World Series that year.

“Calvin, Ted’s younger brother, passed away in September, 2018.”

Both Ted and younger brother Calvin Tajima, were sons of the late Rev. Kengo Tajima, former pastor of Hollywood Japanese Presbyterian Church/Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood.

The Tajima family is active at First Presbyterian Church of Altadena, also a Japanese-American Congregation.

Notices & Announcements

The series on Revelation is available on Podbean.com. Download the free Podbean app for your phone or computer and search for “CPChollywood” You may have to register for a free account.

* * *

Our new website is at cpchollywood.org. It is still under revision. The podcasts are also available here.

* * *

Pastor Steve’s contact number: (323) 202-5078.

Gift & Offering

Our campus may be temporarily shut, but CPC is doing all we can to serve our church, to connect people to one another, and to connect all of us to God through our online worship.

Now more than ever we need your help for us to continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and give hope to others.

Please consider sending a gift or donation to:

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4011 Clinton Street
Los Angeles, CA 90004

FINANCIAL REPORT

AUGUST 2020

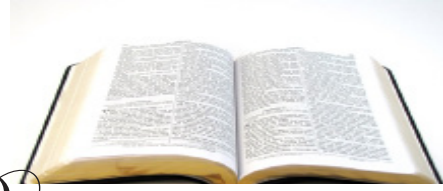


	<u>AUG. 2020</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Receipts	\$ 8,916	\$ 66,621
Disbursements	\$ 12,520	\$ 87,817
Increase (Deficit)	(\$ 3,605)	(\$ 21,196)

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation.
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Let us remember to keep in our prayers the church family and friends who are in need of God's healing touch: overall healing for Kimi Fujitani, Charles Ingram, Janet Nozaki, Frank Morimoto, Stella Kenner, Karen Koranye, Lashman Johal, Pastor Steve, Martin; healing of knee and wrist of Maria Cardenas and prayers for Marley, Hunter, Cousin Dari, and Aunt Laley; overall healing for Ron Jung; healing and God's blessings for Harumi Mayeda; strength to care for her Mom for Irene Mayeda; overall healing for Joan Janecek; healing of legs of Sherri Esaki; healing of back and leg pain for Yuri Sangen; healing of left foot and diabetes for Denise Albriton; overall healing and healing of cancer in nostril of Brian Albriton; prayers for Pastor Steve, his wife Simone and their daughters Nicole and Noelle and David and Alice; revival for CPC and neighborhood, our elders, Faro de Luz Church, outreach to community, unsaved relatives and friends, and protection against major disaster.

"Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood is an intentional healing community; proclaiming and demonstrating the wholeness of life offered by Jesus Christ."

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