

The Messengers of Christmas
Outline – December 10, 2023
Revelation 12:9-12, Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-15

The “What If” Game

I. How the “What If” game is played

- A. In a historical sense of “what if”
 - 1. What if we had lost the Revolutionary War?
 - 2. What if Abraham Lincoln had lost the election for the 16th presidency?
 - 3. What if Germany had won WWII?
- B. On a personal level
 - 1. What if you had never met your current spouse?
 - 2. What if you had not landed your current job?
 - 3. What if that event that changed the trajectory of your life for the better, had never occurred?
- C. On a theological level
 - 1. What if Jesus had never been born?
 - 2. What if Jesus had been killed as an infant?
 - 3. What if Satan had somehow stopped God’s plan of salvation and redemption?
- D. There would be no:
 - 1. Hope of eternal life
 - 2. No promise of heaven
 - 3. No victory over sin
 - 4. No relationship with God
 - 5. Only darkness, death, and judgment would be waiting for us

II. Because of God’s sovereignty and His angelic messengers, God protected His Son

- A. So He could fulfill His Mission
 - 1. To save His people from their sins
 - 2. To bring the hope of eternal life
 - 3. To conquer sin, death, the grave
 - 4. To offer amazing grace
 - 5. To give the gift of God
- B. Twice, God’s angels brought counsel to Joseph
- C. So the Messiah would be protected

III. A physical and spiritual principle

- A. The spiritual realm (what you don't see) impacts the physical realm
- B. Scientific View
- C. Therefore, when we experience/encounter: problems, temptations, divisions, difficulties and disappointments, there is a spiritual force at work coming against you
 - 1. The division in your family
 - 2. The disappointments in your marriage
 - 3. The difficulties in your life

} **All Have a Spiritual Element**

IV. The Biblical warning of Ephesians 6:12

- A. Our struggle against (spiritual) rulers
- B. Against (spiritual) powers
- C. Against (spiritual) world forces of darkness
- D. Against the spiritual foes of wickedness in heavenly places
- E. There are spiritual (demonic) wicked forces we can't see that seek to destroy everything good and godly in our lives

V. Who are these beings, where do they come from, are they real, and who leads them?

- A. According to Jesus (Satan is real)
 - 1. Jesus saw him cast out of heaven
 - 2. Jesus was tempted by Satan
 - 3. Jesus describes a thief who comes to steal, kill and destroy
- B. Peter describes him as a "roaring lion seeking someone to devour"
- C. Paul describes him as the "god of this world who deceives and presents as an angel of light"
- D. His original mission was to dethrone God: The 5 "I wills"-Isaiah 14:13
 - 1. I will ascend to heaven
 - 2. I will raise my throne above the stars of God
 - 3. I will sit on the mount of assembly
 - 4. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds
 - 5. I will make myself like The Most High
- E. Satan seeks to destroy God's plan of salvation
 - 1. Corrupting Adam's line
 - 2. Destroy the male children in Exodus
 - 3. Causing Herod to attempt to kill the baby Jesus
 - 4. Satan wants to destroy the Jewish people, destroy the land of Israel, to stop Biblical prophecy
 - 5. Satan wants to deride the message of salvation

- 6. Dismiss the message of salvation
- 7. Divide the people
- F. Demons are former angels who followed Satan
- G. Beware of our spiritual fight

VI. This is why Jesus was born

- A. That we could overcome the temptations, the wickedness, the evil
- B. That we could know light, life, hope and salvation
- C. To destroy the works of the devil in your life
- D. To fulfill the prophetic word
- E. To bring life by living a perfect life
- F. To die as payment for our wrongs
- G. To rise from the dead defeating Satan's hold over humanity and giving life to all who believe

VII. The angels of God brought this message and fulfilled their mission

- A. He will save His people
- B. He will be God with us
- C. He is The Son of God

**This is God's Plan of Redemption
We Have a Message Like the Angels
To Proclaim to the World Who Jesus Is**

**What if you never heard that message?
What if you never proclaim it?
Where would the world/you be?**