

# Earth's Last War 2 of 12

## *Two Worshipers—Creator / Creature*

#0287

Study Given by W. D. Frazee— March 1960

The subject this morning is the issue of earth's last war as foretold in Revelation. This issue began with the first war, and it can be settled only by the last war. To understand the last war, we must look at the first war. That's why the book of Revelation, which deals so largely with future events, takes us in the very heart of the book, back to the beginning of the great controversy.

Let us turn to Revelation 12:7–9:

“And there was war in heaven: Michael [That's another name for Jesus] and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” Revelation 12:7–9.

Where did this war begin, dear friends? It began in Heaven. Think of it, of all places, in Heaven. Not in some far off planet on the outskirts of God's creation, but in Heaven, at the very center of the universe, and not with some private or lieutenant in God's army. No, with Lucifer, the highest angel in glory, the most exalted creature in God's universe. This is where this war began, a war against God.

Notice, friends, who is with this arch-rebel? The dragon fought, and who? His angels. It calls them his angels, for in the scene that opens before us in these verses, already these angels have so changed their allegiance that they are no longer a part of the army of God, but they once were. Notice the fourth verse, speaking of this great dragon here in symbolic language; it gives us the picture of a great confederacy, a vast scheme of rebellion:

“...his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth...” Revelation 12:4.

Yes, those bright angels, glorious stars in the firmament of God, one-third of them were pulled down from that highest state, and joined with the rebel, the arch-rebel in his rebellion against God. Isn't it terrible, friends? Isn't it awful? Think of it. And this is the mastermind that through the ages since has been conspiring and seducing, has been using his satanic wiles to ensnare man, and to seek to lead all the universe—that's his goal, his objective—to rebel against God and accept him in

place of God.

That is the issue. The issue is who shall receive worship, Christ or Satan, the Lamb or the dragon? That is the issue, plain and bald and blunt. There it is. Oh, sometimes the thing is confused and covered up. But get down to the bare facts, the basic facts, there they are, my friends. That's what made the war in Heaven, and that's what has made it all down through the ages, and that is what is to be settled once and for all in this universe, by the last war.

You know, in our time you and I have heard of a war to end war, haven't we? But, did it do it? No. And there can be no war to end war until the last war. The reason the last war will be the war that ends all wars in Heaven and earth is simply this, friends, it settles this basic question of who is running this universe; who is to receive worship; who is to be God and God alone.

So if you and I want to contribute to the peace movement, we'll get this question settled in our hearts, and we'll join with God in His great program to rid the universe of war and of all that causes war. This is the real peace movement, friends. And I'd just like to say, thank God we don't have to wait until it is settled for the universe for it to be settled in our hearts, do we? No.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee" Isaiah 26:3.

So, you and I can have it all settled in our hearts this morning. I trust we all do. But remember, peace can be ours only by having this question settled. Peace can be in this universe only as this question is settled: Who is God? Who is to receive worship?

You remember that when our Lord came down to this earth and took our flesh and met our temptations, that there in the wilderness after His baptism, the great deceiver came to Him, and he brought his various temptations upon Him. And you will remember, as described there in Matthew 4:8–10, that finally, after everything else had failed, Satan came out very boldly and revealed what was deep down in his heart all the time. Do you remember what it was? Well, let's read it here:

"Again, the Devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me"  
Matthew 4:8–9.

See, it comes out, friends, it comes out. What did he want? Oh, he wanted worship, and he wanted Jesus of all to worship him, for he looked back to that scene 4,000 years before, there in the great center of the universe, and he remembered the conflict. And what was it over? Who should receive worship? He coveted the place of Christ. He was jealous of Jesus, envious of His high position. He didn't seem to accept the fact that there is a great gulf, as it were, an infinite gap, between the

Creator and the creature, the One who from eternity and to eternity, lives by virtue of the life inherent in Himself and in a being that is created by the loving heart of the Creator.

Oh friends, he didn't accept that. And right on that point, the issue was. So here he summons or takes Jesus to this High Mountain, and God in His providence permitted it. Why? To teach you and me how to relate ourselves to this same basic temptation. He went over the ground that man must go over. And so when Satan said, "All this will I give thee if Thou wilt fall down and worship me," what did Jesus say?

"Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" Matthew 4:10.

Oh friends, let us echo the words of Jesus. What do you say?

Now, this is the issue in the war ahead of us. This is it. Stripped of all the subterfuges, this is it. Will we worship our Lord or will we worship Satan? Will we be with the Lamb or will we be with the dragon? And the whole universe is lining up on one side or the other.

In this world, it will seem as if things are going Satan's way. But ah, we need to have the big view, the wide view, the large view. We need to see the people in all these other worlds looking down on the great scene. We need to view the armies of Heaven coming to the defense of God's little army in this world. And as we view these grand themes, we shall gather faith and courage to say to Satan just what Jesus said, "Get thee hence Satan. I'll not worship you. I'll worship God, for it is written that thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve."

Now, the sad thing is that Satan has succeeded, down through the ages, with men, much better than he did with Jesus. In all ages since the fall, Satan has intruded himself into the affairs of men and has sought, through various systems of false religion, to get men to worship him. And do you know, friends, there is a common denominator of all false religions? And that common denominator is this: they all lead to creature worship instead of Creator worship. That's true.

You can go down to the aborigines in Australia. You can go to those pygmies in Africa. You can go to the cannibals of the South Sea Islands. You can go back through history to the mysteries of ancient Greece and Rome. You can go anywhere you want to, over this world today, and even in Christian lands with systems using a Christian vocabulary and quoting the Bible, whenever you find a false religion, you will find, in one way or another, that the creature is taking the place of the Creator. Man is taking the place of God. And remember, whenever that happens, back of the man is the demon.

Now, I'd like to have you just reflect a little on how this has worked, down through the ages. Let's think of Babylon. Back then, you remember, Daniel and his

three friends were captives in that strange land. Babylon was ruling the world. When you come to the third chapter of the book of Daniel, what do you find? You find the king of Babylon setting up on the plains of Dura what? An image, a great image of gold.

God had in the second chapter foretold to that king, the destiny of this world, and pictured it as an image of a man with metals of ever decreasing value and glory. Is that right? Thus God sought to show that heathen king how frail and puny and valueless and un-enduring is man and his kingdoms.

But oh, guided by his wise men, Nebuchadnezzar conceived the idea of a substitute for that image, the image of Daniel 2. "Ah," he said, "We will make one of gold, all gold from head to foot. And thus will we show that Babylon is to reign forever in glory." And so he summoned all his subjects and his officers, his ministers of state, to the great celebration and dedication of this image. And what were they all to do? Bow down, and what? And worship that image.

But there were three young men there that said what? "No, we won't worship that image." Was the issue one of worship? Specifically so, entirely so. They stood up when all the world bowed down.

Is there coming a time, soon, when there will be an image set up, my friends? Will that bring the issue to you and me, as the setting up of that image on the plains of Dura, brought the issue to those three young men? Ah, my friends, we have been told that those who would not receive the mark of the beast and his image when the decree goes forth must have the courage now to say "nay."

If you and I cannot say "no" to the forces of world conformity now, what will we do when the image is set up, when the music starts to play, and the burning fiery furnace yawns, waiting for its victims? What will we say then? Oh, thank God there will be some like those three men that will say, "No. We will not worship that image. We will not bow down."

May I point out this, friends, it's no accident that this great system, which has, in a special way, set itself against God during the Christian dispensation, has torn from the first table of the law of God, not only that Fourth Commandment, as far as the day is concerned, but has torn literally and bodily out of the law, that Second Commandment which says concerning anything in the way of creature worship:

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them..." Exodus 20:5.

The papacy has taken that Second Commandment right out of the law. Think of it, my friends. Oh, how daring are the assaults of demon inspired men on the law of God, on this question of worship. Satan wants men to bow down.

You remember how it came out, back there on the plains of Dura. And thank God, it's coming out that way again, friends. There are going to be some men and

women today that are going to get the victory over the beast and over his image. They will not worship.

Well, come on down to Medo-Persia, that's the next one. Was there any issue over worship that came in there? Oh, yes. You read there about the story of Daniel and the lion's den. But what did they put Daniel in the lion's den for? For worshiping God instead of the king, the representative of the Medo-Persian state.

Turn over to the book of Esther, and what do you find? A whole nation, a whole race, the people of God committed to slaughter. Why? Because Mordecai, there in the gate, would not bow down and do reverence to Haman. That was it. And have we been told that there are those today that see in the little company that keep the Sabbath, a Mordecai in the gate? What is the matter with them? They will not bow down and worship. They will not go along with the crowd. They won't share with the masses.

I'll tell you, friends, there is something about this spirit of conformity today, that is rapidly preparing the world to go with the dragon and the beast as the image is set up, and all men kneel down and worship. God give us the spirit to stand up in the presence of men. And you know, we've been told that he who bows low before the King of kings, is the one who can stand erect and fearless in the presence of earthly monarchs. God give us that experience, my friends.

We come on down to Greece. If you've read the book of Maccabees or other histories, you know that in that period between where the Old Testament leaves off and the New Testament comes in, there were bloody persecutions there in Jerusalem and Judea, and it was over this question of whether the people of God would worship in harmony with the false heathen religion, or whether they would maintain the true worship of God.

And then Rome, Rome under the Caesars—that great and terrible beast with iron teeth and nails of brass that devours and breaks into pieces all the nations of the earth. Ah, my friends, was there any issue of worship there? Yes. As the early church went out with its glorious Gospel of the crucified and ascended Lord, they met face to face the religion of Rome which—Watch this!—while it permitted any and every religion, it did it only with this consideration: that all should worship the Emperor. Grains of incense must be placed upon the altar before the statue. In other words, men could be followers of this state religion or that one or that one or that one, provided they all united in honoring Rome and the Emperor of Rome as, more or less, a divine person.

Well, of course, Christianity could not accept that. Christians could not enter into that, and as the result, early in the history of the church, there came to be bloody persecutions. You remember that both Peter and Paul were executed by the Roman Caesar, Nero. And you remember the bloody persecutions that came.

But oh, friends, all these things in Babylon and Persia and Greece and Pagan Rome were but the prelude; they were but the gymnastic exercises, as it were, of the

Devil and his hosts, preparing for the supreme manifestations of his plan under and in the guise of Christianity.

Turn to 2 Thessalonians 2 and note what we see there, as Paul foretells the great apostasy, which was to result in setting up the papacy. It was working even in his time. He says:

“...that day [The day of Jesus] shall not come except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4.

There you have it, my friends. See how clearly the Spirit of God revealed to Paul, and through Paul to the church, what was coming. What was coming? Ah, Paul says, “There is coming a spirit, a mystery of iniquity, working already in the church, which will eventually result in setting up in the very temple of God a man, setting himself forth as God, and exalting himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped.” Will men bow down to him? Yes. Will men listen to him instead of God? Yes. Will they give to him the reverence that belongs to God alone? Yes. Have they done it, friends? Did they do it? Ah, yes.

That’s the mystery of iniquity. That’s the papacy and that is the power that we are to meet headlong in this final conflict, my friends. We do well to understand the background of it all, how that mystery of iniquity has developed through the ages. And one of the great purposes of the book of Revelation is to reveal to us this mystery of iniquity under a variety of symbols.

Turn to Revelation 12, and what do we find? A great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns. Turn to Revelation 13, and what do you find? A leopard-like beast with seven heads and ten horns. Turn to Revelation 17, and what do you find? A scarlet colored beast with seven heads and ten horns. What does it all mean? Why are they all so alike? Ah, because under all these symbols, we have working the real beast, the real dragon, and that is Satan.

We’re told in Revelation 12:9 of the great red dragon, the old serpent called the Devil and Satan. He’s the real dragon, my friends. He’s the real beast. And back of all these systems, which seek to exalt man in the place of God, is Satan, seeking to divert the worship of men from the Creator and center it on the creature.

And may I tell you, Satan is so mad and insane with this idea that eventually he’s going to cast aside, in a sense, or bypass all these systems, and he’s going to come right out into the open. True, he will take the guise of Jesus. But what I mean is, his lust for power, his greed for the worship of others can never be satisfied until he comes and appears and has all the world actually bowing down before him.

Is he going to appear personally? Yes. Will the multitudes kneel down and

worship him? Ah, yes. How his greedy, lustful, heart will glory in that. But oh, friends, what a terrible lust it is, and how fatal and futile are all his dreams.

Well, now coming back here to these symbols, I want you to notice, friends, that in every case, as these human systems led by Satan down through the ages have sought to dominate the conscience and lead people to worship the creature instead of the Creator, it has led to persecution. There was the fiery furnace in Babylon. There was the lion's den in Medo-Persia. And there were all these terrible methods of execution in Rome, as the Christians were thrown to the lions, crucified, burned as torches, beheaded, and in other ways led to their death.

Listen, friends, what did the papacy do in the Middle Ages? Do you see, as you study Revelation 12, Revelation 13, Revelation 17, that picture of persecution? In Revelation 12:4 what's the dragon doing? He's standing before the woman to devour that child as soon as it's born. Who is the child? Jesus. Revelation 12:13, when the child has grown up and gone to Heaven and is out of his reach, what does he do? He persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. So you see that creature worship leads to persecution.

Again coming down to Revelation 13:4 and this beast and the dragon power:

“...they worshiped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshiped the beast...” Revelation 13:4.

But what goes along with worshipping the dragon and the beast? Ah, Revelation 13:7:

“...it was given unto him to make war with the saints and to overcome them...” Revelation 13:7.

And we know the bloody results of that.

In Revelation 17:6, more forcibly, this woman that rides upon the beast:

“...I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus...”  
Revelation 17:6.

Think of it, friends. That's what creature worship leads to. And today, no matter where it's found, whenever people start this program of world conformity, turning away from Jesus and looking to men, it leads to the persecution of those who maintain the faith once delivered to the saints. It will again.

What is God's answer, friends? In Revelation 14, we have that wonderful message which is the very heart of this wonderful book. Here we see three angels flying in mid heaven with the everlasting Gospel, and what is the call? Oh, listen. What is the call of that first angel?

“...Fear God, and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come: and *worship him* that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters” Revelation 14:7.

There you have it, friends. Do you see how appropriate it is in this hour when the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet, are combining to set up the image and to enforce the mark? Yes.

“...and worship him that made heaven and earth and the sea and the fountains of waters” Revelation 14:7.

The second angel follows, saying, “Babylon is fallen.” And the third comes, and what is his message?

“...if any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark... The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God...” Revelation 14:9–10.

In other words, here’s the true worship—worship of the Creator. Here’s the false worship—the worship of the beast and his image and the reception of his mark. And between those two, my dear friends, all the world will choose. This is the issue. We’re going to be worshiping Christ or Satan. We’re going to be with the Lamb or the dragon.

And may I tell you this, friends? The appeal of Jesus is love, and the appeal of the dragon and all his host is force. Which will you yield to? Oh, let’s look up through the open door into that sanctuary this morning and see Jesus standing before the mercy seat as our Priest, our Lamb, and yield to that love. Shall we?

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