

The Exchanger

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THE NEWSLETTER
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The Mission of
FBCWR:
**Connecting People
to God's Life-
Changing Power**

**We've Got
Connections!**

*Now the salvation,
and the power,
and the kingdom
of our God
and the authority
of His Christ
have come.*

Revelation 12:10

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All IS Calm?

Revelation 12:4b-8—And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. 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. 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. And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.



Ahhh, the peace, the quiet, the calm of Christmas. The stars twinkle, the shepherds nod their approval, the sheep bleat softly, the little drummer boy taps on his snare—hey, wait a minute, that's not what really happened.

Don't you want the straight story of Christmas? Sure, the "Precious Moments" version is wonderful but consider for a moment what Paul Harvey calls, "The Rest of the Story".

UNSEEN REALITIES

The above passage from the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ draws back the curtain separating the seen from the invisible. John reports his vision of the great battle that ensued as the Christ was being delivered upon the earth. What fury was stirred up in

the heavenly realms by the enemies of God. Their nemesis, their downfall was about to arrive—center stage. They dreaded the prospects and were determined to foil the plot. But for the moment, our omnipotent God, kept them at bay. Destruction would come later.

THE BATTLE PERSISTS

Since their effort to block the Advent of the Messiah failed, do you think the forces of evil and darkness have given up on causing problems for the Messiah? They've simply turned their attention to attack His followers and potential followers:

Revelation 12:17 - So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

*No wonder there are so many spiritual conflicts during the time we remember the Savior's birth. Think of all the depression, mood swings and hurt feelings.

*No surprise there are so many seasonal distractions—Santa, materialism and even warm sentimentality which can masquerade as a religious experience but falls short of an encounter with the Savior.

This Christmas don't let down your guard. The battle still rages amid all the claims of peace. But peace is still the order of the big day. Through it all, He is still "The Prince of Peace". So be calm—and know—He is in control.

-Joe Fornear

