

# SERMON 3

## True Star Wars

(Revelation 12:7-8)

### INTRODUCTION

“A long time ago in a galaxy very far away...” Sound familiar to you? Thus, begins *Star Wars*, one of the most successful film series in history. Its creator was George Lucas, who in the seventies produced the first of a series of nine films that have captured the attention of millions of people.

The plot of *Star Wars* can be summarized as follows: in a galaxy far away a long and bloody confrontation takes place between the Jedi, who advocate for order and justice in the Galactic Republic, with Luke Skywalker being the most famous of all. And the Sith, a sect of beings who use the dark side of



force in their attempt to seize galactic dominance, led by Darth Vader, a bright young knight who changed his career as a guardian of justice and truth to establish his cruel galactic empire; from his headquarters on the Death Star Darth Vader plans to destroy everything good in the universe, but the benign forces manage to destroy their plans, then peace returns once again to the universe as good triumphs over evil.

Millions of people have been fascinated by this story! Although the film's script is spectacular, we all know that

such *Star Wars* only exists in the vivid imagination of George Lucas.

Now, what if I told you that there is a real *Star Wars*, would you believe me? Thousands of years before George Lucas created *Star Wars*, John, the “beloved disciple” and writer of Revelation had already written about a true *Star Wars*. In this war the fate of every person is at stake.

This real *Star Wars* is known as *The Conflict of the Ages* or *The Great Controversy*. Revelation presents us in full color and with special effects this cosmic conflict:

*And there was war in heaven: Michael 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).*

So let’s study this real *Star Wars* drama. To do this we are going to divide our study into three parts: **First:** we will present its main actors. **Second:** we will take a tour of its different episodes. **Third,** we will consider its outcome.

## DEVELOPMENT

I. *First, let’s study who are the main actors in the real Star Wars.*

The main actors in this *Star Wars* are Michael and the Dragon. And who are they? What role do they play? Let’s start by identifying Michael. This character appears about five times in the Bible. In Daniel, chapter 10:12-13; 21, we can see him fighting on behalf of the prophet. In Jude 1:9 we see him contending with Satan for the body of Moses. Likewise, Daniel 12:1 says that in the time of the end Michael will arise to deliver God’s elect.

There are two keys that allow us to identify Michael; the first: its name comes to us from the Hebrew *Mikha’el*, whose meaning is “*Who is like God?*” The second key: according to Jude 1:9, Michael is the “archangel” and, according to Daniel, the “chief of the princes” (Daniel 10:13, 21). With these two keys we can come to the conclusion that Michael is Jesus Christ. Jesus is equal to God (John 1:1-3) and is called an archangel (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

Being clear about who Michael is, let’s identify the Dragon. Revelation 12:9 says that the Dragon is the “*ancient serpent*,” which is called the *devil* and

*Satan*". Notice then that the Dragon is Satan, God's archenemy.

On the other hand, whenever I present this topic there is a question that comes up: Who created Satan? What is its origin? Isaiah 14:12-14 and Ezekiel 28:11-19 reveal that God created a perfect being named *Lucifer*, a name meaning "the Light Bearer." He was "the seal of perfection, full of wisdom, and of finished beauty" (Ezekiel 28:12), but one day he stopped beholding God to contemplate himself; as a result, he was filled with "iniquity" and "sin" (Ezekiel 28:16).

That being who was once the bearer of light of his own free will became Satan, God's adversary, and the author of evil. We conclude that Jesus, the prince of life, and Satan, the originator of sin, are the main characters in the real Star Wars.

**II. Secondly, let's look at the different episodes of the real Star Wars.**

The first episode took place in heaven itself and we call it *the rebellion*. Revelation 12:7 says that *there was a great war in heaven*. Now, it is important that we understand that this was not a physical war. The word "war", used by John, comes from the Greek term *polemos*, from which the well-known

word *polemic* comes. This war began as a war of ideas and arguments. Satan, who is the father of lies, sought by all means to tarnish the character of God; his purpose was to rise up and usurp God's place (Isaiah 14:12-14). Satan said that God was a tyrant and all He wanted was to keep his creatures in subjection. The famous Christian writer Ellen White, commenting on this first episode, wrote:

*Lucifer, the covering cherub, desired to be first in heaven. He sought to gain control of heavenly beings, to draw them away from their Creator, and to win their homage to himself. Therefore, he misrepresented God, attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation. With his own evil characteristics, he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus, he deceived angels.<sup>1</sup>*

In this first episode, Satan was defeated and expelled from heaven along with one third of the angels who chose to follow him. Michael got the victory!

The second episode is the *invasion*. What happened after Satan's expulsion? God brought about the wonderful creation. Genesis, chapter 1, says that the Lord created all things in six days and that on the sixth day He carried out the creation of man: "So God created man in his own

<sup>1</sup> Ellen White. *The Desire of Ages*, Mountain View, CA; Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1898, p. 21.3.

*image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” (Genesis 1:27).*

God placed our first parents in a paradise known as *Eden* and gave them a command that said, *“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17 NKJV).*

It was then that Satan invaded the harmony of Eden.

*Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:1-5 NKJV).*

Sadly, our first parents disobeyed the Lord and as a result became slaves of Satan. You may be wondering: Why did God allow this trial? Why didn't he

keep Satan away from Adam and Eve? It is good for us to understand that God is a God of freedom. He didn't simply create robots to control them from a distance. Adam and Eve had free will; they could choose between obeying God or disobeying Him: sadly, they chose the path of disobedience.

The third episode of true Star Wars is *conquest*. Satan thought he had destroyed God's purposes; however, before the foundation of the world a plan of conquest had been designed (Revelation 13:8). After the fall, God promised a deliverer who would end the reign of evil. *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15).*

This liberator would be none other than Michael. Our Lord Jesus would take the place of fallen man and confront Satan and his demonic hosts. And so it was! Michael, the great incarnate prince (Matthew 1:18) who with his death paid the ransom price (Ephesians 1:7), but did not remain in the tomb, but on the third day rose again and conquered the empire of death (Hebrews 2:14).

With His birth, life, death, and resurrection, Jesus was crowned the victor in the true Star Wars. Thanks to his victory

the whole universe obtained triumph over Satan: *“Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”* (Revelation 12:10).

**III.** *Thanks to the victory obtained by Jesus we know what the outcome of the true Star Wars will be*

There is no doubt that the evil empire will be destroyed forever! Revelation 20: 10 says that the devil *“will be cast into the lake of fire.”* His destruction will be final!

Ellen White, in poetic words, presents the end of the real Star Wars:

*The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.<sup>2</sup>*

---

<sup>2</sup> Ellen White. *The Great Controversy*, Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1911, pp. 678.3.

## CONCLUSION

What is the central truth of true Star Wars? *Jesus is the great overcomer!* His conquest surpasses even the imaginary exploits of the Jedi or Skywalker! His victory on the cross was real and overwhelming, and all who believe in him enjoy his victory in the present and will experience his glorious reality for all eternity.

Jennifer went out with some friends for a walk around the city. That afternoon it was all happiness. His friends laughed as one of them drove peacefully down a clear street; suddenly, in a matter of seconds everything changed. A driver went out of his lane and struck the vehicle where Jennifer was traveling. The impact was such that everyone died except her.

She was immediately taken to the emergency room; the doctors gave him little time to live, so his parents called the pastor and together they begged for a miracle. Only a miracle could save her from death and so it happened! Jennifer was able to get out of intensive care! His physical and emotional recovery took time, but years later, bearing witness, he said: *Jesus has given me victory!*

Dear young lady, Jesus Christ can give you victory. In this true Star Wars, you too can say, *“we are more than*

*conquerors through him who loved us.”*  
(Romans 8:37).

## REFLECTION AND STUDY QUESTIONS

- 1.** Who are the main actors in the real Star Wars?
- 2.** Who is Michael and what does he do for God's elect?
- 3.** What did the war revolve around in heaven?
- 4.** What promise did God give to our first parents?
- 5.** What will be the outcome of the real Star Wars?

