



Pastor Scott Archer 03.11.2018*
Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
www.ccclamesa.com

The Struggle Is Real!

Revelation 12:1-17

Series: The Return of the King – The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Central Passage

Revelation 12:10–11, 17 (ESV) — **10** 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. **11** 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... **17** 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. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

Central Thought: As followers of Jesus, we should not be surprised or overwhelmed by the challenges of daily life, as our lives are lived in the context of a spiritual battle in which our daily choices have eternal significance, and our wellbeing is eternally secured.

Our Struggle in Context...

❖ Jesus has overcome! (vs. 1-11)

John 16:33 (NLT) — **33** I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

❖ Satan is working overtime! (vs. 12-17)

Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV) — **10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **12** 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.

1 Peter 5:8 (ESV) — **8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

❖ We shouldn't be overwhelmed! (vs. 11, 17b)

1 Peter 5:6–11 (NLT) — **6** So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. **7** Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. **8** Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. **9** Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are. **10** In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. **11** All power to him forever! Amen.

Luke 10:17–20 (ESV) — **17** The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” **18** And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. **19** Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. **20** Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”