

Morning Sermon November 7, 2021

“The Woman, the Dragon & the Child!” Revelation 12

I. The mega-miracle / great sign seen in heaven; the Birth and life of Jesus Christ seen from a spiritual vantage point –

12 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ² Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. Revelation 12:1–2 (NKJV)

1. The woman is spiritual Israel, the true people of God
2. Clothed with the sun, is a reference to her brightness, her glory among the nations
3. The moon under her feet is more evidence that a Heavenly Spiritual Nation is in view –

There is no lasting promise to Jewish people who REJECT Christ, only those who are born again, can see or enter God’s Kingdom – John 3:3 & 3:5.

- This is why Paul was greatly sorrowful –

9 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ² that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, ⁴ who are Israelites, to whom *pertain* the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; ⁵ of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, *the* eternally blessed God. Amen. ⁶ But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. **For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,** Romans 9:1–6 (NKJV)

4. The reference to a garland of twelve stars is a reference to the children of Jacob Himself, the twelve tribes of Israel –
5. Being with child ...
 - A. Refers to Mary ultimately and physically (she was an Israelite)
 - B. Refers to Israel spiritually, prophetically and historically –
 - C. Even before Israel was formed as a nation, and even before Abraham was born, the child was promised –

¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between

your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.” Genesis 3:15 (NKJV) *Eve, and women after her -*

D. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ, not only as the Son of God, but as the prophesied Seed of the “woman” can say –

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” John 8:58 (NKJV)

II. The dragon is the one who would devour Jesus –
(This is a spiritual warfare vision)

³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. Revelation 12:3–4 (NKJV)

1. Later in this passage the dragon is specifically identified –

⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, **that serpent of old**, called **the Devil and Satan**, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Revelation 12:9 (NKJV)

2. Of old he was a serpent, a tempter – Genesis 3:1-6

3. Yet, now, as a dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven diadems, all symbols of political rule and power, he is a Tyrant! The third of the stars he draws with him are the fallen angels –

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:12–13 (NKJV)

4. His goal is to devour, to destroy Christ, as soon as He is born –

A. Note Herod’s murder of boy babies attempting to kill Christ –

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Matthew 2:16 (the spiritual has a physical world impact)

B. *Yet, not only Herod but probably Pharaoh and Haman as well, Satan was always attempting to kill Christ –*

²² So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, “Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.” Exodus 1:22 (NKJV)

⁶ But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the people of Mordecai. Esther 3:6 (NKJV)

III. *More about the child / Christ, and the woman –*

⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. Revelation 12:5–6 (NKJV)

1. *Jesus Christ was born to rule, born to be King, even forever – Psalm 2, Isaiah 9:6-7, Matthew 2:1-6; Revelation 17:14*
2. *Note in verse :5 we have Jesus’ birth, His ascension into Heaven, and His rule with God ... His death and resurrection are assumed to have happened but are covered in other places ...*
3. *The woman mentioned here is the church, true Israel was the church in the Old Testament, true Israel, plus converted Gentiles equal the church the people and temple of God –*

Ephesians 2:19-22

IV. *War in Heaven and the casting down of Satan –*

⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Revelation 12:7–9 (NKJV)

1. *War in heaven Satan cast out - :7-9 When did this happen? During Christ’s earthly ministry?*

¹⁷ Then the seventy 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 give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” Luke 10:17–20 (NKJV)

2. *Or when Christ died, “one day” – Zechariah 3 – iniquity removed!*

V. *Salvation comes, Satan is defeated -*

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:10-12

1. *Christ brings salvation – Revelation 12:10 A*
 2. *Here, he (Satan) is identified as the accuser of the brethren – Revelation 12:10 B, he accused Joshua – Zechariah 3*
 - A. *Satan is cast down (3rd time cast 1st -out, 2nd to, 3rd -down)*
 - B. *They (the brethren) overcome by Jesus Christ’s blood - :11*
 - C. *They (the brethren) overcome by not loving their lives - :11*
- ²⁵ He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. John 12:25
3. *The terrible things Satan does are detailed in the rest of this and the next chapter - :12 he, Satan has great wrath*

VI. *Persecution and yet the woman (Israel / Church) is protected –*

¹³ Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*. ¹⁴ But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. ¹⁵ So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷ And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Revelation 12:13-17 *Note time period - :14 Serpent spewing (lies) :15 War – her offspring :17*

Arnold Brevick