

INTRODUCTION

1. Child-birth in common grace, has saving grace significance. Rv 12:1-5

1st: The Woman is Pregnant with the Promised Seed

1. Pregnant woman giving birth - *be fruitful & multiply* [Gn 1:28]. Creation has saving significance [Gn 2:24 - Eph 5:31-32].
 - i. Gn 3:15 promised Seed - hope for salvation
 - ii. Gn 3:16 mother & wife: common grace but common curse - *pain*
 - iii. Death [3:19]: *Eve* = life. Hope for creation & salvation - v20 - seed - 4:1
2. Wmn giving birth - hope for salvation: Isa 26:17-18. God must give children to Israel by raising the dead - v19.
3. Pregnant woman - eschatology: pictures curse [pain] & salvation [seed].
 - i. Mat 24:4-8 false christ, wars, catastrophes = beginning of birth pangs.
 - ii. Rm 8:22 - creation is pregnant - births resurrected bodies
4. Sign of preg wmn in Rv12 echoes back to original creation w/ saving hope.
5. Multifaceted metaphor: Eve, Mary, OCov Israel; NCov Israel - seen later fleeing to wilderness & being sustained thru Church-Age by God.

2nd: Satan's Persecution of the Promised Seed in the OT

Dragon's persecution of seed: threat of death [credit Wm Hendriksen]

1. **From Seth to the Flood:** Cain?! [Col 2:23]; murders Abel - Seth. Intermarried [Gn 6:1-2] -> apostasy [*days of Noah* - Lk 17:26] - Noah
2. **From Flood to Jacob:** Ab & barren Sarah - Isaac [type of resurrection Hb 11:19]; Isaac & barren Rebekah [Gn 25:21] - Esau threatened to kill Jacob
3. **From Jacob to Wilderness** - 70 people -> Egypt & Moses
4. **From Wilderness to Kg David** - thru wilderness - conquest - Judges: degradation into idolatry. King David [2Sam 7] - Solomon: divided
5. **From David to Queen Athaliah** - daughter of Ahab & Jezebel who decides to destroy Davidic line, but Joash [hidden by Jehosheba] was later enthroned.
6. **From Athaliah to Kg Ahaz** - Israel & Syria fight Judah to destroy Davidic line - Isa 7:6. Sign of God's faithfulness - Isa 7:13-14. Virgin birth!
7. **From Kg Ahaz to Esther** - Ahasuerus/Haman permission to destroy Jews - Esther used to give Jews rights of self-defense.

8. **Esther to Bethlehem** - Returned exiles: occupied by Greeks [Antiochus Epiphanes - Macabees] then by Romans. Davidic line preserved [Mt 1 & 2]
9. God preserved the promised seed from threat of death - hope of resurrection.

3rd: Satan's Persecution of the Promised Seed in the NT

1. Rv 12:5 *son* is Jesus - fulfills Ps2. Birth to throne [saw in Rv 5].
2. Satan used men's court system & is thrown out of God's court [v7-12]. Now Satan persecutes woman [Church] - 12:13 who is protected in wilderness, en route to Promised Land [Sacred Soil of Sab Rest - Gn 3:24] - Rv 12:14-16.
 - i. 12:17 NASB: *wmn & rest of her children* = seed. Church is both the woman & the woman's seed - defined in union w/ Jesus.
3. My concern from recent readings, that we not lose sight of our ultimate hope of resurrection - 1Cor 15:19. Is the church in USA ready to persevere the persecutions of the dragon?

Applic #1: We Must Be Prepared to Suffer for the Sake of Christ & the Gospel

1. Should Xns influence culture? Yes - we affirm & promote the goodness of creation & the morality of the creation ordinances. Satan hates men as men.
2. Sov Grace - *granted* salvation: [Jn 6:65]. Phil 1:29-30. 2T 1:9 in context of v7-8. *Given* [granted] *power & love & discipline* to suffer & persevere

Applic #2: Overcome by Crushing the Serpent's Head with Fang-Pierced Heels

1. Armor of God & fight powers of darkness - on what battlefield? Eph 4-6: church, family, job = creation ordinances regardless of political system .
2. As the seed of wmn [Gn 3:15], our heels will be pierced by Satan's fangs as we walk thru wilderness as disciples, following Jesus - Rm 16:20. We will experience the presence of the God of peace to the extent that we engage in the conflict of spiritual warfare as overcomers.