

CMPC Sermon Notes

Series: *Revelation: Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow*

Text: Revelation 12.1-6

Message: *A Not So Silent Night: Christmas in September*

- This begins a new section of Revelation, moving from the church being persecuted by the world to being persecuted by Satan
- This chapter helps us understand Ephesians 6.12 more, motivating us to persevere since Satan loses
- Motivates us not to compromise

A new sign in heaven: A woman, an ideal picture, 1-2

- Appearance; cf. Joseph's dream, Genesis 37
 - Clothed with the Sun
 - Moon under her feet
 - Crown of 12 stars
 - Note: the sun, moon and stars symbolize beauty and strength, and are subordinate to the woman
- Conflict between Satan and Women began in the Garden
 - Who is this woman?
 - By the fourth century, some were identifying her with Mary
 - Middle Ages: the church, not Mary
 - Probably is the covenant community in both the Old and New Testaments
 - Both Israel and the church are she
 - The twelve stars point to the 12 patriarchs and perhaps the 12 apostles and the people of God
 - "Therefore, the woman's brightness connotes the heavenly identity and heavenly protection of the people of God, as well as their purity, which safeguards their ultimate spiritual invincibility against persecution and corruption by temptation, deception or any vice.
- Situation
 - Pregnant
 - Birth pains/constant attack against Old Testament Israel to stop the birth of Messiah

A Second Sign (not called great) 3-6

- Great Red Dragon
- Appearance

- Red- fiery red, a sign of warfare, cf. the horse in 6.4
- Seven heads, ten horns, a crown on each head- these numbers represent completeness
- Situation
 - Tail: knocks a third of the stars to the earth (Perhaps referring to the angels he took with him)
 - Preparing to eat the child when it is born
 - There is enmity between the woman and the serpent
- Result, 4b-6
 - Women gives birth to a baby boy, the real situation
 - Attempts to devour
 - Cain killed Abel
 - Pharaoh killed the male babies
 - Saul attempted to kill David
 - Haman attempted to exterminate the Jews
 - Herod's attempt to kill the infant Jesus
- Unusual boy: will rule all the nations, cf. Psalm 2.9
 - Jesus triumphs through his life, death and resurrection
- Caught up to God and to his throne
 - Birth on earth to accomplish his ministry; ascension to heaven to celebrate accomplishing his ministry and carry out his rule
- Woman goes to the wilderness – where God has prepared her a place to be nourished
 - The desert: Moses (wilderness). Israel for forty years, Elijah, John the Baptist, Paul....
 - In a desert, a person is completely dependent on God
 - Is always a temporary place
 - A place where God trains his people and prepares them for service.
- Time there: 1260- oppression and persecution, not annihilation
 - Note it is the same time as the two witnesses have... 11.3
 - Same time as the Gentiles who oppose the church trample the courts. 11.2
 - Also what the beast receives, 13.5

So What About Us?

- Perspective on world history
- Perspective on our place in the battle
- The Lord's Supper: Nourishment for what we face