

20211219 – THE WOMAN AND THE DRAGON

Sunday AM – Revelation 12:1-12

I. THE WAR

- A. The story of the war told from a different perspective – SPIRITUAL!
 - 1. Understanding the viewpoint is important to context
 - 2. War correspondents embedded with fighting units on the battlefield
 - a. The “official” news reels never told the entire perspective (WW2)
 - b. Eyewitness accounts, fundamentally changed nightly news
 - c. Now news channels cut the middle and TELL you what to think
 - 3. Revelation moves between scenes in Heaven and scenes on Earth
 - a. But chapters 12 and 13 zoom out even further – 7 Personages
 - i. The Woman, the Dragon, the Child, and the Angel (today)
 - ii. The Sea Beast, the Land Beast, and the Lamb (next week)
 - b. Here we have one of the “parentheticals” in the book
 - c. Many strange interpretations come from misunderstanding this
- B. We must be careful in all things to remember context
 - 1. Grammatical context, textual context, audience
 - 2. Contending for Biblical Repentance, the verse came up: PROV. 11:21 – “Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.”
 - a. I BELIEVE in repentance!
 - b. If Salvation verse, then are children automatically Saved?
 - c. They said, “I was going to context myself right into Hell.”
 - 3. I have found that MOST strange teachings fall apart with context
 - a. When someone tells you about some unusual doctrine
 - b. They will generally have one verse (Internet Meme Religion)
 - c. Read it in context. Remember audience, history, grammar!
- C. Revelation 12 begins an “Outline” summary of the entire conflict!
 - 1. Not just during the time of the Tribulation but starting LONG before!
 - 2. The language changes to indicate a perspective change (narrative)
 - a. All specific in Revelation 11, regardless of location
 - i. REV. 11:1 – “I was given a reed...”
 - ii. REV. 11:12 – “And they heard a great voice...”
 - iii. REV. 11:19 – “Temple of God in Heaven” vs. “Earthquake”
 - iv. They saw things, held things, heard things, felt things...
 - b. Now changed from specific to “summary” / historical elements
 - i. REV. 12:1 – “And there appeared a great wonder...”
 - ii. REV. 12:4 – “And his tail...”
 - iii. A great demonstration of God’s plan FOR ISRAEL
 - iv. A great demonstration of Israel’s ENEMY, Satan.
 - 3. God is showing us His Plan and His Protection for His People!

II. THE WOMAN

A. Her Identity - Not "the" Church, not "Virgin Mary"

1. Churches are typified by VIRGINITY
 - a. 2 COR. 11:2 – "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."
 - b. This is a picture of betrothal!
 - c. JOHN 14:2 – "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."
2. This is NOT the "Virgin Mary"
 - a. For one thing, Mary is no longer a virgin – she had other children
 - b. If Mary, what is the reference to the Sun, Moon, and Stars?
 - i. Astrologers think this happened a few years ago
 - ii. That Virgo is over the moon or some such nonsense
 - iii. And somehow that fulfills REV. 12:1
 - iv. Not just ONE but DOZENS of astrology websites!
 - c. But Mary could not fulfill the time element of REV. 12:6
3. This woman can only SYMBOLIZE Israel
 - a. The Child of vs. 2 is Jesus Christ
 - b. ROM. 9:4 – "Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; (5) Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen."
 - c. HEB. 7:14a - For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah..."
 - d. Refers to Joseph's Dream: GEN. 37:9 – "And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me."

B. Notice The protection of Israel during the Great Tribulation

1. 1260 days, 3 ½ years, 42 months: Time, Times, ½ a Time
2. Very specific – can't have "come before" or happen now
3. Commentators say we see many examples for "the" church?

C. Three Light Sources: Star, Moon, and Sun

1. Interesting that each source is stronger and more brilliant than the last
 - a. Stars, representing time of the patriarchs (Abraham believed God)
 - b. Moon, stronger light, Moses's time (David's Joy in Salvation)
 - c. Sun, the strongest light, representing full WORD of GOD
2. JOHN 14:6 – "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

3. JOHN 1:9 – “That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”

III. THE DRAGON

A. His Identity - Let there be NO MYSTERY about it!

1. This is SATAN, the Adversary, the Enemy of God and His Children
 - a. He is not friendly, a little mustachioed man in a red suit
 - b. He is no joke, no punchline, no cartoon character
 - c. He is a powerful hateful fiend BENT with hatred for God
2. REV. 12:9 tells us EXACTLY who he is – the Devil!
3. Red (vs. 3) indicates blood and danger
 - a. Danger because he is a liar and a murderer
 - b. JOHN 8:44 – “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”
 - c. His lies caused the first blood to be spilt when Cain killed Abel

B. The Heads and Horns and Crowns

1. The 7 heads and 7 crowns speak to Satan’s earthly dominion
2. The 10 horns UNCROWNED represent 10 kingdoms under his control
 - a. DAN. 2:40 – “And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.”
 - b. Daniel speaks of 4 kingdoms (up to Rome)
 - c. Rome as Babylon will be revived / Horns = Kingdoms
3. We’ve heard of a 10-horned beast before!
 - a. DAN. 7:7 – “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.”
 - b. And the stars of Heaven represent his followers
 - c. JUDE 1:6 – “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.”

C. His attempts to destroy Jesus – the ROYAL seed!

1. He tried at the Birth of Christ – MATT. 2:13 – “And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.”
2. He’s tried with Hitler killing the Jews in WW2

3. He hates God and he HATES God's people

IV. THE ANGEL

- A. His Identity – This is Michael the Arch Angel
 - 1. He is spoken of in Dan. 12:1 and Jude 9
 - 2. He is the GUARDIAN Angel over Israel according to Daniel 10
 - 3. When the angel sent to speak to Daniel could not get through due to opposition, he called for Michael to help!
- B. The highest ranking of God's Angels is assigned to Israel
- C. That should give us some understanding of God's care for His people
 - 1. Not America, not even the Republican Party
 - 2. Not some religious organization or the Roman Catholic Church
 - 3. But Michael is a Guardian over Israel

V. THE CHILD

- A. His Identity – This is none other than Jesus Christ!
 - 1. His birth is prophesied. His birth was of a virgin - LUKE 1:26-35
 - 2. Of His Kingdom, there shall be no end (once Saved always Saved)
 - 3. He will rule over all nations after the Tribulation during Millennium
- B. The Age of Churches between vs. 5 and vs. 6
- C. Christmas / Advent Time
 - 1. Appropriate timing for Revelation 12 during the Advent Season
 - a. Israel was promised a child by God who would be Messiah
 - b. ISA. 7:14 – “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”
 - c. ISA. 9:6 – “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”
 - 2. The greatest gift that has EVER been given at the time we call Christmas
 - a. For God so loved the world, that He GAVE!
 - b. We give gifts to one another in celebration of His birth! The Gift!
 - 3. If you are not Saved, that is why He came – to seek and to save!
- D. Receive this gift for yourself and BE SAVED TODAY!