

“The Woman, the Dragon, the Male Child, and Michael”
Revelation 12:1-9

Revelation 1-11 OUTLINE:

- 1 The Revelation of the Glorified Christ
- 2-3 Letters to the Seven Churches
- 4-5 The Throne Room of Heaven
- 6 The Seven Seals
- 7 First Interlude: The 144,000 and the Great Multitude
- 8-9 The Seventh Seal and Six Trumpets
- 10-11 Second Interlude: Mighty Angel and the Little Scroll, Two Witnesses, Seventh Trumpet

Last Sunday: Recovery of the Kingdom—The Lord recovers the earth; He rewards and destroys.

Today: The Woman, the Dragon, the Male Child, and Michael

Is the Bible a book of unrelated stories? NO

- 1. Creation: God made the Creation to mirror God’s glory (Gen. 1-2; Is. 43:7, 21).
- 2. Fall: SIN enters the world (Rom. 3:23), bringing DEATH (Rom. 6:23).
- 3. Redemption: God loves this fallen world so much, He sends His Son (Rom. 5:8).
- 4. New Creation: God makes all things new (1 Cor. 15; Rev. 21-22).

Today: Revelation chapters 12-15 focus on the conflict with the Dragon and the Beasts (final confrontation). Rev. 12 is the prequel of how we got here, describing the wins and losses and how we must trust the Lord’s promises. For it is only by losing whereby we win.

OUTLINE:

- 12:1-2, The Expectant Woman
- 12:3-4, The Red Dragon
- 12:5-6, The Male Child (Satan’s loss #1)
- 12:7-9, War in Heaven (Satan’s loss #2)

12:1/ “And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.” Who or what is this?

- 1. Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of Christian Science
- 2. Mary, the mother of Jesus
- 3. Where else do we see one with the sun, moon, and stars?

Why did Israel expect a Messiah? Gen. 3:15, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” Gen. 3:15 is the “Protoevangelium”—the “first gospel” or announcement of the Messiah.

12:4/ “And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.”

Throughout history, Satan has always sought to erase the hope of the Messiah:

- Gen. 4: Destroy the offspring of the woman by tempting Cain to kill his brother
- Gen. 6: Destroy the human line by infiltrating the human race
- Ex. 1: Destroy the Hebrew line by murdering the Hebrew baby boys
- 2 Chron. 22: Destroy the Davidic line through Athaliah murdering the royal family
- Est. 3: Destroy the Jewish race by Haman
- Mt. 2: Destroy Jesus himself by the command of Herod
- Lk. 4: Kill Jesus by the people of Nazareth throwing him off a cliff

12:7/ “Now war arose in heaven...” When will this war in heaven occur?

1. Preterist (**past**):
 - a. When Satan is “cast out” at the crucifixion (Jn. 12:31)
 - b. Who is Michael? It is a title for Jesus, just like the “mighty angel” in Rev. 10 was Jesus. As an archangel, Michael (or Jesus) is “chief” of the angels.
2. Historicist (**timeline**):
 - a. When Julian the Apostate sought to re-establish paganism in the empire (361-363), but died in AD 363
 - b. Who is Michael? It is a title for Jesus, meaning, “Who is like God?”
3. Idealist (**spiritual**):
 - a. When Satan is “cast out” at the crucifixion (Jn. 12:31)
 - b. Who is Michael? “The staff officer who removes Satan’s flag from the heavenly map of battle” – G. B. Caird.
4. Futurist (**future**):
 - a. At the mid-point of the Tribulation (prophesied in Dan. 12:1)
 - b. Who is Michael? He is Michael the archangel.

12:9/ “Who is called the devil and Satan...”

- The devil: The verb means “to cast through.” The term means “slanderer.” “This is what a slanderer does—he stabs you with his accusations.”
- Satan – “Adversary”