

“The Dragon, the Woman, and the Rest of Her Offspring”  
**Revelation 12:10-17**

Last Sunday: The Woman, the Dragon, the Male Child, and Michael. As a reminder from last week, Rev. 12 is the prequel of how we got here: the expectant woman is chased down by the dragon who seeks to devour the male child (Christ?). The male child is caught up to heaven (Satan’s first loss), and Satan loses a war to Michael in heaven (Satan’s second loss).

Today: The Dragon, the Woman, and the Rest of Her Offspring. A continuation of the Lord’s wins, Satan’s losses, and the importance of trusting God’s promises—by losing whereby we win.

When did Satan fall?

- Before the Garden of Eden? (Lk. 10:18; Ezek. 28:12-17)
- At Christ’s Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension? (Jn. 12:31)
- Sometime in the future? (Rev. 12:10)

Dr. S. Lewis Johnson, “It’s very helpful to have a sense of *hermeneutical humility* ... If those individuals were wrong about the first advent in so many ways, the chances are that in our attempt to put together the number of details ... concerning the Second Advent that we are liable to misunderstanding as well.”

OUTLINE:

12:10-12, The Conquerors (Overcomers)

12:13-17, War on Earth (Satan loses yet again)

12:10/ “The accuser of our brothers, ... who accuses them day and night before our God”

G. K. Beale, “The devil’s accusation (of believers) is based on the *correct* presupposition that the penalty of sin necessitates a judgment of spiritual death. Until the death of Christ, it could appear that the devil had a good case, since God ushered all deceased OT saints into His saving presence without exacting the penalty of their sin, God *having delayed* executing just punishment for our sin (Rom. 3:25). However, the devil’s case was unjust even then, since the sins about which he was accusing and for which he wanted to punish people were instigated by *his deceptions*. This is why he is called both deceiver and accuser in v. 9-10.”

12:11/ “And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.”

How did they conquer him?

1. The blood of the Lamb. Rom. 8:33, “Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.”
2. The word of their testimony—two options:
  - a. The testimony (witness) that Christ himself gave?
  - b. The testimony (witness) that we give by telling others how Christ saved us?

12:13/ “And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.”

H. Swete, “If he cannot directly attack the woman’s son, he can hurt the son through the mother.”

- Mt. 25:45, “Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it *to me*.”
- Acts 9:4, “And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting *me*?’”

12:14/ “The woman was given the two wings of the great eagle...”

Who is the woman, and how did God protect her according to the four views?

1. Preterist (*past*):
  - a. The woman is the believing community of approximately AD 70, which follows Christ’s command to flee from Jerusalem (Mt. 24:16).
  - b. The church is divinely protected for 1,260 days (Rev. 12:6).
2. Historicist (*timeline*):
  - a. The woman is the TRUE church fleeing from persecution and spiritual decline after the “triumph of Christianity” in AD 380.
  - b. The TRUE church is divinely protected during her 1,260 years of persecution and spiritual decline.
3. Idealist (*spiritual*):
  - a. The woman is the church.
  - b. The church is divinely protected for 1,260 days as Satan tries to destroy her.
4. Futurist (*future*):
  - a. The woman is made up of ethnic Jews and/or the believing community.
  - b. This group of people are divinely protected for 1,260 days.

Applications:

1. Rev. 12 is a pattern that has been occurring since the beginning: we are in the midst of the war. Yet Christ has won the war, so if we live, we win, and *if we die*, we win (Phil. 1:21).
2. Christ will win and has won and Satan has lost and will lose. Ultimately, *the Lord is in charge* of every single piece on the gameboard (Dan. 4:35).
3. Christ’s win is our win; we are *more than conquerors* through him who loved us (Rom. 8:37).
4. Christ’s win is our win, but for now it does not feel like it, so *trust God’s promises*.
  - a. 2 Cor. 4:16-18, “So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us *an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison*, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”
  - b. G. K. Beale, “Christians can be assured that the serpent begins to battle against their bodies only *after* he has lost the battle over their souls. This expresses one of the major themes of the book: the suffering of Christians is a sign, *not* of Satan’s victory, but of the saints’ victory over him because of their belief in the triumph of the cross; their suffering identifies them.”
5. The Father is looking for those who will worship him even beyond death.

a. Jn. 4:23, “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for ***the Father is seeking*** such people to worship him.”