

sermon study summary

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Revelation Part 17 – The Woman, Child and Dragon

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Why do we have trouble?

- One reason is sin which has resulted in us living in a broken or a fallen world.
- Second reason is self. We often bring trouble on ourselves.
- Third reason is because of our enemy, Satan (John 10:10).

In Ezekiel 28, Satan was called Lucifer meaning 'the shining one the supreme one', but his heart became proud. He wanted to be a god and receive worship.

God didn't create an evil man, woman, or angel. He gave the freedom to make choices, and Adam, Eve, and Lucifer made a choice to go their own way.

In Revelation 12, we are introduced to the woman. Many interpreters believe the woman represents the Jewish people. The crown of 12 stars on her head most likely point to the 12 tribes of Israel. Other scholars believe the woman represents both the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles of Jesus.

Next, we are introduced to the dragon, which is symbolic of the source of all evil Satan himself.

Then, we are introduced to the child. The woman gave birth to a son, a male child, who "will rule all the nations with an iron scepter", Jesus the Messiah.

Why does the dragon want to kill the child? Back in the Garden of Eden, God indicated that one day the Messiah would be victorious over the devil and make a way for people to be restored to God and become a friend of God (Genesis 3:15).

In verses 7-9, we read about a war that breaks out in heaven between Michael and the dragon and his demonic forces. This is a sign or a symbolic picture of how Satan is defeated through what Jesus accomplished in his death, resurrection and ascension.

And when God protects the woman from Satan's sinister attack in verses 13 and 15, Satan wages war against the rest of her offspring, God's people. He will leave a lot of damage, but we know that Satan will ultimately be defeated.

Now even though Satan knows he's defeated, he continues to do whatever he can to hurt Christ and the cause of Christ in many ways.

- First, Satan will tempt you in the area of your greatest perceived need or longing.
- Secondly, Satan will accuse you of hypocrisy.
- Thirdly, Satan will deceive you and lead you astray. He will lie to you that your identity can be found in the temporary things of life like money, possessions, power, position, pleasure, and anything other than in the God who created you and loves you.

How do we overcome and triumph over Satan (v.11)?

- First, we triumph over him by the blood of the lamb. Jesus' death covers all our sin past, present and future. It pays for the penalty of our sin. It cleanses us from our sin and makes us righteous in the sight of our Holy God.
- Secondly, we triumph over Satan through the word of our testimony. Satan wants us to take our eyes off of the truth, persuading us that our sins define us and that God can't and won't use you. However, we triumph over Satan's lies and deceit by standing on the truth of God's Word and confidently proclaiming our identity in Christ and resisting and rebuking Satan's attempts to oppress and deceive us.
- Thirdly, we triumph over Satan by loving Christ more than this life and our life. The hard truth is Satan wins when we love our lives more than we love Jesus.

Are we willing to step out and confess Christ to those around us? Are we willing to lose a friendship or end a marriage engagement that is not honouring God? Are we willing to die to our pride and put the interests of another ahead of ourselves? Are we willing to die to our spirit of unforgiveness, to die to our bitterness, jealousy, and continual gossip about other people or our church?

sermon study guide

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What is your favourite story (novel, movie, etc.) of good vs. evil? What about this story impacted you?
2. Name a trouble you faced during COVID. How did you handle it?

UP – PURSUE GOD

3. Read Revelation 12:1-6. Describe the woman, the child, and the dragon. What clues does this passage give us as to their identity? What do they each represent?
4. Describe the conflict in Rev. 12:7-9. What was the outcome? What is the significance for the earth? For Christians?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Read verses 10-12. How do we triumph over Satan in our own lives? Which of these ways do you connect with most?
6. What evidence do you see of Satan's fury today? How is God prompting you to become stronger for the spiritual battles you face? How can you help others become stronger?

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

How am I living in light of Revelation 12? Reflect this week: How does God want me to defeat Satan in a specific area of difficulty or temptation? I may not be asked to give my life for Christ, but am I willing to confess Christ to those around me? What should I commit to do?

THE WORD (NIV)

Revelation 12:1-12

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. 2 She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. 3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. 4 Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. 5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, who "will rule all the nations with an iron scepter." And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. 6 The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

7 Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

This week's writers: Jorel Quemuel, Sandi Somers, Elsa Henderson, and Jared Harrison