

War in Heaven

(Rev. 12)

S.R. Rev. 12:3 – 5

12 – 20 – 2020

Intro.

- A. The Enemy is Pressing
- B. In Revelation chapters 12 – 22 we are taken behind the scenes to view the battle on a spiritual plane (cf. Eph. 1:20).
 - a. Chapters 6 – 11 described visions describing effects upon the earth (cf. 8:7).
 - b. Now our attention is turned to the spiritual forces which make possible these events.
- C. Emphasis is still placed upon the greatness and worthiness of the Lamb, but now we see that the saints, although persecuted, can be victorious through the blood of the Lamb (12:11).
- D. The evil forces are introduced: the dragon, the sea – beast and the earth – beast, and the harlot, Babylon. (Ch. 13 - 14) God's Woman and Satan's Woman - contrasted
- E. The forces of righteousness are presented: the radiant, expectant woman, the man child, who later is presented as the Lamb and the victorious warrior and the rest of the woman's children (cf. 12:17).
- F. The enemies are defeated in the reverse order of their introduction. First we have the overthrow of Babylon, the great harlot (18:1 – 19:10), then the sea – beast and the earth – beast go down (19:19 – 20), and finally the dragon (20:1 – 10). After the defeat of all enemies, the saints live and reign with Christ in victory.

I. War in Heaven – Has Come to Earth (Ch. 12) Read the Chapter

- A. A great sign in heaven (cf. 15:1) of a pregnant woman. She is about to deliver. This woman represents the people of God generally or God's people in an ideal sense. Possibly a picture of the Old Testament faithful remnant.
 - a. The concept of a woman in labor is used in the Old Test. of a nation or group (Isa. 54:1; 66:7; Micah 4:10).
- B. A great red dragon (vs. 9). He has great power and is just waiting to devour the male child about to be born unto the woman. Consider (Gen. 3:15; Gal. 4:4)
- C. The male *child*. All agree this is Jesus.
 - 1. He is to rule the nations with a rod of iron (cf. Psa. 2:9; Rev. 2:27)
 - 2. He is caught up to God and His throne (cf. 3:21 and ch. 5). Note: this is the only passage in Revelation, with the exception of the vision of Christ among the churches in Ch. 1, which places Jesus on earth. "Here he is caught up to heaven and no other passage ever returns Him to earth." Paul teaches that Christ must reign until the last enemy, death is destroyed (1 Cor. 15:25).
 - 3. Herod, the Great and then the Jewish leaders served as Satan's ambassadors to destroy the male – Child.
 - a. Matthew (2:1 – 14) b. John (11:47 – 53)
 - b. Caiaphas (John 11:47 – 53)
- D. The woman is protected by God in the wilderness for 1260 days.
 - 1. The wilderness is pictured here as a place of refuge and protection (cf. Isa. 51:9; Ezek. 29:3). The figure is drawn from the Exodus, where Pharaoh, *the dragon*, pursues

Israel, *the woman*, into the wilderness. God grants his people freedom and nourishment in the wilderness.

2. The 1260 days is equivalent to 42 months or time, times and half a time (cf. 12:14 and 13:5)
3. The time of God's protection is equal to the time of the saints persecution by the beast. Note: see 1 Kings 17 – 19 for a literal period of persecution of the same duration.

E. War in heaven.

- a. Michael and his angels (cf. Dan. 10:13; 12:1; Jude 9) are warring with the dragon.
- b. The dragon, who has apparently pursued the man – child to the throne of heaven, is thrown down, along with his angels. Satan has been whipped.
- c. The crucified and resurrected Lord has vanquished the primary power of Satan (cf. Heb. 2:14).

F. God's kingdom reigns (Acts 2:36).

- a. The accuser has been cast down (Lk. 10:18) and the brethren are now capable of overcoming their enemy, the adversary, Satan (cf. Zech. 3:1). Three reasons are given (12:11) as to why brethren can now overcome the dragon:
- b. The blood of the Lamb (Col.2:15)
- c. The word of their testimony (cf. 12:17)
- d. They loved not their life even unto death (cf. 2:10)

G. The woman is carried into the wilderness (cf. Deut. 32:11; Isa. 40:31) by a great eagle and nourished in the wilderness. The earth helped the woman. The enraged dragon goes off to make war with “the rest of her offspring.” (12:17). This is a description of the New Testament people of God.

H. How Does the Dragon wage war against the saints today?

- a. By encouraging us not to read the Scriptures (Romans 1:14 – 16).
 1. This will create doubt and hopelessness – due to failure to remember the resurrection (Romans. 1:3 – 4)
- b. By encouraging us not to reflect upon the blood of the Lamb.
 1. Forgetting the enormous price paid for our redemption.
- c. By our ignorance of the tactics of the Enemy – We are in His Crosshairs.
- d. By distracting us with shiny trinkets that lead us to dark places.

I. Conclusion: Our victory is tied to the Lamb's victory

- a. The blood of the Lamb (Col.2:15)
- b. The word of their testimony (cf. 12:17)
- c. They loved not their life even unto death (cf. 2:10)