

## "THE GREAT RED DRAGON"

Rev. 12

This passage represents a great division in Revelation - the first eleven chapters have concluded with the seventh trumpet, and with the wind-up when the kingdom of this world (becomes) the kingdom of our Lord, and his Christ. In V. 15 and V. 18 - Chapter 11, we find clearly outlined the things that are going to happen, at the end of time. If you are concerned about the end of time, you will notice in V. 18 that the nations are going to be angry. The wrath of God is going to come. The time of the dead will arrive for their judgement. And those saints will be given rewards. And those who have destroyed the earth will be destroyed.

Now the details of that broad prophesy introduces us to a new day when we will see five different persons or individuals come across the scene in a picture in the sky. He draws on this vision from many, many resources. And there will be a woman, clothed with the sun. A red dragon. A man-child, who is destined to rule the nations of the world. And Michael. And there will be several things that will take place. This great red dragon is that ancient serpent called the Devil and Satan. Now the man-child is the one that we find in the 2nd Psalm, the Messiah, the Lord Christ. He is destined to rule the nations. And Michael is the great prince of the arch-angel so named in Heaven, and in Old Testament times. And we are going to see if we can outline this chapter with three battles. The first battle is with the child. The second battle is in Heaven. And the third battle, is with the woman and her seed - the seed of the woman.

### I. THE BATTLE WITH THE CHILD - V. 1-6

From the wide sweep, from the birth of Christ, to his ascension is covered so

quickly.

In V. 1 - A great sign was seen in Heaven. The woman was clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet, and upon her head, a crown of twelve stars.

Vi. 2 Now as soon as this woman comes on the scene, in V. 2 - she is described as being with child. And she is travailing in birth. And pain - to be delivered. Immediately we see this and we wonder who this woman is. And, what kind of a woman is this. And how can we identify her.

There have been several possible different designations for her. One is, there have been those who have tried to identify her as the Virgin Mary. As the human mother of Jesus, but this seems to be impossible. And of course this is connected with some of the other verses, in which, after she gave birth - she fled in the wilderness. And that she was nourished from time to time - and of course, she was to bear the seed in opposition to Satan.

A second consideration is that the woman represents a church. That whosoever she is, she gives birth to the Messiah, but to say that the church gave birth to Jesus, is to speak opposite of the actual truth. It is Christ that gave birth to the church. And, we know that Eve was taken out of the side of Adam, and said this is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh. And in speaking of the church - the church is taken out of Christ. But there have been those who have used this as a violation of interpretation seemingly.

Third, there have been those who have said this radiant woman is perfectly identified



(as Israel) - in the 9th chapter of Romans, Paul describes the Israelites, in this way,

Now, the Messiah - the birth of the Messiah is the nation and the family of the people of Israel. It is Israel who produced Christ. That nation is likened unto a woman here. It fits together beautifully, because Israel was called a married woman. Again and again - Isaiah 54:1. And 47:79. 50:1.

When you refer to the church, you refer to the virgin, the bride, and not to a woman. But in the Scriptures, the church is never referred to as a mother. She is always a bride. And John the Baptist talked about our Lord - he hath the bride, the bridegroom, and he is rejoicing. Because the supper is being planned. Israel always is a mother, giving birth to children. When Zion's travail - children are born unto God. But the church, the bride of Christ is unmarried, until the great marriage supper of the lamb. So the woman, a mother, giving birth to a Messiah, is referred to as a nation of Israel.

I might mention to you - there is one other false idea that has been given - that this was Mary Baker Patterson Eddie. That when this woman, symbolic of this picture of herself, and the man-child she says - represented her, she brought forth Christian Science. Now truly, that is a terrible view of religion.

Who is this sun-robed woman, the moon beneath her feet. Is there any place in the Scripture where we have the sun, the moon, and the twelve stars, brought together in a similar way. Yes, Joseph's dream - he beheld the sun, the moon, and eleven stars making and bowing down to him. He, himself, was the twelfth star. Now his father rightly saw in this a picture of all Israel. With the twelve tribes. And this is a hint.

worth considering. And it is of Israel and Isaiah sings - and unto us a child is born and a son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulders. Isaiah 9:6. Israel is the mother of whom, as concerned a flesh, that Christ came. So the child here spoken of, undoubtedly is Messiah - the Christ. That is about to be delivered. And this glorious, radiant woman is pre-figured in the life of Joseph who was sold to a Gentile, and sold into captivity, buried among the nations of the world and raised up to a position, and ruled - and the woman then is Israel. And the chosen family and people of God. And the man-child is the Messiah, our Lord Christ.

In V. 3 - There appeared another wonder in Heaven. A great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his head. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of Heaven. And did cast them to the earth. Now the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to deliver or to devour her child as soon as it was born. You catch the idea, the dragon in the first battle, is going to try to destroy and devour the child just as soon as he is born. Satan is here at his worst. Why is the dragon used as a symbol of Satan, Pharoah, king of Egypt, in his cruelty, is spoken of in the terms of a dragon. Ezek. 29:3. Nebuchadnezzar is similarly spoken of as in respect to his cruelty. Jer. 51:54. The book of Psalms in the first has a number of references to the crocodiles who brought cruelty to the Egyptians. And to others. And the color of this dragon was red - he denotes that he was a murderer - he was blood-thirsty in his character. Satan is directly spoken of as a dragon. And the heathen monarchs such as Pharoah enslaved, oppressed people. And the thing about it was - he says this dragon had seven heads. He had great power. You know there were seven hills on the city of Rome.

And it says his tail has great power - this is the emblem of soul-destroying influence. As he lies. Isaiah 9:15. Satan is said to be a murderer and a liar. And he ruins the souls of men. He has great power in his head. But as he comes, he is able



to catch even teachers in his snare. And he casts them to the earth - as he draws his tail. Now he confronts the woman to devour her child.

The details in Matt. 2 - it was not the woman of Israel that was the special object of Satan's hatred. It was not her - but it was her seed which he wanted to destroy.

Gen. 3:15 - tells about the hostility that Satan and the woman's seed. And in Matt. 2 - that hatred is shown. As he attempts to destroy the woman's seed - the seven headed, ten horned dragon. Herod - the Caesar of Palestine, representative to the Roman Empire was a true child of his father, the Devil. John 8:41-44. And in his cruel rage against the innocent male children, he wanted to sacrifice all of them because he hated this child.

This dragon was he wages his war - you will notice that it is not like a wild bull. Why, he only has two horns. Now you might be able to get out of the way of two horns, if you are lucky. But the Devil can hook you in any direction - he has ten horns representative of his diverse multitude of power.

And notice his tail - the tail here is but carrying out the idea of the dragon. Every serpent has a tail - now if you go down to Florida or the southern states, you may think you are passing by a rotten log, but it may be an alligator -- and if you are not careful, he will knock you in the water with his tail. And then go after you and devour you. The tail is an essential part of a reptile. And here the pagan power - he is going to use again the son - this male child. And he will use this. Immorality, heresy, he will destroy in any way that he can destroy.

In V. 5 - It says she brought forth a man-child who was to rule with a rod of iron. Now this is a quote of Psalm 2:9. It is an ancient prediction that John is here re-emphasizing. The rod in the hand of the shepherd. That he is going to put it on all guilty kings and he is going to break up the power of this earth. And it says, that just as soon as this child was born, he was caught up. Now here you have the ascension that he refers too. You remember, after his death - 40 days. After the resurrection. And here is the rapture of the man-child. And it is very distinct that these personal events - that he names here. The birth of the man-child in three statements. And second, the destiny of the man-child, what he is going to do. And thirdly, his rapture. Now there is nothing said about his life or his death. But here is about his birth and his ascension - why is this. Well, it is because of history and this is what John is giving us. And he is giving us a period in the life of this man-child. It makes no reference to a lot of other things in there. You and I live in a time, when we, as a matter of fact - see things a day at a time. Events come to us around the corner - one day at a time. But now they did not appear to God in the way that they appear to us. Now God looks upon all time, as though it were present. He sees it here, and here, and there. And God sees the end from the beginning. So it is no surprise then to the Lord as to what is going to happen to us. The whole story - when God makes a prophesy, and he writes it out. It is going to happen. Now until we see that great fact, this prophesy will be nothing but alphabet soup for us. But if we can see as we read the Bible, how God had a plan, and how he previews, and how he looks at history, we will get some meaning out of this. He brought forth a man-child. In this 5th verse - who was the ruler of the nations. And he has been caught up to the very throne of God. Now in reading that, one could not think of anybody else except Christ.

And then, you fit together his life, his death, his ministry, and you put all of these things in order, and fill in the great gap which John has given us here.



There is no reference to his life, because God is dealing with Israel here. Here is a battle that is going on. And the battle is being waged by this dragon. Now for this very reason, there are many Jews today who do not believe, because they think that the Messiah comes - all things will be different. There will be no more war. And everything will be perfect when the Messiah comes. And there is so much bitterness and violence in the world today - and there is a veil over their hearts and they cannot see God's purpose, and providence in these things.

In that one verse, John tells us the whole story of the incarnation of Jesus Christ. And of the dragons, crafty power, to seek to destroy him. How cruel. How awful the forces of evil against that which is good.

V. 6  
Last Sunday night, we had a mother and father come, and bring their baby to the service. The baby was one week old. How precious is a baby. And the Bible tells us just as soon as this child is born, the dragon made war against him. And V. 6 - the flight of the woman took place to the wilderness. To a place where God had protection for her. By the help of God, she escaped. And here John has a picture in his mind. (Elijah) escaped to the brook and was fed there by the raven. I Kings 17:1-7.

You remember the flight of Mary and Joseph and the baby to Egypt - to get away from the dragon Herod. Matt. 2:13.

And there were times when they put to death those that kept the law. And there was a time when people went to the wilderness. They left Jerusalem when the Romans shed blood in AD 70. They went to the desert. And there are times when Christian

witnessing is a lonely thing. And sometimes we feel that we are in distress and in a wilderness. So, the Bible says that the woman fled to the wilderness. And she was preserved for 1200 and threescore days. 1260 days this woman was nourished here. This was taking place with this powerful dragon - and this woman was about to deliver a child. What chance did a helpless woman have with a newborn child against such opposition. It appears hopeless. But John says in V. 5 - that the child is destined to rule the world. And now she had fled to the wilderness. And that brings us to the second battle.

## II. THE BATTLE IN HEAVEN - V. 7-12

V. 7  
A battle is raging - and the scene shifts from the earth in V. 7. And there was war in Heaven. When back on this earth on the course of affairs - the Devil was unsuccessful. To destroy Christ on the earth. Now he was going to try to invade Heaven. And destroy the child.

The war in Heaven is made and is met by Michael and his angels. And Michael and his angels have hand to hand fierce combat with the Devil and the dragon. And his forces are unable to get even a foothold in Heaven. And this battle in Heaven has been something that Milton in his Paradise Lost tried to give an account of it. But his picture is a little sketchie. But Michael who is like unto God, and is mentioned five times in the Scriptures - Dan. 10:13, 21, 12:1, Jude 9, Rev. 12:7. He is the archangel and he contends with the Devil.

Why would Satan, who is not successful in his war on earth, hope to be successful against Michael.

You remember that God created the Heavens and the earth. Gen. 1:2. And the



next verse said, the earth became waste and void. And darkness covered the deep. Between those verses, there must have been a rebellious attack of Satan in Heaven. He plunged God's creation into waste and void. God's creation would be perfect, without spot and without blemish. But he tried to blast God's creation.

Another thing to note, when God put the man and the woman in the Garden of Eden, the old dragon came and there he ruled this world with tears, sorrow, distress, and murder.

We have another strange thing about him in Jude 9 - Michael, the archangel contending with the Devil, in a dispute over the body of Moses. What did the Devil want to do with the body of Moses. Use it for an instrument of idolatry. The brazen serpent was kept and used until it was destroyed by King Hezekiah. Just like Linen in his casket in Moscow is worshipped today as an idol. Satan wanted the body of Moses to use as an idol. Another thing he wanted, Moses represented all of the elect children of God. And for this purpose, he wanted this body. Now, we have come to the time, and it is the purpose of God to raise out of the dust, those that sleep in the earth. And those names are written in the book of life. And God tells us that Michael is going to stand up at that time, and those that are asleep in the earth and in the dust, are going to be resurrected - 12th chapter of Daniel.

Lucifer opposes God and he fails every time. And when it comes to emptying the graves - he is going to conquer that. Now in Heaven, the battles go, and Michael stands for the people of God. He defends God's elect. But now Satan has been at work and war against Heaven, and he has done some very murderous things. He stirred up Isaac. And his household by using Esau. Who says I will slay my brother Jacob.

He tried to destroy the promised seed. He moved Pharaoh - when Moses was born. And he destroyed the male children of the Hebrew families. The red dragon - getting rid of the chosen seed.

In the household of Josaphat, when he died, his son slew all of the royal seed. But there was one preserved. In Esther's day Satan sought the adversary to destroy. And we know when the child was born in Bethlehem, they destroyed the infants. And Satan has moved all the way through, even to the Garden of Gethsemane, in the agony of prayer. And he sought to get the son of God not to go to the cross. So Satan, and this dragon, has been battling. But thank God, whether it is the story of Eden, or the story in Noah's day, whether it is the story in Egypt or Bethlehem, or whether it is the story of Michael battling him in Heaven, he is being defeated at every turn.

V. 9 - The Bible says the great dragon was cast out. And the old serpent called the Devil and Satan. Which deceived the whole world, he was cast out into the earth. And his angels were cast out with him.

Now we know that when Satan is cast out of Heaven, he is going to turn and have another great battle against the woman.

There are some stages of judgement against Satan. First, he is cast down from Heaven to earth in V. 9. Second, he is going to be confined as a prisoner to the abyss. Chapter 20:3. And finally, he is going to be assigned his place in eternal torment in the lake of fire. V. 10 - Chapter 20. And there will be no raye and the



tears will never be dried or really anything until he is placed in that cavern.

Satan is the daring one - he would come even at The Last Supper. And he would go out to betray this man-child. If a man stands up to Jesus, Satan will desire to have him. But he may sift him as wheat.

Now V. 10-12 - I am going to save until the end - the conclusion. Because it tells us of the elements of victory. The way that you and I can defeat this dragon.

### III. THE BATTLE WITH THE WOMAN

V. 13 - V. 13-17 - Now there is a message that comes through to us. And when the dragon was cast down into the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man-child. Now here is the attack of the Devil. And we have to watch out for his craftiness and his methods. Because the dragon at once turned all of his images against Israel. And again the woman's seed at this point. We know that God, in the long ago, gave us the account of Satan that tried to destroy Job's family. He slew his children. He put Job on the ash heap. And ever since that day, this old dragon has been at work. And God's children are scarred and if they are not careful, they will be victims, of the claws of this dragon as he carries on business.

V. 14 - Says and the woman was given two wings of a great eagle. That she might fly into the wilderness. And there be nourished for a time, and a time, and half a time from the face of a serpent. (A time) indicates a year. (Times) two years. And (half a time) - six months. Which is the same as the 42 months of the previous chapter.

And it is symbolic of all of the end of time. But now she is protected. Duet. 32:10-11. It is said that God bore his children of Israel through the wilderness. Ex. 19:4. And she was tried, protected, and nourished in other ways.

In V. 15 - The serpent cast out of his mouth, water as a flood. After the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. So the serpent, the dragon, he will seek to destroy and ruin her. And to swamp and destroy Israel as a nation. By false teachings. And by things of this earth. The flood waters - Ps. 124:4. Jer. 42:2. And the danger from water as they escape from Egypt, Ex. 14:1. But here are all of the resources of earth and Heaven. They are at God's command. Even the stars in their course fought against Cicero. Judges 5:20.

V. 16 - We find there were three limits put on Satan. One was space - he was cast down to the earth. 2 Cor. 4:4. Second, a limit of time. He was given here the Bible says, three years and a half. And then, there is a third limit - that of force. V. 16. The earth helped the woman. His power was restricted and providence came to the woman's aid.

V. 17 - We recognize that these things have to be battled with. The dragon was wroth. And so he went out to make war against her seed. Which keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Christ. Can you not see, that here, the dragon is your enemy too. Life is not going to be so easy when you have to fight with him. And, you cannot give him one inch of room in your life. Eph. 4:27. He is a foe and we should be prepared, and we should not grieve the spirit of God. Who tries to work with us against him. And we can ultimately defeat him - and this dragon is going to make war on the rest of the family. With those who keep the commandments of God. Now that is clear - isn't it. That involves you.



In conclusion - let us now take just a brief look at verses 10, 11, and 12.

The way the triumph was achieved, and the kind of weapons that we used, and how the victory was won, in Heaven and against this dragon. The amazing method - they over-came him. If you will notice here, what it says, there was a great voice in Heaven. Now has come salvation - and a great deal of singing. The kingdom of our God and the power of his Christ. But the accuser is cast down. And he had accused them day and night. And Satan never lets up.

✓ 111 Look at V. 11- how they won the victory. First, they overcame him by the blood of the lamb. That means by the life, the death, and the blood of Christ. That is exactly what that means - the blood of the lamb. Satan is found and is bound by the blood of the sacrifice of God. Because of the atonement - you have an access to him. And soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not desert to expose. That soul will go through all Hell and it will endeavor to shake. I'll never, no never, forsake. This is the word and the promise of God - through the blood we stand. And Satan stands in the very presence of God in Heaven. And he accuses - look at them, wild sinners. Listen to them. Look at the imaginations of their hearts. And he accuses God's people day and night.

Where is the man who stands up and says, why these accusations are wrong. Where is the man who can say I am pure in my thoughts. These things that Satan says against me simply are not true. I am perfect in my life.

There never lived a man who could stand up and say I am perfect. Not since God created Jesus on this earth. When Satan says, look at him, he is a vile sinner.

Everyone of us must bow our heads in shame. But listen, every lost person, every wicked person, every sin that Satan accuses you of - they over-came him by the blood of the lamb. His blood cleanseth us from sin.

Israel was not saved from bondage out of Egypt except by blood. The atonement - the blood of a lamb sprinkled on the lintel and on the door post. And, we are washed by the blood of the crucified one.

So, the first ground of a victory was found in the blood of the lamb. And second, the outward course of the victors was the word of their testimony. And this was the second thing by which they conquered. By the word of truth. By God's Word - the strongest and the most meaningful phrase is given here - they overcame him by reason of the word of their witness and testimony. You remember, Stephen, when he died. His face shone like the face of an angel. They were beaten, but in dungeons. Who could stop a man like that. What could be done to a man - put in prison and in chains. And hear him sing praises to God at midnight. They were victors. Think about John Huss when the stake was burning around him, the people began to sing praises unto God.

Felix Mantz, they marched him through the streets of Zurich, Switzerland. His mother urging him to be faithful until death. He was a young Baptist preacher. They took him to the river that flowed through the city, and said, he likes water. Let us give him lots of water. And they drown him in the beautiful city, that flowed out of the lake.

John Bunyan was put into prison for twelve years. Because he was a Baptist preacher



preaching and pleading with people, to turn to repentance through the bars. By the word of their testimony - that is the same kind of martyr witness that we need to see and have seen in missionaries today. They labor. And some are murdered.

3.5 And then less we miss the secret of all of this - in the third place they lived devoted lives. The Bible says, by self-sacrificing love here. Love not their lives unto death. That means, they gave themselves. Totally. And loved not life even unto death. And that was the way they won the victory.

When the life of a saint is put into balance, he never questions. He never hesitates. He never was fearful. I wonder today as we think of those who overcame by the blood, of the lamb, and those who had a word of testimony and a life of love even unto death. They knew they were bought with the price and they belonged to God. I marvel today and I wonder what kind of stuff our people, and some of the members of this church, are made out of. When it comes to profess your love to Jesus Christ.

Many of our people will give a dime when they ought to be giving a thousand dollars. We've got some people that give \$1.00 a week that ought to be giving \$25.00 a week. When they will give 5¢ when they ought to be giving a \$100.00. Any little discouragement will move them off-base. Any little difficulty that they come up against. They will get down in the dust of the ground and say we are defeated. Now here we find people even today who will listen to the dragon. Who sends his workers across this world. And there are countless numbers in our churches who pant after a new theology. Something new. There seems to be a crisis, a desperation, of men and women - and we need to get back to the house of God, and be devoted to the great Saviour through their lives even unto death. And knowing that they can lean on the ever-lasting arms.

Can God count upon us as saints today. Are we really soldiers of the cross.  
Have we had our names put in his book. Am a soldier of the cross. A follower of  
the lamb. And shall I fear to own his cause or blush to speak his name. Sure I must  
fight if I will reign. Increase my courage Lord, I'll bear the toil and endure the  
pain. Supported by thy word.