

"Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven." (Rev. 12:7-8)

I. A Woman, A Child & A Red Dragon (vv.1-6)

- a. The three characters presented; a symbolic woman, a literal dragon, and a child who represents a human person.
- b. **A woman** symbolizes the nation of *Israel*; it was through *Israel* that Christ came into the world. (Romans 1:3; 9:4-5)
 1. The woman was adorned with the glory of the sun, moon, and twelve stars, which was closely related to Joseph's dream (Gen. 37:9-11), which described the whole family of Israel. (vv.1-2)
- b. **A child** is born from *Israel*, a symbol of the birth of Christ and ascends to the throne of God.
 1. God protected the *woman* (His people) from Satan's wrath for 3 ½ years (1,260 days). (v.6, 13-16)
 2. Apart from the 144,000 (who are sealed and protected), a believing remnant of Jews will survive.
- c. **A great red dragon** is *Satan*, aka the ancient serpent, the devil. (vv.9-10)
- d. Biblical history records that Satan has tried to prevent the plan/purposes of God on bringing mankind back into right relationship. The plan includes the birth/ministry of Jesus Christ. (v.4b)
 1. King Herod tried to destroy Jesus, and Satan used Judas to betray Jesus.
 2. *The heads* represent mountains; *the horns* represent kings; *seven diadems* represent authority (temporary and not absolute, perhaps political). (v.3)
 3. *Swept down a third of the stars*, refers to 1/3 of the rebelling angels who became fallen angels.

II. Satan, The Deceiver/Accuser of the World (vv.7-17)

- a. *The great dragon was thrown down*. (v.9) Where did Satan come from? Did God create Satan?
- b. It is because of pride, Lucifer (Satan) chose to rebel against God in order to seek to become his own god. (Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-18)
- c. God gave angels and humanity the gift of choice. Satan's choice shaped him into who he is.
- d. The Bible does not give many details regarding the rebellion of Satan and the fallen angels.
- e. Also, the Bible presents no opportunity for the fallen angels to repent and be forgiven. Nor does the Bible indicate that it's possible for more of the angels to sin.
 1. The angels who remain faithful to God are described as the "elect angels." (1 Timothy 5:21)
- f. Now Satan knows that he cannot dethrone Jesus, so he persecutes God's people. He has special hatred for Jewish people. Secondly, he accuses and is out to destroy the Church. (Zech. 3)
- g. vv.10-12 are pivotal, because it reminds us that Christ has won the victory and all those who trust in Him will overcome. *The authority of Christ has come; They have conquered; his time is short!*
- h. Satan is not equal to God. He is not omnipotent, omnipresent, or omniscient.
- i. The evil "two prong attack: Satan deceives the nations and lies about the Church.
- j. Satan's wrath: Not a literal river, but an outpouring of hatred against God's chosen people. (v.15)

III. Application of the Word

- a. There is a continuous struggle between good and evil, but:
- b. Satan's power is limited when God's people trust the power of the *blood* and the *Word of God*.
- c. Christ's shed *blood* gives us perfect standing before God regardless of any accusation against us.
- d. God's people must expect world opposition, but the church can always defeat the enemy by the Word of our testimony.