



## Sermon Series Notes

### “Overcoming the Devil” (Revelation 12)

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Intro: Rev.1, John sees Jesus in His resurrected/glorified state. He is told to write what he has seen, what is, and what will take place later (the outline of the book). What he has seen is the resurrected, glorified Jesus, What “is” is the church age (seven letters of chapters 2-3), and what will take place later is the remainder of the book, and it deals with what is still future. In chapter four John is raptured, sees the Father on his throne, with twenty-four elders seated on thrones around him. In chapter five the Father holds in his right hand a seven sealed scroll, and a mighty angel asks. “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll? John weeps long and hard because no one comes forth. John somehow knows that contained in this scroll are events that will bring about the ultimate redemption of the entire creation. John is then told to stop weeping because the Lion of the tribe of Judah has triumphed and is worthy to open the scroll. John turns to see the Lion but instead sees a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain. This is of course Jesus. In chapter six Jesus begins to open the seals. The first brings the antichrist riding a white horse, and he is bent on world conquest. Daniel 7:23 says that he will rule a future kingdom that will “devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it.” The second seal brings world war, the third famine. When the fourth seal is opened, one fourth of the population dies. The fifth seal are martyrs crying out for justice. When the sixth seal is opened, the heavens and the earth are shaken, and men hide in caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks to hide them from the face of him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. Chapter seven sees a multitude of Jews and Gentiles saved during this awful time. Habakkuk 2:4...in wrath remember mercy. Chapter eight is the opening of the final seal, and when it is opened there is silence in heaven for about half an hour. It is the greatest calm before the greatest storm in all of history. The seventh seal summons seven angels who stand before God, and they have seven trumpets to sound. The first brings hail and fire mixed with blood, and a third of the earth is burned up, a third of the trees are burned up, and all the green grass is burned up. The second trumpet brings something *like* a huge burning mountain that is thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turns to blood, a third of the creatures in the sea die, & a third of the ships are destroyed. The third trumpet brings a great blazing star that falls on a third of the rivers and springs of water. The star is called “Wormwood” (bitter), and many people die from the waters that have now become bitter. The fourth trumpet causes a third of the sun, moon & stars to not show their light.

I personally believe that nuclear weapons will be used in this final world war during The Great Tribulation. The hail and fire mixed with blood, and the resulting trees and grass being burned up sounds like the results of nuclear weapons. And the blazing mountain into the Sea, and the star that falls on a third of the rivers are no doubt meteors. Show video of evening news a few weeks ago, then give updated info from NASA.

In chapter eleven we saw the seventh angel sound the seventh and final trumpet, and now we see the events that begin to unfold in both heaven and earth as a result of the sounding of this final trumpet. The 2 minute warning has sounded, the end is near. And the end of this present world is the beginning of a redeemed world, one where Christ rules and reigns forever and ever! See Rev.10:7 ---- Eph.1:9-10.

Today we come to chapter twelve, and it is a fascinating chapter.

v.1 See Gen.1:14; The woman is Israel; See Gen.37:5-10; Isa.54: 5 For your Maker is your husband-- the LORD Almighty is his name...6 The LORD will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit-- a wife who married young, only to be rejected," says your God; Jer.3: 8 I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries; Jer.31: 3...I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them, " declares the LORD; Ezek.16: 32 "'You adulterous wife! You prefer strangers to your own husband; Hosea 2: 16 "In that day," declares the LORD, "you will call me 'my husband'; you will no longer call me 'my master.'

Some see this woman as the church, while others see her as Mary the mother of our Lord. But the absolute confirmation that this woman is Israel is right in our text. See Rev.12:13-14.

v.2 The child is Jesus, and we will see confirmation of that in just a moment.

v.3 The seven heads, ten horns, and seven crowns are ten nations that antichrist, indwelt and empowered by Satan, will rule over in this coming day; See Daniel 7: 7-8, 23-25; 2:39-44; Rev.13:1ff; 17:12-14; 20:2.

v.4a Most scholars believe this refers to angels who followed Satan in his rebellion against God.

v.4b Satan attempted to destroy Jesus through King Herod, but Joseph and Mary were warned, and they took Jesus to Egypt until Herod was no longer in power.

v.5a Psalm 2:9

v.5b Acts 1:9

v.6 God will providentially provide a place of protection for the remnant of Israel who are saved during The Great Tribulation. Some people believe this place to be Petra, but we do not know for sure. The 1260 days is the last half of the tribulation period.

v.7 Can you even imagine what this war looks like? It is between supernatural beings. What kind of weapons do they use? Do they feel pain? If I understand my Bible correctly, they cannot be killed. Fascinating stuff! Made me think of a sci-fi movie.

Show movie clip.

See Eph.6:12; Why Michael? Because this war has to do with Israel; Daniel 12:1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects **your people**, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time **your people**--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered.

This is not the first encounter between Michael and Satan. See Jude 9.

There is a great cosmic conflict going on between good and evil, God and Satan, and the outcome of that conflict will determine the outcome of the earthly conflict between good and evil, God and Satan.

Daniel 10:12...Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. 13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

vv.8-9 Has this already happened? I am 100% certain it has not. How can I be so certain? See verse 12b. The time mentioned is the last half of the tribulation period (three and a half years).

Satan presently has access into heaven. I know that sounds a little odd, and I cannot completely explain it, but it is true. See Job 1:6-7; 2:1-7; Zech. 3:1-5.

v.10 What does Satan do in heaven? He accuses the saints. And guess what, his accusations are valid (Rom.3:10, 23). So how do we overcome valid accusations about us from the enemy? Answer: A very good defense attorney! I John 2:1.

v.11 This one verse is so powerful! It tells us how to overcome the devil

1. By the blood of the Lamb

- Eph.1:7-8 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

2. By the word of their testimony

- II Cor.4: 11 For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body...13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak...

- I Tim.6: 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- Rom.10:9-10

- Believing in him without publicly confessing him leave's one's salvation in doubt.

- Paul's testimony (Acts)

- Do you have a testimony? If not, you have been defeated by Satan. His accusations against you are valid, and you have no defense attorney.

3. Deny self/submit to God

- They did not let fear keep them from confessing Christ

- John 12: 42 Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they **would not confess their faith** for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

- Peter's denial of Christ
- Simply pleading the blood of Christ and using the name of Jesus won't win anyone victory over the devil. James 4:7 is so often quoted out of context.
- James 4:7...Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- James 4:7 **Submit yourselves**, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Note entire context, esp. reading verses 8-10.

v.12a Rejoice because you have overcome the devil; see Eph.2:6; Col.3:1-3

v.12b As Satan is cast down to the earth, he knows that he has little time left before his ultimate defeat, and he is "as mad as hell!"

v.13 In the final hours of The Great Tribulation, Satan focuses his efforts on Israel.

v.14 This is the same place referred to in verse 6.

Exodus 19:4 You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself. God cared for his people during a wilderness experience in the past, and He will do the same in this future time known as The Great Tribulation.

v.15 There is no reason to take this any other way but literally. Does Satan have power to cause a literal flood? See Rev.13:13; II Thess.2:9; Job 1: 14-19; Luke 8:24 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm.

v.16 Enraged at his failed attempt, Satan goes off to make war against others who have come to know Christ during this terrible time; see Daniel 7: 25-27.

## CONCLUSION

\* I Peter 5:8-9 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith...

- \* Have you ever applied the blood of the Lamb to your life?
- \* Do you have a testimony?
- \* Are you living in victory, submitted to the Lord?
- \* Invitation