

THE CHURCH AND THE DRAGON

REVELATION CHAPTER TWELVE

(Outline # 9)

Meditation:

INTRODUCTION: This study shows the struggle between God's ever-living church and Satan, particularly in the New Testament dispensation. More importantly, however, it reveals that in spite of Satan's apparent success against the church it shows how the church will be victorious. How this victory comes about is the high point of this lesson.

1. What Does A Woman Symbolize In Scripture?

Answer: a church

- a. Jer. 6:2—Zion (the church) is likened to a virgin (a woman). See also Jer. 31:4: *GC* 381

2. What Church Is John First Describing?

Answer: The Jewish Church

- a. It was the Jewish church that brought forth Christ—"the man child" (verse 5-compare with Rev. 19:15; Isa. 11:4), not the Christian Church.
- b. Christ founded the Christian Church. Revelation, however, points out that Christ was still in the womb of the woman when John first sees her. Thus, the woman **initially** could not be the Christian Church since its founder (Jesus) was not yet borne. You cannot have the "cart before the Horse."

Note: The woman later on, after Christ's birth, becomes the Christian Church.

3. What Is The Meaning Of The:

SUN: The written word—the Bible. Ps. 119:105. It could not be the gospel as Jesus who brought the gospel was still in the womb while the woman was already clothed with the sun.

MOON: The oral tradition—the period without the Bible. *GC* 5.

CROWN: Authority, i.e. a monarch is crowned to show his/her authority.

TWELVE STARS: Twelve is a symbol of God's government (Matt. 19:28). Thus the stars denote her leaders from the beginning until the end of time. 12 patriarchs, 12 tribes, 12 apostles, and later the 144,000 (12 x 12).

Note: This shows that although the woman is the Jewish Church when John first sees her, she in the fullest sense is God's ever-living church from creation to eternity.

4. Whom Does The Dragon Represent?

Answer: The Devil/Satan-See Rev. 12:9

5. **What Is The Meaning Of:**

Red: In this context it would be sin—Isa. 1:18

Seven Heads: Seven denotes completeness (AA 585). Heads denote religious bodies (i.e. the heads on the leopard-like beast of Rev. 13:1-3. This indicates that Satan had control over all the religious bodies of that day—the time of Christ birth, including the Jewish church (with the exception of those who were expecting Jesus' coming —the woman).

Ten Horns: Ten symbolizes universality, (i.e., ten virgins, ten toes of the image of Dan. 2). Horns denote civil powers/governments, (ie, Dan. 8:20,21).

Crowns on Heads: This shows that the authority was placed on the religious bodies not on the civil.

Stars: In this context the stars drawn by the Dragon's tail would be the fallen angels.

His Tail Drew The Stars: This phrase indicates that Satan did not kidnap or forcibly pull the fallen angels out of heaven. Otherwise it would have said that he drew them with his claws. Instead they voluntarily united with Satan in his rebellion (37115), and as a result they were all expelled. This took place **before creation**. (See Story of Redemption, pp. 16-19).

"Stood ...Ready ...To Devour Her Child..." Satan waited for the coming of the Messiah—Jesus, and tried to destroy Him as soon as he was born. The decree by Herod to destroy all male children under two years old illustrates this. (See Matt. 2:16-18). This was Satan's **FIRST DEFEAT** in this context.

"Caught Up To God And His Throne" (v. 5) This verse shows that Jesus overcame Satan by living a perfect life, died, and was resurrected —he was victorious. Satan had failed.

6. **The Church Flees**

Read: Rev. 12: 6,14

- a. After Satan was defeated, he persecuted the church (verse 13). Thus the church fled her homeland (Jerusalem) and went among the gentiles —the wilderness.

7. **Satan Is Cast Out Permanently—2nd Defeat Read**

Rev. 12:7-13

- a. Shortly **After** the resurrection of Christ he was cast out of heaven permanently. (Verse 8) "His place was found there no more." This could not have taken place before the crucifixion as he still had access to heaven before Christ's death on the cross. (See Job 1: 6,7; 2:1,2; DA 761, 834). Thus, when he realized that he was "cast out," he "persecuted the woman [church] which brought forth the man child" (verse 13)—after Christ birth, not before.

8. **THE FLOOD**

Read: Rev. 12:15

- a. The flood (water) represents people (Rev. 17:15; Isa. 17:12). These people, however, come from the Dragon's (Satan) mouth. Therefore, they cannot be the righteous. They could only be the UNCONVERTED. This is precisely what took place after Satan recognized that his persecuting the Christians by slaying them was not successful, so he changed his strategy and tried to destroy the church from within by infiltrating it with the unconverted. This became prominent with Constantine and has continued up to our time. (See *GC* 385).

9. **The Earth Swallows The Flood—3rd Defeat**

- a. This shows that the unfaithful will be removed from God's church. This is the same as the slaughter of Ezekiel nine. If not for this purging event the church would be carried away—destroyed—lost. This is Satan's **3rd and final defeat**.

10. **Satan Warring Against The "Remnant Of Her Seed"**

- a. After the church is purified or cleansed of its unconverted, he is angry (wroth) with the woman (the faithful left in the church after the destruction of the flood—the 144,000), but fights (war) with the "remnant of her seed"—those still in Babylon (Rev. 18:4). This brings on the mark of the beast decree— 'THE TIME OF TROUBLE SUCH AS NEVER WAS'—Rev. 13:11-18; Dan. 12:1, 2.

Note: That the Dragon does not war or fight with the woman (the 144,000), he is only wroth (angry) with her because he cannot touch them; they are sealed. But he can try and hold those still in Babylon—the great multitude by persecuting them.

CONCLUSION: This study has shown us that the only solution to the church's present dilemma—spiritual low ebb and worldliness, is for God to physically remove the unfaithful. This is its only hope of becoming fit for the outpouring of the Spirit, the last proclamation of the gospel, and the return of our Lord.

**Education Department
Davidic Levitical Institute
Mt. Carmel Center
Mountain Dale New York 12763**