



A Woman, a Child, and a Dragon

PART 26

Introductions

Let's get started by sharing our names and answering this question: [*Choose your own question*].

Songs of Praise

Let's begin our time singing to the Lord. [*Sing additional songs if you prefer. Contact the church office for copies of our church songbooks.*]

Joy to the World

Joy to the world; the Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns;
Our mortal songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts, 1719

Church News

- Parent & Youth Equipping Conference, January 16-17, Sign-up online.
- Women's Retreat, February 26-28, Sign-up online.

Study

[*This guide utilizes the Sunday sermon notes, please [click this link](#) to access them.*]

Q: Would someone read aloud Revelation 12:1-6.

Revelation chapter twelve forms a theological break between the seven trumpets and the seven bowls. It stands in the very center of the book and further helps to explain the source of all the church's trouble in this world. In these verses we see three symbolic characters in the dragon, the child, and the woman.

Q: John sees a frightening image in the dragon (Satan, see 12:9). How are his deception and power depicted?¹

Q: What is the significance of the dragon's eagerness to kill, literally devour, the child? What does it all represent?

Let's have someone read aloud Psalm 2:1-9.

Q: Who do the woman and the child represent and why?²

Q: What is the significance of the child being

“caught up to God and to the throne”? (v5)³

We see in verse 6 that the church, represented by the woman, flees Satan into the wilderness. The theme of the wilderness in Scripture is tied to a place that is “not home.” Whether Adam’s life outside the garden, or Israel’s forty years of wandering in the wilderness, or David’s flight out of Jerusalem and into the wilderness, or Christ’s death at Golgotha, the wilderness is temporary, but it is where trials and danger abound.

Q: But what is it about this scene in verse 6 that demonstrates the faithfulness of God toward the woman while in the wilderness?

Q: How have you seen the faithfulness of God in your own “wilderness” experience?

Q: What is that current “place prepared by God” which is for the people of God?⁴

Q: How does the protection and provision of God encourage you in your current trials?

Q: Are there any further questions or comments before we break for prayer?

Prayer

[Take time to pray - men with men, and women with women.]

Notes...

¹ The dragon’s seven heads and ten horns depict the completeness of his reach to affect wickedness and persecution around the world. The seven “diadems” (crowns) are symbolic of Satan’s false claims to be the sovereign authority on the earth. The sweeping of the stars out of heaven is taken from Daniel 8:10; the fourth beast of Daniel’s vision. There, too, the account was of the oppression of the people of God by spiritual powers.

² The woman depicts the whole of the persecuted church, wherein God maintained the lineage which yielded the promised seed of the woman, who is Christ (Gen 3:15). The people of God underwent great persecution by Satan who sought to devour the child but failed in all his efforts. After Christ’s ascension, the woman (the church) is protected by God in the wilderness.

³ This scene has the good news of Christ in view. After Christ’s birth, death could not hold him because he is the true ruler of the nations. After his resurrection, defeating death and sin, proving his authority, Christ ascends to his heavenly glory. In this scene, though Satan could not overcome Christ, he now turns his sights on seeking to destroy the people of God (the church, represented by woman). Satan efforts to destroy the church, will ultimately fail.

⁴ It is a Christian’s union with Christ. The prepared place for us is the presence of God the Spirit on account of the work of Christ’s gospel. This “place” is the unbreakable fellowship that God maintains with us while we are in “the wilderness.” (Jn 10:28-29)