

Lessons From Revelation

The Beginning Of The End

(Rv 12:13-17)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From Revelation."
 - a. Last week we looked at "The Seven Trumpets."
 - i. We examined how Rome, though loved by God, was unrepentant and there time was up.
 - b. This week we are going to be looking at "The Beginning Of The End."
 - i. Starting here we have the behind the scenes view of how Rome became at complete odds with the church.
3. With that in mind let us now look at what John has been allowed to see and write down.
 - a. Let us examine the vision he saw.

I. The Scene

A. Dragon Vs Woman

1. The woman
 - i. She is clothed with the sun.
 - ii. She is clothed with the moon under her feet.
 - iii. She is clothed with a crown that has twelve stars upon it.
 - iv. She is pregnant and is giving birth to a child.
2. The dragon
 - i. He was fiery red.
 - ii. He had seven heads seven diadems on the heads.
 - iii. He had ten horns.
 - iv. He had a powerful tail that threw 1/3rd of the stars down to earth.
 - v. He prepared to devour the child of the woman.
3. The woman gave birth to a male child.
 - i. He is the one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron.
 - ii. He is caught up into heaven with God.
4. The woman flees to the wilderness where God has prepared a place for her.
 - i. While there she receive nourishment for 1,260 days.

B. Dragon Vs God

1. The dragon
 - i. He makes war against God.
 - ii. He fights Michael and his angels.
2. The angels & Michael
 - i. They defeat the dragon and he was thrown back down to earth.
 - ii. The dragon's angels were thrown down with him as well to earth.
3. A voice from heaven
 - i. It begins to shout that salvation, power, the kingdom of God, and the authority of Christ have come.
 - ii. They shout aloud that the accuser, the devil, Satan has been thrown down.
 - iii. They shout rejoice oh heavens but the earth is in danger.

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C. Dragon Vs Woman's Offspring

1. The dragon
 - i. He seeks to pursue the woman but finds she has been given wings.
 - ii. He dragon pours out of his mouth water like a river after the woman.
2. The woman
 - i. The woman flies away and escapes as the earth protects her by swallowing the water.
 - ii. She flees to the place that had been prepared for her where she will receive nourishment.
3. The offspring
 - i. These are the ones that keep the commandments of God.
 - ii. These are the ones that hold to the testimony of Jesus.
 - iii. These are the ones the dragon focuses on after failing to destroy the woman.

D. The Sea Beast

1. It rises out of the sea.
2. It has ten horns with ten diadems on its horns.
3. It has seven heads each with blasphemous names on it.
 - i. One head had a mortal wound but the wound had healed.
4. It looked like a leopard.
 - i. It had feet like a bear.
 - ii. It had a mouth like a lion.
5. It was given power, a thrown, and authority.
 - i. The people whose name was not in the book of life followed the sea beast.
 - ii. The people whose name was not in the book of life worship the sea beast.
6. It blasphemed and derided God.
 - i. It puffed itself up with its given authority.
7. It made war against the saints.
 - i. It was trying to destroy them.

E. The Land Beast

1. It arose out of the earth.
2. It had two horns like a lamb.
3. It spoke like a dragon.
4. It has the same authority as the sea beast.
 - i. It uses that authority to make the people worship the sea beast.
5. It performs great signs.
 - i. It makes fire come down from heaven for all to see.
 - a. It uses its great signs to deceive the people.
 - ii. It deceives them into make physical images of the sea beast.
 - a. It gives the image the ability to speak and fight against those that have not the image of the sea beast on their right hand and forehead.
6. The beast is man with the number 666 as its title.

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F. The 144,000 & the Eternal Gospel

1. The 144,000
 - a. They have the name of the Lamb and of the Father on their foreheads.
 - b. They alone know the new song.
 - c. They are virgins having never known woman.
 - d. They do not lie and are blameless.
 - e. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes because they have been redeemed.
2. The Eternal Gospel
 - a. It was for everyone.
 - b. It was proclaimed with a loud voice first by the first angel.
 - i. It proclaimed God worthy of glory.
 - ii. It proclaimed that the judgment time had come.
 - c. It was proclaimed with a loud voice by a second angel.
 - i. It proclaimed Babylon the Great is fallen.
 - d. It was proclaimed with a loud voice by a third angel.
 - i. It proclaimed all that follow & worship the beast will receive the same judgment as the beast.
 - ii. It proclaimed their torment would be great and never ending.
 - iii. It proclaimed that the saints are to endure and keep the commandments of God.
 - iv. It proclaimed that the saints that die in the Lord are blessed.

G. The One Seated on the Cloud

1. He was like the son of man.
2. He had a golden crown.
3. He had a sharp sickle in his hand.
4. He was told by an angel to reap the harvest as it is time and fully ripe.
 - a. He swung the sickle and reaped the harvest of the earth.

H. The Vineyard

1. An angel with the sickle
 - a. He came out of the temple.
 - b. He reaped the vineyard and threw the grapes to the winepress.
2. The angel with the authority over fire.
 - a. He came out of the altar.
 - b. He told the angel with the sickle to reap the vineyard.
3. The winepress smashed the grapes until the blood that flowed from it was as high as a horse's bridle.
 - a. It went 1,600 stadia or 184 miles.

II. The Message

A. The Dragon, Woman, & Offspring

1. John sees the establishment of the church and defeat of Satan's power.
 - a. The woman is Israel.
 - b. The child is Christ.
 - c. The woman's other offspring are Christians.

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B. The Sea Beast

1. This is the Roman Empire as a civil persecutor.
 - i. It is raised to strive to persecute and destroy Christians.
2. This is therefore the humanity of the Roman Empire.
 - i. Notice it came out of the sea.
 - a. **Rv 17:15** “And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages.”
3. Thus sinful humanity has always sought to punish the righteous.
 - i. **II Ti 3:12** “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted”

C. The Land Beast

1. This is the Roman Religion
 - i. In other words “emperor worship.”
2. This is better known as the Roman Concilia.
 - i. The Roman Concilia were “state priests.”
 - a. Their main job was to promote and enforce the state religion which was “emperor worship.”
 - ii. They used “magic” ie false signs to promote a false religion.
3. Though it tried to act like a pure religion (lamb) it was visible to the righteous it was not such.

D. The Eternal Gospel & Harvest Reaping

1. This is simply a declaration that the “words of Christ” are the judge of the unrighteous.
 - i. **Jn 12:48** “The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.”
2. This is the beginning of the end of Rome.
 - i. The empire is falling and being trampled under the foot of God.

III. The Implication

A. Satan is...

1. He is the ruler of this world.
 - i. **Jn 12:31** “Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.”
 - ii. **Jn 14:30** “I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me”
2. He is the prince of the power of the air.
 - i. **Ep 2:2** “in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience”

B. Satan is...

1. Helpless against the sound & faithful.
 - i. **Ja 4:7** “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

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CONCLUSION

1. Brethren let us never forget...
 - a. That though Satan is strong and powerful he is weak against God & His followers.
2. Question: Are you standing strong against Satan or falling into line with him?
 - a.