

APOCALYPSE OF JOHN

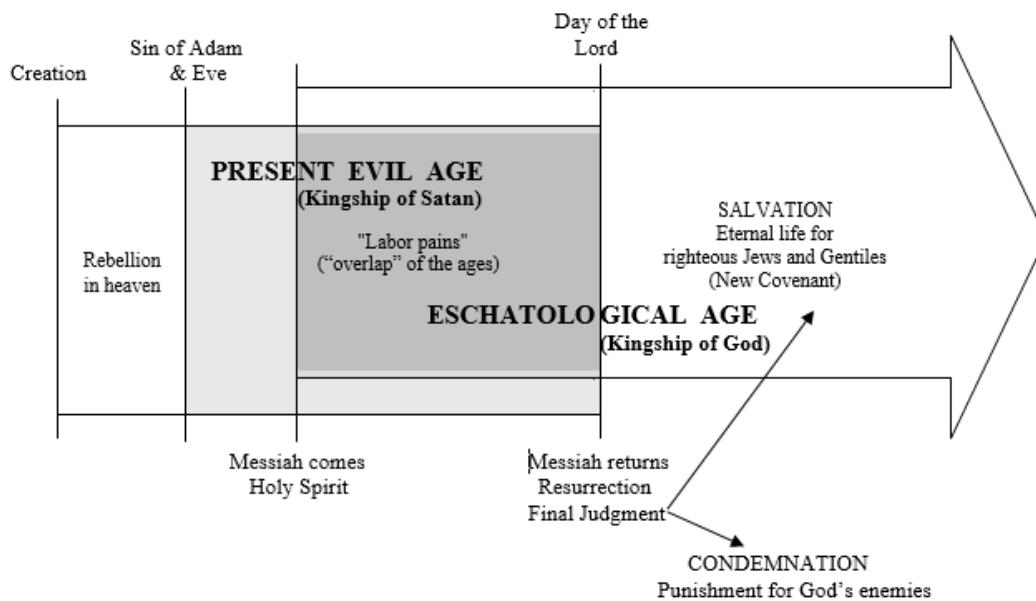
Session 16: John's Third Vision of the Future, Part 1 (Revelation 12)

REVIEW

Structure of John's Apocalypse:

1. Prologue (Rev. 1:1-20)
2. Part I: The Revelation of "what is "now" (PRESENT) (Rev. 2:1-3:22)
3. Part II: The Revelation of "what must take place after this" (FUTURE) (Rev. 4:1-22:6)
 - a. Introduction: John's Heavenly Vantage Point (Rev. 4:1-5:14)
 - b. First Vision of the Future (Rev. 6:1-8:1)
 - c. Second Vision of the Future (Rev. 8:2-11:19)
 - d. Third Vision of the Future (Rev. 12:1-22:6)
4. Epilogue (Rev. 22:7-21)

BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE THIRD VISION OF THE FUTURE (12:1-22:6)



A. **Revelation 12-13:** The _____ pictured as _____ war against _____ and _____ through the beast from the _____ and beast from the _____

B. **Revelation 14:1-22:6:** The _____, which brings _____ to God's covenant people and _____ to his enemies

IDENTITY OF THE DRAGON, WOMAN, AND MALE CHILD (Revelation 12)

¹A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ²She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. ³Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. ⁴His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. ⁵She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. ⁶The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

⁷And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. ¹¹They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. ¹²Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

¹³When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach. ¹⁵Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. ¹⁶But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

A. The Male Child clearly symbolizes _____ the _____.

1. "She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter."
(v. 5a)

⁷I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. ⁸Ask of me, and I will make *the nations* your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹*You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.*" (Psalm 2:7-9)

2. "And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne." (v. 5b)

The LORD says to my lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." (Psalm 110:1)

- B. The Red Dragon clearly symbolizes _____ as the leader and embodiment of the forces of _____.
1. "that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray" (v. 9; cf. 20:2)
 - a. "Satan" (Hebrew, *satanas*) means _____ or _____ (compare Job 1-2; Revelation 12:10—"the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night")
 - b. "Devil" (Greek, *diabolos*) means _____, _____, or _____.
 - c. Satan is a _____.
 2. "serpent" (Greek *ophis*, vv. 9, 14; compare Revelation 20:2 and Genesis 3):
 3. "dragon" (Greek *drakōn*, 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4, 11; 16:13; 20:2):
 4. "seven heads" (v. 3; compare Isaiah 27:1 [LXX]; Jeremiah 51:34; Ezekiel 29:3-5 and 32:2-8):
 5. "seven crowns on his heads" (v. 3):
 6. "ten horns" (v. 3; compare Daniel 7:7, 11-14):
 7. "His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth" (v. 4; compare Daniel 8:10):
 8. "The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born"(v. 4b)
- C. Who or what does the woman symbolize?
1. John's Description of the Woman:
 - a. (v. 1): Her appearance: "clothed with the sun," "moon under her feet," "crown of 12 stars on her head"
 - b. (v. 2): Pregnant/in labor pains

- c. (v. 5): Gives birth to _____
- d. (v. 17): _____ are also her offspring
- e. (v. 13): Pursued by Satan
- f. (vv. 6, 14): Flees to the desert on wings of an eagle
- g. (vv. 6, 14-16): Cared for by God for "1260 days" or "a time, times, and half a time"

Who or what fits the description of the woman?

- 2. Theory #1: The woman represents _____.
- 3. Theory #2: The woman represents the _____.
- 4. Theory #3: The woman represents _____ (compare Genesis 3:1-16, esp. vv. 14-15).
- 5. Theory #4: The woman represents the _____—first _____ and then the _____ (compare 1QH [Qumran Hymns Scroll] 3:4).

On "wings of an eagle" see Exodus 19:4.

- 6. Theory #5: The woman represents _____ or _____ (compare Isaiah 66:7-13; 4 Ezra 9:38-10:59; Revelation 17-18, 21-22).

7. Theory #6: Adaptation of the Greek myth of _____ and _____
a. Plot:

b. Roman Emperors' Adaptation of the Myth:

c. John's Adaptation of the Myth (Revelation 12:1-17):



d. Identity of the woman:

INTERPRETATION OF REVELATION 12 *(see text above on page 2)*

Verses 4-5 tell how Satan intended to destroy Christ, but instead Christ was crowned king. Verses 7-12 further explain how Christ's victory was achieved:

Verse 6 tell how God cared for the "woman" during the "1,260 days." Verses 13-17 further explain the circumstances of the "woman" during the "1,260 days." (Compare Exodus 19:4 and 15:12.)

Verse 17 tells how Satan makes war against the "woman's offspring" during the "1,260 days." Chapter 13 tells how he does it—namely through the beast from the sea (13:1-10) and the beast from the land (13:11-18).