

The Woman and the Serpent

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I. Introduction. Text: Revelation 12:1-17.

II. The great signs.

A. The dragon is the devil.

B. The male child is Jesus. (Psalm 2)

1. Jesus will rule with a rod of iron--that is, with strict justice.

2. He will rule during the time of the millennium.

3. In the new heavens and new earth, Jesus will no longer rule this way.

C. The woman pictures a group of people who produced Jesus, Israel. (Romans 9:5)

III. We are being shown earthly events from heaven's point of view in this chapter.

A. The great dragon is posed to watch over Israel and devour it.

B. The leaders of Israel have been deceived by their own teachers.

C. The ascension is not pictured here because there is no need for him to be snatched away from danger, but all throughout the New Testament the church and the Lord are considered as one. The taking away of the church is depicted here.

D. The devil is hurled to earth by Michael.

1. Israel is in the forefront here.

2. Up to these days, Satan has access to heaven. (Ephesians 6)

E. The reaction of heaven to Satan's fall.

1. The martyrs rejoiced that the devil has been cast out of heaven.

2. The saints of any age can overcome the wiles of the devil.

a. By the blood of the lamb. (Romans 8:1)

b. By the Word of their testimony. Christians need to share with others the freedom God has brought them.

c. By being willing to give up anything for Christ.

F. The woman was taken away so that she could be kept safe.

1. The woman only represents the faithful remnant of Jews.
2. Natural disasters will divert Satan from harming the woman.
3. The devil will focus on the remainder of the Jews.
4. Believers must live as over-comers.

Application questions:

1. How would you summarize the series of end time events that happen here?

2. How can believers gain hope in this age knowing that they will be victors over Satan in the next?

3. How does this passage demonstrate the security God has for His people? Explain.
