

The Revelation

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Revelation 11:15 – 12:17

11:15-19

- The conclusion of Ch. 11 may be a bit confusing because it is a forecast, a summation, of things to come.
- Vss. 15-17 – the ultimate victory of God over all the earth's powers. The Millennium of peace comes to earth.
- Vss. 18 – yet again even in peace and prosperity, sinful Man desires the Apple and revolts against God (Ps. 2:2), but it is the final revolt.
- Vs. 19 brings us back to the present and to John. The new Temple that is in Heaven is open and the Ark of the Covenant is there. The Temple is open and even the Holy of Holies in its center is opened. All secrets are revealed, and the full glory of God is witnessed.
- The Ark here is important because the original Ark was intended only for God's people and His covenant with them. "Israel" literally means "the people of God". So who are the people of God, the TRUE people of God? Back in Rev. 3: we are told that there are people who are false Jews, who belong to the synagogue of Satan. The New Testament makes the case that the true Israel is the church for through Christ we have a circumcision of the heart (Romans 2:29). This is key in Ch. 12.

12:1-2

- The woman clothed in the sun must have been dazzling. But who is she? It is clear from the following verses that she is the mother of the Messiah. Is this where the Catholic church sees Mary's divinity? Yet, this pregnant woman is not human, so she cannot be Mary.
- Again, who is the true Israel? Perhaps what we see here is that the woman is Israel. Is that not what we saw in Hosea? The prophet's unfaithful wife was Israel. In the Old Testament you see this theme in

Isaiah 54:5 and in Jeremiah 3:6-10. In the New Testament the church as the Bride of Christ is pervasive. So indeed, does not Israel give birth to the Messiah?

12:3-4

- Enter the Dragon. He has 7 heads with 7 crowns and 7 horns showing his ultimate power over the earth.
- In the Old Testament the dragon (aka. Leviathan) is the enemy of God (Is. 51:9; Ps. 74:12-14; Is 27:1).
- The dragon positions himself to swallow up the child as soon as he is born (Jer. 51:34).

12:5-6

- The child is destined to rule the nations (Ps. 2), so He is “snatched away/caught up” to God and to His throne and safely away from the dragon. At this point it is not Christ’s earthly mission that is key, but His victory over sin and death.
- The woman then flees to the desert. Often God’s people have fled to the desert for safety. Elijah (1 Kings 17), Mary and Joseph (Matt. 2:13). During the Maccabean wars the Jews fled to the desert and left us the Dead Sea Scrolls as a gift. And in his History, Eusebius tells us that in 70 AD, the church in Jerusalem had a revelation from God to flee into the desert to escape the Roman siege. They crossed into Jordan, to the city of Pella (Mark 13:14). The 1260 days is equal to the time that Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated the Temple during the Maccabean war.

12:7-17

- It seems that the dragon followed the Child into Heaven, but the Heavenly host went to war to protect Him and the dragon was defeated and thrown down to earth with all of his angels.
- A little about “the dragon”: Is. 14:12-15 – “star of the morning” in Hebrew is “Lucifer”. “Satan” literally is Hebrew for “adversary” and is

used in the Old Testament to portray our accuser before God (Zech. 3:1-2; Ps. 109:6). “Devil” in Greek is “diabolos” meaning “slanderer or liar”. Here he is the enemy of God and man. Matt. 6:13 “Deliver us from the evil one...”.

- The martyrs are praised for they “did not love their life even when faced with death.” Their victory was won through the blood of the Lamb.
- Rejoice in Heaven, but woe to the earth and the sea, for Satan is cast out of Heaven, but thrown down to earth.
- Having failed to kill the child, the dragon now goes after His mother, the church. But she is rescued, carried to safety on eagles’ wings (Ex. 19:4).
- Satan then tries to drown the woman with a flood, but God’s creation is against him and swallows up the flood (Is. 43:2).
- Satan leaves the woman to go make war on her other children, “who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”