Good morning, Family. Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the season dedicated to preparation for the arrival of Christ and His expected return in the Second Coming. Hope, peace, joy and love come with Christmas. So why are we today looking into the book of Revelation? What about “Silent night, Holy night; all is calm, all is bright”? Embedded in a great deal of imagery, Revelation 12 shows us the nativity and beyond, in the majesty of God. Revelation offers a heavenly perspective of the birth of the Savior, the battle for our Merry Christmas. Here, we are introduced to a woman clothed with the sun. Exactly who this woman is has been debated by Christians for generations. Some say she is Eve; others say she represents the nation of Israel. The crown of twelve stars that she wears would represent the twelve tribes of Israel, and thus the image indicates how God uses the nation of Israel to bring His son into the world. Others, of course, see the woman as Mary, the mother of God Incarnate.

I don’t believe that we have to decide. Revelation’s imagery often has multiple meanings, points of reference. It is in whole the revelation of Christ, an unveiling of His character. It is he promise that the woman’s seed will crush the serpent. Glen Scrivener, an English evangelist, has said, “The nativity story reminds us that thought the dragon may continue to rage, the infinite God has entered our finite world and secured the final victory.” What Revelation gives us is a heavenly perspective shoring us that Jesus has already overcome the power of evil. This cosmic victory brings hope to us and secures our ultimate, eternal victory. Look at verse 8 of Revelation 12: “and they did not prevail.” Many translations say, “and the dragon was not strong enough.” Now, I don’t think this will ever be a Hallmark movie, but verse 8 would make an awesome Christmas card: “The devil was not strong enough!” Amen! Merry Christmas!

From Heaven’s perspective, the birth of Jesus signaled God’s invitation to the human race. This is, in part, the grand, redemptive story of the Bible. Using all the imagery, Revelation 12 looks to the past, addresses the present, and points to the future. This is the hope of Christmas. Christmas didn’t begin in Bethlehem. It began in Eden. Immediately following the fall, God made a promise to send a Savior: “And I will put enmity/between you and the woman,/and between your offspring[a] and hers;/

he will crush[b] your head,/and you will strike his heel”(Genesis 3:15). This verse is often called the Proto-Evangelium or First Gospel—the majesty of God in the pages of scripture.

Don’t miss out on the majesty of God in the busyness and trappings of Christmas! Look at Revelation 12:10-12:

10 Then 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 Messiah.

For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,

 who accuses them before our God day and night,

 has been hurled down.

11 They triumphed over 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.

12 Therefore 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.”

Rejoice!! Rejoice, Christian, in victory. Rejoice for salvation has come in the blood of the Lamb! Rejoice in your testimony. Rejoice in the Majesty of God:

 1 Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory in the heavens.

2 Through the praise of children and infants

 you have established a stronghold against your enemies,

 to silence the foe and the avenger.

3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them,

 human beings that you care for them?[c]

5 You have made them[d] a little lower than the angels[e]

 and crowned them[f] with glory and honor.

6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands;

 you put everything under their[g] feet:

7 all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,

8 the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea,

 all that swim the paths of the seas.

9 Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

See the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory , the majesty of God:

 11 Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power

 and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,

 for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

12 Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things.

In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

13 Now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name.

 1 Chronicles 29:11-13

Some of you may be here this morning and you believe the lies of the accuser—the dragon, the devil. Revelation 12:10-11 confirms the truth that you cannot out-sin the grace of God:

 10 Then 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 Messiah.

For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,

 who accuses them before our God day and night,

 has been hurled down.

11 They triumphed over 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.

Paul affirms this truth, writing to the Romans, “Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more” (Romans 5:20). Paul means that shame and guilt no longer have to define you or your past. Jesus knew what He was buying on the cross! YOU! God overcame the accuser—the devil, the dragon—because of the blood of the Lamb. Stop believing the accuser and start believing the author and finisher of your faith. This is your hope. Believe and dwell in the victory of the majesty of God—“Unto us a son is given”! Don’t miss the point:

6 For to us a child is born,

 to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6.

Christ comes to restore to you a bright future. He is our King. THE KING! Reigning forever in Majesty and glory. God with us! Emmanuel, the world’s Savior. A decision for Christ comes with expectation, with continuous growth, experiencing and welcoming His glory and majesty as comfort and power to our souls. The Father’s love for us is so great that He was willing to send Jesus as King and suffering servant for our sake. This is our hope at Christmas and beyond—the majesty of God!

Passages in support of this sermon:

1 Chronicles 29:11-13

**11**Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power
    and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
    for everything in heaven and earth is yours.
Yours, Lord, is the kingdom;
    you are exalted as head over all.
**12**Wealth and honor come from you;
    you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power
    to exalt and give strength to all.
**13**Now, our God, we give you thanks,
    and praise your glorious name.

Revelation 12:1-17

12 A great 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. 2 She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. 3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. 4 Its 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 it might devour her child the moment he was born. 5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.”[a] And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. 6 The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

7 Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 9 The 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.

10 Then 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 Messiah.

For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,

 who accuses them before our God day and night,

 has been hurled down.

11 They triumphed over him

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they did not love their lives so much

 as to shrink from death.

12 Therefore 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.”

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