

>>>>>> Lesson 20 <<<<<<<

- 1) I made a comment at the beginning of this entire section that it is a recap of the events up to this point from the devil's perspective.
- 2) Another way to think about this is to realize that God's plan has two major components:
 - a) One is to bring an end to man's sinful ways, end entropy, and bring to be the perfect universe that He first created and wanted for us.
 - b) But a second objective or component is the permanent removal of the cause of the imperfection in the universe and entropy – the removal of evil – the devil and all his minions.
- 3) That is what this section of Revelation is about. Yes, it is from the devil's perspective (so to speak) but it is showing what he will do and how that end and removal will occur.
- 4) As we discussed last time, there was a war and the devil, and his demons lost access to heaven and their ability to interact with God.
- 5) When this happens, as one would expect, there will be great rejoicing and happiness in heaven.

Rev 12:10-12 (NIV)

- 6) We have already discussed some of the important points of this hymn of praise.
 - a) Satan is our accuser and when he is thrown down, that will cease.
 - i) Additionally, we see that those whom Satan does accuse were victorious over him even before God threw him out of heaven.
 - ii) One comment I read said:

When a believer dies, Satan may think he has gained a victory. In reality, however, he has lost. In fact, he loses every time a believer dies.

- b) The good news for heaven is that Satan will be gone – the bad news for earth is he will take up exclusive residence (for a while) here.
- 7) Further bad news is he is not a happy camper and will be worse than his normal BAD self – “he is filled with fury.”
- 8) As we will see in this next passage, he even becomes more enraged and begins waging war again God's people.
- 9) Finally, one other piece of good news (bad for him) is the devil knows his time is short.
 - a) This is another reason I think that this war, the victory, and Satan's expulsion from heaven is during the tribulation.
 - b) As we have discussed, it is only at the opening of the seals that we finally know that God has decided to end this.
 - i) Satan must be aware of what is happening as well and knows that his time is over.

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- ii) The fury and rage he has will now be directed at all those who remain, and he will do everything he can to destroy their belief in and love for God and His Son.

Rev 12:13-17 (NIV)

- 1) Just as verses 7-12 expand on verse 4 and describe the war in heaven and its outcome; verses 13-17 describe the war on earth, expanding on verse 6.
- 2) Remember that, in this vision, the woman represents God's people.
- 3) As we said earlier, the devil, realizing his final predicament, was furious.
 - a) He no longer has access to heaven therefore, he cannot pursue the child.
 - b) He also realizes his time in power is now very short and significantly, he knows that his final fate of having lost his eternal battle is clear.
- 4) In desperation, he pursues the woman (God's people).
 - a) It is unclear at this point if this refers to the Jews alone or to all believers.
 - b) From what we see in the chapters to follow, it will be clear that he is hounding all believers, regardless of the vision association.
 - c) The word pursue here in vs. 13 is the word normally translated persecute.
 - d) In short, Satan is, at this point, stalking and killing God's people, hoping to do as much damage as possible.
- 5) The good news is the woman is given the means to escape to a place (in the desert) where she is protected from Satan's onslaught.
- 6) The phrase "time, times, and half time corresponds to the 1260 days mentioned in verse 6."
 - a) Time means one year.
 - b) Times mean two years.
 - c) Half a time means ½ year – thus, the 3.5 years or 1260 days.
- 7) Next, we are told that Satan attempts to drown the woman by spewing out of his mouth "water like a river."
 - a) Symbolically, this is the flood of lies and deceit we will see in some detail in chapters to come.
 - b) It derived from the Old Testament where floods represent trouble in general.
 - i) (cf. 2 Sam 22:17; Job 27:20; Ps 18:16; 32:6; 69:1-2,13-14; 124:2-5; 144:7)
- 8) God again protects those who are His.
- 9) Next, the dragon will turn his fury toward new targets.
 - a) Some have identified the rest of her children with whom Satan will make war as the 144,000 (cf. 7:2-8; 14:1-5)

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- b) Others see them as believing Gentile Tribulation saints (cf. 7:9-14), who are sons of Abraham by faith (Gal 3:7).
- c) It seems best to take this as an all-inclusive phrase, referring to all those who name the name of Jesus Christ.

Rev 13:1a (NIV)

- 1) Several things to note about this sentence.
- 2) First, it truly belongs to the previous chapter since it completes the statements about the dragon and his war as described there.
- 3) Second, if you look at some translations including the KJV, you will see “And I stood upon ...” The “I” obviously referring to John, the speaker.
 - a) Some Greek manuscripts actually have this phrase.
 - b) However, most older, and what scholars consider more reliable manuscripts have the phrase “And he stood upon ...”
- 4) Finally, in 1994/5, the New American Standard Bible (NASB) changed the phrase to “the dragon stood...”
 - a) This is because even though the dragon is not part of this sentence, he is the antecedent of the of the verb that is translated, he stood.
 - b) Word endings vs. word order.
 - i) TR has nu as the last letter of the word NA27 does not.

5) Continuing with John’s vision we read ...

Rev 13:1b-4 (NIV)

6) We first encountered the beast in chapter 11

Rev 11:7 (NIV)

- 7) The inference here is that the dragon summoned the beast.
- 8) There has been much discussion about what the sea symbolizes.
- 9) Some argue that it refers to the Gentile nations.
- 10) But since 11:7 and 17:8 state that the beast comes up out of the abyss, it is best to equate the sea with the abyss.
- 11) As is obvious by 2 Thess 2:4, the antichrist (**the beast**) will be a man. IT READS>>>>

2 Thess 2:4 (NIV)

- 12) One comment on this verse – the phrase “everything that is called God” – without the capital letter on God, the sentence would fit better with what we will learn of the beast and his empire.
 - a) Satan and the Antichrist will demand that he be the only god people worship.

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- b) This would necessitate even the pagan gods of the time, and any and all other gods would be considered below him and not to be worshiped.
- 13) Going back to the beast, though he is a man, at some point, in his life, he will be indwelt by a powerful demon from the abyss – the beast.
- 14) While all unbelievers are children of Satan (John 8:44), no one in human history will be more completely the devil's child than the Antichrist.
- 15) His "family likeness" to Satan becomes strikingly apparent from John's description of him as having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems.
- 16) This same description was applied to Satan in 12:3 where he was called "an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads."
- 17) The description of Antichrist emphasizes the importance of the ten horns by mentioning them first and associating the crowns with them instead of the heads.
- 18) Horns in Scripture symbolize strength and power, both for attack and defense.
- 19) In this passage, they represent the great power of the kings who will rule under the Antichrist's absolute authority. We will get to that in a later chapter
- 20) The blasphemous names mentioned here are likely names that claim him (the Antichrist) as god, the supreme being.
 - a) Again, looking at 2 Thess 2:4 Paul describes him as – “setting himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God”
- 21) As John looked more closely at the beast, he saw that it incorporated the characteristics of the animals just as those mentioned in the vision recorded in Dan 7:3-7:
- 22) MacArthur comments, the leopard, bear, and lion were well-known in Palestine.
 - a) They dramatically emphasize the characteristics of the nations they represent.
 - b) The ***lion*** was a fitting symbol for the fierce, consuming power of the ***Babylonian Empire***.
 - c) The ferocity, strength, and stability of the ***Medo-Persian Empire*** led to its depiction as a ***bear***.
 - d) The ***Greeks'*** swift conquests, particularly under Alexander the Great, reflect the speed and viciousness of the ***leopard***.
- 23) Like the indescribable fourth beast of Dan 7:7, which represents the Roman Empire, the Antichrist's final empire will be a composite of the empires that preceded it.
- 24) It will incorporate all the ferocity, viciousness, swiftness, and strength of the other world empires.
- 25) This powerful empire, unparalleled in human history, will be Satan's last and greatest attempt to stop the reign of Christ.

26) But, like all Satan's other attempts to thwart God's purposes, it will ultimately fail.