

The book of Revelation

Chapter 12

Beginning of cycle 4- “As in each of the preceding sections, so here we return to the _____ of our present dispensation in order once more to traverse the same ground. In each vision we make a journey that takes us through the entire course of this era, from the first to the second comings of Christ.” (150)

1. *The woman, her child, and the dragon’s attempt to destroy the child (12:1-6)*

-There are three main characters here mentioned in this vision:

1. *The woman*-the woman is adorned with much glory and is pregnant. She is a picture of the _____. Specifically, here the woman pictures the OT saints before the coming of Christ.

“That women symbolizes the Church. Scripture emphasizes the fact that the Church in both dispensations is _____. It is one chosen people in Christ. It is one tent; one vineyard; one family...” (152)

-“On earth this Church may appear very insignificant and open to scorn and ridicule, but from the aspect of heaven this same Church is all-_____: all that heaven can contribute of glory and of splendor is lavished upon her.” (152)

2. *The child*-This _____ and _____ male child who is born and who is caught up to God and to His throne is the Lord Jesus Christ.

“This mighty child is the Christ. He is the One ‘who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron.’” (152)

“This terse statement encapsulates the life, suffering, and exaltation of Jesus: He was born, He was caught up to God, and He shares God’s throne of _____ authority.” (Johnson, 181-182)

3. *The dragon*-This great red dragon with seven heads, ten horns, and seven diadems is a picture of Satan. The sweeping of his tail to bring down one third of the stars of heaven is a picture of his bringing with him a host of evil angels in _____ against God.

“The seven crowned heads indicate the devil’s world dominion...the ten horns indicate Satan’s destructive _____.” (153)

-Satan seeks to kill the Christ-to stop Him from coming to save His people and fulfill God’s plan of redemption. Satan was there to hear the words of the Lord God in the Garden (Genesis 3:15) and the OT recounts how he kept trying to extinguish the line that Christ was to come from to put an end to the promise. “Satan is constantly aiming at the destruction of the Christ. Thus viewed, the entire Old Testament becomes one story, the story of the _____ between the seed of the woman and the dragon, between Christ and Satan. In this conflict Christ is, of course, victorious.” (153)

-“From the expulsion from Eden, God’s people have been an expectant mother, awaiting the birth of the Seed who would _____ their cause against Satan the liar, accuser, and murderer.” (Johnson, 181)

-Christ is born and caught up to God-which is a reference to His _____ to glory and his seating on His throne now making His enemies His footstool.

-The woman fled to the wilderness to a place prepared by God and was nourished there for 1,260 days. This refers to the time of the Church between the _____ of Christ. The Church is being protected and nourished by God during these three and a half years (these last days).

“The time period symbolized in 1,260 days encompasses the church’s _____ experience of suffering and safety, bold testimony and bitter trial, alienation in the desert but nourishment from God, from the time of Jesus’ ascension to heaven until the trauma that precedes His glorious return.” (Johnson, 183)

2. *The dragon is cast down (12:7-12)*

-There was war in Heaven between Michael and his angels and Satan and his angels. Satan and his angels are _____ and hurled down.

“The battle in heaven and the hurling down of the dragon are not to be understood _____. Satan is ‘hurled down from heaven’ in this sense, namely that he has lost his place as an accuser of the brethren.” (157)

“Thus the battle that issues in the dragon’s expulsion from heaven is not the primeval conflict before Adam’s fall, when Satan and the other angels who had been created good inexplicably turned against their Creator. Rather, the war in heaven that John sees in symbol was fought on earth, when Jesus suffered and _____ on a cross outside Jerusalem and then _____ from the dead. The dragon’s banishment from heaven to earth marks the coming of God’s kingdom and of His Christ’s authority.” (Johnson, 184)

-There is a shout of _____ in Heaven for Christ and for His saints who have conquered through Him. The victory of Christ over the devil was the saint’s victory as well.

3. *The fury of the defeated dragon (12:13-17)*

-The hatred of Satan for Christ is now seen in his attempt to _____ the Church. He could not defeat the Christ, so he seeks to defeat His Church. The woman is protected by God (given wings to fly away from Satan’s attack) and is nourished for a time (1 year), and times (2 years), and half a time (half a year). The serpent tries to destroy the woman with a _____ of water that pours forth from his mouth, but the earth swallows up the water and the woman is protected.

“He (Satan) directs his fury against the Church...but the Lord protects His people: He bears them on eagles’ wings. In the desert of affliction, this earthly sojourn, He has prepared a place for them and nourishes them with the manna of the Word...The devil cannot destroy her. This is the _____ of Revelation 20.” (158-159)

“Here the floodwaters from the dragon’s mouth symbolize _____ teaching that would, if believed, drown the church’s faith, destroy its life.” (Johnson, 185)

-Being now twice thwarted the dragon seeks to make war on the rest of the woman’s offspring (_____ believers). Satan cannot destroy the Church, but he does make war upon the saints.

“So here the protection of the mother promises that ‘the church shall _____ perish,’ and the dragon’s war against her offspring reminds us that God shields the church’s members not from physical violence but from spiritual destruction.” (Johnson, 187)