

Revelation 12: The Dragon Cast Down and Israel Protected

Revelation 12:5–17 | Sunday, March 26 | Revelation Series

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OVERVIEW

The opening minutes repeat the close of the previous message word for word — Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 named as homework, the third of the angels, the male child caught up — and then Hal goes on into verse 7 and the war in heaven. Michael and his angels against the dragon; the dragon is not strong enough, and there is no longer a place found for him in heaven. Hal reads that against the book of Job, where Satan comes before God in chapters 1 and 2: this is where that access ends and the accuser of the brethren is thrown down. What he draws out of it is not fear but relief, from the first epistle of John — an advocate with the father, a defense attorney, Jesus Christ the righteous, the propitiation for our sins — and a courtroom scene where the father answers Satan's accusation with "case dismissed." From verse 13 the chapter turns on the woman, and Hal follows her flight into the wilderness, on the two wings of the great eagle, for a time and times and half a time.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 12:5–6 — The male child caught up to God; the woman nourished for 1,260 days

Revelation 12:7–9 — War in heaven: Michael and the dragon; the dragon thrown down to the earth

Revelation 12:10–12 — The accuser of our brethren thrown down; they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb

Revelation 12:13–17 — The dragon persecutes the woman; the eagle's wings, the flood, and war on the rest of her children

Isaiah 14:12–16 — Where Hal sends the group to read about the fall of Lucifer

Ezekiel 28:11–18 — The other passage on the fall of Lucifer

Ezekiel 38 — The flood of soldiers — the great power from the extreme north of Israel

Revelation 7 — The multitude too numerous to be numbered, out of the Great Tribulation, robes washed in the blood of the Lamb

KEY TERMS

Advocate — a defense attorney — the word the first epistle of John uses for Jesus Christ with the father

Propitiation — the one who satisfied the justice of God in our place

The accuser of our brethren — Satan, who accuses believers before God day and night — until he is thrown down

A time and times and half a time — Hebrew has a double form as well as a plural, so this reads a time, two times and half a time — three and a half years

The Abomination of Desolation — the abomination that causes desolation standing in the holy place of the temple; Jesus makes it the signal to flee

The two wings of the great eagle — not “a” great eagle but “the” — something very specific, which Hal takes to be aircraft

The flood out of the serpent’s mouth — an army; Hal finds the same picture of a flood of soldiers in Ezekiel 38

The believing remnant — the great number of Israelites who will believe in Jesus as Messiah in that period, and be specially protected

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. What happens in the war in heaven, and how does it end?

2. What does Hal say the book of job adds to this?

3. What does Hal say a secret sin among christians is?

4. What does the first epistle of John call Jesus, and what do the words mean?

5. How does Hal’s courtroom scene run?

6. Does living a good life determine whether a person goes to heaven?

7. By what three things do they overcome the accuser?

8. Why is the devil’s wrath so great when he is thrown down?

9. What does Hal call the essence and source of anti-semitism, and where is it in the chapter?

10. Where does the woman flee, and for how long?

11. What are the river out of the serpent's mouth and the earth opening its mouth?

12. Who are "the rest of her children," and where has the group already seen them?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. Satan has had access to God's presence in order to accuse; this chapter says that access ends. What does it do to you to know accusation has an expiry date?

2. Hal's picture is a defense attorney who answers, "he's under my blood." What accusation do you most need that answer for?

3. They overcame by the blood of the Lamb, the word of their testimony, and not loving their lives to the death. Which of the three is hardest to imagine in your own case?

4. Hal believes God gives courage at the moment it is needed and not before. Have you found that to be true?

5. The woman is protected in the wilderness rather than spared the wilderness. What is the difference, and have you lived it?

6. Frustrated with the woman, the dragon goes off to make war on the rest of her children. What does that tell you about why believers meet opposition?

MEMORY VERSE

"My little children, I'm writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

— 1 John 2:1, as Hal reads it in this message