

Evening Sermon 12/23/18 –  
"Welcome to Our World!" (The Dark Side of Christmas)  
Revelation 12:1-17

Earth ignored Him –

And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7 NKJ)

Heaven adored Him –

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:13-14 NKJ)

Hell sought to destroy Him –

... And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. (Revelation 12:4 NKJ)

Most Christmas / Birth of Christ sermons deal with Earth or Heaven, this sermon's focus is on Hell –  
Let us look first at the Scriptural Context:

1. See Satan here, opposed to God, Christ and God's people, note –

1. A mega sign - Now a great sign appeared in heaven: (Revelation 12:1 A NKJ)

Sign means symbolism / the Greek word translated great is μέγας  
megas {meg'-as}

**Meaning:** 1) great 1a) of the external form or sensible appearance of things (or of persons) 1a1) in particular, of space and its dimensions, as respects 1a1a) mass and weight: great 1a1b) compass and extent: large, spacious 1a1c) measure and height: long 1a1d) stature and age: great, old 1b) of number and quantity: numerous, large, abundant 1c) of age: the elder 1d) used of intensity and its degrees: .... things esteemed highly for their importance: of great moment, of great weight, importance 2c) a thing to be highly esteemed for its excellence: excellent 3) splendid, ...

2. An important woman is introduced, who is she?

... a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. <sup>2</sup> Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. (Revelation 12:1-2 NKJ)

A. One clothed with the sun is favored by God, because the sun gives light and warmth. One with the moon under her feet, is exalted being high, surely Mary was highly exalted –

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. <sup>2</sup> Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. (Revelation 12:1-2 NKJ)

B. Yet, the twelve stars on her head point us back further than Mary –

Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." (Genesis 37:9 NKJ)

C. Joseph in his dream was a star among stars, He and his eleven brothers made up the twelve tribes of Israel, God's covenant people. Israel is pictured here - of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen. (Romans 9:5 NKJ)

3. Yet, there is also a dragon ...

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. <sup>4</sup> His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. <sup>5</sup> She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. (Revelation 12:3-5 NKJ)

A. The Dragon we know is Satan, this chapter tells us –

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Revelation 12:9 NKJ)

B. He is the serpent of old, who deceives ... connecting him to Eve, and our first parents' downfall, the battle here predates not only Mary, but Israel, the battle was an early one –

Satan as the serpent used deception on Eve –

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (Gen. 3:6 NKJ)

C. *Early in mankind's history this battle began –*  
And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." (Genesis 3:15 NKJ)

D. *Yet, the serpent becomes a great fiery red dragon –*  
behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

- *Megas is the word here used for great*
- *Fiery red – like Hell, Passion, War*
- *Heads, horns, diadems (crowns) symbolize government / seven is the number of perfection / completeness meaning all the government(s) of the world were under Satan's power, Christ calls Satan "the ruler of this world 3 times in John's Gospel – John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11*
- *Paul refers to Satan as the god of this age -*

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,<sup>4</sup> whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. (2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NKJ)

E. *The devil is ready to kill Christ as soon as He is born –*  
And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

II. *The child here is Christ –*

<sup>5</sup> She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. ... (Revelation 12:5 NKJ)

1. *The language here is similar to that used in Psalm 2 –*  
Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*,<sup>3</sup> "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."<sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.<sup>5</sup> Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep

displeasure:<sup>6</sup> "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."<sup>7</sup> "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, `You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.<sup>8</sup> Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.<sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'" <sup>10</sup> Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth.<sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.<sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish *in* the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him. (Ps. 2:1-12 NKJ)

1. *A battle against God, or rather an attempt –*
  - A. *The nations rages, they organize together*
  - B. *God laughs*
  - C. *Christ rules*

*We see Satan's rage in Pharaoh's killing of the boy babies in Egypt, in Haman's rage against Mordecai and the Jews of his day, in Herod's killing of the boy babies under near the time of Christ's birth! His rage is even in Christ's death on the cross, remember Satan inhabited and pushed Judas to do what he did ----*

... And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. (Revelation 12:5 B NKJ)

III. *With Christ out of reach (ascended, when Satan was cast down) Satan directs his rage at God's people –*

See **Revelation 12:6-17**

1. *God's Kingdom advances, grows – Isaiah 9:6-7*
2. *Satan's rage is seen today*
  - A. *In abortion*
  - B. *In extreme sin*
  - C. *In persecution of the church*

3. *We need to stand in God's strength –*

<sup>11</sup> "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (Revelation 12:11 NKJ) Ephesians 6:10-20

*Arnold A. Brevick*