

INTRODUCTION

1. Rv 12 - events in heaven: v7-v9 war; v10-12 voice. Earth - v13 connect to v6
 - i. 1] Dragon = Satan; 2] Wmn = Church; 3] THE male child = Jesus; 4] Wmn's children = Xns. Dragon strikes Jesus by persecuting church A9:4
 - ii. Wmn in wilderness: protected by God & persecuted by Dragon

1st: The Dragon Persecutes the Woman - v13

1. Satan's expulsion from heaven - v7-12 [5x]: v13 = 6th time: why emphasized?
 - i. Rv is written to Church - bless: *for the time is near* [1:3] = inclusio 22:10.
 - ii. Satan knows *that he has only a short time* - we are tempted to think that our tribulations will never end - not so: 2C4:17-18
 - iii. We, in X, have already conquered - v11 - *they overcame him*
2. Accuser persists in *persecuting the wmn* - v12 *having great wrath*. The *wmn* represents the promised seed [Gn 3:15] who are given [resurrection] life.
3. Church *on earth* experiences *persecution*. Be balanced:
 - i. Share common grace w/ "Babylonians" - Jer 29:4ff. Meanwhile, Neb built furnace & lion's den. Lot was never really assimilated into Sodom.
 - ii. 2T 3:12 - Phil 1:29-30
 - iii. Realities of the Fall plus & suffering for sake of righteousness: w/ joy?
4. Why is Church persecuted by Dragon? B/c Dragon has already lost & we are overcoming by the strengthening grace of Christ for us & in us.
 - i. 2Th 1:3-10 *persecution is a plain indication of God's judgment*.
 - ii. 1Ptr 4:14 - suffering as a Xn is the cross-to-resurrection way to *glory*

2nd: The Lord Protects the Woman- v14

1. v6 *wmn fled* - wmn is active - *to her place* - for Church-Age [Dan 7:25; 12:7].
2. God's preserving provisions in wilderness: *2 wings of great eagle* - Exo 19:4; Deut 32:9-11; Isa 40:31
3. *from the presence of the serpent* - [v9] *Presence* - Grk: "the face of"
 - i. Where is the serpent *present*? Outside Church - 1T1:20
 - ii. Who is present inside Church [Rv 1:13]; whose face do we seek [Ps 27:8]

3rd: The Dragon Floods the Woman - v15

1. "Flood:" drowning in difficulty [Ps 144:7-8; 32:6-7]; in OT: God's judgment.
2. Thgs coming *out of mouth* - words.
 - i. Rv 1:6; 2:16; 19:15,21 - Jesus' mouth [Hb 4:12]; Rv 11:5; spits lukewarm Laodicea out of mouth [Rv 3:16].
 - ii. 6th trmpt -> war-horses: *fire & smoke & brimstone* [Rv9:17-18]; *3 unclean spirits like frogs* from mouths of dragon, beast & false prophet [Rv16:13].
3. Context: Rv 12:9 - deception & accusation. *Satan & wmn*: Gn 3; 2C 11:3
4. Warnings: 2Ptr 2:1-3; Paul - Rms, Cor; Tim in Eph [1T1:3; 4:1].
5. The 7 churches were flooded - note mention of Satan: deceive & accuse.
 - i. Israel had to pass thru the waters of the Red Sea & Church has to pass thru the waters of deception & false teaching
 - ii. OT Flood - judgment. Satan's lies can -> apostasy wh/ is both sin & judgment for derelict stewardship of God's Word & worship. Mat 23:24; Rv 12:11

4th: The Earth Drinks Up the Dragon's Flood-Waters - v16

1. Image defined by Scripture: *earth open mouth* to swallow; Exo 15:12; Num 16:30 [Deut 11:5-6; Ps 106:17]. Here the earth swallows up the threat to the church as a means of God's protection.
2. What does earth swallow? *The river* from the dragon's *mouth*. v15: river = Dragon's lies. v16 - 2 mouths: Dragon's & earth's. What are earth's words?
 - i. Some point to Church history: Reformation; revivals - but wouldn't that be the wmn's mouth?
 - ii. 1T 4:1-4 Satan's strategy: pervert creational goods. Yet God sustains creation - common grace: Rm 13 - gov't; family - restrains sin & sustains general goodness - wh/ serves His redemptive purposes for the Church.
 - iii. Satan's designs are thwarted again. The Church benefits from both common & special, saving grace.

Summary: v13-16. Pray for wisdom, discernment, faith that overcomes the persecution & seduction of Satan.