

INTRODUCTION

1. Review Rv12:1-16.
2. Literary structure & biblical realities of life in the wilderness: church's worship & witness; culture's relative common grace; demonic deception: common curse - enmity of 2 seeds.

1st: The Dragon's Ongoing Rage With the Woman - v17a

1. *So*, ESV, NIV *then*; NKJ *and* => continuation & intensification of v13-16.
2. *enraged*: passive voice - anger grips dragon - Gn 3:15
3. *Altho earth drank up river from dragon's mouth*, his anger is vented toward *the wmn*. The focus of history is the church: the wmn, Jesus' Bride.
4. Satan, in pride [1T3:6] is enraged b/c our salvation entails Satan's damnation.

2nd: The Dragon's War With the Woman's Children - v17b

1. Symbol of *wmn* merges w/ *her children* - Satan's target. Flood w/ lies.
2. Dan 7 - Son of Man enthroned [v13-14] - ultimate victory: v18
 - i. The menacing 4th beast [v19-20] - v21. Ultimate inheritance of the kingdom - v22. [Pattern w/ 2Wits in Rv11]
 - ii. 4th beast - overpowers *saints*: v25 w/ words - *wear down* [lie, deceive]
 - iii. But God triumphs; beasts destroyed & saints inherit kingdom - v26-27
3. Dan maps out our experience: persecuted by dragon & protected by Christ. Dragon fails to deceive the true Xn.

3rd: The Obedience of the Woman's Children - v17c

1. Jesus preserves us as we persevere Rv 12:11. Now *keep God's commandments*
2. Are Xns concerned to obey God's commandments? Mt 19:17
 - i. Mat 5:17-19 Jesus fulfills, eschatologically advances, not abolishes

ii. 2C 3:2-3 we, not tables of stone, are media communicating moral truth

3. Deut 28:7,9-10 - material & military blessings promised to covenant fidelity

4th: The Fidelity of the Woman's Children - v17d

1. Perseverance: *keep* [safeguard] & *hold to* [retain] *the testimony of Jesus*. The overcomer - martyr.
2. Rv 14:12 God's preserving grace is coupled w/ Xn's persevering faith.

Applic #1: The Rage of the Dragon Will Test Our Faith

1. Challenge: to give due weight to reality of Satan's great & intensifying wrath.
2. *Wrath* - material & physical persecution & enticement to compromise.
3. Warfare is sobering, even scary business.
4. Rv 1:17-18 Remember Habakkuk 3:18 - enemy of faith is fear.
5. Emph in Rv12:17 is Xn's perseverance.
6. Isa 43:1-2 we must pass thru *waters* & Lord is w/ us.
7. Chpt 13 - 2 Beasts energized & authorized by Dragon.
 - i. Let us be in God's appointed place of nourishment & safety in wilderness - be the church [Gal 6:2] *burden* = carried together: position a cannon
 - ii. [Gal 6:4-5] *load* = carried individually: rifle.
8. Rv 12:11; v17; 14:12.