

INTRODUCTION

1. Our conflict w/ demonic powers. Strategy for victory: Rv 12:11,17. Events of chpt 13 [13:5] happen at same time as events of chpt 12 [12:14]. Recall metaphor of woman in birth-pangs: contractions build & climax at birthing.
2. Chp 13 presents 2Bsts: 1st - political & 2nd religious: religionized state power. Rv 13:1-6 Satanic parody of Christ & gospel: deceives world: idolatry.

1st: A World of War - v7

1. *It was given to him* - v5; v4; 2x in v7
 - i. Proximate Giver = Dragon [2C 4:4; Lk 4:6-8] illegitimate authority
 - ii. Jn 19:11 Pilate, demonic, carried out God's purpose - Isa 45:6-7
2. v7a = 11:7
3. Dan 7 - told of 4th Bst 4x: [progressive parallelism]
 - i. *Boasting lies*: v8; v11; v20 = Rv 13:5 *arrogant words*: Dragon's flood of lies [Rv 12:15]. v21 quoted in Rv 13:7a; v25 *wear down* [deceive]
 - ii. v25 *will be given* [*time, times, ½ time*] but we win v22; 26-27 *be given*
4. Rv 13:7a = saints experience Bst overpowering them; not end of story, but integral to story - story of overcomers: obedient lamblike death-resurrection.
5. Dan 7:13-14 True Christ - Rv 13:7b-8a False Christ. 4fold description of men
6. Rv 11:7-11 world opposes 2Wits who testify by words & witness by death.

2nd: The World's Idolatrous Worship - v8a

1. Privilege & blessing of NCov worship: absolute necessity to overcome.

2. Heb 11:4 dif tw/ seed of serpent & of wmn: worship - occasions war in wh/ Abel is overcome - but in worship there is a *testimony*. Whose? v2. Worshipers of the idol of self or creature bec/ murderers of worshipers of Ld.
 - i. By our worship, we *witness* - *testify*. In Hb 11:4, who is testifying? v2
 - ii. God's future testimony - [Lk 9:26] - Hb 11:16 - v10.
3. Rv's literary cycles overlap. Rv 9 - 5th & 6th trmpts - interlude [10:1-11:15], then 7th trmpt - FJ. Rv 13:8 = Rv 9:20-21; 13:4

Applic #1: Satan Wars Against Men to Ensnare Them in Idolatry

1. All men are worshipers of some deity - Rm 1:25. *exchange truth for the lie*
2. Rv 19:19 God's love & Satan's malice: inconceivable - makes us deceivable.
3. Satan wars against us to compel us to apostatize: Rv 2:14; Balaam's tactic
4. Want to identify an idol? Whatever, whoever, interferes w/ your faithful worship of God. Ist & IInd commandments addresses us as image of God.

2nd: We War Against Satan As We Maintain the Worship of the Lord

1. If Bst attacks us as worshipers, then maintaining true worship is vital to our battle strategy as overcomers.
2. Luther - Calvin. We are saved in order to worship. We do not worship in order to be saved. Our worship rehearses our salvation wh/ is our triumph.
3. We must not minimize the vital necessity of NCov worship. We are overcoming as we worship.