

SPIRITUAL WARFARE
Between
THE WOMAN & THE DRAGON

(Revelation 12)

SESSION #8 – WORKBOOK
Intended For
“KINGDOM WARRIORS IN THE ARMY OF GOD”

Unveiling Mysteries in the “Book of Revelation”

Based upon the Book:
GOD’S ANOINTED WARRIORS
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(Slides # 3 - 4)

THE WOMAN

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. *Revelation 12:1-2*

Key Points:

The woman appears so mighty and glorious that the sun, moon, and stars of heaven, all serve as signs to bring out the beauty and the authority that she has been given from on high.

Although she is currently suffering in her pregnancy, she is of tremendous importance to the Lord and His Kingdom.

(Slide # 5)

THE IDENTITY OF THE WOMAN

Listen to the Lord speaking to Satan after he enticed the fall of Adam and Eve into sin:

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." *Genesis 3:15*

Key Points:

This verse is commonly referred to as the first covenant promise that our God made with mankind

Here the Lord is promising three things:

1. Satan and the woman were going to be enemies to each other.
2. Satan's descendants and the woman's descendants will be enemies to each other.
3. One of the woman's descendants would arise to bruise the head of Satan even though His heel would be bruised in the battle.

Notes:

THE COMMISSION OF THE WOMAN

After speaking to Satan, the Lord tells the woman:

To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. *Genesis 3:16*

Key Points:

Her commission is two-fold – together with the Holy Spirit, she has been anointed to:

1. Give birth to the Messiah, the Son of God, who will destroy the effects of sin on mankind.
2. Give birth to all those of mankind who will eternally inhabit the Kingdom of God.

Thus, this woman is the symbolic mother of the people of God;

- She can be identified with true Israel in the old dispensation
- She can be identified with the true Christian church in the new.

She is the Bride of Christ.

Notice that this woman, in all her glory, is also in a state of tremendous suffering supported only by the hope of a male offspring that she painfully awaits.

- According to various Old Testament scriptures, the heavy afflictions upon Israel that preceded the birth of the Savior are represented by these severe birth-pains.¹

Suddenly, she sees a terrifying dragon, ready to devour her child as soon as HE is born.

Notes:

¹ Jeremiah 4:31; Micah 4:8-9

(Slides # 7 - 8)

THE DRAGON

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. *Revelation 12:3-4*

Key Points:

- The dragon’s kingdom is very powerful, as described by his appearance of seven heads, ten horns, and the seven crowns upon each of the heads.
- He also has a powerful demonic army as indicated by the “Stars cast down to earth.” **Note:** At times, scripture uses “stars” to symbolize angelic beings.² In this case, they symbolize demonic angelic beings.

The seven heads are representative of all the evil empires that Satan uses throughout the centuries in his attempt to annihilate the Kingdom of God from the world. They are the:

- Egyptian Empire / Assyrian Empire / Babylonian Empire / Persian Empire / Greek Empire / Roman Empire / and the coming New World Empire.

Throughout the 4,000 years of the old dispensation, from the fall of mankind until the birth of Christ, Satan had been totally committed to identifying and annihilating all offspring originating from this woman, who was commissioned to give birth to the Kingdom of God upon the earth.

He was especially focused on the promised One who God said would have the power to crush him and destroy his plans for the world.

Notes:

² Revelation 1:20

SATAN'S TACTICS TO DEFEAT THE BIRTH OF THE MALE CHILD

Key Points:

Note his Old Testament tactics:

1. **Initially, he probably believed that Abel was the chosen one and so, he had Cain murder him.** *But then Seth was born and the spiritual seed of the woman begins to multiply through the line of Seth.*
2. **In Genesis 6, we learn that he got the “sons of God”, who were angelic beings, to marry the natural “daughters of men” in order to merge together the human and demonic angelic race and thus eliminate the possibility of a righteous seed arising from a woman.**³ *Again, God counterattacks this tactic through the Great Flood, and saves the seed of the woman through the family of Noah.*

After the flood he changed his tactics:

3. First, he attempted to control the population of the entire world at the tower of Babel. When that failed:
4. He attempted to enslave the nation of Israel in Egypt. When that failed:
5. He attempted to annihilate them as a nation using the Assyrians, the Babylonians, and the Persians.
6. When Satan saw that he couldn't completely annihilate them, he attempted to rule over them through the mighty Grecian and Roman empires.

Throughout this entire 4,000 year period Satan was intent on either preventing the birth or murdering the child, yet he did not know who HE would be or when HE would be delivered by the woman.

Notes:

³ Genesis 6:1-4; Jude 1:6-7

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THE BIRTH OF THE MALE CHILD

She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, *Revelation 12:5*

Key Points:

- The time finally arrived when the woman, through the Holy Spirit of God, gave birth to the Savior that had been promised some 4,000 years earlier.
- Satan didn't know who the natural mother would be, but he did know through earlier prophecies that the birth would be in the town of Bethlehem.

Suddenly, the angels of heaven loudly proclaimed the glory of the birth of Christ. ⁴

- Now Satan learns who He is and immediately, he enticed the Judean king Herod, a servant of the dragon, to take whatever measures were necessary to have this newborn child slain.
- Herod then dispatches soldiers to Bethlehem who murdered all the children under two years of age that he might make sure of destroying the one hated Child.⁵

But in spite of all this, the Promised One appears, Christ is born.

- Now, the dragon was not certain how Christ intends to gain the victory over him although now, he recognizes Him as the Promised One whom the Lord said would "crush his head."

Notes:

BREAK-TIME

(Slides # 11 - 12)

⁴ Luke 2:14

⁵ Matthew 2:16-18

SATAN'S TACTICS TO DEFEAT THE MISSION OF JESUS

Key Points:

1. Satan employs two different tactics to usurp the mission of God for His Son, Jesus:

- First, Satan attempts to subject Him spiritually as he offers Jesus the kingdoms of the world if He would only bow down and worship him.⁶
- When this fails he arouses the religious leaders of the day, to continually come against Him throughout His 3 ½ year ministry.

2. Yet, a time had been ordained from the beginning when Jesus was to be cutoff after 3 ½ years of ministry and thus, His enemies were allowed by God to seize Him; whereupon they vented all their anger and jealousy by severely mocking and beating Him.

- Eventually they crucified Him in the midst of two thieves intending to display Him as simply another criminal in Israel.
- **(Note: Read Psalm 22:11-18 and listen to what was in the heart of Jesus as He suffered on the cross).**
- Now Satan thought that he had “crushed the head” of God’s chosen King and thus, turned the tables on God’s promise to crush his head.

3. What he didn’t realize was that the victory for the people of God’s Kingdom lay in the way of the sacrifice of the perfect Lamb of God.

- For sin is what gives the devil his claim for the possession of mankind and now sin itself has been cast out of those of mankind who will embrace the sacrificial Lamb that the Lord Himself has provided.

4. THE DECEIVER HIMSELF HAS BEEN DECEIVED!

Notes:

⁶ Matthew 4:1-11

(Slide # 20)

SATAN’S ACCESS TO THE THRONE ROOM OF HEAVEN

Key Points:

The scriptures of the Old Testament clearly reveal that Satan had access to the courts of heaven and could stand in the presence of Almighty God.⁷

- Historically, Christ had not yet “crushed the head” of the serpent and thus, had not yet assumed dominion over the citizens of the Kingdom of God.
- Satan was still the sovereign ruler of this world and he argued that all of mankind came under his dominion due to their sin which disallowed them access before the presence of Almighty God.⁸
- Jesus Himself referred to Satan as “The Ruler of this World.”⁹ He is also referred to as the “Prince of the power of the air who is the spirit that is working in the sons of disobedience.”¹⁰

However, the counsel of our Lord countered Satan’s argument.

- That eternal counsel of our Lord established that not only the Christians who are born on earth following the sacrifice of Christ are His chosen people, but it pertained also to those who had been born before the crucifixion. (Abraham, Moses, David, etc)

Note: The parable of Lazarus & the rich man who died and went to Hades where they saw Abraham.¹¹

Also Note: When Jesus died, He descended into hell where he freed those in captivity who then ascended to the presence of the Father. (Some were also seen in the streets of Jerusalem)¹²

Notes:

⁷ Job 1:6; 2:1; Zechariah 3:1

⁸ John 14:30; Ephesians 2:1-3

⁹ John 12:31; 14:30

¹⁰ Ephesians 2:2

¹¹ Luke 16:19-31

¹² Matthew 27:51-53

THE WAR IN HEAVEN

(Revelation 12: 7-9)

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. **Revelation 12:7-9**

Key Points:

Now, the head of the Lord's army was Michael, an angelic general:

- Michael appears in scripture to be in command of the entire angelic army that is assigned to protect God's chosen people during their life on earth,
- Also, Michael confronts the claims of Satan for the souls of the Old Testament saints.¹³

Satan is about to reap what he has sown as Michael and his angelic army are about to throw him and his demonic army out from the heavens and the presence of the Lord, and down to earth.

Notes:

¹³ Jude 9; Matthew 24:31; Luke 4: 10-11; Daniel 12:1

THE WAR IN HEAVEN

(Revelation 12: 10-12)

Finally, when Christ comes, suffers, pays the death penalty for the sins of His people, and ascends to heaven to sit at the right hand of Almighty God, the battle is finally decided in favor of Michael and his army of angels.

A great voice sings out:

"Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them!

But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!" *Revelation 12:10-12*

Key Points:

This is the death blow to Satan; it was probably shouted by Michael and his angelic army at Satan and his demonic army in a power so great that this mighty enemy was finally cast out of heaven.

- Satan has lost the battle in the heavenlies, but he will never surrender; he must be completely defeated.
- Now that he has been cast down to earth, his wrath is directed toward the woman and her offspring, who remain upon the earth; and the conflict continues to this present day.

Notes:

THE WAR BETWEEN THE WOMAN & THE DRAGON

(Revelation 12: 6 & 13-17)

Now the scene shifts back to the earth where the woman continues to bring forth offspring.

And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. *Revelation 12:13*

Key Points:

- Satan failed to prevent the birth of Christ, and he failed in his centuries-long war with Michael; and now, being filled with a raging fury, he is intent on pursuing and wiping out Christianity from the face of the earth.
- His initial tactic is one of murderous persecution of those who truly profess Jesus as their Lord. These are the citizens of the Kingdom of God who continue to oppose Satan and his purposes among mankind and therefore, he is committed to annihilating true Christianity from the face of the earth.
- Many Christians in the early church were brutally martyred by governments and religious groups under the influence of Satan. However, Christianity (represented by the “woman”) continued to grow in the midst of persecution.
- Satan pursued the woman, but the Lord intervened and enabled the woman, with two wings of the great eagle, to fly into the wilderness where Satan could not go.

The remainder of this chapter is a prophetic picture of all that has and will take place throughout the Christian era.

Notes:

(Slides # 26 thru 28)

THE WILDERNESS

But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. **Revelation 12:14**

- Satan pursued the woman, but the Lord intervened and enabled the woman, with two wings of the great eagle, to fly into the wilderness where Satan could not go.

Key Points:

Now, where is this wilderness?

- It is the Kingdom of God in the midst of the world.
- Read John 17:14-18 where Jesus is Praying to His Father for the protection of His People.

This wilderness is representative of that spiritual place in the midst of the world where God's people are nourished from on high and where neither Satan nor his legions can enter.

- It is that place where the Lord reigns in the hearts of His people. Although it lies right in the midst of the world, yet it is separated from the world.¹⁴
- It is that place where the people of God who reside in the world are spiritually separated from the worldly lifestyle for those in the wilderness live by the principles of God.
- This wilderness, which is the invisible Kingdom of God, exists throughout the world among every nation.

Notes:

(Slide # 29)

¹⁴ John 15:19; 17:16

SATAN’S WARFARE AGAINST THOSE IN THE WILDERNESS

Although Satan cannot pursue the woman into the wilderness, he can certainly employ military tactics against her with the mission of destroying her or rendering her impotent on the battlefield.

Key Points:

- His initial tactic in the first centuries of Christianity was one of persecuting Christians using segments of the Roman government.
- It was Satan’s plan to murder the leaders of the early Christian movement and to create fear of persecution among the masses but, it backfired on him.
- Great numbers of Christians were martyred, yet the gospel continued to go forth on the soaring strength of “eagle wings” and this period of intense martyrdom by secular government against the righteous only resulted in the Kingdom of God growing greater and stronger than ever before.
- As long as the Christian church remained in a state of separation from the world, the armies of Satan were impotent against it.

Notes:

(Slides # 30 - 31)

SATAN’S WARFARE AGAINST THOSE IN THE WILDERNESS

The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. *Revelation 12:15-16*

He opens his mouth and casts a huge stream of water in to the wilderness designed to wash the church out of the wilderness and unite it with the world.

- This stream of water is symbolic of deceptive lies from the mouth of Satan.

Key Points:

Now, the wilderness is also a place where the hearts of professing believers are “tested.”

- Those who truly remain steadfast in their faith are protected from this flood of the Serpent and are led by our Lord Jesus through the wilderness journey of this life.
- However, like the exodus wilderness in the days of Moses, there is a large segment of Christianity who would rather enjoy the comforts of the world rather than the hardships of the wilderness; which is designed to prepare His people for entry into the Promised Land.

Therefore, a large segment of the church that initially entered the wilderness is now brought out on the flood waters of Satan.

- These are a people who profess faith in Christ, but actually worship the things of the world.
- They voluntarily choose to leave the wilderness for they want to enjoy the worldly comforts of this life while still believing that they belong to the Lord.
- What they fail to realize is that the wilderness is where God dwells in the midst of His people and they have departed from His presence.

They are used by Satan to establish religious organizations to mock the theology and persecute those who remain faithful in the wilderness.

- This began with the formation of the Roman Catholic Church and continues to this day. The Catholic Church is very much of the world. Her popes have built an unrivaled worldwide empire of property, wealth, and influence.
- Claiming to be the bride of Christ, the Roman Catholic Church has been in bed with godless rulers throughout eighteen centuries of history.

Notes:

(Slide # 32)

AMERICA – INITIALLY A CHOSEN WILDERNESS

When the fires of religious persecution waxed hotter and hotter over the European continent, the Lord again provided a refuge where His people might be nourished from the face of the serpent in the “wilderness” of the Western Hemisphere.

Key Points:

- He supplied them with “eagle’s wings” to the land of America where they were delivered out of the abyss of Roman Catholicism and where Protestantism was allowed to grow.¹⁵

Immediately thereafter, Christian missionaries were dispatched to take the gospel of Christ to foreign nations all around the globe.

- Thus, over the last three hundred years, Christianity grew stronger and stronger around the world as Christians in the midst of this western wilderness proclaimed the gospel protected from the persecution of the enemy.

(Slide # 33 - 34)

SATAN’S WARFARE TACTICS - A FLOOD OF FALSE DOCTRINES

The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. **Revelation 12:15**

Here Satan is forced to change tactics when he fails to merge all the Christian institutions with the world; he now turns to individual believers.

- He does this by “mouthing” a flood of false doctrines and heresies throughout the Christian and governmental institutions in both Europe and America.¹⁶

Key Points:

¹⁵ Philip Mauro, *Things Which Soon Must Come to Pass* (Reiner Publications, Swengel, PA, 1974) p.384-389

¹⁶ Herman Hoeksema, *Behold, He Cometh* (Grand Rapids, MI: Reformed Free Publishing Assn, 1969) p.448-449

Such is the present method of satanic attack in the west as lies from the mouth of Satan have become popular teachings not only in our country's school system, but in many false churches that claim to embrace Christian doctrines.

For example, Satan, appearing as an "angel of light", has convinced the majority of American institutions that:

- Jesus Christ is not really the Son of God, but merely a good man who sets a fine example for us to follow.
- Man is basically righteous and we must stop listening to those who proclaim that all are born sinners.
- God is really not our Creator, but we are merely a product of evolution.
- The bible was written by ancient men as they perceived the world of their day and although it contains many good lessons for us, it really is not the "Word of God."
- Whether we are evangelical Christians, Catholics, Muslims, Buddhists, or Hindus; we all serve the same god.
- Eventually all persons will have eternal life and we will all become like god.

Notes:

GOD INTERVENES & SATAN IS ENRAGED

Although many of the “seed” sown on rocky ground or among thorns embrace these deceptive lies, the true people of God who are the “seed” sown in fertile soil are those who remain in the wilderness and have been protected by our Lord from this “flood of lies.”

But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. **Revelation 12:16**

When this tactic failed to deceive those who remained steadfast in the Kingdom of God, Satan became enraged and is now totally committed to gathering all the worldly forces to wipe out true Christianity, together with the nation of Israel, from the face of the earth.

Key Points:

The lies of Satan are currently being heard and received among those who place their hope in a world and are looking to establish a one world government without God. They are intended:

- To convince the great majority of the world that proclaiming Jesus Christ as the only way to eternal life is detrimental to society and should be outlawed.
- The elimination of both Jews and uncompromising Christians would certainly be helpful to the establishment of worldwide peace.

I truly believe that we are now in the generation of mankind when Satan is preparing his military forces to completely erase the name of Jesus Christ from the face of the earth.

Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea. **Revelation 12:17**

As he stands on the “sand of the sea” - He is about to call up his son (Antichrist) to rule over the entire world.

Notes:

BREAK-TIME

(Slides # 37 - 38)

(Slide # 39)

NOURISHED IN THE WILDERNESS FOR 3 ½ YEARS

It is also said that the woman will be nourished for 3 ½ years in the wilderness.

Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days. **Revelation 12:6**

Key Points:

- Although the woman has been pursued throughout the Christian era - this 3 ½ years of living in the wilderness appears to be that final period of time when the Christian church witnesses under the protection of the Lord during the first 3 ½ year reign of the Antichrist.
- It is a time when a powerful and glorious anointing is on the sealed 144,000 as they proclaim the gospel truths in great power throughout the world.
- They are protected from the Antichrist and his legions during this time.

Additionally, this period of 3 ½ years is certainly meant to encourage those in the Kingdom of God that our wilderness journey will one day come to an end.

- Then comes the time to enter into our real home, the eternal Promised Land.

Notes:

(Slide # 40)

REVIEWING SATAN'S WARFARE OBJECTIVES

The mission which drives his evil heart may be summarized as follows:

Satan's Mission Statement

"To ascend into the heavens where I will raise my throne above the stars of God and make myself like the Most High where I will continue to challenge His sovereign rulership over all of creation".¹⁷

He knows that if he can prevent all of mankind from professing loyalty to the Almighty Father and His Son; then Satan himself would become the recipient of all worship and glory throughout the earth.

He also intends to show the entire angelic realm that he is a leader to be worshipped and will prove it by controlling those of the Lord's creation who were created in "His image."

Key Points:

The principal tactic used to accomplish this was and still is; deception.

- He deceives mankind into believing that the tremendous potential that resides within us can be more fully realized by living life under our own guidance rather than under God's.
- Thus, he convinces the majority of mankind that they have no need for God and that; they could be their own gods doing whatever is pleasing to them, even if it is harmful to others. This self-centered nature is really the nature of Satan.

Secondly, he intends to rid the world of all those who are not deceived and are totally committed to God the Father and to His Son, Jesus Christ.

- He does this by convincing world governments, together with false religions, that God's people are the only obstacle that keeps them from achieving their worldly goals and so, they must be either converted to the world's belief system or be killed.
- If Satan can defeat the Army of God on earth, then he will certainly claim that God's Word concerning earthly redemption has been voided by the powers of darkness and that he alone is worthy to rule over all of creation.

Thus, his commitment to destroy God's beloved witnesses from the face of the earth is tremendously strong.

(Slide # 41)

SUMMARY OF REVELATION 12

¹⁷ Isaiah 14:12-14

Two thousand years are compressed into a few verses in this chapter of Revelation. The intent was to reveal the purposes of Satan as well as the protection and purposes of God with respect to the war between the kingdoms.

Key Points:

- This brings us up to the time when the final battle will be fought, but this battle will be greater and more powerful than any previous event in history.
- One last supreme effort awaits release of a powerful gospel to peoples of all nations. This will be a gospel released through the Body of Christ; and His 144,000 witnesses for 3 ½ years throughout the days of Great Tribulation.
- These are those who “keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus” right up to that day of their martyrdom.

The next session presents an overview of this final battle and the tactics soon to be used by Satan and his dark forces in both the human and spiritual realms.

(Slide # 42)

THE NEXT SESSION:

First Read: Revelation 13

THREE BEASTS – AN UNHOLY TRINITY

- | | |
|--|--|
| ➤ A Beast Rises Up from the Sea | Seven Heads of the Beast |
| ➤ Antichrist – A Final World Ruler | Antichrist – The Appearance of Invincibility |
| ➤ Antichrist – His Popularity & #666 | The Coming of the Two-Horned Beast |
| ➤ The False Prophet – His 3-Fold Ministry | A Seven Year Covenant |
| ➤ Purpose for the Tribulation | Purpose for God’s Wrath |
| ➤ Our Lord’s Calling – “Endure & Remain Faithful” | |

THE LAMB OF GOD - OUR TRUE

“COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF”

The days are rapidly approaching when a tremendous separation will take place among mankind.

Yet, during this present era of warfare, He reigns as our Commander-in-Chief and His Name continues to be the battle cry for those warriors who fight daily for righteousness and truth.

His name is Jesus, Our Lord, Our King, Our Commander-in-Chief

- **A truly mighty Leader who would never delegate assignments to His people that He Himself wouldn't readily embrace.**
- **A Commander that Christian warriors will readily follow not matter the danger or what costs have to be paid.**
- **These are warriors whose deepest desire is to hear Jesus welcome them with the following words when they enter into His presence:**

..... 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' *Matthew 25:21*