

A WEDNESDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY
EDGEMONT BIBLE CHURCH
FALL, 2009 – SPRING 2010
FEBRUARY 24, 2010
THE SEVENTH TRUMPET - Part 7
CHAPTER 12:1-17
THE SEVENTH SEAL

IX. THE SEVENTH SEAL IS OPENED (Continued from previous week)

H. The Seventh Trumpet sounds - A review of history and a look to the future end of the devil's time in heaven and how it happens

1. The time of praise and thanksgiving, the opening of the temple in heaven and the noises, thunder, lightning, earthquake and great hail have just ended when a great sign opens in heaven for John to see. It is divided into several connected parts.

2. The vision of the woman

a. Her appearance v. 1, 2

She is clothed with the sun

The moon is under her feet

On her head is a garland of twelve stars

She is pregnant and in her 9th month

b. Her identification vv 5, 6

The church -*problem: The church is the bride of Christ; this woman is giving birth to the Christ which the church did not do!*

Mary - *problem: Nowhere else in Scripture is so much exaltation given to Mary. She is never illustrated this way. The details of this account match with nothing that has ever happened to Mary*

Israel - *most likely. Images similar to the ones in this account had been alluded to earlier when Joseph was young and sharing his dreams with his family in Gen. 37:9-11. Here Jacob interprets the dream as Jacob being the sun, Rachel being the moon and his brothers the 11 stars. Through Israel, Messiah was to come. Messiah's mother is Israel.*

A sign in the zodiac - *This one has the constellation, Virgo, rising in the house of the sun and the moon with 12 stars over her head at the time of the birth of Christ. It has possibilities but none I can confirm. Hard to see how the constellation gave birth to the Christ.*

c. Her condition and action vv. 2, 5, 6, 13-17

She is near the end of her pregnancy and she is evidently ready to give birth at any time

She delivers a male Child who was to rule the nations with a rod of iron (an evident reference to the Messiah and the prophecies concerning his rule and reign). After the delivery, the child is caught up to God and to His throne (something that was never said of another mortal. Caught up to the throne is a reference to the child's authority with God)

She then flees for her life to the wilderness from the attacks of the frustrated dragon where she is kept secure for 1,260 days (42, 30 day months or 3 1/2, 360 day years). Vv. 6, 13-17

The dragon seeks to persecute her

She is given two wings of a great eagle that grants her a swift and safe flight to the wilderness

The earth helps her by preventing the flood which was sent by the serpent to sweep her away to affect her by "opening its mouth and swallowing the water"

3. The vision of the dragon

a. His appearance vv. 3,4

The dragon is great, fiery red and angry with the woman
He has seven heads and ten horns. A diadem sits on each head. This shows that he is the real power behind all of earth's kingdoms referred to in the Scriptures

He is a beast of great authority

He seems to be angry with the woman

b. His identification v.9

That serpent of old

Called the Devil and Satan

He deceives the whole world

He is the accuser of the brethren, day and night before God

c. His activity vv. 4, 7,

He is ready to devour her Child as soon as it is born

To assist him in the destruction of the child he gathers a third of the stars with his tail and throws them to the earth

War breaks out against him and his angels. Michael and his angels are fighting with him

He and his angels lose this battle and are cast out of heaven for good!

He is the one who has deceived the whole world with his Lie about being like god, about having supreme power, with pride, etc.

He is the one who, with access to heaven, accused the brethren before God day and night. As an illustration, consider the life of Job.

After he is cast out of heaven he is in a terrible, wrathful rage and goes first for the woman (believing Israel) to destroy her. He persecutes her until her escape. When she escapes, he tries to sweep her away (drowning?) with a flood of waters which the earth promptly swallows up!

When she is spared, he turns his wrath on her “other offspring”. This would be the Gentiles who have believed in her Son, the Lord Jesus Christ!

4. The time covered by all of this and the timing of the events
 - a. Skipping a number of details in time, these events cover the time from the Israel’s delivery from Egypt (1446 BC) through the birth of Christ (4 BC) through his Ascension (32 BC) and on through whatever date is ahead of us for the Tribulation. It has already covered for us 3,456 years!
 - b. The timing of the war in heaven is the middle of the Tribulation according to Daniel 12:1 when Michael is permitted to engage Satan in war. He and his angels have been permitted limited engagements in the past but this one they are given full permission to drive him out as the “kingdom(s) of this world have become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ” Rev 11:15. We also see in Daniel 12:1 that when Michael stands up, the time following is known as a time of trouble such as has never been before, a clear reference to the Great Tribulation, the last 3 ½ years of the 70th week of Daniel, the Tribulation. We also see from this passage in Revelation 12 that there are 1,260 days which follow his attack on believing Israel (the woman). These references in time are equivalent to 3 ½ years of 360 day years (“time, times and a half time”) or 42 months of 30 day months.
 - c. This will be consistent with the middle of the Tribulation when the beast, also called the Antichrist, arises to declare himself god in the middle of the Tribulation (the “abomination of desolation” spoken of by Daniel in 9:27 and by our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 24:15-22) as Paul said would happen in 2 Thess 2:3-12

**STILL NO ACTION HAS OCCURRED ON EARTH AFTER THIS TRUMPET!
WHEN THINGS DO START HAPPENING ON EARTH IT WILL MAKE
THE OTHERS ALMOST PALE IN COMPARISON! IN THE NEXT
CHAPTERS WE HAVE EVEN MORE OF THE CATCH UP HISTORY OF
WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING ON EARTH DURING THE FIRST
SEALS AND TRUMPETS! What a book! What an Awesome God!**