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March 21 & 24, 2024

Week 19 – The Woman, the Son and the Serpent (Revelation 12)

Introduction:

- Revelation 12:1-6
 - (See Revelation 12:9a; Psalm 2:9; Romans 9:5; John 4:22)

Symbols	Interpretation	Explanation
Dragon and his armies (12:3-4, 7, 9, 12-17)	Satan and his demons working through evil powers	Dragon clearly identified as “the devil and Satan” (12:9). Corresponds with the same number of seven heads and ten horns in Daniel’s beastlike representations of earthly kingdoms that opposed and oppressed Israel (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome – see Daniel 7).
Male Child (12:5, 13)	Christ the coming King of kings	The one who will “rule all nations with a rod of iron (12:5). A messianic reference to Psalm 2:9 and Rev. 19:15. Satan sought to destroy him from the start. Revelation reminds us that Jesus is the Lamb who was slain (5:6) and also the victorious coming King (19:16).
Woman (12:1-2, 6, 12-13)	The righteous remnant of believing Israel	Key identification rooted in Genesis 37:9-10. This woman represents the righteous remnant described by Paul in Romans 9:1-8, not every ethnic Jew. This remnant is represented by the 144,000 chosen from the twelve tribes (Rev.7:1-8, 14:1-5).

- Revelation 12:7-17

Revelation 12: Three Important Takeaways...

1. God never _____ to keep His promises.
2. Satan is a powerful _____, but he will not triumph.
3. We may be attacked by the devil, but we need not _____.

The Big Idea: God’s saints declare victory over the devil by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. In our study of Revelation 12, one major point of emphasis was the declaration that God's people have a history and present reality of overcoming the schemes of the devil "by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony." How is this verse relevant to your life today? Discuss...

Ponderings:

2. Revelation 12 is rich with symbolic imagers (the woman = Israel, the child = Christ, the dragon = Satan). Why would God take John's attention way back in history to the time of Satan's fall out of heaven and his defeat through Christ, especially in a segment focusing on the lead-up to Christ's return? Discuss...
3. Of the three major take-aways from the weekend message, which one feels most helpful or relevant to your life right now, and why?
 - God never fails to keep His promises (His faithfulness to unfaithful Israel proves His faithfulness to you)
 - Satan is a powerful foe, but he will not triumph (because he's already been defeated through the cross and the empty tomb)
 - We may be attacked by the devil, but we need not fear (because God is on His throne and holds all authority over the future)
4. Take a moment (2 minutes or less) to share your testimony – which proclaims Christ's victory over your life in rescuing you from sin and Satan...

Promptings:

5. How can God use your testimony in the days ahead as a way to share His grace and power with someone else? Discuss...