

My Heart // My Love:

Set the stage

Revelation 11:19 - 12:17

11:19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail. 12:1 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. 2 She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. 4 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. 5 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, 6 and 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. 7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 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. 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "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. 11 **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.** 12 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!" 13 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. 14 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. 15 The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. 16 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. 17 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.

The events

- God's plan of salvation is rolled out
- The curtain is drawn back, and we can see what takes place in the heavenlies, while salvation comes to the earth
- The devil wars against God and His angels, he is defeated and is thrown down to the earth with his angels
- The enemy resists God's plan of salvation
 - Before Jesus begins His ministry (Herod issued a decree for every baby to be executed during the time of Jesus' birth)
 - During His ministry (temptation of Jesus, Pharisees trying to kill him)
 - Afterwards, the attack moves to those who receive salvation!

Know the enemy

- Progressive, relentless, sustained, furious and no joke.
 - **ILLUSTRATION:** Too many times trivialise (he is not a cartoon character) or sensationalise (he is not a mysterious foe that cannot be defeated) the enemy!
- He will keep up his aggressive attack until the return of Jesus where he is dealt with forever at the great white throne judgment. He will be cast into the great lake of fire, along with everything evil, everything not submitted to God!
- Characteristics of his attack from this passage of Scripture
 - V4 He led a **rebellion** in heaven, influencing a third of the angelic host.
 - V4 He attempted to **devour** the baby, Jesus, and God's plan of salvation, but God succeeded in placing Jesus in highest place of authority and power!
 - V7-9 He **waged war** in heaven, but he was defeated and thrown down!
 - V10 He is an **accuser** of mankind, but through the work of Christ he is limited to the earth!
 - V13 He **pursues** the church, but God gives us the wings of His salvation!
 - V15 He pours out water like a flood, endeavouring to drown us (error, resistance, deception ...etc), but God raises a standard (Isa 59:19).
 - V17 He is **furious** with the church, continuously making **war** with us!
 - **NOTE:** He resists and makes war against those who 'keep the commandments of God' (obedient to His word), and those 'who hold to the testimony of Jesus' (work out their salvation with fear and trembling).

Jesus' victory

V10 *And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "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.*

This is what Jesus won for us: -

- Salvation
- Power
- The Kingdom of God

- Authority

How do we conquer?

V11 *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.*

• The Gospel understood - *the blood of the Lamb* THE GOSPEL

OUR SALVATION AT GOD'S EXPENSE

Do I really know and understand the Gospel? If I did, I would loudly broadcast the good news to everyone I come across!

- The blood of the Lamb
- The message of the cross
- The issue of sin
- The tenses of salvation
- The elements of the Gospel
- The love of God
- Ezekiel 36:26 hearts of stone changed to hearts of flesh

• The Gospel applied - *the word of their testimony* THE GOSPEL IN ME

OUR INTERNAL INHERITANCE

Do I know the rich inheritance His grace has provided me with?

- We have a testimony, and the word of my testimony overcomes!
- Conviction and conversion
- John 3 born again by the Spirit
- The prodigal - change of mind and change of direction
- Philippians 2:12-13 *12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*
- Proverbs 4:23
 - (ESV) *Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*
 - (NIV) *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

• The Gospel preached - *they loved not their lives even unto death* THE GOSPEL THROUGH ME

OUR EXTERNAL INHERITANCE

Do I realise the amazing ministry the Gospel provides me with?

- Motivated by love
- Holy Spirit empowered
- Matthew 10:8 *Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.*
- From a consumer to a contributor

- A lifestyle and not a project. Naturally supernatural. Mission is not something we go on, but it's who we are!
- The power of prayer
- Commissioning Isaiah 6; Acts 13; Acts 9; Matthew 28:19-20
- Romans 10:13-17
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
- Luke 19:10 *For the Son of man came to seek and save the lost.*
- Each one of have fields of influence or fishing pools
 - In the church
 - Through the church
 - Beyond the church

We're a Christ-centred people, focused on the mission of the Gospel.

What captivates my heart will motivate me! Therefore, the Gospel needs to captivate me!

This is what we will cover over the next months.

The enemy attacks the Gospel

- **Before salvation** 2 Corinthians 4:4 *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
- **After salvation** Matthew 13:22 *As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.*

Two ways in which the enemy wears away at our zeal and passion

- Revelation 2:4-5 *4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lamp-stand from its place.*
- Revelation 3:15-19 *15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realise that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. 20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*

Let's pray for revived hearts!!!