

## REVIVAL NEWS

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\* NOVEMBER 2023 \*\*\*\* NOVEMBER 2023 \*\*\*\* NOVEMBER 2023 \*

## THE GREAT SPIRITUAL WARFARE – Revelation 12:6-17

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*[This teaching follows from the just published booklet "The Mystery of God would be finished – a journey through the Book of Revelation 1 - 11". This is the second in a new series of teachings that will journey through the remaining chapters of Revelation. If you have not read the booklet and would like a copy, please reply by email and we will send an e-copy of the booklet to you.]*

### The Warfare

When this prophetic *Woman* gave birth to the *male Child* who was “*caught up to God and His throne*” (Rev.12:5), the “*dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born*” Revelation 12:4. As I have shared previously, this *Woman* is the fulfilment of God’s prophetic word to the serpent in Genesis 3:15, “*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel*”. This *Woman* is the womb to carry the *Seed, the male Child, the Son!* The dragon has always been at enmity with the *Woman and her Seed*. John saw this as a revelation. It is the reality of the spiritual warfare that has been from the beginning.

### A Warfare throughout the ages

This warfare was not only a once off event. There are many Scriptural examples of this warfare taking place through history. Jochebed gave birth to Moses in a time when Pharaoh ordered the killing of all the male children of the Hebrews. Moses was preserved and raised up to deliver God’s people (Ex.1 & 2). Mary, the virgin who fulfilled Isaiah 7:14, gave birth to the Messiah Himself, *God-With-Us* (Matt.1:23), Jesus the Son of God. King Herod ordered all the male children two years and under to be killed in order to devour the Messiah Jesus before He would be manifest as the Son in maturity (Matt.2:16-18). Even now, the dragon is actively wanting to devour the mature corporate Son before it comes forth. The *Woman*, now the *Bride* church (Eph.5:32) is bringing forth a Son, “*a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*” Ephesians 4:13. This is a body of “*many*

*sons to glory” Heb.2:10.* This is a victorious corporate Body who is making known *“the manifold wisdom of God to principalities and powers in the heavenlies, according to God’s eternal purpose which He has accomplished through Christ Jesus our Lord” Ephesians 3:10-11.* This is the target of the great spiritual warfare today! The dragon is doing everything to devour this Son before it comes forth in full manifestation!

### **A place prepared**

After John saw these things he says, *“Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days” Revelation 12:6.* The good news is that God has a place prepared for the *Woman, the church.* It is in the *wilderness!* Before open manifestation to the world God likes to do preparation in the *wilderness!* When Elijah released the prophetic word to King Ahab about the drought to come, he was told *“to hide by the Brook Cherith...and I will command the ravens to feed you there” 1 Kings 17:3-4.* Only after the time in the wilderness did Elijah then manifest to destroy the works of the devil in Israel when he defeated the prophets of Baal! (1Kings18) Likewise, the *Woman* has a *“place prepared by God, that they should feed her there”!* In the wilderness we learn to trust God’s provision and lean on Him for all our needs.

### **Preparation for manifestation**

In the days of Hosea God spoke to His people as to a *Woman* saying to her, *“I will allure her, will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her. I will give her...the Valley of Achor [Trouble] as a door of hope; she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, as in the days when she came up from the land of Egypt” Hosea 2:14-15.* The wilderness is a time of preparation for manifestation! John the Baptist stayed in the *“deserts till the day of His manifestation to Israel” Luke 1:80.* God keeps us and protects us in the wilderness. We come to know Him in the wilderness so that when we come to manifest as sons, we do not forget who He is when abundance comes. We grow through hardship and are prepared to rule and reign with Him when the time comes.

### **A testing time**

The number of days the *Woman* is appointed to have in the wilderness is the same as the days of *the two witnesses* prophesying (Rev.11:2-3). The number *one thousand two hundred and sixty days*, or three and half years, speaks of a time of hardship, affliction and tribulation. The church in every generation will experience the season of hardship. Elijah also had to go through the time of drought in the wilderness, being provided for by God, for *“three years and six months” (James 5:17).* After that time Elijah was in birthing travail of intercession to bring the manifestation of God’s breakthrough in the earth for his generation – **1 Kings 18:41-46.** The victory brought the rain! The *wilderness* is not easy, but it is necessary so as to manifest His glory (Rom.5:3-5) and bring forth sons in maturity. Apostle Paul

said to the **Galatians** that he was in *“labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you” Galatians 4:19*. The *Woman*, the church, will bring forth a mature Body of sons through the time in the wilderness!

### **The War in the heavenlies**

The revelation unfolds to see this spiritual warfare in the heavenly realm! John says that he saw, *“war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.” Revelation 12:7-8*. We are seeing behind the scenes! This is the great victory in the heavenly realm. In the book of **Daniel** the warfare was seen when the messenger who spoke with Daniel said, *“the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me...and behold Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me” Daniel 10:13*. He then told Daniel when that battle was over that *“indeed the prince of Greece will come...(No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince)” Daniel 10:21*. What John saw is different now. In **Daniel**, the battles were temporary victories. But these powers were not displaced nor fully defeated. Now, there is no *“place found for them in heaven any longer”*.

### **The great Victory**

Why is there no place for the dragon and his angels in heaven? It is because *“we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God” Hebrews 4:14*. When Jesus rose from the dead Mary Magdalene tried to hold on to Jesus but He said, *“Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God’” John 20:17*. The same day Jesus rose from the dead He also ascended to the Father with His own blood and cleansed the heavens! Jesus ascended *“not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all” Hebrews 9:12*. From that time onward Jesus had changed! He was glorified. The heavens were cleansed. He had *“disarmed principalities and powers and made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it [the Cross]” Colossians 2:15*. Jesus had *“through death, destroyed him who had the power of death, that is, the devil” Hebrews 2:14*.

### **The dragon was cast out!**

The *male Child, the Son*, had prevailed and Michael and his angels had the authority to evict the dragon from his place in the heavenly realm as his authority had been stripped away by Messiah Jesus on the Cross! *“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” Revelation 12:9*. Jesus had already prophesied that through His death on the Cross, Satan would be cast out saying, *“Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world*

*will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth [on the Cross] will draw all to Myself” John 12:31-32.*

While Jesus walked on the earth He had total authority over the devil, casting out demons and rebuking powers in the heavenly realm (**Mark 4:39**). While He was physically present, He sent the seventy on mission with authority to cast out demons and they came back rejoicing that *“even the demons are subject to us in Your [Jesus’] name. And He said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven’.*” **Luke 10:17-18**. The powers were under His authority. Now, since the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that authority over the devil has been restored fully to all those who believe as He is now bringing *“many sons to glory”* (**Heb.2:10**) who walk just as He walked (**1Jn.2:6, 4:17**). Now we have *“authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means harm us”* **Luke 10:19!**

### **Salvation and the Kingdom have come!**

Now that Jesus has won the victory it is up to the church to proclaim it! *“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.’”* **Revelation 12:10**. This is the day we are in! The day where we are to preach and proclaim the victory!

- *“Now salvation...has come”* – This is for *now!* *“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”* **2 Corinthians 6:2**
- *“and strength...has come”* – the word *strength* is the Greek word *dunamis* meaning *miraculous power!* We are living in the days where we can *“receive power [dunamis] when the Holy Spirit comes upon us”* enabling us to become *witnesses* to Jesus Christ (**Acts 1:8**)
- *“and the kingdom of our God...has come”* – The Kingdom of God is now here! We can now preach the Kingdom, enter and press into it! (**Matt.24:14, Jn.3:5-6, Lu.16:16**)
- *“and the power of His Christ...has come”* - the word *power* is the Greek word *exousia* meaning *authority, mastery, superhuman, potentate*. Jesus said, *“All authority [exousia] has been given to Me in heaven and on earth”* **Matthew 28:18**. Surely we live in the time where the *power of His Christ [Messiah, the Anointed King] has come!*
- *“for the accuser of our brethren...has been cast down”* – the accusations are now nullified! We are forgiven and justified by the blood of Jesus and *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus”* **Romans 8:1**. *“Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who*

*condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us” Romans 8:33-34. The accuser has no more ground to stand on!*

So now is the time that this *“manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord” Ephesians 3:10-11. The voice is to be heard! The church is to proclaim the victory that Jesus the Messiah has accomplished and declare that Salvation, and strength [power – dunamis], and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ has come!*

### **We overcome the accuser**

*“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death” Revelation 12:11. There is a company now – they overcame him! We, as the church, overcame him! It is written in past tense! Similar to apostle Paul writing, “whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; whom He justified, these He also glorified” Romans 8:30. This is seeing the eternal reality. How do we overcome the accuser, the dragon, the serpent, that Devil and Satan?*

1. *“by the blood of the Lamb” – we have “redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins” Ephesians 1:7. The “blood of Christ...cleanses our conscience from dead works to serve the Living God” Hebrews 9:14. And as we “walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” 1 John 1:7. The blood works corporately to cleanse us so we can have fellowship with one another!*
2. *“by the word of our testimony” – the apostle Paul says, “I plead with you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing [‘have a uniform testimony’]” 1 Corinthians 1:10. We overcome by testifying and bearing witness together of the reality of Jesus the Messiah, who He is, and that He is now “Christ in us; the hope of glory” Colossians 1:27. This is our testimony. He is in us, among us and Jesus said, “where two or three gather together in My name, I am there in the midst of you” Matthew 18:20.*
3. *“by not loving our lives to the death” – we are to always be “carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body” 2 Corinthians 4:10. As we live in the reality of the “fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death” we will surely also partake and “attain to the resurrection from the dead” Philippians 3:10-11. We overcome the devil when we live the crucified life, “I die daily” (1Cor.15:31), so that the power of Christ can be seen upon us!*

### **Heaven rejoices!**

*“Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them!” Revelation 12:12. It is written that when the nations rage against Yahweh and against His*

Messiah that *“He who sits in the heavens shall laugh”* Psalm 2:4. We are to rejoice. We are *“seated with Christ in the heavenly places”* Ephesians 2:6. Even though the dragon has *great wrath* and is wreaking havoc in the earth – we are seated far above this and rejoice in the victory we have in Christ Jesus. We are kept in the world but we are not of the world (Jn.17:15-16)! The devil *“knows that he has a short time”* Revelation 12:12.

## **Persecution**

*“Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child”* Revelation 12:13. The dragon is now actively against the *Woman, the church*. For we *“do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places”* Ephesians 6:12. The dragon will try anything and everything to destroy the church from producing any more sons. He wants to stop the saints from being disciplined and coming to maturity.

## **A flood of ungodliness**

John saw that the *“serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood”* Revelation 12:15. David says in Psalm 18:4, *“The pangs of death surrounded me, and the floods of ungodliness made me afraid”*. The devil tries to flood the church with ungodliness. In much of today’s church there has been a flood of ungodliness in false teaching, sexuality, unclean living and immoral behaviour. False prophets and teachers have infiltrated. They are *“ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ”* Jude 4. These ones *“are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you”* 2 Peter 2:13. Their teaching is as a *flood of ungodliness*. The serpent spews the filth of the world to try and put spots and blemishes on God’s people, the church. But there is a wonderful promise that *“when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of Yahweh will lift up a standard against him”* Isaiah 59:19.

## **She is helped!**

*“But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent”* Revelation 12:14. When she learns to wait on the Lord she is able *“to mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint”* Isaiah 40:31. When we choose to wait on God, He gives us wings like an eagle, He bears us on eagles’ wings (Ex.19:4), and we find a place of nourishment, discipleship, refreshment and training. Again, this is prophetic of the *time and times and half a time*. It is the time of preparation. Also, *“the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his*

**mouth” Revelation 12:16.** Just like the earth swallowed Dathan and his company in judgement when they came against Moses (**Ex.16:31-34**), so the earth helps the woman be free from those who infiltrate and are impostors among the saints. They are **“false prophets...false teachers...and bring on themselves swift destruction” 2 Peter 2:1.** Nothing can stop the true church from fulfilling God’s purposes! **“All of creation is eagerly waiting for the revealing [manifestation] of the sons of God” Romans 8:19.**

### **The sons of God**

**“The dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ” Revelation 12:17.** There is a company of sons coming forth from the **Woman!** They **keep the commandments of God** because the law is written on their hearts (**Heb.8:10**). They **keep the testimony of Jesus Christ** because they are disciples who have the testimony bound up in their hearts and are the children that Yahweh has given the Messiah (**Is.8:16, 18**). The **Woman** gave birth to a **male Child!** The **male Child** is not only Jesus Himself but He is the **“firstborn among many brethren” Romans 8:29.** Many sons, offspring, are coming forth from the **Woman!** The nations are being discipled by her. Many are being **“conformed to the image of His Son” Romans 8:29.** This enrages the dragon, and he makes war with us. He devises legislation to try and stop us from following God’s commands. He inspires false religions, governments, ungodly men and women and society to fight against **“Yahweh and against His Anointed” Psalm 2:3.** But nothing can stop the sons of God coming forth from the **Woman!**

*May you be encouraged to continue in the work of discipleship. All of creation eagerly waits for this corporate Son, many sons, to come forth in the earth! The devil inspires a beast to rise so that he can destroy the offspring of the Woman. Many are concerned about this beast and the mark that he comes with. In the next chapter, we will see how the beast is no match for the overcoming company that Jesus is leading!*