

# The Accuser Makes War on the Saints

Revelation 12:10-11, 17



## **Last Week My Thesis**

**John's vision serves to remind the people of God that the conflict on the earth the one that they are part of and the one from the beginning of time (the Garden of Eden) has its origin from a larger more cosmic struggle between God and Satan. A struggle God has sovereignly permitted to display His glory.**



# The Woman of Revelation 12

1. Eve: the woman given the snake crusher birth promise
2. Israel the true people of God in Old Testament
3. Mary the woman who gave birth to the Messiah
4. The church: the true people of God in the New T.

The four: Eve, Israel, Mary, and the church all experience pain, agony, sorrow, and suffering.

## Progressive Parallelism



# **Last Week**

**I was asked 2 questions:**

**Why wasn't I interpreting  
the days, months, and time,  
times and half a time more  
literally?**



**And, I was asked:**

**Why did I go all the way back  
to Eve in my understanding  
of who the woman was of  
Revelation 12?**



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# Question

# #1



**1. This is NOT narrative language. Opening with a 'great sign' and describing Satan as a red dragon alerts me to the reality that I am dealing with a different genre of scripture.**

**2. This isn't the book of Acts telling me 3000 souls were added to the church. This isn't Proverbs with its wise and pithy sayings. This is Revelation with is apocalyptic language packed full of symbols and figurative language.**



# Revelation 12:1-6



- **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. <sup>2</sup> She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. <sup>3</sup> And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> 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.**

# Figurative and Symbolic in Revelation 12:1-6

- **Clothed with the sun**
- **Moon under her feet**
- **A crown of twelve stars**
- **A great red dragon**
- **Seven heads, ten horns, seven diadems**
- **Tail swept down a third of the stars to earth**
- **He might devour it**
- **Rule with a rod of iron**
- **Fled into the wilderness**
- **Nourished**



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**Question**

**#2**



**Who is the woman of Rev. 12:1-6?**

**Is the woman just Mary the mother of Christ?**

**Why did you go further back than Mary?**

**Why did you go back to Eve?**



# Revelation 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.**

**Is there anything in the gospels that sounds anything like this related to Mary?**

**Don't you think that any Jewish Christian familiar with Joseph's dreams in Genesis would have thought about those dreams in connection to this text?**

**That's why I think the dream has application to more than just Mary.**



**Can you see the connection to Israel with the sun, moon and stars dream of Genesis 37?**

**Why did you go ALL the way back to Eve?**

**First, v. 9 and then v. 2**



# Revelation 12:9



- 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.

**I think reminding the reader that Satan is that 'ancient serpent' of the Garden of Eden was very intentional and serves to remind us of the reality that our first parents had an enemy in the Garden and we are still suffering the effects of what God permits the serpent to do. Paul does this in 2 Corinthians 11.**



# 2 Corinthians 11:3

- But I am afraid that **as** [in the same way] **the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning,** your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.



# Revelation 12:2

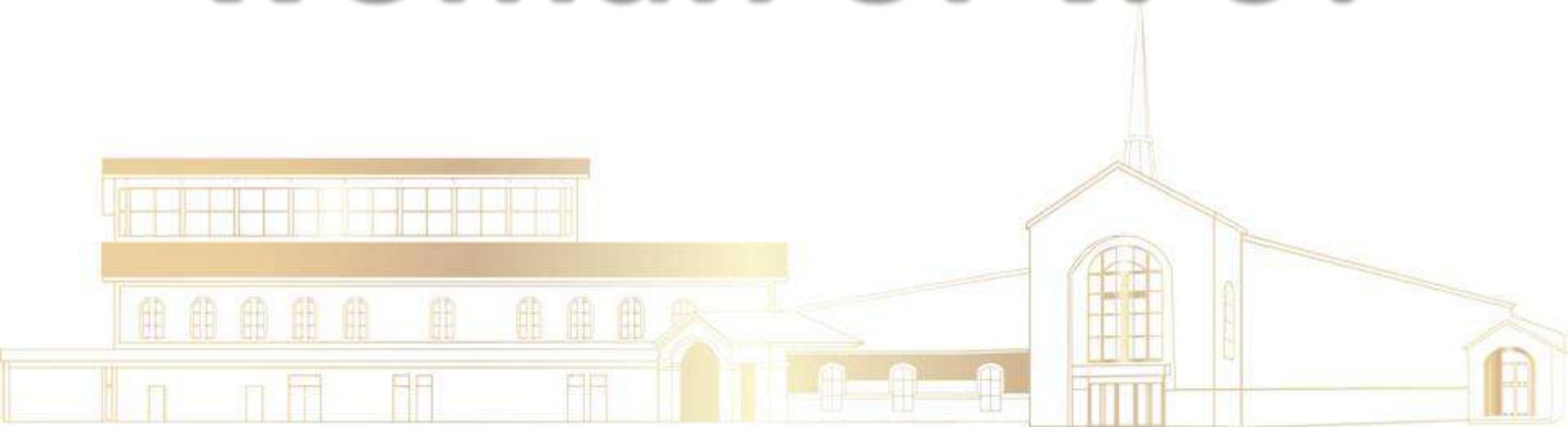


- **She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.**

**I see Eve clothed in radiance having dominion over the earth from God in v. 1 and then pregnant with a Messianic promise and giving birth in pain and agony.**

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**Who is the  
woman of v. 6?**



**The standard dispensational answer is the woman of v. 6 is Israel in the great tribulation protected by God for 1260 literal days?**

**Look at v. 5 & 6**



# Revelation 12:5–6



- 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,<sup>6</sup> 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.

**Does anyone think that's how the original reader would have understood the text?**

**This woman has nothing to do with us. We are not being protected and nourished by God. This letter is all about ethnic Israel in the future.**

**For this to be true: the church must be raptured and you must insert 2000+ years of church history after the word 'throne' and before the word 'and' in v. 6.**



# Here are the facts:

**1. If Revelation was written before 70 AD then that interpretation would be completely debunked when Israel was destroyed by Rome in 70 AD.**

**2. If Revelation was written after the destruction of Israel in 70 AD, then no one would have thought: 'now that is a picture of God protecting ethnic Israel.'**



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**Instead, I think the reader  
would have thought about  
all the times God protected  
His people in the  
wilderness.**



# God Nourishes His People in the Wilderness

<b>Gen 3-4</b>	<b>God provided for Adam and Eve to be able to survive outside the Garden of Eden a type of wilderness</b>
<b>Gen 37</b>	<b>God cared for Joseph in the wilderness</b>
<b>Ex 2-3</b>	<b>Moses' life was preserved from death in the wilderness</b>
<b>Ex 14</b>	<b>God saved Israel from Pharaoh in the wilderness</b>
<b>Ex 15-16</b>	<b>God gave Israel water and manna in the wilderness</b>
<b>1 Sam 23</b>	<b>God protected David from Saul in the wilderness</b>
<b>1 Kg 17</b>	<b>God cared for Elijah in the wilderness</b>
<b>Mt 3</b>	<b>Joseph and Mary flee to Egypt to save baby Jesus</b>
<b>Lk 1</b>	<b>Jesus grows up in the wilderness</b>
<b>Mt 4</b>	<b>Jesus is nourished by angels in the wilderness</b>
<b>2 Cor 11</b>	<b>Paul was preserved from danger in the wilderness</b>
<b>Rev 12</b>	<b>God nourishes and protects his people in the wilderness</b>

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**Now look @ v. 10-12**



# Revelation 12:10



- **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,”**

**Now is a decisive point in time—on the cross, Jesus said, “it is finished.”**

# John 19:30

- When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, **“It is finished,”** and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.



# When Jesus said, **“It is finished.”**

## **What was finished?**

<b>Jn 19:30</b>	<b>The pain, agony, and suffering on the cross was finished.</b>
<b>1 Jn 2:2</b>	<b>The debt of sin for all who believed and would believe was paid in full.</b>
<b>Col 2:14</b>	<b>The wrath of God against all believers (past, present &amp; future) was satisfied.</b>
<b>Jn 1:29</b>	<b>The ultimate atonement, that is ‘the propitiation’, by the Lamb of God was complete.</b>
<b>Heb 9:14</b>	<b>The eternal redemption of all who have believed the promise and would believe the gospel was secured.</b>
<b>Mt 27:51</b>	<b>The separation between God and His people was eliminated; the veil was torn down.</b>
<b>2 Cor 5:19</b>	<b>The reconciliation of all believers was now guaranteed.</b>

# Revelation 12:10



- And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now **the salvation**

**Salvation from what?**

# Salvation Defined

**1 a: deliverance from the power and effects of sin**

**b: the agent or means that effects salvation**

**3 a: preservation from destruction or failure**

**b: deliverance from danger or difficulty**

Merriam-Webster



# Acts 4:12

- **And there is salvation in no one else,** for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”



# Romans 1:16

- For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.



# Ephesians 1:13

- In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, **the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him,** were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,



# What is the believer saved from?

<b>John 3:36 Rom 5:9</b>	<b>The Wrath of God</b>
<b>Col 2:14</b>	<b>Penalty of sin—it was nailed to the cross</b>
<b>Rom 6:23 Rom 20:6</b>	<b>Death—the Second Death</b>
<b>Rev 20:14</b>	<b>Hell or the eternal Lake of Fire</b>
<b>1 Cor 15:56 Rom 7:4</b>	<b>Power of sin through the law which we are no longer bound to</b>
<b>Rom 6:28</b>	<b>Bondage to sin</b>

# Revelation 12:10



- 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

# Revelation 12:10b



- for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

**When did this happen?**

**I don't know.**

**Some suggest this is going to happen at the midpoint of the future 7 year tribulation.**

**My problem with that theory is there is nothing salvific or victorious happening at the midpoint of the tribulation and our text says:**

**Revelation 12:10**

**Now is come salvation**



**Genesis 3:15 tells me that the ancient serpent took a head injury when he attempted to kill the Messiah**

**And I will put hostility between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring; her offspring will attack your head, and you will attack her offspring's heel."**

**Something must be different concerning Satan and his relationship to the kingdom of God after the cross as opposed to before the cross where he is known to accuse Job before God in heaven.**



# Hebrews 2:14

- Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, **that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,**



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**Look at v. 11 and it's  
focus.**



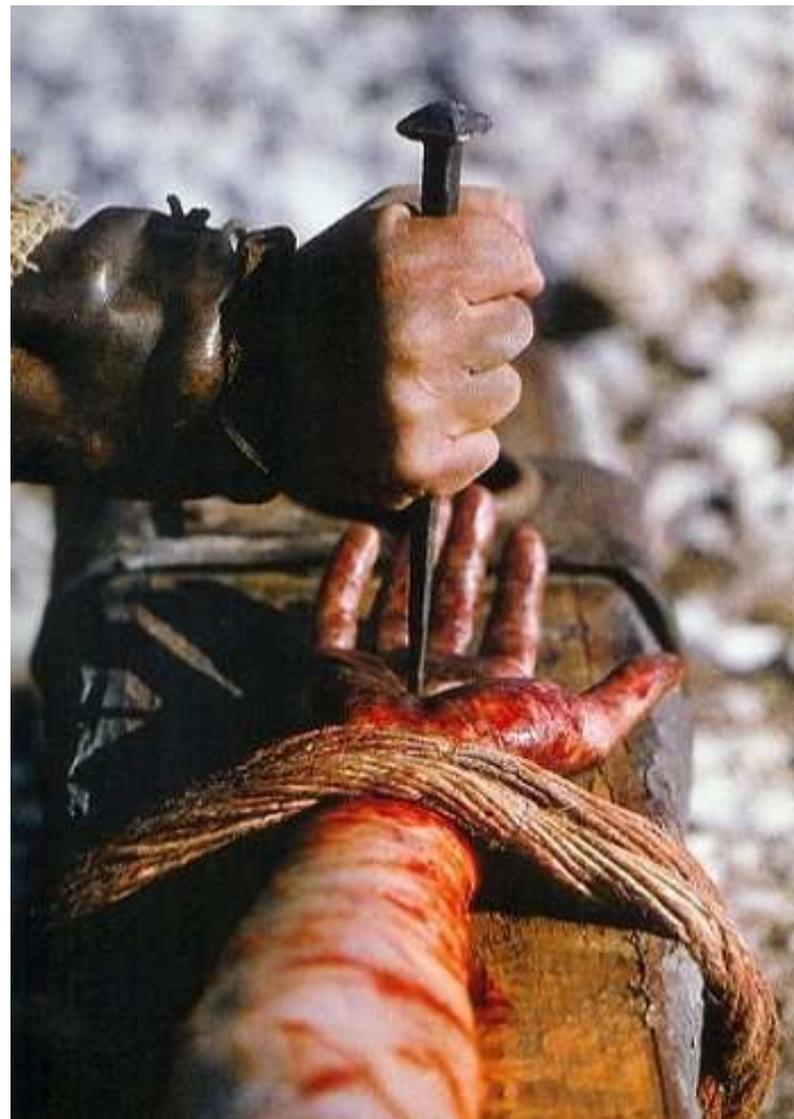
# Revelation 12:11



- **And they [our brothers]  
have conquered him [Satan]  
by the blood of the Lamb**

What do you think about when you read  
**‘the blood of the lamb?’**

**I think about  
the Cross where the  
righteous blood of  
the sinless Lamb of  
God, Jesus Christ,  
took away the sins  
of the whole world  
for all who would  
believe the  
testimony of Jesus of  
Christ (v. 17.)**



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**Turn over to  
Hebrews 9:11-14 & 22  
for exposition on the  
blood of Christ.**



**<sup>11</sup> But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup> he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup> For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.**



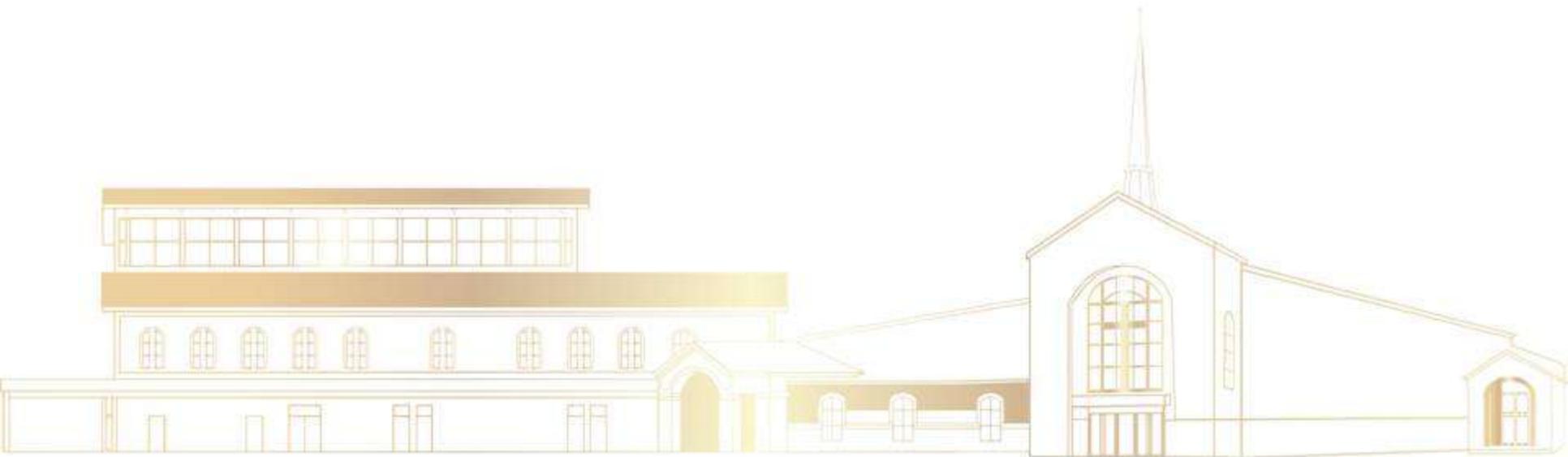
# Hebrews 9:22

- Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood,
- and **without the shedding of blood** there is **no forgiveness of sins.**



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# All 4 Gospels speak of Christ's Blood



# References to the Blood of Christ

Matthew 26:28	for this is <b>my blood</b> of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Mark 14:24	And he said to them, “This is <b>my blood</b> of the covenant, which is poured out for many.
Luke 22:20	And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in <b>my blood</b> .
John 6:54	Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks <b>my blood</b> has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.
John 19:34	But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once <b>there came out blood</b> and water.

# Revelation 12:11



- **And they [our brothers] have conquered him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.**

# **In what way have believers conquer the dragon, the ancient serpent, through the blood of the Lamb?**

- 1. Because of the forgiveness of our sins Satan's accusations against believers are baseless.**
- 2. Because of the eternal life granted us in Christ Jesus the second death has NO power over us.**



# Revelation 12:11



- **And they [our brothers] have conquered him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.**

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**What is your  
testimony?**



## My Testimony

As a boy in elementary school, fearing the eternal hell fire of the wrath of God, I put my faith and trust in what Jesus did for my sins on a cross 2000 years ago in Jerusalem for my salvation. I don't remember if I prayed a prayer or what I may have said but I know what Jesus did became real to me.

Since that time (over 40 years ago) I have remained a believer in Jesus and have come to understand who Jesus is in a fuller and more complete way and have learned more about what Jesus accomplished on that cross and through His resurrection than an 8 year boy could ever comprehend.

# What's your testimony?



# Revelation 12:11

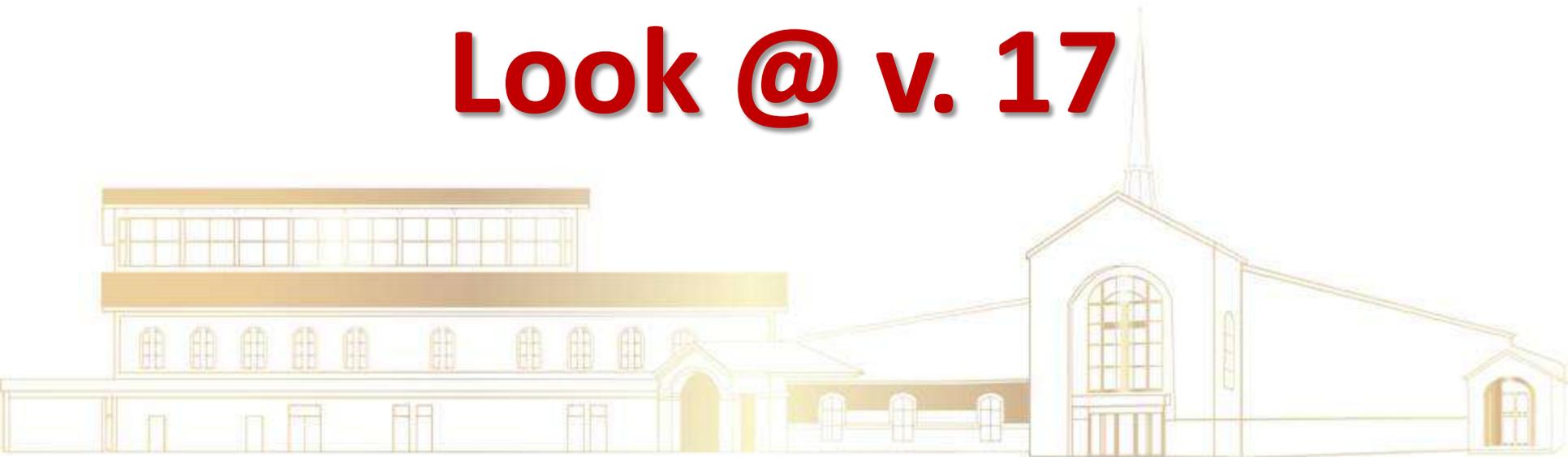


- **And they [our brothers] have conquered him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.**

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**Why are these  
Christians having to die  
for their faith?**

**Look @ v. 17**



# Revelation 12:17



- Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring,

**Who is her offspring?**

**When the 1<sup>st</sup> century church read v. 17, what would they have thought?**

- 1. Satan is making war on ethnic Israel.**
- 2. Satan is making war on the church of Jesus Christ.**

**The answer is contained in answering which entity holds to the testimony of Jesus Christ?**



# Who is the offspring of the woman?

- **Mary, a Jew, gives birth to Jesus, a Jew.**
- **The dragon is unsuccessful in defeating Jesus.**
- **Jesus calls 12 disciples, all Jews, and many more to follow Him.**
- **He promises to build his church and promises that the gates of hell will not prevail against it.**

**What does the Bible call those who have been saved, those who are part of the true church?**

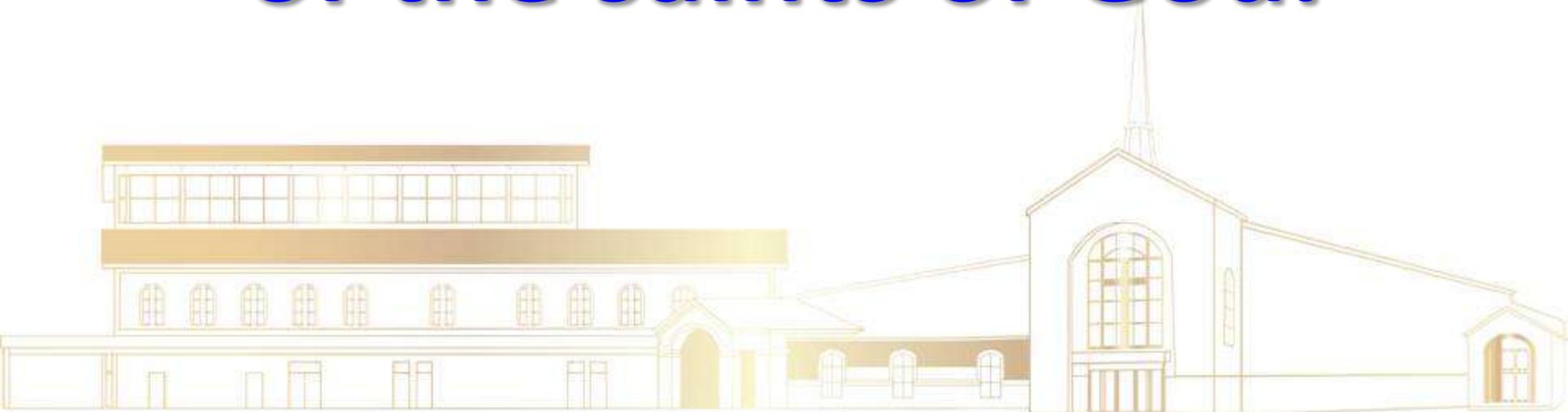


# Offspring of Jesus

<b>Mt 5:45</b>	<b>so that you may be sons of your Father</b>
<b>Mt 13:38</b>	<b>and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom.</b>
<b>Lk 6:35</b>	<b>and you will be sons of the Most High,</b>
<b>Rom 8:14</b>	<b>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.</b>
<b>2 Cor 6:18</b>	<b>and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”</b>
<b>Gal 3:26</b>	<b>for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.</b>
<b>Gal 4:5-6</b>	<b>so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons,</b>
<b>Eph 1:5</b>	<b>he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ,</b>
<b>Heb 2:10</b>	<b>in bringing many sons to glory</b>
<b>Heb 12:8</b>	<b>then you are illegitimate children and not sons.</b>

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**Now I want you to see  
the two characteristics  
of the saints of God.**



# Two Characteristics All True Believers Share

**Revelation 12:17**

**those who keep  
the commandments of  
God**

**and hold to the  
testimony of Jesus.**

**Revelation 14:12**

**those who keep  
the commandments of  
God**

**and their faith in Jesus.**



# Revelation 12:17



- 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**

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# What are the Commandments of God?



# 1 John 3:22-24

- and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> **And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.** <sup>24</sup> Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.



# Revelation 12:17



- 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. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

## **Hold to**

**Hold to is to continue to have a particular belief or conviction about someone or something.**

**In this case, the people Satan is making war against are those who hold to the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

**What is the testimony of Jesus Christ?**



## Hold to

**Hold to is to continue to have a particular belief or conviction about someone or something.**

**In this case, the people Satan is making war against are those who hold to the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

**What is the testimony of Jesus Christ?**

**Do you hold to it?**



## The Testimony of Jesus

1. Jesus, the one and only eternal Son of God, has neither beginning nor end. He is God the Creator as much as God the Father and God the Spirit are united as the Creator.
2. Jesus, the Son of Man, God's servant left the glories of heaven, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, in order to permanently unite deity and humanity when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us as Immanuel that is God with us.
3. Jesus, the Holy One of God, the Son of David was tempted to sin in every way humans are yet He knew no sin. Jesus perfectly kept the law of God in every regard making it possible for God to credit Christ's righteousness to all who put their faith in Him.
4. Jesus of Nazareth, our Master, authenticated His divine nature through countless miracles and with the authority with which the Prophet spoke.
5. Jesus, the Lamb of God, suffered, was crucified and died for the sins of the whole world to inaugurate a new and better covenant between God and man and to secure an eternal redemption with His own blood for all who believe in Him and God's gospel.
6. Jesus, the Savior of the world, was buried in His own new tomb and rose from the grave on the 3rd day fulfilling His own rejection, death, and resurrection as He predicted.
7. Jesus, our great High Priest, proved the reality of His resurrection for 40 days by appearing to His disciples and as many as 500 more until He ascended to heaven where the one Mediator between God and man is seated on the right hand of God making intercession for the elect of God.
8. Jesus, the last Adam, restored all that the first Adam lost and is the fulfillment of the Mosaic law and all the Messianic promises in the Old Testament as the Christ.
9. Jesus, our blessed hope, is coming again in the same way that He left, to raise the dead, judge the world, reward the saints, and establish the eternal kingdom as the King of kings and Lord of lords to the glory of God the Father.



# **The Testimony of Jesus**

**1. Jesus, the one and only eternal Son of God, has neither beginning nor end. He is God the Creator as much as God the Father and God the Spirit are united as the Creator.**

**\*John 1:3, 3:16, 8:58, Gen 1:1**



# The Testimony of Jesus

**2. Jesus, the Son of Man, God's servant left the glories of heaven, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, in order to permanently unite deity and humanity when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us as Immanuel that is God with us.**

**\*Matt 1, Mark 14:21, John 1:1-14, Acts 3:13**



## **The Testimony of Jesus**

**3. Jesus, the Holy One of God, the Son of David was tempted to sin in every way humans are yet He knew no sin. Jesus perfectly kept the law of God in every regard making it possible for God to credit Christ's righteousness to all who put their faith in Him.**

**\* Mt 1:1, John 6;69, Rom 4:11, 2 Cor. 5:21**



# The Testimony of Jesus

4. Jesus of Nazareth, our Master, authenticated His divine nature through countless miracles and with the authority with which the Prophet spoke.

\*Mark 1:24, 2:7, 5, Luke 5:5, John 6:14



## **The Testimony of Jesus**

**5. Jesus, the Lamb of God, suffered, was crucified and died for the sins of the whole world to inaugurate a new and better covenant between God and man and to secure an eternal redemption with His own blood for all who believe in Him and God's gospel.**

**\*Luke 22:20, John 1:29, Heb 7:22, 9:12, 1 John 2:2**



# The Testimony of Jesus

**6. Jesus, the Savior of the world, was buried in His own new tomb and rose from the grave on the 3rd day fulfilling His own rejection, death, and resurrection as He predicted.**

**\*Matt 16:21, 27:60, John 4:42, Acts 10:40**



## **The Testimony of Jesus**

**7. Jesus, our great High Priest, proved the reality of His resurrection for 40 days by appearing to His disciples and as many as 500 more until He ascended to heaven where the one Mediator between God and mankind is seated on the right hand of God making intercession for the elect of God.**

**\*Luke 22:69, Acts 1, 1 Cor 15, 1 Tim 2:5, Heb. 4:4, 7:25, 9:15,**



## The Testimony of Jesus

**8. Jesus, the last Adam, restored all that the first Adam lost and is the fulfillment of the Mosaic law and all the Messianic promises in the Old Testament as the Christ.**

**\*Matt 3:15, 5:17, Luke 24:44, 1 Cor 15:45**



## **The Testimony of Jesus**

**9. Jesus, our blessed hope, is coming again in the same way that He left, to raise the dead, judge the world, reward the saints, and establish the eternal kingdom as the King of kings and Lord of lords to the glory of God the Father.**

**\*Acts 1:8, 24:15, Tit 2:13, 2 Pet 2:11, Rev 11:18, 19:16**



**Do you keep the  
commandments of God?**

**Do you hold to the  
testimony of the Lord  
Jesus Christ?**

