

REVELATION

The Dragon Pursues
the Woman

(Revelation 12:13~17)

Matthew 24:15-21: So when you see the **abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel**, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then **let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains**. Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

Revelation 12:6: 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.

Revelation 12:7-12: War in Heaven

Revelation 12:13-17: Details of flight into wilderness

We must entrust ourselves to our faithful Creator while seeking to do good.

1. When he is cast out of heaven, the dragon tries to attack the woman.

A. When the dragon first attacks, the woman flees into the wilderness.

❖ Revelation 12:13-14: 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. 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.

1. When he is cast out of heaven, the dragon tries to attack the woman.

A. When the dragon first attacks, the woman flees into the wilderness.

- ❖ First Crusade: many towns across Europe destroyed, many in Jerusalem killed
- ❖ Middle Ages: expelled from England, France, and Spain; blamed for Black Death
- ❖ 1880's: Initially blamed for assassination of Tsar Alexander II
- ❖ 1900's: 6 million killed by Hitler; 3 million more by Stalin

1. When he is cast out of heaven, the dragon tries to attack the woman.

A. When the dragon first attacks, the woman flees into the wilderness.

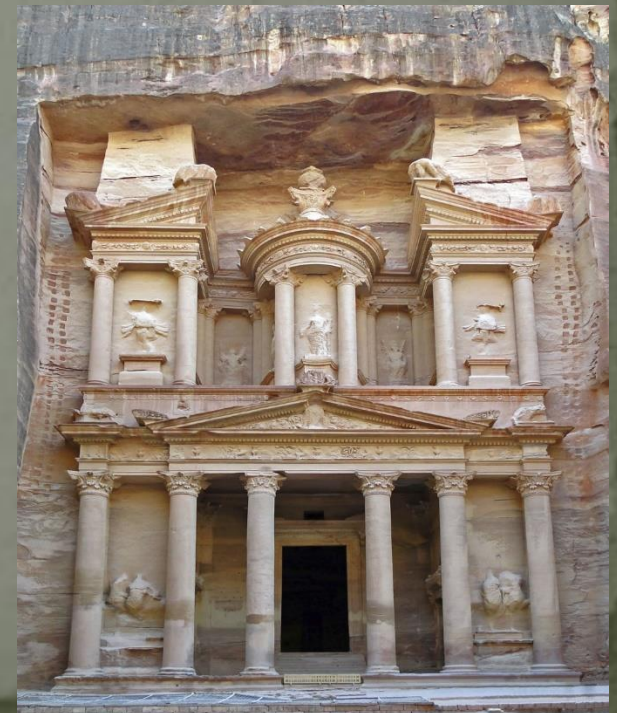
❖ Satan turns his full fury against the woman, but God protects her by helping her flee into wilderness



1. When he is cast out of heaven, the dragon tries to attack the woman.

A. When the dragon first attacks, the woman flees into the wilderness.

❖ God will nourish Israel in the wilderness for 1,260 days (like Israel with manna and Elijah at the brook Cherith)



1. When he is cast out of heaven, the dragon tries to attack the woman.

B. When the woman flees, the serpent pours out a second attack against her.

❖ Revelation 12:15-16: The **serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman**, to sweep her away with a flood. 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**.

1. When he is cast out of heaven, the dragon tries to attack the woman.

B. When the woman flees, the serpent pours out a second attack against her.

1. The flood of water

- ❖ Perhaps literal flood of water
- ❖ Perhaps a pursuing army, like Pharaoh sent his army after Israel
- ❖ Perhaps general persecution and opposition from the people of the earth

1. When he is cast out of heaven, the dragon tries to attack the woman.

B. When the woman flees, the serpent pours out a second attack against her.

2. The earth swallows the water.

- ❖ Exodus 15:12: You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them.
- ❖ The earth swallowed Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and their followers.
- ❖ God *could* use natural means to protect Israel, or He could use other people to protect them.

1. When he is cast out of heaven, the dragon tries to attack the woman.

C. After failing to destroy the woman, Satan turned his attack against other believers.

❖ 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.

❖ Only time offspring/seed is used in Revelation.

1. When he is cast out of heaven, the dragon tries to attack the woman.

C. After failing to destroy the woman, Satan turned his attack against other believers.

- ❖ Not every believer in the world flees to the wilderness and is protected for the remainder of the Tribulation.
- ❖ Perhaps the 144,000 maintain a public witness and are persecuted.
- ❖ Perhaps Gentile believers are persecuted.
- ❖ These believers maintain their testimony and obey God.

1. When he is cast out of heaven, the dragon tries to attack the woman.

C. After failing to destroy the woman, Satan turned his attack against other believers.

- ❖ Satan will be successful in physically attacking these believers.
- ❖ Revelation 13:7a: Also it {the beast from the sea; the Antichrist} was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them . . .
- ❖ The woman (Israel) is protected, but other believers face severe persecution.

2. This passage reminds us of the difficulties we can face in discipleship.

- ❖ Acts 12: Sometimes God gives physical protection to His people, but sometimes He chooses not to.
- ❖ How do we view the difficulties of being a disciple of Christ?

2. This passage reminds us of the difficulties we can face in discipleship.

A. We need to understand that we will face opposition from the world.

❖ Matthew 10:24-25: A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

2. This passage reminds us of the difficulties we can face in discipleship.

A. We need to understand that we will face opposition from the world.

- ❖ In our culture, fear of man threatens to turn us from faithfulness to God.
- ❖ Joseph of Arimathea was a secret disciple of Jesus because he feared the Jews.

2. This passage reminds us of the difficulties we can face in discipleship.

B. Instead of fearing man, we should fear God.

- ❖ Matthew 10:28: And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
- ❖ We must turn to God in salvation.
- ❖ When the world comes into conflict with God, we must remain faithful to God and follow Him.

2. This passage reminds us of the difficulties we can face in discipleship.

C. When we face difficulty and opposition, we must recognize God's care for us.

1. God knows our physical struggle, and He cares for us.

❖ Matthew 10:29-31: Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

2. This passage reminds us of the difficulties we can face in discipleship.

C. When we face difficulty and opposition, we must recognize God's care for us.

1. God knows our physical struggle, and He cares for us.

❖ Revelation 12: Sometimes God removes the problem.

❖ Revelation 13: Sometimes God permits us to continue going through the problem.

2. This passage reminds us of the difficulties we can face in discipleship.

C. When we face difficulty and opposition, we must recognize God's care for us.

2. Much more importantly, God will protect us eternally.

❖ Matthew 10:32: So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven.



2. This passage reminds us of the difficulties we can face in discipleship.

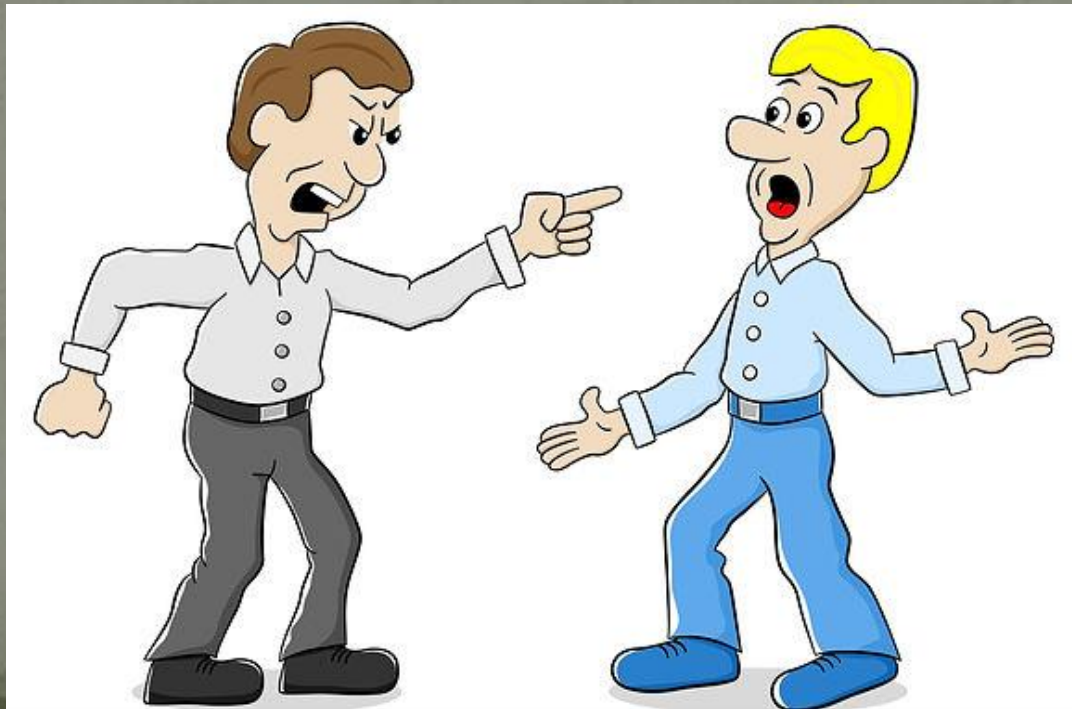
D. We must trust God when we see His care for us.

❖ 1 Peter 4:12-13: Beloved, **do not be surprised** at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But **rejoice** insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

2. This passage reminds us of the difficulties we can face in discipleship.

D. We must trust God when we see His care for us.

❖ We should not be surprised when unbelievers act like unbelievers.



2. This passage reminds us of the difficulties we can face in discipleship.

D. We must trust God when we see His care for us.

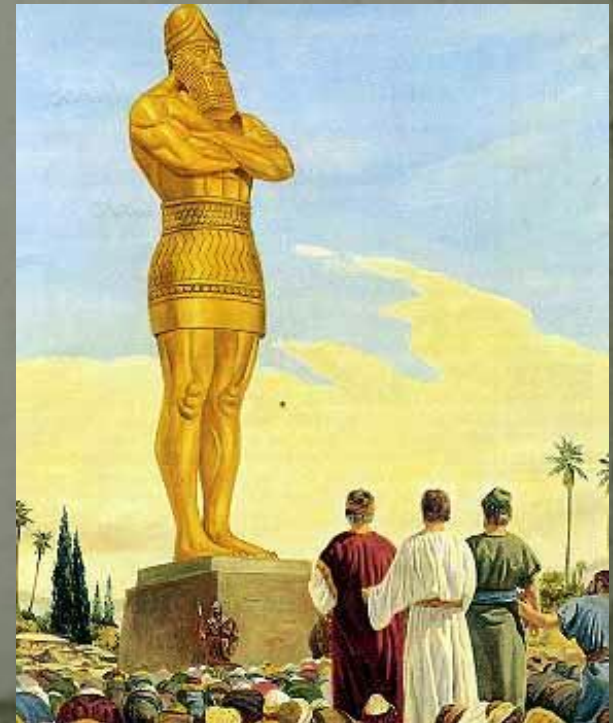
- ❖ 1 Peter 4:19: Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.
- ❖ Instead of being surprised when difficulties come, seek to continue being faithful to our faithful God.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- God protects Israel from Satan's attack in the Tribulation, so Satan attacks other believers.
- We can face difficulties and opposition today:
 - We can be tempted to sacrifice Biblical principles to make life easier.
 - We can be surprised when problems come.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- When we face problems, we must run to God and seek His help.
 - Entrust ourselves to our God who is faithful
 - Continue seeking to obey God.
- We must entrust ourselves to our faithful Creator while seeking to do good.



NEXT TIME:

REVELATION 13:1-10

- The Beast from the Sea