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First Baptist Church ~ Covington, Louisiana

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## Revelation 12:1-9

*Revelation 12 continues to be about conditions on earth but we now can see the cosmic conflict behind the conditions on earth.*

*Revelation 1-11 dealt primarily with earth. Revelation 12-22 shows us the conflict in the spiritual realm.*

*The church (Revelation 1-3) always faces this conflict. The only times of peace are Genesis 1-2 and Revelation 21-22. The good news is that God wins!*

*Chapters 12-13 focus on the enemies of God and his work. Chapter 12 shows us the opposition of Satan to Christ.*

*The background verse for this cycle Revelation 12-14 is*

**Genesis 3:15** 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."

**[1] And a great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;**

*The woman of verse one is probably a symbol of God's people – the church. The allusions to the sun, moon, and stars represent the glory and radiance of God's people.*

*These passages paint the people of God in this way:*

**Isaiah 50:1** Thus says the LORD: "Where is your mother's bill of divorce, with which I put her away? Or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities you were sold, and for your transgressions your mother was put away.

**Isaiah 54:1** "Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in travail! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her that is married, says the LORD.

**Hosea 2:1** Say to your brother, "My people," and to your sister, "She has obtained pity."

**Ephesians 5:32** This mystery is a profound one, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church

*Notice the glorious picture of the church – this is the view of heaven.*

**[2] she was with child and she cried out in her pangs of birth, in anguish for delivery.**

*The "anguish" of the birth is in anticipation of the "seed of the woman" (Genesis 3:15.) That passage represents the warfare we have seen throughout our lives.*

**[3] And another portent appeared in heaven; behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems upon his heads.**

*The dragon is Satan.*

*The seven heads represent his power and knowledge. The ten horns indicate his power. The seven crowns describes his authority.*

**[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 bear a child, that he might devour her child when she brought it forth;**

*We should not underestimate Satan. He impacts a third of the stars – indicating his great but limited power. The stars may indicate the evil spirits he dragged along with him in his ruin.*

*The dragon (Satan) seeks to destroy the child (Jesus). Think of Herod's plan (Matthew 2) in killing the children of Bethlehem. Throughout the Old Testament, he sought to destroy the line of David.*

**[5] she brought forth 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,**

*He will rule with a rod of iron (Psalm 2:9; Revelation 2:27, 19:15)*

*After His redeeming work, Jesus was "caught up to God and His throne." This shows Satan's failure and the Lord's victory.*

**[6] and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which to be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.**

*The woman in the wilderness will be nourished 1,260 days.*

*Revelation 12:7-12 describes the glorious results of Christ's redeeming work.*

**[7] Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,**

*Notice that Michael attacks.*

*Revelation 12:7-9 - Satan's fall from heaven means that he has no longer any access to God as the accuser of the saints. (Think of Job 1-2)*

**[8] but they were 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.**