

GOD'S VISIONS AND DREAMS CANNOT BE DEFEATED!

REVELATION 12

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Verses 1-2, The Woman With the Child

Families produce children and children produce other children

Children carry the traits of the families who produce them

Children reflect the character and culture of the families that produce them

Women are vessels and instruments for the birthing process

Importance of pre-natal care: Healthy vessels produce healthy children

The community of faith that produces Christ and Christ produces the church

Church births and represents Christ to the world

How pregnant are we? What kind of children will we produce?

What will be their character—biblically or culturally grounded; word or worldly

Biblical births—not just age but willingness to be used for God's glory

Hagar and Sarah; Mary and Elizabeth

Verses 3-4, The Hatred of Dragon

God and Chaos, (Ancient myths of struggle between order and chaos), Genesis 1: 1-2

Leviathan and Mystery of the Sea (ocean): Psalm 74: 12-14; Isaiah 27: 1; Job 40: 15-24

Readiness of evil to attack and destroy what communities of faith produce

If children of faith are killed other generations cannot come forth

The significance of Calvary

Verses 5-6, Rescue of the Child

God protects the child the church produces: Christ, (Psalm 2: 9)

Satan wounds but cannot destroy

Wounds are real but not fatal. Faith prevents wounds from being fatal.

Verses 7-10, War in Heaven

Bible shows evolving understanding of three fundamental questions:

Who is God?

What is Evil?

Who are humans and what is their purpose?

The Evolution of Evil

Satan as fallen angel: Isaiah 14: 12-20; Ephesians 2: 2; Jude 5-16

Satan as *Adversary*:

Psalm 109: 6: "Set thou a wicked man over him; and let Satan stand at his right hand." (KJV); "Appoint a wicked man against him; let an *accuser* stand on his right." (NRSV)

Job 1: 6-12; Zechariah 3: 1-5

New Testament: Devil, the Evil One (Matthew 6: 13)

Michael, not God fights with Satan because Satan is not equal with God.
Satan always remains under the jurisdiction of God.

God's sovereignty and throne are never threatened or attacked

Verses 10-12, The Song of the Martyrs

Satan is defeated. Even death defeats Satan because death indicates souls who do not bow and will not be broken by the power of Satan

Weapons: The Blood and Our Testimony

Blood: Cleanses	Testimony: Comforts
Blood: Faithfulness	Testimony: Freedom
Blood: Love	Testimony: Life
Blood: Redeems	Testimony: Reveals
Blood: Salvation	Testimony: Story
Blood: Suffering	Testimony: Stability
Blood: Price	Testimony: Power
Blood: Victory	Testimony: Vision

Verses 13-17, The Warfare Continues

Satan is defeated but not dead.

Meaning of eagles' wings: (Exodus 19: 4; Deuteronomy 32: 11-12; Isaiah 40: 31)

Since Leviathan lives in sea, trouble is often seen as floodwaters: Psalms 32: 6; 42: 7; 124: 1-4; Isaiah 43: 2; 59: 19 (KJV)

Satan is a powerful opponent because he refuses to give up.

Often Satan defeats us not because of greater power but because of greater endurance

We must remember the promise of Revelation 2: 10