

Vision 4 Chapters 12 & 13

[Summary by Ruth Smart 2020]

12 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

- Again back to the beginning. Looking at principles
- Opens with a description of a woman. Israel was always described as a woman in OT. Many references.

Isaiah 54:1 Sing, barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband,” says the LORD.

- Israel of the OT is a pregnant woman - he “seed” is spoken about throughout the OT, from Noah's son Shem to Abraham to Jacob to David etc etc.
- Israel was the chosen nation because they carried the “seed”. The church of the NT is the woman delivered of that child and now living in his strength and power.
- V4-5 The child the woman delivered was to rule the nations with *an iron scepter.*” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. This is obviously Jesus. Psalm 2: 9 You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.” Psalm 2:9 is also quoted in Rev 2:27.
- Out of Israel came the man-child Jesus and standing in front of the woman was a dragon waiting to devour him. That dragon is identified in V 9 *The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*
- Echo from Jeremiah 4:31 *I hear a cry as of a woman in labor, a groan as of one bearing her first child - the cry of Daughter Zion gasping for breath, stretching out her hands and saying, “Alas! I am fainting; my life is given over to murderers.”*
- the dragon has 7 heads and 7 crowns - 7 means fullness, in this case, of royalty. 10 horns speaks of power. He is the god of this world and has power over the minds of men.
- He swept a third of the angels (stars) with him - just remember there are twice as many angels!
- The dragon seeks to devour her Child. All history attests to that.- e.g. Pharaoh killing the male babies, Queen Athaliah killing all the babies in the nursery, except one, who actually carried the “seed”, Herod killed all the male babies in Bethlehem etc etc
- But the dragon “missed” and the male child was caught up to God and his throne.

Ephesians 1:19-21 ...That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. Also 1

Peter 3:22 – who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Revelation 10-12 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

- There was war in heaven, the devil lost his power, which was in accusing us of breaking the law, and there was rejoicing in heaven. He was overcome by the shed blood of Christ which overcame the effects of breaking the law and by the word of the testimony of those belonging to Christ – they loved not their lives unto death.
- Sometimes faith walks boldly into the arena to be torn apart by lions – but they still have victory over the dragon.

V 13 – 17 When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach. Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.

- The devil now turns his attention to the woman who had given birth to the child – the Israel of the new covenant. She is protected in the wilderness (a place of meeting and fellowship with God)
- Echoes in Exodus 19:14 ...and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Deuteronomy 32:11 ...like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them aloft.
- Water spews from his mouth – water represents where spirits drink, either from God’s spirit or the doctrines of demons. These waters sidetrack or present philosophies or ideas that can get you bound up in rules and regulations. But the earth absorbed the water...Isaiah 59:19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. (KJV) “Standard” here means “put to flight”.

Ch 13 v1-10 The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast. People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?” The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. It was given power to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world. Whoever has ears, let them hear. “If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed.” This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people.

- Scene changes - raging waters of the sea - likened to the nations of the earth
- A beast from the sea with 10 crowned horns, 7 heads full of blasphemy, body like a leopard, teeth like a bear, lion's mouth.
- Echo - Daniel 7 - saw the nations of the world, one like a lion, one like a leopard, one like a bear, one a great beast with 10 horns.
- The devil will attack through the governments of the world. This includes all governments as there is no government under the rule of God in all the earth. Therefore the number 7 (fullness) and the number 10 (completeness). Even Jesus was offered the kingdoms of this world.
- Blasphemy - this means self-sufficiency and arrogance. I can do without God. Self is absolute.

Psalm 2 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the LORD and against his anointed..

- The beast received a deadly wound, when Jesus rose from the dead, but it healed. The kingdoms of the world are still here. The beast lost.

Ch 13 v:11-18 Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

- The beast needs a helper - false prophet that looks like a lamb but speaks like a dragon. This is a different lamb to "the lamb that was slain". The devil also works through a counterfeit church.
- Nimrod's title in ancient Chaldea was Zoroaster which means "the seed of the woman"... here is your anointed one...your emancipator of the human race...an alternative Christ. The devil says "Look at mine". Antichrist is whatever, whoever, however...is religious.

Matthew 7:15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves".

Corinthians 11:14-15 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

- We are to watch out for the lamb that is not a lamb but a dragon.
- Mark of the beast - 6 is the number of man (he was created on the 6th day). 666 is his mark - humanism/man. You shall be as god/ I/ totally self-centred. A seal in man's spirit - the way he looks at life.
- On his hand and his forehead. Hand/work/self. Forehead/ where you think/philosophies where man is central/ push God out e.g. evolution.
- We need to yield to the Lamb as it has been slain - not any other system of the world or even religion. It's about Jesus Christ. This means repentance from the world, the world church, the devil himself and myself (change our minds- turn 180° towards God).

- Verses 9 and 10 - the first beast will persecute - our response has to be faith and perseverance. *V 10 This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.*
- Against the philosophy of the "little lamb", we need wisdom.