

1 **A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

LESSON 37

2 **INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER 12**

- We are starting into the 12th chapter of the Book of Revelation
- The verses of Scripture we studied last week are very important to build on for this week's study
- We are now entering into the middle parallel room on our Floor Plan chart

3 **FLOOR PLAN GRAPHIC**

4 **INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER 12 cont.**

- In this portion of our study we find that it is the same time era we have been studying except now the viewpoint changes; the events are viewed from the earth
- We are seeing the same events we studied in chapters 4 through 11 where we saw events from heaven's viewpoint

5 **INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER 12 cont.**

- What we will now see are the results on earth of the events that happened in heaven
- We had no symbols in the heavenly section of our study
- In the viewpoint from the earth section symbols will be used at times
- We will start at the time of the Rapture until the return of Jesus Christ with the bride, just before the battle of Armageddon
- In chapter 12 we will be starting all over again at the time of the Rapture

6 **THE RAPTURE**

Revelation 12:1

1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

- This reads as a great or wonderful revelation
- The phrase "in heaven" as used here means in the sky as seen from the earth
- The woman would have to be in the sky if she were standing on the moon
- The scene is transferred to the earth as soon as the child is born

7 **THE WOMAN**

- All throughout Scripture, a woman, in its broadest sense when used symbolically, always represents a church (A wicked woman is an evil or false church)
- "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" – Matthew 24:35
- "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." – Matthew 5:18
- It takes awhile of seeing the proof that God stays the same that builds our faith
- God is not a respecter of persons – Acts 10:34
- The Word is the most pure form of God that we could ever see

8 **THE WOMAN cont.**

- God's Word is exact
- Everything, without exception, that God says is going to happen happens, everything He says comes to pass, everything He deals with is exact
- The woman represents the visible church; the word church means the visible church and includes all its members
- The Scriptures show us that there is an invisible church, a church within the church, that represents the bride
- This woman, here in verse 1, is the symbol of the church of the 2nd and 3rd chapters, the whole church

9 **THE WOMAN cont.**

- In Revelation chapters 2 and 3 even Thyatira and Laodicea are considered churches
- Only in the day of separation, the Rapture, will the true church be revealed
- God looks into the depths of each one of us and this is what tells us if we will be part of the bride or we are just part of the whole church
- There are Scriptures that show us that it is only at the separation where the bride will be taken out
- Right now there is no separation except in God's book
- We cannot tell at this time the whole church from the bride; this is not given to us to know
- This separation is only for God to judge

10 **THE SEPARATION**

Matthew 13:24-28

24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

11 **THE SEPARATION cont.**

Matthew 13:29-30, 37-38

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

38 the field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

12 **THE SEPARATION cont.**

Matthew 13:39-42

39 the enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

13 **THE SEPARATION cont.**

- This parable explains exactly the same thing that is going to happen in Revelation 12:5
- The separation is not the entire world even though the entire world is in view
- The separation is the tares from the wheat
- There are weeds out there that are just weeds; they don't pretend to be anything else
- Tares are pretending to be wheat and they are part of the whole church worldwide
- It isn't until the fruit begins to bear forth that the true wheat is revealed
- The wheat will bear the burden of the cross and the burden of the fruit it bears

14 **THE SEPARATION cont.**

- The tares, who bear no fruit, stand straight up as they do not carry the weight or burden of fruit
- Externally the wheat, tares, and weeds all resemble each other

- It will not be until the end times, the harvest, that they will be separated
- The separation will come when the true church is actually revealed; this will be at the Rapture
- When the wheat goes up, the tares are left behind
- The church holds her place among the candlesticks only because of the bride within her

15 **THE SEPARATION cont.**

Matthew 3:12

12 whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

- We find this separation all through the Word of God
- In these Scriptures Jesus Himself tell us what they mean
- The woman here in the 12th chapter is the entire visible church including the tares and wheat together
- She is shown in glory here only because the Holy Ghost-filled faithful ones that are within her

16 **THE SEPARATION cont.**

- Do we evangelize every soul we meet?
- How do we know which ones to deal with and which to not deal with?
- It is very difficult to determine but when we look at it closely we see that God has His own perfect system justice
- God's justice is first pure
- A good illustration is the parable of the Sower where you have one type of seed but many types of ground
- The seed is the Word of God and the ground different types of people
- The seed stays the same but the ground, the natural, changes, as when the ground is tilled or worked

17 **THE SEPARATION cont.**

- A question in evangelizing is "Can I leave even one undone?"
- We need to look at it through God's eyes
- When we talk to someone who totally does not want to hear a word about God or they get upset or angry we do not need to say a word
- People who want nothing to do with God are the "weeds" and God has nothing to do with them
- Tares are those that will hear part of the Word of God
- How do we know if someone, who hears the Word but may not be that interested, might go on and become one of God's?

18 **THE SEPARATION cont.**

- It is not up to us to water or not water the seed that has been planted as we cannot tell the difference between the tares and wheat; but God can
- When evangelizing, if they will hear anything, we need to give them all that they'll hear
- There are many that are simply weeds as they won't hear any part of God's Word or the salvation plan
- God is a just God and His justice is so pure and holy that He will not leave one step undone that they will take
- If someone will take even one step we need to give them that one step
- If we're a watchman we have to give them the Word of God as they might accept even part of it, even if they don't go the whole way

19 **THE SEPARATION cont.**

- We see throughout the Word of God the separation
- There is another place in Scripture that deals with the weeds, tares, and the wheat; three different kinds of people
- This is when He talks about the sinner, the ungodly, and the saint (1 Peter 4:18)
- Here in chapter 12 the woman is the entire church: the wheat and the tares together

- She has this glory because the bride is still within her
- In chapter 12:1 the Scripture says the woman is clothed with the sun
- To be clothed with the sun is be clothed with light

20 **THE WOMAN**

- Light is the garment of God
- Jesus Christ said He is the light
- The true church is the custodian of this light and to spread it
- "Ye are the light of the world....." Matthew 5:14
- We are only the light of this world if the light dwells within us and it's shining through
- All the light that is shed upon this world and all of its problems and all of the truth that God has, is this woman's, the church
- She is clothed with the sun
- This light can only be found within the church

21 **THE WOMAN cont.**

- To say that "the moon is under her feet" means that she is victorious in her position
- The moon, a symbol of darkness and error, is under her feet
- The sun is a symbol of truth and of light
- Just as the sun is considered the king of the day so the moon is empress over the night
- To tread the moon under foot is the image of victory over the powers of darkness
- The crown of 12 stars indicates royalty

22 **THE WOMAN cont.**

I Peter 2:9

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

- This woman is clearly royalty having a crown of 12 stars

- The crown signifies royalty, the number 12 is representative of the saints of God
- At the time she is seen here the Rapture is about to take place
- The woman represents the church as it exists at the time of the Rapture

23 **GENERAL QUESTIONS**

- We do not know who all will be the tribulation saints but there will be great numbers of them
- If God has turned someone over to a reprobate mind, when they have tasted of God's glory and they return to their old life, the natural, then there is no more sacrifice
- These cannot see or understand; reprobate means "void of understanding"
- These "reprobates" would not be considered tares as tares look like the wheat
- The tribulation saints would be those who never heard the Word or who have never tasted of it
- A lot of the tribulation saints would be those who did not know if God existed or not

24 **GENERAL QUESTIONS cont.**

- The Scriptures do not show anywhere that "reprobates" could make it
- Could be that if they are in a state of being backslidden, but not yet turned over to a reprobate mind at the time of the Rapture, maybe some could make it
- Most of the tribulation saints will be those who never heard the Word or tasted of it
- It does not seem likely at all that backsliders or reprobates would have a chance of making it as a tribulation saint
- Tribulation saints will be made up of a lot of different people; maybe backsliders but not reprobates

25 **GENERAL QUESTIONS cont.**

- There will be the 5 foolish virgins who have tasted of God's glory and grace but they will not make the bride
- These 5 are not yet reprobates because they know they need the oil so they're just not ready at the time of the Rapture

26 **THE RAPTURE**

Revelation 12:2-5

2 and she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

27 **THE MAN-CHILD**

- If the woman is a symbol then the child is also a symbol
- Logically if the woman represents a large body of people, the visible church, then the child represents a smaller body of people which comes out of the larger body
- The child is the invisible church
- There is to be a birth, a sudden separation
- This is an excellent picture of the Rapture
- The child is "caught up" to heaven and the church that is left must face the Antichrist

28 **THREE SYMBOLS**

- Here we have three symbols: a woman, a child, and a dragon
- The meaning of one is told in this chapter, the meaning of the second is given in another, and the third may be understood from

these two

- Revelation 12:9 tells us the dragon is the devil. The stars which follow him are his angels (verse 7)

Revelation 12:9

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

29 **THREE SYMBOLS cont.**

Revelation 12:4

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Revelation 12:5

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

Revelation 2:27

27 and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

30 **HE THAT OVERCOMETH**

- Here in chapter 2 verses 26 & 27 we see the bride as overcomers who use the power of the Holy Ghost to overcome our natural
- Receiving the Holy Ghost is not enough; we need to use this power otherwise it's like the foolish virgins and the power drains out
- "rod of iron" is used in the Bible to refer to both Jesus and the saints; in Revelation it refers specifically to the saints (the bride)
- We found in Revelation chapter 2 and 3 that in each of the 7 letters there is a promise to him that overcomes

- Overcome = climbing spiritually as you don't respond, in the natural, to the things that come upon you

31 **HE THAT OVERCOMETH cont.**

- We must not be easily offended, express anger, lash out
- As the Apostle Paul says he keeps his natural under subjection (1 Corinthians 9:27)
- We must respond to the temptation or trial spiritually as God teaches us to
- This way we overcome our natures and have kept it down and subjected to the power of the Holy Ghost
- All of the promises to the churches in Revelation are to the ones that overcome consistently
- Only overcomers will be the ones "caught up" at the Rapture

32 **THE CHILD**

- We have been studying how the saints would sit upon thrones after the Rapture and be judges of the earth
- Over and over we are told that the bride are to be the kings and priests and will reign upon the earth
- The child represents those who will rule all nations with the rod of iron
- The story of the woman and the child is interrupted to tell of the dragon who stands ready to devour the child as soon as it is born or separated
- Upon birth, or separation, the child is immediately "caught up" into heaven to escape the dragon
- Why do the Scriptures tell us in the end days many shall fall away

33 **THE CHILD cont.**

- This because Satan is seeking to devour who he can
- We must maintain the power of the Holy Ghost to keep ourselves out of his reach
- The end times prophecies are being fulfilled as we can see in every aspect of our lives today

- We need to lift up our heads as our redemption is almost here (Luke 21:28)
- This hope helps us to endure until the end; it makes us able
- The "catching up" of the bride is accomplished with the aid of Michael and his angels who engage the forces of evil in a battle
- All creation, natural and spiritual, good and evil, are waiting together for this grand event to happen

34 **THE CHILD cont.**

- It would seem that all the resources of heaven are required to accomplish the successful birth, or separation, of the child from the church and get him safely to his destination
- Michael and his angels are fighting Satan so we can go up
- This child is the resurrection of all the saved dead and the translation of all the living saints
- At the same time Satan and his angels are being cast out of heaven
- This is a tremendous undertaking in which great forces of heaven are engaged
- The battle will be great but, as noted earlier, the Rapture will barely be noticed on earth

35 **THE CHILD cont.**

- The Bible does not use symbols to prophesy past events
- Symbols are for the purpose of foretelling future events
- The casting out of Satan down to this earth results in the persecution of the woman church by Antichrist
- This is the situation on earth which prevails immediately after the Rapture
- Satan's fierce anger at being cast out results in his lashing out at anyone who is remotely considered part of the woman or church left behind
- Satan's being cast out of the heavens is an occasion of great rejoicing in heaven and for God's people

36 **THE END TIMES**

I Thessalonians 5:1-5

1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

37  **THE END TIMES cont.**

I Thessalonians 5:6-9

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

38  **CLOSING GRAPHIC**