

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

LESSON 38

2 **FLOOR PLAN GRAPHIC**

3 **CONTINUATION OF CHAPTER 12**

- We are continuing our study in the 12th chapter of the Book of Revelation
- We have been studying the Rapture from the earth's point of view or the things that will be on earth as the Rapture takes place
- Last week we covered verses 1 through 5 in detail
- There was a question that came up so we will look at this again

4 **THE RAPTURE**

Revelation 12:3-5

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.

5 **THE RAPTURE cont.**

- We went through these Scriptures in detail last week
- They were about the "catching up" of the bride and we also looked at other Scriptures detailing the same event
- The question arose as to why the "catching away" of the bride is called a man-child
- Let's look at some Scriptures that will help explain why the symbol "man-child" is specifically used to represent the bride

- The use of "man" is not as "mankind" but is indicating a male gender or son
- We find the Scriptures explaining our answers in the Old Testament which is a shadow of the New Testament that helps us understand the spiritual

6 **THE DRY BONES**

Ezekiel 37:11-14

11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

13 And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

14 and shall put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord.

7 **ZION'S FUTURE HOPE**

Isaiah 66:6-8

6 A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the Lord that rendereth recompense to his enemies.

7 Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.

8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

8 **DRY BONES cont.**

- These Scriptures in Ezekiel show the Jews and Israel as a nation being born
- These Scriptures in Ezekiel and Isaiah show the same period of time
- The same symbolism that we see in Revelation chapter 12 is used

here

- In Isaiah the verse "Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day?" is the explanation of the symbol
- The man-child here represents those that are brought forth from the earth
- As Ezekiel shows it at this time they are dead dry bones yet there is life that God can bring forth

9 **DRY BONES cont.**

- These symbols, the dry bones in Ezekiel and the man-child in Isaiah, tells the same thing: a nation born in a day, who will come from the whole world
- These symbols can be much better understood if we realize what will be the condition of the Jews just prior to the return of Jesus Christ
- To understand this man-child we will have to look at prophecy concerning the Jews
- Through our study in the Book of Daniel and now in Revelation we understand that shortly before the return of Jesus Christ we see the terrible calamities, the starvation and the death that comes upon the Jews at this time

10 **DRY BONES cont.**

- We think nothing could be worse than the Holocaust but this is
- The Scriptures say this is a time like has never been before for the Jews (Matthew 24:21)
- It will be the worst experience that they have ever gone through and they will be on the very edge of annihilation
- They will have lost hope: "we are cut off for our parts"
- The nation will be considered dead, so the sudden return of Jesus Christ will be as a resurrection
- These "dry bones" that looked totally dead are resurrected to new life
- Ezekiel said there is no life left

11 **DRY BONES cont.**

- In verse 11 Ezekiel told us these bones were the whole house of Israel
- "Our bones are dried and our hope is lost.."
- Remember that by this time Antichrist has been in their temple for that 3-1/2 years
- To them, the Jews, this is the end of it all
- Then suddenly, as it tells us in Revelation, Jesus Christ comes back to this earth to redeem the entire earth
- This return, according to prophecies of the Old Testament, is like a resurrection for the Jews
- The Bible symbol of resurrection is the birth of a man-child
- The meanings of symbols are always given in the Bible

12 **DRY BONES cont.**

- Once a symbol is established it continues with that meaning throughout the Scriptures
- In the Scriptures we just looked at in Isaiah, notice that Isaiah first mentions the man-child and then her children

Isaiah 66:7

7 Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.

- Before she travailed she delivered the man-child
- There is no tribulation before the Rapture

13 **THE RESURRECTION**

Isaiah 66:8

8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

- The portion that is different here is that as soon as Zion, the church-the woman-Israel, travailed she brought forth her children
- After the travail, birth of the man-child, comes the children

- The man-child here represents the first great gathering, the children represent those that come afterwards
- The first resurrection takes place in parts: the dead in Christ first, then those who are alive at that time - the Rapture – then the resurrection of the Tribulation Saints

14 **THE RESURRECTION cont.**

- The Rapture is the "catching away" of the bride of Christ, also known as the man-child
- After this comes the "seed of the woman" also known as the Tribulation Saints
- In both the Rapture and the resurrection of the Tribulation Saints, the man-child represents resurrection
- These Scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments establish the meaning of the symbol
- The symbol is the same in both places, only the people are different; Jews in the Old and the redeemed in the New
- The balance of chapter 66 in Isaiah makes it abundantly clear that Israel is the subject

15 **THE RESURRECTION cont.**

- The balance of chapter 12 in Revelation makes it just as clear that the church is the subject
- There is nothing in Revelation chapters 12 and 13 that happened at the birth of Jesus as some would think
- Prophecy always has to do with the future
- Everything in these two chapters, 12 and 13, will happen at the Resurrection
- The following Scriptures in Micah are dealing with this same time period

16 **THE RESURRECTION cont.**

Micah 5:1-3

1 Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us: they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon

the cheek.

2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

3 Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.

17 **THE WHOLE STORY OF THE JEWS**

- The substance of the whole story of the Jews is told here in these verses in Micah:
 1. The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem
 2. The rejection of Jesus as the Christ by the Jews. "They shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek."
 3. Israel will be set aside temporarily. "Therefore will He give them up."
 4. They will not be given up forever but only until the end of the Gentile period when "she which travaileth hath brought forth."
 5. After the Resurrection (bringing forth), a remnant will return to Jesus Christ, representing the end of the time they are given up

18 **THE REMNANT**

- This remnant in Micah 5:3 is the 144,000 Jews who are sealed
- Their sealing marks the beginning of Daniel's 70th week when Israel will again be dealt with as a people
- The Two Witnesses will take up where Paul left off when he said, "Lo, we turn to the Gentiles." (Acts 13:46)
- The Jews will be blinded until the "catching up" of the man-child and then God turns back to the Jews
- Here in Micah also, childbirth after travail is the symbol of the Resurrection

19 **THE DRAGON**

Revelation 12:3-5

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.

- We see a number of symbols used here unlike the heaven's viewpoint portion where there were no symbols used
- We know the dragon here is the symbol of the devil as we are told so in verse 9
- The number 7 always signifies completeness
- We are and have been studying about consummations - the completion or fulfillment of God's plans and purposes

20 **THE SYMBOLS EXPLAINED**

- The woman stands for the church of all ages
- The dragon is Satan in all his power throughout all the ages
- He has now reached the last days of his freedom
- He has been the prince of this world and as such has dominated the world under seven typical empires
- Daniel saw four of these empires: Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome
- There were two empires before Daniel: Assyria and Egypt
- These empires combined are world history in its entirety

21 **THE SYMBOLS EXPLAINED cont.**

- There will be one more empire under Antichrist, making up the seven
- This will be the completion, the finish of the world empires
- The seven heads are symbolic of these seven world empires complete
- In order they are: Assyria, Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and Antichrist's
- The Roman empire extends to the Antichrist's empire and is seated in the same geographical areas
- Satan's reign began with Adam and Eve in the Garden and extends to the Battle of Armageddon and the 1,000 years when he is put under

22 **THE SYMBOLS EXPLAINED cont.**

- The ten horns connect with both the sixth and seventh heads
- In this time period we are studying, the time of the Rapture and Satan in his last days, we must put the horns on the seventh head
- The ten horns are the nations of the Roman Empire
- It will be this same geographical area, the countries around the Mediterranean, that will become Antichrist's empire
- Current world affairs and world news is focused on this area, especially the Middle East portion
- Daniel tells us these countries would remain until the coming of the kingdom of heaven

23 **THE SYMBOLS EXPLAINED cont.**

- These countries of the old Roman Empire have not changed much since Roman times
- These countries are the basis of Antichrist's kingdom although he will try to dominate more territory than was in the Roman Empire
- This empire will already exist by the time Antichrist gives his power over to Satan
- Living in the age we are living in we need to know these prophecies as we are living them
- To be able to look at these prophecies and see them happen and see how much closer we are today
- We can do as the Bible tells us to "lift up your heads as your redemption draweth neigh" (Luke 21:28)

24 **THE SYMBOLS EXPLAINED cont.**

- In verse 4 we find the dragon's tail draws the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth
- We see Satan does this as he is going down as he himself is cast out of heaven
- As the bride goes up he is cast down and on his way down he tries to devour the bride as it's born
- Lucifer, the dragon-serpent-devil-Satan, his name means sun of the morning or morning star

- He was the brightest of all God's angels
- In the Bible, the word star is used in the same sense that we use the word today, meaning a heavenly body or a celebrity – a person of unusual ability

25 **THE SYMBOLS EXPLAINED cont.**

- Ever since Adam & Eve these angels that were cast out, when Satan lost his place as the archangel, and they constitute Satan's government today
- Most people are not even aware that has Satan power and a power base
- The New Testament Scriptures tell us that these are the principalities and powers in heavenly places

Ephesians 6:12

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

26 **THE SYMBOLS EXPLAINED cont.**

- Once Satan is cast out of heaven the kingdom of darkness will be broken up and the heavens will be cleansed
- From this point on, after the Rapture, there will be no more spiritual warfare in heaven; it will all center on the earth
- This will bring about the Great Tribulation that happens right after the Rapture
- Why endure these coming calamities when you can be "caught up" before these things are brought upon the earth
- We must pray that we are found worthy to escape these things that are coming upon the earth (Luke 21:36)

27 **THE WILDERNESS**

Revelation 12:6

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

- We know this time mentioned here is the 3-1/2 years right after the Rapture known as the Great Tribulation
- Note that in chapter 12 verse 1 we see the woman in a glorious position before the birth of the child: clothed with light, victorious of the forces of darkness, and reigning as a queen
- After the birth of the child we find that all of her former glory is gone; she is persecuted, hunted, forlorn, keeping only one step ahead of death

28 **THE WILDERNESS cont.**

- All the woman's greatness was in the child
- When the child is gone, her victory is gone
- She no longer stands; she runs in fear and weakness
- Her dwelling place is now a wilderness
- This wilderness is the condition that the church left behind will face
- It is out of this wilderness experience that the Tribulation Saints come
- The Antichrist would immediately annihilate the church that's left if he could
- Remember as we studied that the first 6 trumpets/vials are to stymie Antichrist; to keep him so busy he cannot totally exterminate the church

29 **THE WILDERNESS cont.**

- This portion we just read is the most complete picture of the bride being Raptured, the first part of the First Resurrection, to be found anywhere in the Bible
- Nearly every feature recorded elsewhere is found here
- The next prophetic event to happen is the Rapture
- Those who are not ready will be left behind, like the 5 foolish virgins

30 **THE RAPTURE**

Revelation 12:1-4

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:

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.

31 **THE RAPTURE cont.**

Revelation 12:5-6

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.

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

- With the 5 wise and 5 foolish virgins, all 10 had received the Holy Ghost only the foolish let their oil run out so out of the 10 total only half are going to make it
- These 10, even the foolish are considered part of the church but only the wise part of the bride

32 **THE RAPTURE cont.**

- Remember we are dealing with consummation, the finishing or completing of God's plan
- We have been looking at the church in its entirety
- We are seeing Satan in all his entirety
- Those alive after the Rapture are the ones who will be in the

- wilderness; this will include those of the Laodicean church age
- Jesus had nothing good to say about the Laodicean church but He called them a church just the same
 - The word Christian means Christ-like and who can live up to that word, certainly not without His Spirit and without His Name
 - Revelation deals with the word church differently than most of the rest of the Scriptures starting from the Book of Acts

33 **THE RAPTURE cont.**

- There is the 7 church ages we studied and in them we saw the church in its time of darkness, we saw the Catholic church and others
- Religion can be anything but Christianity is very specific
- All the 7 churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 called themselves Christian but Jesus points out the wrongs in each of them but the two that have no wrongs
- In any church or religion it is not the denomination, or the people even, but it's the doctrine that's false
- God has people out of every church age that will not be part of the false or wicked church yet they were of that false church

34 **THE RAPTURE cont.**

- There will be part of those in the false or wicked churches who will be martyred if they don't make it now
- Some will come from the Catholic church for example
- The work of the white horseman, preaching from the air, will convert or convince many of them
- Let's keep our mind on the beautiful time of the Rapture, we do not want to be left behind
- People who are represented by the woman here in chapter 12 are for the most part are those who have never been exposed to this precious truth or never had a chance
- There will be some that were simply caught without their oil

35 **END GRAPHIC**