

Understanding the Book of Revelation

Revelation 12: 1-17 (p.1318)

Intro

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear... (Rev. 1:3)

Of all the books of the Bible, the Book of _____ is explicitly intended to be read and heard _____ as a source of blessing.

I. The Book of Revelation uses vivid imagery to help you _____ the reality of spiritual conflict...

And a great sign appeared in heaven...v.1

The Book of Revelation is apocalyptic literature, which uses heightened _____ to represent the unseen world.

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. 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 give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to 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, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days. v.1-6

Christ is on the throne and will one day _____ the nations, but for now the church is in the _____.

her child was caught up to God and to his throne...v5

who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron...v5

the woman fled into the wilderness...v6

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 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. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have

conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!" v.7-12

_____ has been thrown down from heaven, and we conquer him by the _____ of the Lamb and by our sacrificial witness.

...he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 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. v.8,9

...the deceiver of the whole world... v.9

...the ruler of this world (John 12:31; cf. 14:30, 16:11)

...the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2)

...the god of this world... (2 Cor. 4:4)

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)

"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." (Luke 10:18)

...he might not deceive the nations any longer... (Rev. 20:3)

...the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. v.10

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us... (Rom. 8:33,34)

...they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony for they loved not their lives even unto death. v.11

The Book of Revelation does not give us _____ regarding spiritual conflict, nor does it give us details regarding the _____.

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God... (Eph. 6:11-13)

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

Spiritual realities are difficult to _____ and easy to forget, so the Book of Revelation presents them in striking, _____, visible form.

II. Until _____ comes again.

On the one hand, Jesus is on the _____, and the kingdom of God has come; on the other hand, we don't yet _____ Christ ruling over the nations.

her child was caught up to God and to his throne... v.5

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down... v.10

a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron...v.6

At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. (Heb. 2:8)

For now, we are still in the wilderness, and _____ pursues us; we are in the _____ period between the first and second coming.

and the woman fled into the wilderness...in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days. v.6

woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!" v.12

And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea. v.13-17

'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. (Ex. 19:4)

Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young...the Lord alone guided [Israel]... (Dt. 32:11,12)

they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Is. 40:31)

We must be realistic about the _____ of Satan while trusting in Christ, _____ our faith, and walking in God's commandments.

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

...they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony... v.11

Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. v.17

We must not be _____, but we must not despair; the Book of Revelation is a realistic but ultimately _____ book.

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?... Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:33,34,37,38)

Jesus Christ has _____, and we _____ by our witness, by our faithfulness, and by the blood of the Lamb.

"Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down... v.10

"...his time is short!" v.12

Understanding the Book of Revelation

Revelation 12: 1-17 (p.1318)

Intro

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear... (Rev. 1:3)

Of all the books of the Bible, the Book of Revelation is explicitly intended to be read and heard aloud as a source of blessing.

I. The Book of Revelation uses vivid imagery to help you visualize the reality of spiritual conflict...

And a great sign appeared in heaven...v.1

The Book of Revelation is apocalyptic literature, which uses heightened symbolism to represent the unseen world.

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. 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 give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to 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, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days. v.1-6

Christ is on the throne and will one day rule the nations, but for now the church is in the wilderness.

her child was caught up to God and to his throne...v5

who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron...v5

the woman fled into the wilderness...v6

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 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. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have

conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!" v.7-12

Satan has been thrown down from heaven, and we conquer him by the blood of the Lamb and by our sacrificial witness.

...he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 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. v.8,9

...the deceiver of the whole world... v.9

...the ruler of this world (John 12:31; cf. 14:30, 16:11)

...the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2)

...the god of this world... (2 Cor. 4:4)

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)

"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." (Luke 10:18)

...he might not deceive the nations any longer... (Rev. 20:3)

...the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. v.10

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us... (Rom. 8:33,34)

...they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony for they loved not their lives even unto death. v.11

The Book of Revelation does not give us details regarding spiritual conflict, nor does it give us details regarding the future.

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God... (Eph. 6:11-13)

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

Spiritual realities are difficult to comprehend and easy to forget, so the Book of Revelation presents them in striking, memorable, visible form.

II. Until Jesus comes again.

On the one hand, Jesus is on the throne, and the kingdom of God has come; on the other hand, we don't yet see Christ ruling over the nations.

her child was caught up to God and to his throne... v.5

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down... v.10

a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron...v.6

At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. (Heb. 2:8)

For now, we are still in the wilderness, and Satan pursues us; we are in the intermediate period between the first and second coming.

and the woman fled into the wilderness...in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days. v.6

woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!" v.12

And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea. v.13-17

'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. (Ex. 19:4)

Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young...the Lord alone guided [Israel]... (Dt. 32:11,12)

they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Is. 40:31)

We must be realistic about the reality of Satan while trusting in Christ, sharing our faith, and walking in God's commandments.

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

...they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony... v.11

Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. v.17

We must not be naïve, but we must not despair; the Book of Revelation is a realistic but ultimately triumphant book.

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?... Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:33,34,37,38)

Jesus Christ has triumphed, and we conquer by our witness, by our faithfulness, and by the blood of the Lamb.

"Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down... v.10

"...his time is short!" v.12