

Mini-Series: REVELATION: The Seven Signs

Message: PIERCING THE DARKNESS

Heritage Church – Van Buren, AR, March 19, 2023

Text: Revelation 12:1-17

**BIG IDEA:** Jesus is EQUIPING you to be an OVERCOMER

**1. THE WAR AGAINST ISRAEL AND THE MESSIAH**

**Revelation 12:1-6** Now a **great sign** appeared in heaven: a **woman** clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. <sup>2</sup> Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

<sup>3</sup> And another **sign** appeared in heaven: behold, a **great, fiery red dragon** having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. <sup>4</sup> His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to **devour her Child** as soon as it was born. <sup>5</sup> She bore a male Child who was to **rule all nations with a rod of iron** (Psalm 2:9). And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. <sup>6</sup> Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there **one thousand two hundred and sixty days**.

**2. THE WAR AGAINST HEAVEN**

**Revelation 12:7-12** <sup>7</sup> And war broke out in **heaven**: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, <sup>8</sup> but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. <sup>9</sup> So the great dragon was cast out, that **serpent of old**, called the **Devil and Satan**, who **deceives** the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

<sup>10</sup> Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now **salvation**, and **strength**, and the **kingdom of our God**, and the **power of His Christ** have come, for the **accuser of our brethren**, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast

down. <sup>11</sup> And they **overcame him** by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. <sup>12</sup> Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! **Woe** to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having **great wrath**, because he knows that he has a **short time**.” See Ephesians 6:10-20

**3. THE WAR AGAINST BELIEVERS**

**Revelation 12:13-17** Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he **persecuted the woman** who gave birth to the male Child. <sup>14</sup> But the woman was given **two wings of a great eagle** (Exodus 19:4-6), that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for **a time and times and half a time**, from the presence of the serpent. <sup>15</sup> So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. <sup>16</sup> But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. <sup>17</sup> And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of **her offspring**, who **keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ**.

**ACTION STEPS: BE an OVERCOMER by ...** <sup>11</sup>they overcame him by

- 1. APPLYING the REDEMPTION and PARDON of Jesus**  
the blood of the Lamb (Passover), 2 Cor. 10:4-5, Eph. 6
- 2. DECLARING Your WITNESS** the word of their testimony  
I am **SAVED, DELIVERED, FILLED, HEALED, SEALED!**  
**You are LOVED! You are WORTHY! Your life MATTERS!**
- 3. KEEPING the FAITH even in the face of DEATH**  
and they did not love their lives (even) to the death.  
Dying to self in order to live for Jesus (**Gal. 2:20**)