

# Our Location In God's Universe

Long Beach Alliance Church • May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 • Pastor Chris Lankford

*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 brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.*

*And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.*

**~Revelation 12:10-11 (NASB)**

## 1) The Cosmic Conflict

- A) Many scholars who have studied the Apocalypse have noted the heavy usage of “sevens” in the book (churches, lampstands, stars, Spirits, seals, trumpets, bowls, etc.). Even the structure of the book has been broken into seven sections according to John’s seven different visions.
- B) There is virtually zero agreement as to how these seven sections of the book should be organized (because of “interlocking” features). However, there is absolutely no dispute that Revelation 12 is the center of the book, both literally (contains the middle verses) and literarily (contains the central theme of the Apocalypse).
- C) In other words, this chapter contains the **MAIN POINT** of the entire Apocalypse for the reader! Everything is important, but this is the central theme of the book!

- D) Revelation 12 is an overview of human history to the Tribulation. The story includes God's people, Satan and the angelic rebellion, the angelic war, the centrality of Christ's sacrifice, and the great spiritual conflict for mankind.

## **2) Spiritual Warfare & Divine Victory**

- A) A "great sign" appears of a pregnant woman in labor, clothed with the sun, moon, and a crown of twelve stars (Revelation 12:1-2). Each of these OT symbols are used as descriptions of God's people (Israel), but also include God's people in the NT, the church (cf. 12:17).
- B) Another (lesser) "sign" appears of a great red dragon with seven crowned heads & ten horns. One-third of the stars (angels) are dragged away by his tail, and he is ravenous to devour the newborn child of the woman (12:3-4).
- C) But the child does not get eaten, and is revealed as the future ruler Jesus Christ, who secures the spiritual and physical provision of His people (relationship with God), through His sacrificial death and resurrection (12:5-6).
- D) Jesus' sacrificial death triggers an angelic war (12:7-9) led by Michael in Heaven ("a chief angel," cf. Daniel 12:1) against the dragon, who is Satan. The devil and his angels are thrown from Heaven in defeat (cf. Isaiah 14:12-17).
- E) The victory proclamation rings from Heaven! The Kingdom of God has been secured over Satan by the blood of the Lamb! Salvation by sacrifice! Total sacrifice is the true witness and victory of God's people (Revelation 12:10-11)!

## **3) An Angry Projectile-Vomiting Dragon**

- A) Heaven rejoices as the "accuser" is cast out. But, earth is in great woe (12:12), due to Satanic persecution (12:13). For a second time, the woman is preserved by God (12:14).
- B) The "serpent" pours out water (washing away God's people), but the earth swallows this flood (12:15-16), which angers Satan, who now persecutes God's people (12:17).