

Message Eight

The Man-child, the War in Heaven, and the Overcoming Saints

Scripture Reading: Rev. 12:5, 7-11

Rev. 12:5—And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

Rev. 12:7-11—And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels went to war with the dragon. And the dragon warred and his angels. ⁸And they did not prevail, neither was their place found any longer in heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was cast down, the ancient serpent, he who is called the Devil and Satan, he who deceives the whole inhabited earth; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him. ¹⁰And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night. ¹¹And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

I. “She brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne”— Rev. 12:5:

A. *Brought forth* here signifies resurrection, as in Acts 13:33-34:

Acts 13:33-34—That God has fully fulfilled this *promise* to us their children in raising up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, “You are My Son; this day have I begotten You.” ³⁴And as to His having raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to corruption, He spoke in this way, “I will give you the holy things of David, the faithful things.”

1. The man-child is composed of the overcoming saints who have died and been resurrected.
2. This is proved by the words *unto death* in Revelation 12:11.
Rev. 12:11—And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

B. In the Bible, woman signifies the weaker one and man the stronger one—1 Pet. 3:7:

1 Pet. 3:7—Husbands, in like manner dwell together with *them* according to knowledge, as with the weaker, female vessel, assigning honor to *them* as also to fellow heirs of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

1. The man-child in Revelation 12 signifies the stronger part of God’s people.
2. That the man-child is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod indicates that the man-child consists of the overcomers, as mentioned in 2:26-27.
Rev. 2:26-27—And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; ²⁷And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces, as I also have received from My Father;

C. To be caught up is to be raptured:

1. The rapture of the man-child differs from that of the majority of the believers, which is mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:17.
1 Thes. 4:17—Then we who are living, who are left remaining, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will be always with the Lord.

2. There, the majority of the believers are raptured to the air, and at the last trumpet (1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thes. 4:16), which is the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15).
1 Cor. 15:52—In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

1 Thes. 4:16—Because the Lord Himself, with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Rev. 11:15—And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the *kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

3. Here, the man-child is raptured to the throne of God, and before the one thousand two hundred and sixty days, which is the time of the great tribulation of three and a half years (forty-two months, 12:14; 13:5; 11:2), beginning from the sixth seal, before the fifth trumpet (9:1).
Rev. 12:14—And to the woman there were given the two wings of the great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness into her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time from the face of the serpent.

Rev. 13:5—And there was given to him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and authority was given to him to act for forty-two months.

Rev. 11:2—And the court which is outside the temple cast out and do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.

Rev. 9:1—And the fifth angel trumpeted, and I saw a star out of heaven fallen to the earth, and to him was given the key of the pit of the abyss.

II. “There was war in heaven”—12:7a:

- A. Immediately after the man-child is raptured to heaven, Michael and his angels begin to war against Satan:
 1. This indicates that the man-child, the stronger part of God’s people, is always engaged in fighting God’s enemy, Satan.
 2. They have been fighting Satan continually on earth.
 3. Heaven is waiting for them to arrive that a war may be waged to cast Satan out of heaven.
 4. The Bible reveals the names of two angels—Michael and Gabriel.
 5. Gabriel is a reporter bringing news to God’s people (Dan. 8:16; 9:21-22; Luke 1:19, 26), whereas Michael is a fighter contending for God’s people (Dan. 10:13, 21; 11:1; 12:1; Jude 9).

Dan. 8:16—And I heard the voice of a man between *the banks of* the Ulai; and He called out and said, Gabriel, cause this man to understand the vision.

Dan. 9:21-22—Even while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, reached me in *my* utter exhaustion about the time of the evening oblation. ²²And he informed *me* and talked with me and said, Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding.

Luke 1:19—And the angel answered and said to him, I am Gabriel, who stands before God, and I was sent to speak to you and to announce the good news of these things to you.

Luke 1:26—And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

Dan. 10:13—But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me for twenty-one days; but now Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I remained there *alone* with the kings of Persia.

Dan. 10:21—However I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who holds strongly with me against these ones except Michael your prince.

Dan. 11:1—And I, in the first year of Darius the Mede, stood up to support and strengthen him.

Dan. 12:1—And at that time Michael, the great prince who stands for the children of your people, will arise; and there will be a time of distress, such as never occurred since there came to be a nation until that time; and at that time your people, every one found written in the book, will be delivered.

Jude 9—But Michael the archangel, when he contended with the devil and disputed concerning the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a reviling judgment against *him* but said, The Lord rebuke you.

- B. “The dragon warred and his angels” (Rev. 12:7b); these angels must be the fallen angels, who follow Satan to rebel against God (Matt. 25:41).

Rev. 12:7—And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels went to war with the dragon. And the dragon warred and his angels.

Matt. 25:41—Then He will say also to those on the left, Go away from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

- C. Satan, the enemy of God, was judged by the Lord Jesus on the cross—John 12:31; 16:11:

John 12:31—Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.

John 16:11—And concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

1. After that, the overcoming believers are needed for the carrying out of that judgment, for the executing of that sentence.

2. The war waged by the overcoming believers against Satan is actually the executing of the Lord's judgment upon him.
3. Eventually, through their fighting, he is cast out of heaven—Rev. 12:7-9.
Rev. 12:7-9—And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels went to war with the dragon. And the dragon warred and his angels. ⁸And they did not prevail, neither was their place found any longer in heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was cast down, the ancient serpent, he who is called the Devil and Satan, he who deceives the whole inhabited earth; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.

III. “Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him [the devil] because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death”—vv. 10-11:

A. They overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb:

1. Satan may accuse us, but we can answer that the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from every sin—1 John 1:7.
1 John 1:7—But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.
2. Any apparent condemnation that does not stop after we have confessed and applied the blood is not God's enlightenment but Satan's accusation—v. 9.
1 John 1:9—If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
3. We must not only reject the accusations which are without cause, but we must also reject all the accusations which have cause.
4. When we commit sin, we do not glorify God, but when we do not trust the precious blood, we dishonor Him all the more—Matt. 26:28; cf. Heb. 10:29.
Matt. 26:28—For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

cf. Heb. 10:29—By how much do you think he will be thought worthy of worse punishment who has trampled underfoot the Son of God and has considered the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and has insulted the Spirit of grace?
5. We must always apply the blood, telling the devil that although we are not perfect, we are under the precious blood—1 Pet. 1:18-19; Acts 20:28.
1 Pet. 1:18-19—Knowing that *it was* not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, *that* you were redeemed from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers, ¹⁹But with precious blood, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot, *the blood of Christ*;

Acts 20:28—Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers to shepherd the church of God, which He obtained through His own blood.

B. They overcame him because of the word of their testimony:

1. “Testimony” means to tell others what there is in Christ, and the word of testimony is something which must be spoken forth.
2. The overcomers must frequently proclaim the victory of Christ, testifying that the devil has been judged by the Lord—1 John 3:8; Heb. 2:14.

1 John 3:8—He who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Heb. 2:14—Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

3. Satan does not fear when we try to reason with him, but he does fear when we proclaim the spiritual facts of Christ’s victory—cf. 2 Chron. 20:20-22:

cf. 2 Chron. 20:20-22—And they rose up early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa. And as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood up and said, Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem. Believe in Jehovah your God, and you will be established; believe in His prophets, and you will succeed. ²¹And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed *them* to sing to Jehovah and give thanks in holy array as they went out before the army and say, Give thanks to Jehovah, for His lovingkindness *endures* forever. ²²And when they began to shout in song and to praise, Jehovah set ambushes for the children of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who were coming out against Judah; and they were struck.

- a. That the name of Jesus is above every name is a spiritual fact which we must declare in faith, not only to men but also to Satan—Phil. 2:9-11; 1 Cor. 12:3b.

Phil. 2:9-11—Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

1 Cor. 12:3—Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking in the Spirit of God says, Jesus *is* accursed; and no one can say, Jesus *is* Lord! except in the Holy Spirit.

- b. We must proclaim to Satan and his demons that Jesus is Lord, that the Lord is victorious, and that Satan has been crushed under His feet—Gen. 3:15; John 14:30b; Rom. 16:20.

Gen. 3:15—And I will put enmity Between you and the woman And between your seed and her seed; He will bruise you on the head, But you will bruise him on the heel.

John 14:30—I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and in Me he has nothing;

Rom. 16:20—Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

- C. They loved not their soul-life even unto death:

1. Due to Adam's fall, Satan joined himself to man's soul-life—man's self; to overcome him we must not love our soul-life; rather, we must hate it and deny it—Matt. 16:23-24; Luke 14:26; 9:23:

Matt. 16:23-24—But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men. ²⁴Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Luke 14:26—If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and moreover, even his own soul-life, he cannot be My disciple.

Luke 9:23—And He said to *them* all, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

- a. Satan wants us to act in our own strength and move in ourselves with the power of our soul, our natural ability.
- b. Natural ability is the ability which we originally had and which has never been dealt with by the operation of the cross.
- c. The failure of the church is due to man's bringing in his natural ability.
- d. The purpose of the cross is to deal with our natural strength and ability so that we will not dare to move by ourselves, as seen in the cases of Moses and Peter—Acts 7:23-30; Luke 22:32-34; 1 Pet. 5:5-6.

Acts 7:23-30—But when he was approaching forty years of age, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the sons of Israel. ²⁴And when he saw one of *them* being wronged, he defended *him*, and he avenged him who was being oppressed by striking the Egyptian dead. ²⁵And he supposed that his brothers understood that God through his hand was giving salvation to them; but they did not understand. ²⁶And on the following day he appeared to them as they were fighting and tried to reconcile them in peace, saying, Men, you are brothers. Why are you wronging one another? ²⁷But the one who was wronging his neighbor pushed him away, saying, "Who appointed you a ruler and a judge over us?" ²⁸Do you want to do away with me the same way you did away with the Egyptian yesterday?" ²⁹And Moses fled at this word and became a sojourner in the land of Midian, where he begot two sons. ³⁰And when forty years had been fulfilled, an Angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai in the flame of a thornbush fire.

Luke 22:32-34—But I have made petition concerning you that your faith would not fail; and you, once you have turned again, establish your brothers. ³³And he said to Him, Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death. ³⁴But He said, I tell you, Peter, a rooster will not crow today until you deny three times that you know Me.

1 Pet. 5:5-6—In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. ⁶Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time,

- e. We should have the attitude that we will not live by our self in any way; we will not value our own ability or have any self-confidence—1 Cor. 2:2-4; Phil. 3:3; cf. Isa. 11:2b.

1 Cor. 2:2-4—For I did not determine to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and this One crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling; ⁴And my speech and my proclamation were not in persuasive words of wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

Phil. 3:3—For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,

cf. Isa. 11:2—And the Spirit of Jehovah will rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of the knowledge and fear of Jehovah.

2. We must be self-sacrificing persons, a drink offering, allowing Christ as the heavenly wine to fill us and cause us to become wine to God—Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6; Judg. 9:13:

Phil. 2:17—But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.

2 Tim. 4:6—For I am already being poured out, and the time of my departure is at hand.

Judg. 9:13—But the vine said to them, Shall I leave my new wine, which cheers God and men, and go to wave over the trees?

- a. The drink offering typifies Christ as the One poured out as the real wine before God for His satisfaction—Exo. 29:40-41.

Exo. 29:40-41—And with the one lamb a tenth *of an ephah* of fine flour mingled with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a fourth of a hin of wine for a drink offering. ⁴¹And the other lamb you shall offer at twilight; you shall offer it with the meal offering and its drink offering as in the morning, for a satisfying fragrance, an offering by fire to Jehovah.

- b. The apostle Paul became a drink offering that was poured out upon the sacrifice and service of the saints' faith—Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6.

Phil. 2:17—But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.

2 Tim. 4:6—For I am already being poured out, and the time of my departure is at hand.

- c. The drink offering typifies not only Christ Himself, but also Christ who saturates us with Himself as the heavenly wine until He and we become one to be poured out for God's enjoyment and satisfaction and for God's building—Matt. 9:17; Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6.

Matt. 9:17—Neither do they put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out, and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.

Phil. 2:17—But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.

2 Tim. 4:6—For I am already being poured out, and the time of my departure is at hand.