



PART 2: OVERCOMING THE DRAGON

Sermon Notes

Text: Revelation 12:13-17

Intro:

Apocalypse = Unveiling

Apocalypse is also a genre of literature with its own rules of interpretation.

The Woman's flight to safety

"Wings of an eagle" is language from the exodus (see Ex. 19:4; Isaiah 40:31). This image represents God's protection of his people.

"a time, times and half a time" = 1,260 days = 42 months = 3.5 years (see Daniel 7). These numbers symbolize "a limited amount of time." The suffering of God's people is always merely temporary.

John 16:33 - we live in times of tribulation ("trouble").

Dragon Spit

2 Corinthians 2:11

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They

themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight." ~C.S. Lewis

1. Accusation (v. 10)

Hebrew word for Satan means "Accuser." Greek word for devil means "slanderer."

2. Deception (v. 9)

John 8:44 "the father of lies"

3. Threats (of death)

Hebrews 2:15

The "water like a river" from the dragon's mouth is a counter image to the "river of the water of life" in Revelation 22.

The Antidote

1. The blood of the lamb (Revelation 12:11)

Romans 3:23-24, Romans 5:8

2. The truth (Revelation 12:11)

John 8:32, 2 Corinthians 5:21

3. The Gospel

Death doesn't have the last word. It only has the second last word

Conclusion:

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What images come to mind when you think of the word “Apocalypse”? Why? What is the true meaning of the word? What does that tell us about the purpose of the book of Revelation (“The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ)?
2. Review the content from last Sunday (Revelation 12:1-12). This week is a continuation of that narrative.

Study & Discussion:

1. Read John 16:33. Jesus promises trouble (the same word translated as “tribulation” in Revelation). What sort of trouble do you think he is talking about? Some teachings claim that Christians should be immune from, or escape from, tribulation. Why would someone think that?
2. Discuss the components of “Dragon Spit” (accusation, deception, threats). How have you seen Satan use these in your own life or in the lives of others? What do you do when you feel these attacks in your life? How can we help others overcome too?
 - When we participate in activities like gossip, rumours, lying, intimidation, etc, we are imitating the dragon (maybe we could go as far as saying, we are doing his work for him). Unfortunately, sometimes dragon spit works its way into Church communities, causing disunity. What should we do when we identify it in the church? How can you be a part of protecting church unity? Consider the three “antidotes.”
3. Read Revelation 22:1-5. The “Water like a river” that spewed from the Dragon’s mouth is a counter image to the “River of the Water of Life” in Revelation 22. What are the features of this river and its surroundings?

- The suffering of God’s people is temporary. Our destiny is not to be overwhelmed by dragon spit, but to experience the blessings of the river of the water of life. Does this fill you with hope? Can these images help us persevere under tribulation?

Application:

1. Which antidote to Dragon Spit do you need to administer this week?

Prayer:

Requests

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