|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grant Street Baptist Church** | **Sermon Notes** |
| **Jeremy Beck** | **August 4th, 2021** |

Title: *“We Have Overcome”*

Scripture: Revelation 12:1-17

 *Chapters 12-14 contains another break in the unfolding of the Revelation for John to go back and give more details about things mentioned before*

Message: **1.** **Blood of Virtue** *(1-2, 13-16)*

 *Virtue = beneficial power of something*

1 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman (Israel) clothed with the sun (Jacob), with the moon under her feet (Jacob’s mother Rachael) and a crown of twelve stars on her head (twelve sons/tribes of Jacob). 2She was pregnant (child = Messiah) and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth (the history of Israel = suffering, oppression, persecution).

13When the dragon (Satan) saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child (why the history of Israel has been one of persecution). 14The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle (sign of deliverance), so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of (God will protect and provide for her every need during this time) for a time (1 year), times (2 years) and half a time (1/2 a year) = 3 ½ years of the Tribulation, out of the serpent’s reach. 15Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent (Satan will send his armies, as a flood, after her to destroy her). 16But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth (God will cause some supernatural act of nature to prevent Satan from destroying Israel).

 **2. Blood of Victims** *(3-4, 7-9, 17)*

3Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon (vicious monster covered with the blood of his victims) with seven heads (complete wisdom of evilness – not omniscient) and ten horns (powerful ruler) and seven crowns on its heads (complete king of the earth). 4Its tail swept a third of the stars (angels) out of the sky (1/3 of the angels in Heaven rebelled with Satan and were forced out of Heaven) and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born (Satan’s intent over the ages has been to destroy the woman’s child, the Messiah).

7Then war broke out in heaven. Michael (the Archangel that is the guardian of Israel) and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven (Satan is defeated, God is omnipotent). 9The great dragon (Satan) was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil (means “the accuser”), or Satan (means “the adversary”), who leads the whole world astray (Satan’s goal is to blind all men to the truth of God). He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

17Then the dragon was enraged at the woman (As a result of God’s intervention to save Israel, Satan is outraged, and his anger intensifies) and went off (Satan will retreat and make further “war plans”) to wage war against the rest of her offspring - those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus. (the 144,000 that are saved will be special targets of Satan’s anger)

 **3. Blood of Victory** *(5-6, 10-12)*

5She gave birth to a son, a male child (Israel gave birth to the Messiah), who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.”[Psalm 2:9] (Jesus will one day be the absolute ruler of all nations) And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne (Here John mentions the birth of Jesus, and then goes directly to His ascension into Heaven). 6The woman fled into the wilderness (since Satan has been totally unsuccessful in destroying Jesus, he turns his attention to the woman “Israel” herself) to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of (God has promised to preserve His people) for 1,260 days. (3 ½ years of the Tribulation…the Antichrist will appear as a friend to Israel, but he will turn on them during the middle of the Tribulation and try to destroy them)

10Then I heard a loud voice (one of the 24 elders) in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down (Satan is the great “accuser” and he is constantly accusing believers before God day and night…Satan never rests, he is constantly coming before God and saying that we are not worthy of Him). 11They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony (the elder is our legal defense attorney that reminds Satan that believers have victory over him because of the blood of Jesus shed for us and by the testimony of our lives within a relationship with Jesus); they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. 12Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

Application:

* We Have Overcome
* *Blood of Virtue*: Israel has the beneficial power of God on their side protecting them and providing for them, therefore Satan hates them and wants to destroy them…we too must recognize this and rally behind them
* *Blood of Victims*: Satan is a vicious monster covered with the blood of his victims, but Satan is defeated, God is omnipotent…this realization only intensifies his anger
* *Blood of Victory*: Satan is the great “accuser” and he never rests, constantly coming before God and saying that we are not worthy of Him, but the elder reminds Satan that believers have victory over him because of the blood of Jesus shed for us and by the testimony of our lives within a relationship with Jesus