Revelation 12:4b-13:10

The Dragon and the Child 12:4b-6

* Dragon vs child, not the mother…. Yet
* Similarities
  + Isaiah 27:1
  + Psalm 74:14
  + Psalm 89:9-10
  + Babylon
    - Tiamat the water monster is cut in two by Marduk, the young god of light
  + Canaanite
    - Seven headed monster of the deep, Lotan/Litan
  + Egypt
    - Red dragon Set-Typhon pursues Isis and is later killed by her son Hours
  + Greek
    - Pregnant goddess Leto perused by dragon Python. Leto gives birth to Apollo who kills it
  + Which came first??
    - Genesis
* Note the future reign
* Psalm 2:9
* Luke 1:31-32
* Snatched up to God
  + From incarnation to ascension of Christ
  + Emphasis is on the final outcome –
    - the dragon’s failure to destroy the child
    - victory of the Christ
* Herod, temptations, mocking of demons are signs of the dragon’s failed attempts
* The “woman” flees
  + Once Mary, now is the apostolic church
    - Luke 2:35
    - 1,260 days – same as those carrying out prophetic ministry (11:1-3)
    - Same period that spans the church age

WAR in heaven 12:7-9

* This is not a linear timeline of events!
  + Although we just read of Satan’s fall with taking 1/3 of the angels, in this account, he has not been cast out of heaven.
* Where is the peace?
  + Ephesians 6:12
* See now the devil’s goal… Satan’s annoying whine to regain his position as prince of angels
  + Satan wants the power to judge, accuse, and condemn people
  + Satan claims that he and not the Christ, truthfully represents the saints before God
    - What would this mean?
      * Satan’s coveting of all that is God’s
* Is the war an offensive or defensive battle for God and the angels?
  + Heaven’s offensive attack to remove that which is unholy.
  + If Satan can’t stand, how can we with our sinful wants and desires?
* Casting of Satan from heaven is a result of Christ’s victory on the cross and ascension
  + No room for opposing advocates in heaven!
* The great council
  + Dan 7:10. Is 9:5
* Michael
  + War was God’s command
  + At ascension, no room for the accuser
  + The dragon HAD to be thrown out
* This war is not the original rebellion
  + Luke 10:18 and John 12:31-32

Song of victory 12:10-12a

* Saints are called brothers..
  + Who calls out?
    - 24 elders
* Victory as the devil can NEVER make accusations against the saints before the heavenly throne
* Complete
* Phil 2:7-11
* Saints tormented by guilt, but did not despair because of promise that sins were washed away by the blood of the Lamb
  + His Blood was the cause of the saint’s acquittal
  + Faith holds to this
    - John 12:25
* Party in heaven, but…

The dragon and the woman on earth 12:12b-18

* Woe to the woman!
  + You’d be cranky too if you were cast out of heaven to earth…
    - Contrast this to Christ
  + Short time to attack on earth
* God cares for His church
  + Exodus 19:4, Is. 40:31, Ps 91:4
* The great attack
  + Ephesians 6:12, Rev. 2:12-14
* God rescues
  + Ps 124:2-5
  + Is 43:1-2
* Attack on the woman and church fail… now it is the children
  + Attack on the baptized faithful

The beast from the sea 13:1-10

* Related to the “beast” in 11:7 (11:7 is to be identified with the dragon)
  + Here, this creature is under control of the dragon
* From the place of chaos and evil on earth
  + If one were to look across the water where John was on Patmos or west from Israel on the Mediterranean, what would one see?
    - Rome
  + OT view of “sea” is dangerous
    - Is 57:20-21
      * What does Jesus do?
        + Commanded the seas to be still and quiet!
  + Dan 7:2-3; 25
* First beast
  + Similar to the dragon
    - Where are the diadems?
      * Dragon is the intelligent mastermind of evil who motivates the beast
      * Beat may think the schemes are his… but not
        + The devil plants the idea
    - Horns symbolize earthly powers and will be dominant
    - Blasphemy – Mt 12:31
  + Composite of the four beasts in Dan 7, yet similarities focus on the 4th beast in Dan. 7:7
    - By this time in history, the other 3 beasts had therefore come and gone
      * Note the 4th beast’s time in Dan 7:25
      * Note the reverse order compared to Dan 7
        + John looks backward in time
  + Who is this beast?
    - Rome or other?
      * All whom the devil has manipulated to do his will.
        + Old Adam/Old creation
  + One head killed but healed
    - No one particular ruler will reign forever
      * Caligula, Nero, Hitler, Trump
      * Longing of a former ruler to return (Obama, Bart Starr)
  + Worshiped the dragon
    - Roman Emperors?
    - 1st Commandment stuff!
  + Warfare against the churh