

## INTRODUCTION

11. Rv 12:1-6 Gn 3:15 - enmity tw/ 2 seeds. Motif of pregnant wmn & promised Son thru Scripture. Crush Satan's head w/ fang-pierced heels.
2. We participate in this ancient but current conflict.

## 1st: The Reigning Son - v5

1. See a specific *wmn*: birthing *a son, a male child*.
  - i. Virgin Mary <sup>ESV</sup> Lk 1:35
  - ii. The *son* = Divine Messiah - Isa 7:14. Incarnation of Son of God. A specific *male* - fulfills prophesies, typologies.
2. Son *appeared to destroy the works of the devil* [1Jn 3:8b] who immediately tries to kill baby Jesus - Herod's massacre [Mat 2]. John fast-forwards thru life, death, resurrection to enthronement: reigns as Lion/Lamb.
3. Purpose: *to rule nations rod of iron* = Ps 2:1-5
  - i. *nations* = ethnic groups - *kings of earth*: *uproar* rebellion
  - ii. Ps 2:6 = voice of YHWH; v7 = voice of Son; v8-9 = voice of YHWH. Fulfilled by Jesus' enthronement - Acts 13:32-33; Rm 1:1-4 - [Rv 12:5]
  - iii. Rv 2:24-29 [cites Ps 2 & Jer 19:11] The issue is *authority*: rule
  - iv. Rv 19:15 *rule w/ rod* => defeat enemies
  - v. Shepherd's *rod* - Ps 23:4. Rv 12:5 - *rule* = lead as a shepherd. We see His *rod* to protect & comfort us.
4. The *rule* of Jesus is in conjunction w/ Him being *snatched up* [i.e. by God] *to God and* [even, that is] *to His throne*.
  - i. *caught up* - 2C12:2,4; Xns at 2<sup>nd</sup> coming [1Th 4:17]; 2 Wits - Rv 11:12.
  - ii. Jesus' earthly ministry - binds strong man & plunders house
  - iii. John interprets Ps 2 in terms of Jesus' present reign [Rv5]. Jesus was born to rule nations, seated on God's throne.
5. The strange warfare of the enthroned Lamb. *Rod of iron* wielded redemptively; fight as slaughtered lambs - overcome. Ps 2:10-12 surrender to King Jesus now, before He comes to execute *wrath*: be *discerning*.

## 2nd: The Protected Woman - Rv 12:6

1. Commence the Church-Age. *Then - and, or also*. When Jesus ascends, *the wmn* [Church] also *flees* - pursued [*persecuted*] by Dragon - Rv 12:13-14.
2. Motif of *wilderness* => Exodus - *wilderness*: a place & a time.

- i. place of danger - Dt 8:15-16
  - ii. dependence on God's provisions of G - manna & H2O [Jn 6; Jn 4]
  - iii. place of testing/temptation - training for war & fight enemies [*witness*]
  - iv. God's presence - tabernacle [*worship*]
  - v. pilgrimage journey to Land - move thru space => passing of time
3. In *wilderness* [Church-Age], is a *place* [location] *prepared by God* where *wmn* will be *nourished*: fed & cared for [as child - Gal 3:24-25]
  4. Hb 3-4 wilderness of this present age; urges us to enter God's eschatological Sabbath [vocab re: place - resurrection land & time - eternity].
  5. How long must we travel thru wilderness? *1,260 days* - symbolic #. Until Christ returns - Mat 20:18-20.

## Applic #1: The True Meaning of Christmas

1. John embeds Easter into Xmas. Jesus was born & now reigns! Song by Mark Lowry [1984]: *Mary Did You Know?*
2. Jesus' was born for eschatological, eternal redemptive purposes.
3. Jesus reigns to build His church. If we have other expectations for Jesus, we'll be *scandalized* - Lk 7:23. Discipleship, sons of Most High, overcomers
4. Ps 110:1-2; [1C15:25-26]; Ps 23:4-5. We live under reign of Jesus in midst of enemies. Worship - witness - wage war - overcome.

## Applic #3: The Place Prepared by God for Our Nourishment

1. As sojourners in this age: our *wilderness*, where shld we situate ourselves? Where is our *place*? The local church.
2. Christ is present - means of grace: nourished by Jesus - Jn 6:53-58.