

CMPC Sermon Notes

Series: *Revelation: Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow*

Text: *Revelation 12:7-17*

Message: *Strike 3... You're Out!*

- Last week: strike one against Satan- he fails to devour the Christ child

Surprise: War breaks out in heaven, 7-9

- Same conflict as 1-6, but from a different perspective: heaven
- Michael and his angels against the dragon and his angels, 7
 - Note: Michael is the pursuer/attacker, cf. Daniel 10.13, 21; 12.1
 - Michael's side dominates, and the losers are banished from heaven, 8
- We learn the identity of the Dragon and his various titles
 - Ancient Serpent- the sly snake in the garden begins the fiery dragon
 - Ancient is to indicate his antiquity
 - Points to his power of chaos
 - Satan
 - Devil- to divide, slander, bring charges
 - Satan- adversary; devil and Satan are synonyms.
 - Deceiver of the whole world (cf. Matthew 24.24)
 - Thrown down to earth with his angels
 - Strike two
 - Satan dominates through global empires, political movements, philosophical ideas, principalities and powers, etc.
- Emphases on his constantly accusing
 - Satan attempts to keep us in guilt and shame
 - But no longer has a place in heaven, cf. 12.10
 - In OT, could enter, eg. Zechariah 3 and Job 1-2; with Christ seated, he is no longer able, cf. Luke 10.18, Romans 8.34
 - In Zechariah 3, Joshua truly was guilty- his garments revealed his heart- but Jesus intervened
- The timing of this battle is more likely the cross, not at creation; or simply helps us see the ongoing battle that rages and has raged across the centuries

An interlude with a hymn, The Song of Victory, 10-12

- Loud Voice Announces, 10
 - Salvation and Power and the Kingdom of God and the authority of Christ have come, cf. Matthew 28.18-20
 - God the Father rules through his son, Cf. 11.15
 - Conquered by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, 11
 - An unusual battle strategy! Christ's death on the cross is the key as well as our bearing testimony to it
 - This is how we deal with guilt and shame
 - Satan as a historian
 - Satan as a "hysterian"

- Our security in Christ; cf. I Peter 3.22
 - In a sense, Jesus now becomes the prosecuting attorney, but as our advocate, I John 2.1
- Heavens rejoice, 12
 - We have reason to celebrate
 - But Earth says Woe- Satan is here
 - But his time is short

Back to Satan's agenda, 13-17

- Remember our study of Job: Satan operates within God's limitations
- A closer look at the battle in 1-6: Pursues the woman: "focused rage"13,
 - Unable to attack the ascended Christ, Satan pursues the covenant community, which is now the church
- She escapes with eagles' wings to fly to the wilderness to be nourished, 14
 - Eagles wings: Exodus 19.4
 - For how long? Time, times and half a time- the same as the others
- Serpent tries to get her with water, 15
 - Dennis Johnson: the waters represent the false teaching that would drown the church
 - Earth opens up and swallows the water to protect her; 16, cf. Isaiah 43.2ff
 - The earth opened up and swallowed the participants in Korah's rebellion, Numbers 16.31-33
- Enraged, the Dragon goes to fight other offspring of the woman, 17a
 - Note the people of God are characterized by obedience and faithfulness, 17b
 - Hymn: The Church's One Foundation: *The church shall never perish, her dear Lord to defend...*
- Strike 3!

So What About Us?

- Satan is actually shown to be a five-time loser! Cf. 5, 9, 6/14, 15-16, 17
- Misery loves company
- A roaring lion
- A giant policeman's hand
- Stand