

# HOSTING THE PRESENCE

## #18. The Temple – Destiny

7.15.18

**1 Thessalonians 6:19, 20 NIV** Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

**1 Corinthians 3:16, 17 NIV** Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

**1 Corinthians 6:18-20 NIV** Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. <sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

**Ephesians 2:1 NIV** In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

### I. When He comes

- A. **Revelation 21:1-27 NASB** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, <sup>4</sup>and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." <sup>5</sup>And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He \*said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." <sup>6</sup>Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. <sup>7</sup>He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. <sup>8</sup>But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." <sup>9</sup>Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." <sup>10</sup>And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, <sup>11</sup>having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. <sup>12</sup>It had a great

and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. <sup>13</sup>There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. <sup>14</sup>And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. <sup>16</sup>The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. <sup>17</sup>And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements. <sup>18</sup>The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. <sup>19</sup>The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. <sup>20</sup>the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst. <sup>21</sup>And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. <sup>22</sup>I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup>And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup>In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; <sup>26</sup>and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; <sup>27</sup>and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

B. There is coming a day of full restoration of God's original intent.

## II. Until He Comes

A. **Every Christian is the Temple of God individually** (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).

B. **All Christians are the Temple of God collectively** (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17).

C. **Each congregation is also a unique dwelling place of God.**

1. The imagery of Revelation 2 and 3 supports the dynamic of distinct congregations.
2. Paul's commendations of Christian congregations in various cities indicates we all have distinctive identities.
3. Paul referred to "un-repentant of sin" in Corinth that had an effect on the "loaf" or "Body" of that particular congregation.

### III. Understanding the Battle

- A. **Revelation 12 NIV** A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; <sup>2</sup> and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

#### ***The Red Dragon, Satan***

<sup>3</sup>Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. <sup>4</sup>And his tail \*swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. <sup>5</sup>And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. <sup>6</sup>Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

#### ***The Angel, Michael***

<sup>7</sup>And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, <sup>8</sup>and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup>And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. <sup>10</sup>Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. <sup>11</sup>And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. <sup>12</sup>For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time." <sup>13</sup>And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. <sup>14</sup>But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. <sup>15</sup>And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. <sup>16</sup>But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth. <sup>17</sup>So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

#### B. Getting a grip on Revelation 12

1. One of the central themes in the Revelation is the struggle between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan. This is the normal experience of God's People (John 16:33; Acts 14:22; Matthew 24:1).
2. The persecution will be waged by a satanically inspired ruler called the Beast (Revelation 11:7), who is better known as the Antichrist, who will attempt to frustrate the rule of God on earth by gaining universal power over governments, religions, and economies. He will inflict martyrdom on many who remain loyal to Christ. During this

period of Tribulation, God will exert His Sovereignty and begin the walk to total victory by a series of judgments that will be poured out upon the earth.

3. Satan has been overthrown, but he has not yet been destroyed.
4. Before John marches us to final victory, he pulls back the curtain to allow God's people to see what is going on from the Heavenly perspective.
5. Behind the Beast is the Dragon (Satan).
6. This vision is given in order to assure the People of God that though they must face persecution, God is at work arranging the planet for total victory as Christ Jesus returns to fully establish His Kingdom.
7. I do not believe this is a vision of an event in the future as much as it is a summation that explains the reality of the struggle between the Church and the Dragon. It is not a foretelling as much as it is a retelling of why the struggle is on-going.
8. Summary statements:
  - a) This is understood as a proleptic literary device - a statement or collection of statements that looks forward to a consummation that has not yet occurred literally, but has occurred in principle. We are simply waiting for the full manifestation of the results. The victory is here, yet it is increasing, and total victory is assured because of Christ's work on the Cross!
  - b) The woman represents the people of God.
  - c) The child represents the people of God in an ever-expanding kingdom, and on some level the child represents the plans and progress of God's Kingdom birthed through His Children.
  - d) The Dragon represents Satan, the enemy who stands ready to destroy and devour the people of the Kingdom and their works.
  - e) The vision points out that the outcome is a decided matter. The victory has already been won by the work of Christ, a victory determined and pronounced before the creation of the universe.

- f) The warfare continues even after the initial defeat of the Dragon. So we must remain strong, diligent, and faith-filled. Satan will do everything in his power to destroy the people and work of God, but he will not be successful.
- g) The reference to 3 1/2 years may be a sub-reference to the Tribulation and Israel, since it is referred to as “The Time of Jacob’s Trouble.”
  - (1) There may be a secondary event, for 42 months are clearly part of the Tribulation.
  - (2) The early Christians would understand this imagery, and I believe it was Christ’s way of assuring them of protection even during the period of time described as the worst days of the planet.
- h) The warfare will continue until the time of the restoration of all things which will commence with the return of Christ.
- i) This is the image God gave to John, and it is his way of assuring us that God’s anointed people will ultimately prevail over every strategy of Satan.

## **Christian Life Lessons**

### **1. God has won!**

- A. He has declared victory over us.
- B. Our job is to remain faithful until the realization of total victory is seen by all.

### **2. You are an object of Satan’s anger.**

- A. Do not cooperate with him.
- B. Understand his only true weapons against you are intimidation and accusation.

### **3. Stop taking your progress reports from this world!**