

Preparing For Battle

Rev 12

The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon

1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. 2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. 6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Satan Thrown Out of Heaven

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

The Woman Persecuted

13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. 14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. 15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. NKJV

- Warfare has to be done. It is inevitable.
- To be victorious in battle you have to know your enemy.
 - Satan is a liar.
 - His major tool is deception.

Designed to rule over evil

Gen 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness**; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, **and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.**" 27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, **and subdue it**; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over **every living thing that moves on the earth.** NASB

- We are made in the image of God, meaning spirit.
- We were given dominion over the earth in the beginning through the First Adam.
- Then Satan and his angels were cast to the earth, where it appears God intended for us to rule over them according to the first design given to Adam. (Rev. 12-9)
- Through deception and disobedience Adam lost dominion over the Devil.
- It took the coming of the second Adam, Jesus to restore that dominion over Satan's kingdom.

Let's prepare for battle! A kind of spiritual boot camp.(Commander in Chief?)

Before you pick up the sword/gun and start shooting at the enemy, first make sure there are no enemies in the camp.

The Struggle:

James 1:2-8

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. **6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.** NKJV

- Double mindedness is the hidden landmine of the enemy.
- The things in our hearts, our sinful ways that separate us from God.
- Double minded – Greek word Dipsuchos meaning divided in interest, mainly between God and the world.

Rom 7:14-25

14 For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. 15 For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. 16 But if I do the very thing I do not wish to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that it is good. 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, **but sin which indwells me.** 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, **in my flesh**; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. 19 For the good that I wish, I do not do; **but I practice the very evil that I do not wish.** 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, **but sin which dwells in me.** 21 I find

then **the principle that evil is present in me**, the one who wishes to do good. 22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God **in the inner man**, 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, **waging war against the law of my mind**, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! **So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.** NASB

- There are two distinct personalities at war constantly on the inside and we should rule over evil.
- How does sin live in us? Through strongholds.

Strongholds:

2 Cor 10:3-6

3 For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war according to the flesh**. 4 (for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the **casting down of strongholds**), 5 casting down **imagination**s, and **every high thing** that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ; 6 and being in readiness to avenge all disobedience, when your obedience shall be made full. ASV

- Strongholds are imaginations, high things/Pride, disobedient thoughts and alike.

Particular type of Strongholds:

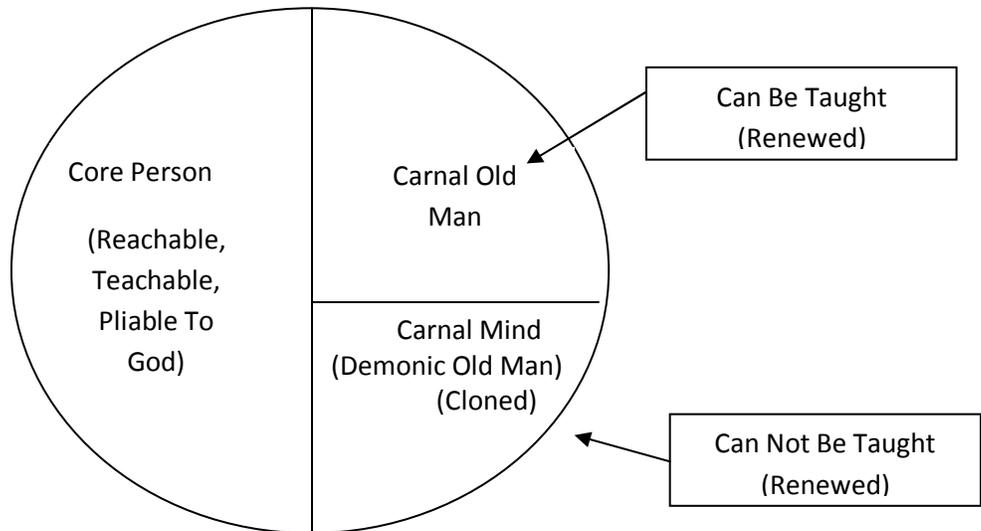
Ex 20:1-6

20:1 And God spoke all these words: 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 3 **"You shall have no other gods before me.** 4 **"You shall not make for yourself an idol** in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 **You shall not bow down to them or worship them;** for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, **punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,** 6 but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments. NIV

- Generational Curses – Ancestral Demons
- How double-mindedness plays into giving ground to the enemy.

Rom 8:5-8

5 For those who are according to the flesh and are controlled by its unholy desires **set their minds on and pursue those things which gratify the flesh**, but those who are according to the Spirit and are controlled by the desires of the Spirit **set their minds on and seek those things which gratify the [Holy] Spirit**. 6 Now the mind of the flesh [**which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit**] is death [death that comprises all the miseries arising from sin, both here and hereafter]. But the mind of the [Holy] Spirit is life and [soul] peace [both now and forever]. 7[That is] because the mind of the flesh [with its carnal thoughts and purposes] is hostile to God, for it does not submit itself to God's Law; indeed it cannot. 8 So then those who are living the life of the flesh [catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature] cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him. AMP



- Bondage resulting from being double-Minded referred to in James 1:8 and James 4:8 is made more complex when the **“Carnal Mind”** created by a lifetime of hurts, disappointments, and abuses has been cloned into a personality resembling a demon.
- A Demonic Old Man (**Carnal Mind**) will not listen to reason, and is especially hostile to the Things of God! In many cases it can be mistaken to be a demon, except it can not be cast out!
- The Demonic Old Man is another level of protection for the “Ancestral Demon and his network because the Carnal Old Man can be renewed, but the Demonic Old Man (**Carnal Mind**) can not!