



Missionary Messenger

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An Interesting Prophecy, Part 1

¹ And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed in the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ² She was pregnant and crying out in the pain and agony of giving birth. ³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: a huge red dragon with seven heads, ten horns, and seven royal crowns on his heads. ⁴ His tail swept a third of the stars from the sky, tossing them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, ready to devour her child as soon as she gave birth. ⁵ And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was caught up to God and to His throne. ⁶ And the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place for her to be nourished for 1,260 days. ~Revelation 12:1-6 (BSB)

We are close to completing our study through the book of Revelation in our 9am Sunday school class. This class has been eye opening for me. Probably the most eye opening was our study on this particular account between the woman and the dragon. I believe that more Christians need to be aware of this chapter because I personally believe that it has a lot to say about the times that we are living in now. However, as a disclaimer, I am not a pastor who goes around setting days and times for Christ's return. I am not saying anything of the sort. Instead, I am pointing out a possible fulfillment of this chapter that directly speaks to our generation. With that in mind, I am going to do a multi-part series here in our newsletter on this prophecy. Today is part one.

This prophecy begins with introducing the main characters of this story. These are a woman, a dragon, and the male child of the woman who is caught up to heaven to the throne of God. There is some disagreement between Protestants and Catholics on the identity of the woman but for the rest of the characters there is total agreement on. Most Christians agree that the Dragon is Satan. They also agree that the male child is Jesus Christ. However, The Catholics believe that the woman is Mother Mary. This passage is the proof text, for them, that Mary is the Queen of Heaven. (Notice the crown). However, us Protestants believe that it refers to the nation of Israel. The proof of this is found in Genesis 37.

Genesis 37:9-11 "Then Joseph had another dream and told it to his brothers. 'Look,' he said, 'I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.' He told his father and brothers, but his father rebuked him and said, 'What is this dream that you have had? Will your mother and brothers and I actually come and bow down to the ground before you?' And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept in mind what he had said." (BSB) (Please catch that there are eleven stars in Joseph's dream. This is because Joseph is the twelfth star.)

With this in mind, here is the main take away from this first article on this prophecy. This prophecy proves that God is not done with the nation of Israel. The resurrection of Jesus Christ did not end God's love for Israel. This very small, comparatively insignificant group of people is still in our news daily. The persecution of them has been severe and yet they are still key players in the ongoing story of mankind. Satan has tried to destroy them, but they are still here!

Today on many college campuses there is a chant, "from the river to the sea, Palestine shall be free." Please be aware that these are the current parameters of the nation of Israel. Palestine is the nation that Rome established to replace Israel in 135AD. (They hated Israel passionately!) On May 14, 1948 the nation of Israel was reestablished with the help of the Christian west. There is no current nation of Palestine. There are Palestinian controlled territories in the nation of Israel, but they are not a current nation. I am convinced that this chant is part of the ongoing efforts of Satan to permanently destroy the nation of Israel. If Palestine was reestablished with the parameters of the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea this would require the collapse of Israel.

Please be looking at this prophecy for yourself. I will write my second installment of this series of articles next month. It gets even more intriguing!

In Christ, Pastor Ken



CONNECTION NOTES:

"Family and Friends for Christ?"

The other day I saw a sign for sale on etsy. It read: "Remember, as far as any one is concerned we are a nice, normal family". I laughed at the thought. I gave the sentiment some thought but pressed on. "In family life, love is the oil that eases friction, the cement that binds closer together, and the music that brings harmony." Eva Burrows

Now that is more like it, especially if we want to impress a better self to our family and friends. Part of having an emphasis on inviting family and friends is helping them to see their need for Christ in their lives. We also increase their connections to our faith community. If you are like me, you really desire that they accept Christ as Savior and walk in His ways. So maybe, just maybe, I should consider how I can influence that choice?

I believe John said it perfectly when he said, "The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends." (God's Word translation) I often think of this verse strictly as dying for a friend. But may I offer you another thought? Maybe "dying" is denying yourself, doing something uncomfortable, and doing what Jesus has asked us to do- go and make disciples:

*Invite someone to a special Sunday service.

*Share a simple testimony of something Jesus has done for us, especially if it is something that family or a friend is going through.

*Show kindness/grace instead of anger when anger is the first thought or emotion.

*Pray with someone that wants prayer, right there and then.

*Walk to that next door neighbor and strike up a meaningful connection and conversation.

This list includes things that I am not comfortable doing. And I certainly would feel as if I was "dying" as I started doing them! Will you consider joining with me this

month? Pray for Christ to give us lots of opportunities to die to our pride, to our selves. Pray that the Holy Spirit will go before us to prepare hearts. Pray that we will be boldly confident in the power of The One living in us. Pray that we might experience the glory of His work in and through us.

Will you pray and then do it?

Sue

CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:

September 8:

Homecoming Friends and Family Meal: Mac 'N' Cheese Bar and Potluck

Join in together and celebrate our families and our friends. Invite one and all. Let's have a great day with those we care about. Please sign up and bring a pot of Mac'N'Cheese or a topping for the bar and a Potluck dish. Good message, good people and good food. What's not to love???

September 23:

Last **Gather @the Fire** for the year!

It should be a nice temperature for a fire.

Join us as we shift into fall. And bring a friend! (and a lawn chair—lol)



Memory Verse of the Month!

Even to your old age, I will be the same, and I will bear you up when you turn gray. I have made you, and I will carry you; I will sustain you and deliver you.

Isaiah 46:4 (BSB)

Who Are We?

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Elders: Dave Jackson (vice-chairman),

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Directors:

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Praying through Scripture

Prayer is powerful. Scripture is powerful. Can you imagine how powerful it can be to do them together?!

When our son Judah was born, I took the blessing that Jacob gave to his son Judah and instead of thinking of it as an earthly king, I thought of it as the king of his heart. Here is the verse from Genesis 49:10 (NIRV).

"The right to rule will not leave Judah. The ruler's scepter will not be taken from between his feet. It will be his until the king it belongs to will come. The nations will obey that king."

I prayed this over Judah that he would be the king of his life until the one to whom it belonged (Christ) would reign in his heart. It was a little scary to pray as I didn't know if Judah would go through a rebellious streak while he was on the throne of his own heart. But I held onto that one day he would give Christ his heart and he has (and thankfully no rebellious streak). I am so thankful that all our kids love Yahweh.

I have a friend who does this. She takes a verse that relates to what one of her kids is going through, writes it on a 3x5 card and prays it over her kids. I have heard of other people keeping cards of verses and praying through them.

Then there are all the memory verses we have been learning. Like last month (Matthew 22:37). Lord help me to love you will all my heart and all my soul and all my mind. Please help me keep my focus on you. Or another one we learned. Help me to think positive thoughts. (Philippians 4:8) "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—" help me think on these things instead of getting bogged down with the negative.

The Psalms are also good verses to pray. Psalm 100: Yahweh, I shout with joy to You, I gladly worship You. You



alone are worthy to be praised. Yahweh, You are God! You have made me and I am yours, the lamb in Your pasture. I come before You with thanksgiving for all you have done for me! I praise Your name, Yahweh. Your name is holy, You are above all others. You are good, and Your love and faithfulness endures forever. Amen!

When you are reading your Bible, consider praying it back to God. See what happens!

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26 NIV)

~Joanne



Men & Women's Bible Studies
Will start up again on **September 10th at 6:30p.**

Both the men and the women are going through a book of the Bible verse by verse.

The men are going through Mark and are led by Pastor Ken and meet in the classroom off the foyer.

The women are going through Colossians and will be led by Danielle and will meet in the library.



MISSIONS One of our missionaries shares about a time of stepping out in faith by answering an ad looking for people who could sing in 3 languages. The missionary thought this would improve her language skills plus help her to connect with more people. There was still quite a bit of a language barrier, but it was discovered that the person who put out the ad was also a Christ follower.

The missionary writes, "Anyway, I don't know the condition of her personal walk, but she clearly is a woman of faith, but without community. I invited her to Church on Sunday." (Which she did end up going and was able to get connected with others.) "Not every new person God puts in our lives needs salvation. Some just need community."

Especially since Covid, so many have lost that community with other believers. Maybe someone you know is a believer, but just needs community.

August in Review

Gather @ the Fire





Gathering their snacks for school. Don't worry the guys made sure the girls got what they wanted.