

Missionary Messenger

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An Interesting Prophecy, Part 2

¹³And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle to fly from the presence of the serpent to her place in the wilderness, where she was nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. ¹⁵Then from the mouth of the serpent spewed water like a river to overtake the woman and sweep her away in the torrent. ¹⁶But the earth helped the woman and opened its mouth to swallow up the river that had poured from the dragon's mouth. ¹⁷And the dragon was enraged at the woman, and went to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. ~Revelation 12:13-17 (BSB)

Last month I began a series that I am calling "An Interesting Prophecy" based on Revelation 12. In the first article I showed that this prophecy has three main characters so far. The woman is Israel, the dragon is Satan, the Son that the woman gives birth to is Jesus Christ. This month's passage adds a fourth character. The fourth participant in this prophecy is described simply as "the rest of her children". This group of people are obviously Christians. We owe our history to the Jews. Our Old Testament is made up of the 39 books that Jews would consider to be sacred Scripture. Also, the entire early church were all Jews. If you can, stop and read verses one through seventeen again. When you reread this please let all of this sink in as to what it is saying.

If one looks closely at the history of Israel from the time of the ascension of Jesus Christ (approximately around 33AD/CE) to the present, they will see that the pursuit of the woman, Israel, by the dragon is a key part of world history. Satan has been pursuing her all around the world trying to destroy her. This pursuit was in the form of Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, the KKK, the jihadists, and so many people groups. They have tried to wipe her off the planet but have been unable to do so. This passage says that the dragon spewed water like a river to overtake the woman and sweep her away. (Revelation 12:15) This is difficult to interpret, but I have a proposed theory. If you look at Revelation 17:1 it mentions that Babylon sits on many waters. One would assume that this prophetic city of Babylon is an island or some other land mass that has a lot of water around it. However, look at how this mention of "many waters" is actually interpreted. "Then the angel said to me, 'The waters you saw, where the prostitute was seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.'" Revelation 17:15. When you take this interpretation that "waters" can refer to "peoples, multitudes and nations and tongues", then you see how all those who have tried to destroy Israel can be the fulfillment of the spewing of water from the dragon's mouth. This is where I am taking something that the Bible clearly interprets and I am applying it to the mystery of the waters spewing from the dragon to destroy Israel.

In conclusion for this month's newsletter, I want to firmly declare that it is important that we stand with Israel. I do not want to be used by Satan to bring about her destruction. Israel was used by God to bring us our Bible, our Savior, and the early church. We cannot be tricked into being her enemy. The Bible is clear on this.

Next month I will continue this very interesting prophecy.

In Christ, Pastor Ken





CONNECTION NOTES:

"First and Foremost!"

Luke 10:2-3 (NIV) ²He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

How satisfied are you on Sunday morning when our church body is thin? Do you long for more people, children, youth in our services? Do you long for some of those to be your family members, your next door neighbors, your work associates, and your friends? If you are like me, you long for this.

Jesus also longed for the "harvest" to be gathered. The situation He encountered was the same while He was still on this earth. His response was the instructions above. His approach given to the disciples, the same approach He used, was a two pronged one.

Notice what came first.

It wasn't instructions to get up off our duffs and do something! It was: First Pray! It was to pray to the One who owns the harvest. To ask Him for help in gathering the harvest. The owner of the harvest has a vested interest in seeing that the harvest is gathered. He is the one responsible to provide the help. If He doesn't, the harvest is lost.

I attended the Prayer Awakening conference. This conference drove home just how much we need to pray. How much we need to be united in spirit and cause with Christ. We do that by way of prayers. I am soliciting believers who will pray the prayer quoted at the beginning of this article. In doing this, I am asking you to set your alarm for 10:02 a.m. to remind you to daily pray this prayer. Let's pray this for the remainder of the year.

Then, may we see God work in and beyond our church, because of the "two or three who agree"!

Praying with you at 10:02! *Sue*

CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:

It's time for our Annual Chili Cook-Off! October 6th: Sunday after church

Bring a pot of Chili and see if yours is the best! Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Thank you gifts for all who provide chili.



We also need some additional items for the meal (cheese, sour cream, crackers, desserts, etc). If you can provide any of these items, let Sue know asap.

MES Teacher Appreciation Fall Drop:

To connect our church with our local teachers, we want to provide an assortment of fall snacks. If you are willing to provide a snack, purchased or homemade, please bring it to the church by Sunday, October 27th.

SAVE THE DATE:

November 2 (Saturday) @ Noon Ladies Luncheon and Christmas Craft:

We are making Terra Cota Clay Pot crafts to make and keep or give away.

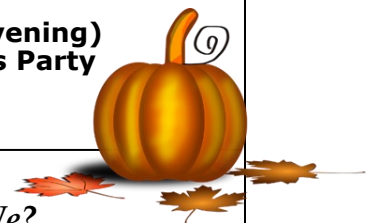
November 24 University Semester-End Study Treats:

We will be collecting until 11/24 for distribution to our university students.

December 1 (Sunday) after the service. Annual Holiday Carry-In

December 15 (Sunday evening) Annual Church Christmas Party

Details later.



Who Are We?

Pastor: Ken Sistrunk 260-229-5949 (cell)

PastorKenNMMC@gmail.com

Elders: Dave Jackson (vice-chairman),

Tim Baker, Jon Gnagy

Directors:

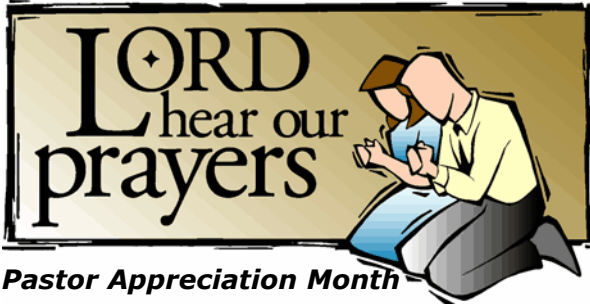
Outreach: Sue Howard

Stewardship: Tim Baker

Worship: Jon Gnagy

Secretary: Joanne Sistrunk

manchestermisssionary@gmail.com



Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. I would like to encourage you to pray every day for Pastor Ken. Many of you already pray for him regularly. Let him know you are praying for him, not just this month but all year.

It is easy to forget that pastors go through tough times just like everyone else. They are sinners saved by grace just like any other believer in Christ. They are also under attack as the enemy doesn't want them preaching God's truth.

When you are ministering to people, sometimes it is hard to see if you are making a difference or accomplishing anything. Just like that stay-at-home mom who invests time in her children even if the dishes didn't get done. There is nothing to measure that she was really doing something and not just staying home watching tv and eating "Bonbons" all day.

There are several articles online about praying for your pastor and the leadership of your church. Many of them include verses you can use to pray. Some of the things they suggest to pray about are

- Confidence
- Protection (especially spiritual)
- Encouragement
- Wisdom
- Fellowship
- Balance (ministry, family, rest)
- Refreshment
- Congregation would be a joy and support to the pastor
- Stay focused (don't get bogged down by the "little" things)
- Feeling of accomplishment (A pastor's work is never done/completed so it is easy to get discouraged, tired, overwhelmed, and so on.)

Let him know you are praying for him and even take 20-30 seconds to pray aloud with him. Let's show Pastor Ken we appreciate him!

Memory Verse of the Month!

**Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God,
the LORD is One.**

Deuteronomy 6:4

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This verse always seemed a little redundant to me; of course God is one God. I learned that in Sunday School when I was little. Several years ago, I had a 'aha' moment when studying this verse. Ken had told me about the word for god singular was El and the word Elohim was actually gods. God's people kept saying they worshipped Gods when they referred to Him as Elohim. That made sense that people started to break God down into small gods: god of the trees, god of the sky, etc. That also made this verse make more sense. In actuality it is saying "Hear, O Israel: Yahweh our Gods, Yahweh is One." Elohim refers to the Trinity just like in Genesis 1:26 when God says "Let Us make man in Our image...". I love when God gives 'aha' moments.

*~Joanne*



**Whatcha Reading?  
Check out our library!**



**Candle in the Darkness**  
By Lynn Austin

Historical Fiction: Civil War Era

"Caroline Fletcher is caught in a nation split apart and torn between the ones she loves and a truth she can't deny.

The daughter of a wealthy slave-holding family from Richmond, Virginia, Caroline Fletcher is raised to believe slavery is God-ordained and acceptable. But on awakening to its cruelty and injustice, her eyes are opened to the men and women who have cared tirelessly for her. At the same time, her father and her fiancé, Charles St. John, are fighting for the Confederacy and their beloved way of life and traditions.

Where does Caroline's loyalty lie? Emboldened by her passion to make a difference and her growing faith, will she risk everything she hold dear?" (from the author's website)