



Missionary Messenger

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An Interesting Prophecy, Part 3

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)

This is the third installment of a series of articles that I have been writing regarding an end times prophecy given in Revelation chapter 12. I write this on the eve of the 2024 presidential election. The polls have not closed but there is an uneasiness in the air as we await the results of the election.

I have already shown that there are four major characters in this prophecy: The dragon is Satan, the woman is Israel, the son of the Woman is Jesus Christ, and the rest of the children of Israel is the Christian Church. This month I will conclude this series with what this prophecy clearly says will happen to us, as The Church.

Satan is at war with Israel and the Church. The last two thousand years has shown that both groups have been under assault. The multiple holocausts by Rome, Germany, and Russia have desperately tried to wipe Israel off the face of the earth. However, they are still here! The Church Universal has also been persecuted. I am thoroughly convinced that we are on the verge of a major persecution. As Americans, we still have religious freedom, but Covid has shown us that there is a turning of sentiments in America regarding Christians. During Covid churches were forbidden to meet and there was little push back to these mandates. I am convinced that the power that the government exerted will be used again against us. Now is the time to prepare.

I have some suggestions for preparation and they are not the usual ones. I am not a fan of us hunkering down in well stocked bunkers waiting for the apocalypse to begin. However, I am pleading with all believers to get back to the basics of what we are to be about. We must memorize God's Word. There may come a day when we do not have access to Bibles or the Internet to read Scripture. Also, we must evangelize now while we still have the freedom to do so. Finally, it is important that we build friendships with other Christians. Our petty differences will not matter when persecution comes.

The Dragon is at war with The Church. We must be diligent in this time of preparation.

In Christ, Pastor Ken



Memory Verse of the Month!

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

1 Corinthians 6:19



CONNECTION NOTES:

"Thanksgiving is Coming and the Goose is Getting Fat!"

Oops. That line should be "Christmas is coming...". Yet ain't it the truth? I looked up some data and it seems the average American eats between 3773 to 6300 calories for their Thanksgiving meal. Yikes!

Maybe this would be a good year to change our perspective. I discovered Isaiah told of a complaint, a perspective shift, God wanted for the Israelites. It concerned how they celebrated their special fast days. In Isaiah 58:1-5 God speaks of how the Israelites seem eager to know and do his will, how they seem to want God to be near them. Yet it was not so. The Israelites celebrated fasts by doing as they pleased, exploiting others, quarreling among themselves, and even coming to blows.

God told them exactly what he desired in Isaiah 58:6-7. "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter-when you see them naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?" You see God wanted their special fast days to make a difference in the individual lives of those who fasted as well as those around them in need.

So maybe we could apply some of the same criteria to our upcoming holiday and to those in need. Let's take some consideration of the compassion God wanted shown to others and do likewise. Remember, if you don't have a different source to reach out, you can always leave some items in the food pantry box.

Here's to a less calorie dense Thanksgiving, yet a greater spirit of thanks,

Sue



CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:

Ladies Lunch and Craft

November 2 (Saturday) @ Noon

Main dish for lunch is Chicken Spaghetti. We are making Terra Cota Clay Pot crafts to make and keep or give away.

University Finals Care Packs

November 24 (Sunday)

Bring items by Sunday morning so we can make them available to our students. Bring something to get them through the end of the year.

SAVE THE DATE:

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

**December 7 (Saturday)
Ladies to Wawasee Craft Fair**

More info to come.

**December 15 (Sunday) @ 5:30p
Annual Church Christmas Party**

More info to come.



"Aha!" Moment

Last month Joanne put an "Aha!" moment she had concerning the October memory verse. Let's help each other by sharing "Aha!" moments that you have had where a verse or spiritual concept made sense to you. It could be something that happened a while ago or recently. It can be anonymous if you want it to be. Send it to Pastor Ken or share it on the bulletin board in the foyer. It might help someone else have an "Aha!" moment.

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

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Thankfulness

November, a time of reflecting on all the blessings that have happened during the year. There were a few years when our kids were younger, we would write down things that we were thankful for and put them in a container as they happened. Then we would read them at Thanksgiving. (I have heard that some people do this as a Christmas or New Year's tradition, also.) Sometimes we forget all the little blessings that happen during the year so it is good to write them down.

Psalm 100 is known as a Psalm of Thanksgiving. (A good one to use as a guide to pray back to God.) It is only 5 verses long. "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness; come into His presence with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His, we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and bless His name. For the LORD is good, and His loving devotion endures forever; His faithfulness continues to all generations."

Being thankful is important. When we pray we are told in Philippians 4:6 that we are to "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with **thanksgiving** present our requests to God." (emphasis mine)

I believe being thankful helps us to put things in perspective. Instead of "woe is me", it is "wow, I have been blessed." It helps us put our focus on God instead of ourselves.

Give thanks to God for all He has done and is going to do!

~ Joanne



6th Annual Chili Cook-off
October 6, 2024



The Judges



The Cooks



The Winners

