

Dr. David Mathewson, Revelation, Session 17, Revelation 11-12 Seventh Trumpet, Woman/dragon/son Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

Revelation 11-12 Seventh Trumpet, Woman/dragon/son

1. Abstract of Mathewson, Revelation, Session 1, Introduction and Background, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture excerpt from Dr. Dave Mathewson's course on the Book of Revelation **explains Revelation 11-12**, focusing on the seventh trumpet and its significance as the culmination of history. The lecture **interprets the symbolic imagery** of the woman, the dragon (Satan), and the son (Jesus Christ), **connecting it to Old Testament and Greco-Roman narratives**. Mathewson argues that the text depicts Satan's defeat through Christ's death and resurrection, but also portrays Satan's continued persecution of God's people (the church) before his final judgment. The lecture further **analyzes the symbolic meaning** of the woman's flight to the desert and the dragon's failed attempts to destroy her and her offspring, emphasizing the church's simultaneous preservation and persecution.

2. 15 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Mathewson, Revelation, Session 1 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Revelation).



Mathewson_Revelation_Session17.mp3

3. Briefing Document

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. Dave Mathewson's lecture on Revelation chapters 11 and 12:

Briefing Document: Revelation Chapters 11-12

Introduction

This briefing document summarizes Dr. Mathewson's lecture on Revelation chapters 11-12. The lecture focuses on the significance of the seventh trumpet, and the introduction of the woman, dragon, and son imagery in chapter 12, exploring how these elements contribute to the book's overarching themes. Mathewson argues that these sections represent a climax in the narrative, and a shift in perspective within the book of Revelation.

Key Themes and Ideas:

1. The Seventh Trumpet (Revelation 11:15-19):

- **Climax of History:** The sounding of the seventh trumpet marks a crucial turning point and the climax of history within the narrative.
- **Transfer of Kingdom:** The central theme of this section is the transfer of rulership from Satan and earthly powers to God and Jesus Christ: *"the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever."*
- **Consummation of God's Rule:** This event consummates the establishment of God's kingdom on earth, fulfilling the prayer, "Thy kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven." What was true in heaven (chapters 4-5) is now true on earth.
- **God as Almighty:** The 24 elders acknowledge God's power, referring to him as "the Almighty, the Sovereign One," whose power now extends throughout the world. He is "the One who is and who was" as the "is to come" is no longer needed because His kingdom has arrived.
- **Introduction to Key Themes:** This section introduces major themes that will be further developed, including judgment, reward for the faithful, and destruction of those who destroy the earth, which are addressed in chapters 19-22. *"The nations were angry, and your wrath had come. The time has come for judging the dead and for rewarding your servant, the prophets and your saints, and those who*

reverence your name, both small and great, and for destroying those who destroy the earth."

- **End of History?** The seventh trumpet brings a sense that the end of history has been reached, yet the book continues. The author notes, *"time is no more, the one who is to come has now arrived, his kingdom has been established."*

1. **Structure and Narrative Shift:**

- **New Vision:** Starting with chapter 12, a new vision or a new section of the book begins with different imagery. Some scholars even see the opening of the temple in 11:19 as the start of a new section, paralleling the opening of heaven in chapter 4.
- **Repetition of the Story:** Mathewson proposes that Revelation tells the same story twice; chapters 4-11 and then again in chapters 12-22, but now with more detail and using different symbolic language. *"Revelation tells the same story twice. One of those stories is told in chapter 4 through 11, and now chapters 12 through 22 will tell the same story as chapters 4 through 11, but now using different imagery, and now in a more detailed and a deeper way than chapters 1 through 11 did."*
- **Center Point/Fulcrum:** Chapters 12 and 13 are seen as a pivotal point of the book of Revelation.

1. **Revelation 12: The Woman, Dragon, and Son:**

- **Source of Conflict:** Chapter 12 explores the true source of the church's suffering and conflict, revealing the cosmic battle behind the earthly events. It provides a "behind the scenes" view.
- **The Woman:** Represents the nation of Israel, out of whom the Messiah came. She also represents the broader people of God, including both Jew and Gentile. *"the woman probably stands for the nation of Israel, but she gives birth to the Messiah...the woman probably stands for more than only the nation of Israel but demonstrates the continuity of the people of God, that she's Israel, but then she's also the new people of God."* She is also a symbolic figure that may be partially suggestive of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Her birth pangs are a symbolic representation of the suffering of God's people.

- **The Dragon:** Identified as Satan, "the ancient serpent called the devil," harkens back to Genesis 3. The dragon represents a satanic force, and draws on earlier symbolism from the Old Testament of sea monsters representing chaos, oppression, and evil kingdoms (e.g., Pharaoh of Egypt). The dragon's power is seen in his ability to sweep a third of the stars from the sky, drawing on an image from Daniel 8. *"So it's as if John is saying this dragon now that he sees in chapter 12, this is the same satanic power that inspired other oppressive, godless, idolatrous, evil empires and rulers such as Egypt in the past now surfaces again in John's own vision in chapter 12."*
- **The Son:** Clearly identified as Jesus Christ, the Messiah, who will rule with an iron scepter, echoing language from Psalm 2:8 and Revelation 2:27. The author notes this is the most detailed account of the Christmas story outside of Matthew and Luke.
- **Thwarted Devouring:** The dragon attempts to devour the son but is thwarted. The Son's life, death, resurrection, and exaltation are collapsed into a single event.
- **War in Heaven:** The battle between Michael and his angels against Satan and his angels shows God's sovereignty over Satan. Michael defeats Satan, and Satan is cast down to earth, *"God himself does not need to fight Satan. His archangel, Michael, one of his angels, is sufficiently able to defeat Satan and his angels and cast him out of heaven."*
- **Victory Through Christ's Death and Resurrection:** The defeat of Satan occurs due to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and is not just a primordial event. *"John gives it an explicit application by suggesting that it happens at the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ."* The hymn in 12:10-12 interprets this, stating, "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."
- **Woe to the Earth:** Satan's defeat in heaven results in woe on earth as Satan is hurled down, knowing his time is short.
- **The Woman's Flight:** The woman is given wings like an eagle and flees into the desert, echoing the Exodus story. The desert is a place of protection and preservation for the people of God.

- **Interpretation and Perspective:Apocalyptic Perspective:** Revelation 12 lifts the veil and provides a new perspective on the Christians' suffering under Roman rule, showing the cosmic battle that underpins earthly events.
- **Dual Perspective on the Church:** The church is depicted in two ways: as the woman preserved in the desert and as her offspring who are persecuted, representing the paradoxical reality of the church's security and vulnerability. *"On the one hand, like the woman, the church is preserved and kept and secure. On the other hand, like her children, the church is subject to persecution and even to death at the hands of Satan..."*
- **Encouragement and Wake-Up Call:** The message is meant to encourage those suffering for their faith, as well as to call those who are compromising to take a stand and maintain their faithful witness, even if it means death. *"For those who are suffering persecution because of their faithful witness, especially two of the churches in chapters 2 and 3, this will be a source of encouragement to maintain their faithful witness and to be steadfast. But for the other churches, it will be a wake-up call to stop compromising and to instead take a stand."*
- **Defeat of Satan:** The key point is that Satan has already been defeated through Christ's death and resurrection; his persecution of the church is just a "last-ditch effort."

1. Sources of the Story

- The author notes that the story likely draws on two sources: one from the Old Testament, and one from the Greco-Roman world, which he will cover in the next section.

Conclusion

Dr. Mathewson's analysis of Revelation chapters 11-12 highlights the climactic nature of the seventh trumpet and introduces the complex symbolism of the woman, dragon, and son. These chapters provide a crucial perspective on the nature of the church's conflict and its ultimate hope. The lecture emphasizes that despite appearances, Satan's defeat is already assured through Christ's death and resurrection, and the church is ultimately preserved, even in the midst of suffering. The symbolic language provides both encouragement for those suffering persecution and a challenge to those who compromise their faith.

4. Mathewson, Revelation, Session 17 Revelation 11-12, Seventh Trumpet, Woman/dragon/son

Revelation Study Guide: Chapters 11-12

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. How does the seventh trumpet differ from the previous trumpets in terms of the events it portrays?
2. What key theme is introduced in Revelation 11:15, and how does it relate to the overall message of Revelation?
3. Why is the phrase "the one who is to come" absent from the description of God in Revelation 11:17?
4. According to Dr. Mathewson, what is a main function of Revelation chapters 12 and 13 in relation to the rest of the book?
5. Who does the woman in Revelation 12 most likely represent, according to the lecturer?
6. What is the significance of the dragon's seven heads and ten horns?
7. How does Dr. Mathewson interpret the battle in heaven involving Michael and the dragon, and when does he say it occurs?
8. How do the saints overcome the dragon in Revelation 12:11, according to the lecture?
9. What does the woman fleeing into the desert and being given eagle's wings signify, and what Old Testament imagery does it evoke?
10. How does the dragon attempt to harm the woman, and what does it symbolize?

Quiz Answer Key

1. Unlike the previous trumpets that focus on calamitous events, the seventh trumpet is presented not through a vision but through voices and hymns that proclaim the transfer of earthly kingdoms to Christ and God, signifying the culmination of history.

2. Revelation 11:15 introduces the theme of the kingdom of the world becoming the kingdom of God and Christ, which demonstrates the ultimate transfer of power from Satan and earthly rulers to God's reign and highlights God's ultimate sovereignty.
3. The phrase "the one who is to come" is absent because the kingdom has already arrived, and the future reign of God has become a present reality with the arrival of Jesus' kingdom, thus rendering that phrase unnecessary.
4. Chapters 12 and 13 serve to explore the true source of the church's conflict and to help the audience view their struggles from a broader, apocalyptic perspective, lifting the curtain on the underlying spiritual war.
5. The woman represents the nation of Israel, but also, more broadly, the entire people of God, including both Old Testament Israel and the New Testament Church, made up of Jew and Gentile.
6. The dragon's seven heads and ten horns symbolize a powerful and complete force of evil, representing the satanic power behind oppressive empires that oppose God and his people.
7. The battle in heaven is interpreted as a symbolic representation of the defeat of Satan through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and it is an event connected with the victory of Christ and the establishment of his kingdom.
8. The saints overcome the dragon "by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony" which means they overcome through the sacrifice of Christ, and their faithful witness, even to the point of death.
9. The woman fleeing into the desert with eagle's wings is symbolic of God's protection and preservation of his people, and it recalls the Exodus imagery of God leading the Israelites out of Egypt.
10. The dragon tries to harm the woman by spewing out a flood, representing the persecution and oppressive measures that Satan uses against God's people, and these efforts are ultimately thwarted.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the significance of the seventh trumpet in Revelation 11. How does it function as a climax, and what are its implications for the rest of the book?
2. Discuss the symbolism of the woman, the dragon, and the male child in Revelation 12. How do these figures relate to each other, and what larger themes do they represent?
3. Evaluate Dr. Mathewson's interpretation of the battle in heaven in Revelation 12:7-12. How does he connect this event with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?
4. Compare and contrast the ways the church is depicted in Revelation 11 and 12. How do these different images reveal the complexity of the church's experience?
5. Explain how Revelation 12 functions to give hope to the churches that were facing persecution during the time of its writing. How does it reframe the conflict they were experiencing?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Seventh Trumpet:** The final of the seven trumpet judgments in Revelation, marking a shift from warnings to the culmination of God's plan, the transfer of power to God and Christ, and the defeat of Satan.
- **Third Woe:** Connected to the seventh trumpet, the third woe signifies the final judgment and the consummation of history.
- **24 Elders:** Symbolic figures in Revelation, representing the people of God and participating in the worship of God in heaven, and interpreting the heavenly events.
- **The Woman (Revelation 12):** Represents Israel, the people of God, and the church, demonstrating continuity and the expansion of God's covenant community.
- **The Dragon (Revelation 12):** Represents Satan, the ultimate source of evil, chaos, and oppression, who opposes God and persecutes his people throughout history.
- **The Son (Revelation 12):** Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the son of God, and the one who will rule with an iron scepter.
- **Michael the Archangel:** A powerful angel who battles Satan and his angels in Revelation 12, representing God's power and sovereignty over evil forces.
- **Blood of the Lamb:** Refers to the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, which is the means through which believers overcome the power of Satan and receive salvation.
- **1260 Days/Time, Times, and Half a Time:** Symbolic time periods that represent the period of the church's existence, an extended time of both intense conflict and God's protection.
- **Exodus Imagery:** References to the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt that highlight God's rescue and protection of his people from oppression and persecution.
- **Apocalyptic Literature:** A genre characterized by symbolic language, visions, and a focus on the battle between good and evil, as well as the end of the world.

5. FAQs on Mathewson, Revelation, Session 17, Revelation 11-12 Seventh Trumpet, Woman/dragon/son, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ on Revelation 11-12: The Seventh Trumpet, The Woman, the Dragon, and the Son

- **What is the significance of the seventh trumpet in Revelation 11?**
- The seventh trumpet marks the climax of history, signifying the transfer of kingdom rule from Satan and earthly powers to God and His Christ. It's not a visual event, but rather the proclamation of heavenly voices and the 24 elders stating that the kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of the Lord. This event also indicates the beginning of final judgments, rewards for God's servants, and the destruction of those who harm the earth. The phrase "who is, and who was" omits "who is to come" because the kingdom has already arrived, establishing God's eternal reign.
- **How does Revelation 12 function within the broader context of the book?**
- Revelation 12 provides a deeper exploration of the conflict introduced earlier, particularly the suffering of the church. It reveals the true source of the church's struggle, lifting the veil to expose the cosmic battle between God and Satan, thus showing the readers a new perspective on the situations they face. Some scholars even see Revelation telling the same story twice, with chapters 4-11 being one telling and chapters 12-22 being a second telling of that same story, just with different and deeper imagery.
- **Who is the woman in Revelation 12, and what does she represent?**
- The woman is a multi-layered symbol. Initially, she represents the nation of Israel, the origin of the Messiah. However, she also embodies the continuity of God's people, extending beyond Israel to include the church, made up of both Jews and Gentiles. While suggestive of Mary, the mother of Jesus, she is not solely confined to that representation and stands for the people of God throughout history.

- **Who is the dragon in Revelation 12, and what is his role?**
- The dragon is a symbol of Satan, drawing on a history of meaning in the Old Testament, where dragon figures often represent oppressive, godless empires and rulers. He embodies chaotic, evil, and satanic power. In Revelation 12, the dragon is explicitly identified as Satan, the ancient serpent of Genesis 3, demonstrating that the same satanic force that inspired past oppressors is at work against the church. The dragon's primary intention is to devour the woman's child, the Messiah.
- **Who is the son of the woman in Revelation 12, and why is he important?**
- The son is Jesus Christ, the Messiah, whose identity is made clear through the description of him ruling all the nations with an iron scepter. The son's birth, ascension, and exaltation are presented as one symbolic event, emphasizing his victory over Satan through death and resurrection.
- **What is the significance of the war in heaven described in Revelation 12?**
- The war in heaven, where Michael and his angels defeat Satan and his angels, represents a symbolic depiction of Christ's victory over Satan through His death and resurrection. This battle results in the expulsion of Satan from heaven, marking the inauguration of God's kingdom and the establishment of Christ's authority. The hymn in verses 10-12 interprets this battle and explains how it is directly tied to the death of Jesus Christ and the witness of believers.
- **What is the significance of the woman fleeing into the desert and being protected for a specific time?**
- The woman fleeing into the desert represents the church being protected and preserved by God during a period of intense persecution and conflict. The imagery draws on the Exodus story, where God protected Israel in the desert. The specific time frames mentioned - "1260 days" and "a time, times, and half a time" - refer to the duration of the church's existence, emphasizing that though the conflict is intense, it is also limited in duration. This time period is occurring simultaneously as the events of chapter 11, the two witnesses. This demonstrates that the church is presented from many different perspectives.

- **How does Revelation 12 encourage the persecuted Christians, and how does it help them understand their circumstances?**
- Revelation 12 offers persecuted Christians a new perspective on their suffering by revealing that their true struggle is not against Rome but against Satan, who has already been defeated by Christ's death and resurrection. It is a reminder that despite facing persecution and death, God's people will ultimately be preserved. This understanding serves as an encouragement to maintain faithful witness and not compromise, as well as a wake-up call to those who have become complacent or who have compromised. The persecution they endure is a result of Satan's defeated flailing about, not the reality of his enduring power.