

God's Last Message 7 of 12

#0242

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—1958

One of the most interesting verses in all the Bible to me is found in Revelation 12:17, and I invite you to turn to that text in your Bibles.

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” Revelation 12:17.

As we shall see, this Scripture applies in a special way to the very near future. It has to do with the development of those people who will welcome Jesus at His appearing, and go with Him from world to world through the universe of God. And it is most vital that we understand every term in this verse in order that we may appreciate the truth that is here set forth.

You’ll notice that there are several symbols here. The first one mentioned is the dragon. Now, we’re not left in doubt as to who this is, because the ninth verse speaks of:

“...the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world”
Revelation 12:9.

So we know who the dragon is, he’s the serpent, Satan. All down through the ages from the Garden of Eden to the present hour, Satan has been represented as the serpent, the speaking serpent. He has a message for the world, and he is successful in getting people to believe it because this says he deceives the whole world.

I’m glad He doesn't have quite everything because there’s a war on between the dragon and another group represented as a woman and her children. The dragon was wroth with her and went to make war with the remnant of her seed. Seed, of course, means children.

The woman is a symbol of God's church. In Ephesians 5:23–32, the apostle makes clear that as the wife is related to the husband, so the church is related to Christ. There is a Divine symbolism there, a wonderful and beautiful relationship.

There is further proof in the text itself that the woman and her children represent the people of God because it goes on to say that they keep the commandments of God

and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Certainly, no one but God's people would have those marks. So I think it's quite clear from the text itself.

On the one hand, we have the Devil who is deceiving the whole world, and on the other hand, we have the people of God represented by a holy woman and her children, who in the last days are represented here as the remnant.

Let's go back to the very beginning, the book of Genesis, and the third chapter, and we'll read something that sounds very much like this text we've just read. You know it's interesting how in the book of Revelation, all the books of the Bible meet and end. Genesis begins the story, and Revelation closes it.

In Genesis, you remember we have the story of sin coming into the world. Adam and Eve eating of that fruit that God had forbidden them to touch, and as the result because of their sin, they had to leave the garden home. But they were given the promise of a Savior who was to be born into this world, the seed of the woman. Through Him, the serpent's head was to be bruised—that is Satan would finally die; this serpent who had spoken to them that awful day and brought disobedience and sin and death into the world, he was not always to reign. Through long ages the people of God have been held up by this hope. Listen, God is speaking to the serpent, just after he had caused the fall of Adam and Eve:

“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shall bruise His heel” Genesis 3:15.

Notice these expressions; He's speaking to the serpent. And you notice there's a war on beginning way back there. God says to that serpent, "I'm going to put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed." There you have it—enmity, war, and antagonism. I thank God that He has put a measure of enmity against sin and Satan in our hearts. Don't you thank Him for that? And I want more and more of it. I don't want to see any armorists, or truce or compromise, or fraternizing with the enemy in this war between Christ and Satan, between righteousness and law-breaking. Do you? No. I thank God that He has put the enmity there.

God says to Satan, "I'm going to put enmity between you, the serpent, and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed." Does Satan have seed in this world? Oh, yes. Speaking to those wicked ones who rejected Christ, Jesus said:

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do...” John 8:44.

Think of it. Is it possible there would be people who would go so far in sin that they could be characterized by Christ Himself as the seed of the serpent, the children of the Devil? So He called them, and He knew what He was talking about.

Down here in this last generation the whole world is going to go so far in sin, they will be so fully united with the great apostate in his warfare against God and God's law, and God's government that the whole world, outside of the children of God, will be aptly represented by this express, the seed of the serpent, the children of the Devil.

In fact, there are only just these two things opened before people today. They can either become all like Jesus, and become the children of God, as we've studied already in these lessons, fully reflecting the image of Jesus, or else Satan will so lead them captive that they will come to reflect his image fully, and he will see in them Satan incarnate.

Oh, what a thing, what a prospect. Thank God, this morning you and I have the opportunity of choosing to be among the seed of the woman rather than the seed of the serpent. Aren't you glad? Yes.

Now let's notice this matter of the seed of the woman. I'll put enmity, God says between thee the serpent and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed. It, the woman's seed, shall bruise thy head. Then there is something to be done through the seed of the woman that is to put the Devil out of business. He's to be bruised on his head. He's to be destroyed finally and forever. Thank God.

This promise was renewed to Abraham. The seed that was to be born was to be born through the woman, and down through the ages, men looked forward to the coming of that Deliverer. And of course, when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son made of a woman, born into our human family (Galatians 4:4). In the third chapter of Galatians Paul makes it clear that the One born of the woman, our Savior, Jesus Christ, was the fulfillment of that promise concerning the seed:

“...He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one,
And to thy seed, which is Christ” Galatians 3:16.

So Christ was the seed of the woman who was to bruise the serpent's head. And it was through His death at the cross that that was made possible. At that time, in fulfillment of the promise, His head was bruised. In other words, the old serpent stung Him. Oh, what an agony He went through. But thank God, He rose from the dead and came forth triumphant over the Devil. And finally, the old serpent will be bruised by that master conquer, Jesus Christ. His head will be crushed.

That expression 'the seed of the woman' then applies directly and primarily to Christ, as Paul says here in Galatians 3:16. But in the 29th verse of Galatians 3, Paul spreads it out to include you and me too. And I'm so glad we share:

“...if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise” Galatians 3:29.

But the only way we can properly be spoken of as the seed, that same expression that is used of Christ, is for us to be like Jesus, isn't it? Sure. Wheat seed is like the original planting of the wheat seed. Corn seed is like the original planting of the corn seed. And only those who meet the description of 1 John 3:2, “when He shall appear we shall be like Him,” only those can be properly spoken of as the seed of the woman in contrast to the seed of the serpent.

Well, down through the ages friends, God has been carrying on this line, this holy line. This woman and her children—the church and the people of God, have always had a war on their hands with the Devil. They keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. And here in this closing hour this remnant of time, that war reaches its climax. That struggle comes to its closing battle.

Let's read that text in Revelation 12:17 again. We know the meaning of the symbols now. We have the background, the setting down through the ages.

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went
Went to make war with the remnant of her seed
Which keep the commandments of God, and have the
Have the testimony of Jesus Christ” Revelation 12:17.

Look out upon this world. What do you see going on? Looking through the prophetic telescope, you see a war on between a holy woman and her children who are greatly in the minority, a remnant, and the great multitudes led by the deceiver. There's a war on.

Where do you stand? How will you distinguish that remnant? Among all the confusing opinions and doctrines and preaching and proclamations today, how will you know that little remnant? It says they keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. By those two identifying signs, you may know them, my friends. Thank God, you can be identified with them. First, they keep the commandments of God.

Let's note a very important statement in James 2 on this point of keeping the commandments of God. It's something many overlook. Notice how clear the New Testament is on this subject:

“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For He that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill...” James 2:10–11.

He's speaking of the ten commandment law you see. He quotes the Sixth and Seventh Commandments of the Decalogue. He says clearly that if a man breaks one point, one of these Ten Commandments, he's guilty of all. In other words, he has broken the law.

As Dwight L. Moody, the great evangelist of the past century, put it, "If a man is on a platform supported by a chain of ten links, it matters not which one of the links is broken, the chain is broken and he falls."

So this remnant, this seed of the woman against whom the Devil makes war, who keep the commandments of God, this remnant must keep how many of those commandments? All 10 of them. And to break one point deliberately, knowingly, defiantly, is in effect to reject the whole law. The truth of the matter is, the man who breaks one commandment shows that if he wanted to break any of the others, he'd break them too, doesn't it? Sure, because his disobedience is because he prefers his way to God's way.

To state it the other way around, Jesus says, If you love Me, keep My commandments (John 14:15). Well, if we love Him, how many will we keep? We'll keep all of them, dear friends. Thus we have as an identifying mark of God's people—the keeping of *all* of the commandments. They delight to do His will, His law is in their hearts. Psalm 40:8.

Now you remember in our last lesson we found that in the very heart of that law God has put His seal, His sign, the memorial of His creative power, the mark of the fact that He made the heavens and the earth which is the basis of His authority. That's plainly stated in Exodus 20:8–11 to keep the seventh-day Sabbath, from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. Why?

"For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" Exodus 20:11.

And in Ezekiel 20:20, He tells us:

"...hallow My Sabbaths; and they shall be..."

What?

"...a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God" Ezekiel 20:20.

Yes, the seventh-day Sabbath, the memorial of creation, is God's mark, God's seal placed in the foreheads of His people in this closing hour; His sign, His flag flung

out to the breeze. And friends, if there is any time to fly the flag, it's wartime, right? If there's any time when loyalty to that flag is essential, it is when the dragon is in a special sense, making war in this last great battle between Christ and the serpent.

Oh, thank God that all over this world, this wonderful Sabbath message is being preached. And every week as the sunset of the Sabbath ushers in the holy hours, as round this world the day travels, every place around this world where those evening shadows fall there's somebody on every meridian who is looking heavenward, and earth is joining the angels of Heaven in worshiping the Creator on the holy day that He has established as a sign of His creative power.

A worldwide movement, small it's true compared with the great multitudes of this world. But nevertheless, reaching out to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, a worldwide movement is in progress, calling attention of men to the Creator's law, and exalting the Creator's rest day, as the sign of His authority and the proof of men's allegiance to Him.

That's the message that's brought to view in Revelation 14. The angel flying in the midst of Heaven to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people says, "And worship Him that made Heaven and earth, the sea, and the fountains of waters."

Now let us look at this second identifying mark. This remnant, this seed of the woman that keep the commandments of God, they have something—the testimony of Jesus Christ. It must be something of value. Another translation gives it: they hold it, they hold right onto it. They exalt it—the testimony of Jesus.

Well, why wouldn't the people of God appreciate the testimony of Jesus Christ? If Jesus has a testimony to give to His people, certainly they will want to listen when Jesus speaks, won't they? Yes, they will.

Revelation 19:10 gives us another name for this wonderful gift from Heaven. John is telling of his experience in seeing the angel who showed him these wonderful visions of the book of Revelation, and he says I fell at his feet to worship him, the angel said:

“...See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” Revelation 19:10.

The testimony of Jesus is what? It's the spirit of prophecy. So a prophet is Jesus' messenger with a special gift of inspiration—the spirit of prophecy. Not just a preacher. Every preacher ought to have a message from God that he gets from the Bible, shouldn't he? Yes. But this is something beyond that, something more than that. Peter tells us:

“...the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”
2 Peter 1:21.

That moving of the Holy Spirit upon the mind of the prophet is a gift that only Heaven can bestow. That’s why it’s called the spirit of prophecy. And of course, the one who receives that gift is a prophet. As he writes it out for the church that is a message from Heaven.

Where does he get it? He gets it from Heaven. Who brings it? Here is some wonderful news. There is a special angel messenger designated to bring that message from Heaven:

“I Jesus have sent Mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches” Revelation 22:16.

The testimony of Jesus? Yes. Who’s speaking then? Jesus. How? By His angel. Will we listen to that angel, friends? Yes, for he brings the message from Heaven, the testimony of Jesus.

In fact, we’re given the name of that angel:

“...the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings” Luke 1:19.

Who is this angel sent to speak with men and show them glad tidings from Heaven? Gabriel. He was with all the prophets. Revelation 22:8–9. Go back to the book of Daniel. Listen as Daniel hears a voice from God speaking to a certain angel Gabriel:

“...make this man to understand the vision” Daniel 8:16.

We see him again in the ninth chapter:

“the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning...” Daniel 9:21.

And we see him in the 10th chapter coming again, and in Daniel 10:21, he assures Daniel that only Gabriel, the one that was speaking, and Michael, another name for Christ, knew the wonderful truths that were being made known to the prophet, at that particular time.

Do you see, then, this wonderful channel of light from Heaven to earth? Do you see what a wonderful gift it is when the church has that message from Heaven,

originating with Christ, coming down through the angel, given to a prophet, and written out for the church?

In Revelation 1:1–2, we have it all summed up in one Scripture:

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ...” Revelation 1:1–2.

Ah friends, I think that is wonderful, don't you? That's the wonderful channel of light. Down through the Bible, we see that channel of light. Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied saying:

“Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints”
Jude 14.

Noah, how did he know to preach the flood? Did he just get an idea? Oh no:

“being warned of God of things not seen as yet... [he] prepared an ark” Hebrews 11:7.

In these last days, Jesus says like the days of Noah, here must be a message to warn men, and it must be a message from Heaven. Not the thinking of human minds, but a revelation from the sky.

All down through the Old Testament, we see God appearing to men and women as prophets. We see Him sending His angel to give them the message. And then down in New Testament times, you remember that at the birth of Jesus as He was brought there to the temple, there was an aged prophet, Simeon (Luke 2:25), and an aged prophetess, Anna (Luke 2:36). After Jesus went back to Heaven we see Peter in Acts 10, receiving a message from Heaven to go to the Gentiles; Paul in Acts 9 receiving that wonderful revelation which sent him out to the Gentile world. Acts 21:8–9, we see Philip's four daughters prophesying. And then, turning to the last book of the Bible, we see chapter after chapter filled with glorious visions brought by this angel Gabriel from Heaven. “I, Jesus have sent my angel to testify unto you these things in the churches.”

You know, years ago when I was preaching this message in California, there was an infidel who came to some of our meetings. One night after the meeting he asked if he could have an interview with me, and we made an appointment. We sat down and he told me of his doubts and questions. Then I ask him if he'd like to know about my hope, and he said he would. So I went down through some of these prophecies that I've already studied with you like Daniel 2 and Matthew 24. I showed him how wonderfully one prophecy after the other had been fulfilled.

Then he asked another question. He said, "Mr. Frazee, you say that back there that an angel came to these prophets and told them these things, and that it happened again and again. Now he said, why doesn't that angel come today? Why doesn't anybody today see that angel?"

Do you think the infidel's question was a fair question? Do you think it was a good question?

I said to him, "My friend, have you ever asked that question to anybody else before?"

"Oh yes," he said.

I said, "Did you ever get an answer?"

"No," he said, "I never did."

I said, "You have met the message and the movement that has the answer to that question." And in our next lesson, I'll give you the answer.

Shall we bow our heads in prayer? Our precious Lord, oh, we thank Thee that in the age-long controversy between the serpent and the seed of the woman, there is light from Heaven to guide the church of God. We thank Thee that we're not left alone in the world of sin to meet the wrath of the dragon, the deceptions of the great enemy. Oh, we thank Thee that the One who made this world and gave His life upon the cross, is testifying by His angel again and again and again. May we love that testimony. We ask it in Jesus' name, amen.

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