

The Big Picture

His-Story - belongs to one unified, sovereign plan of God

Revelation describes events that are still future in their final fulfillment, but they are rooted in God's redemptive work throughout all of history

We look backward to God's past promises, **Christ's victory** at the cross, and **satan's long rebellion that started in Genesis 3:1**

While also looking forward to **the final defeat of evil**, the **return of Christ**, the **judgment of the world**, and the establishment of the **new heaven and new earth**

What the future holds for mankind has always been settled in the eternities past

66 Books, 1500 years, three different continents

The birth of Christ was not merely a quiet moment in Bethlehem

The Virgin Birth: **Isaiah 7:14** predicted a sign: "**The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel**" "meaning "God with us"

The Ruler from Bethlehem: **Micah 5:2** specified that the Messiah would emerge from "**Bethlehem Ephrathah**," a small town in Judah

The Divine Nature: **Isaiah 9:6** described the child as "**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**"

His lineage: The Messiah was prophesied to be a descendant of King David, **Isaiah 11:1**, **establishing an eternal heir to the throne**

It was an invasion of satan's dark, evil kingdom and the beginning of his certain defeat **Revelation 19:20**

Jesus speaks of satan's fall - **And He said to them, I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Luke 10:18 NKJV**

satan **cannot** take away a believer's salvation, **but he actively seeks to tempt, attack our mind, distract, deceive, accuse, produce fear, intimidate, divide, distract, and discourage believers**

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8 NKJV

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:4 NKJV

How can believers resist Satan - Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you James 4:7 NKJV

Notice the order, submit, then resist, we resist satan by standing on **God's Word, praying, walking in the Spirit, confessing sin, staying connected to the church, and refusing to believe his lies**

because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:4 NKJV

In context, **Isaiah 46**, God contrasts Himself with the idols of Babylon. Their gods had to be carried by people, but the true God carries His people

Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure. Isaiah 46:10 NKJV

This verse is a powerful declaration of God's sovereignty, foreknowledge, and absolute authority over all history

God knows the outcome of history before it unfolds – **His story is a unified story**

He sees the beginning, the middle, and the end perfectly and completely

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars Revelation 12:1 NKJV

Throughout the Old Testament, **God describes Israel in feminine terms**, as a wife, mother, daughter, or a woman in labor

One example: For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. Isaiah 54:5 NKJV

God also speaks of Israel as a woman **experiencing labor pains while awaiting deliverance**

Before she was in labor, she gave birth; Before her pain came, She delivered a male child. Isaiah 66:7 NKJV

Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth Revelation 12:2 NKJV

The labor pains point to the suffering, waiting, and opposition connected to the coming of the Messiah

You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains Matthew 24:6-8 NIV

When a woman enters labor, the increasing pain does not mean the pregnancy has failed. No one in the delivery room says, "Something must be wrong because this is painful." They understand that the pain has a purpose. The contractions are moving the child toward birth

"labor pains" are physical; they also include the "pain to give birth"

It is symbolic of the painful process of God bringing His redemptive promise into the world, **Christ**

This opposition to Christ appears throughout Scripture. Pharaoh tried to kill the Hebrew sons **Exodus 1:22**; Herod tried to kill the children in Bethlehem **Matthew 2:16**; satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness **Matthew 4:4**; satan entered Judas to betray Jesus **John 13:27**; the religious leaders conspired against Christ; Rome crucified Him

Israel waits, the Savior arrives, and they reject Him

Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth Revelation 12:2 NKJV

Jesus did not enter a peaceful, welcoming world; He came **into a world marked by sin**, satanic **opposition**, spiritual and political **violence**, and in general, spiritual darkness

Waiting is hard; God's work is not always easy, but pain does not mean God is absent

Spiritual opposition often surrounds spiritual birth - **Salvation**

The Church must remain faithful. Paul reminds us **that our labor in the Lord is never wasted**

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58 NKJV

Let's not forget the Dragon; satan always opposes what God is bringing forth

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. Revelation 12:3 NKJV

His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. Revelation 12:4 NKJV

John sees “another sign”, “a great fiery red dragon”

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and satan, who deceives the whole world Revelation 12:9 NKJV

The dragon is “fiery red”, which represents **violence, bloodshed, rage, and destruction**

His “seven heads”, “ten horns”, and “seven diadems” point to counterfeit authority, political power, earthly kingdoms, and satanic influence through world systems, religious and political

“The dragon’s tail drew a third of the stars of heaven” points to satan’s rebellion and the angels who followed him

A reminder that the dragon does not work alone. There is an organized kingdom of spiritual darkness

The Bible does not explicitly say, “one third of the angels fell with satan,” but Revelation 12:4 says “His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth”

Revelation 12:7–9 identifies the dragon as satan and says his angels were cast out with him

So many understand this to mean one-third of the angels followed satan in rebellion

But, the most important detail is that “And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born”

This shows satan’s intense hatred for Christ and his desire to stop God’s redemptive plan

This opposition appears throughout Scripture

But remember this: **Every attempt to thwart God’s purposes and plan has failed**

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age. Ephesians 6:12 NKJV

Therefore, the Church (that’s us) must take spiritual warfare seriously

The Church must not be naïve. satan is real, **but he actively seeks to tempt, attack your mind, distract, deceive, accuse, produce fear, intimidate, divide, distract, and discourage believers**

Remember, satan is not equal with God; he is not sovereign, not all-powerful; **he is the defeated enemy of God and he knows he is on borrowed time**

It is satan’s objective to attack what God is bringing to life

The enemy **especially attacks children and the next generation**

“And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born”

The dragon is waiting for the Child. Throughout Scripture, satan repeatedly attacks children connected to God’s promise

This has a huge application for the Church today. **The next generation is being discipled by someone**

If parents and Churches are passive, our culture will gladly disciple them

The Church must not be casual about children, youth, and family discipleship

Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6 NKJV

This is why the Church must keep **Christ at the center**

Christ must remain central in preaching, worship, discipleship, counseling, missions, children’s ministry, youth ministry, leadership, and daily obedience

Jesus is not merely a source of comfort; He is the reigning King

He is the Lord who will rule the nations and whose kingdom will never end

So let us lift our voices, not timidly, but triumphantly, and declare that there is none like Him

Grace, let us “Shout to the Lord!”