

**The Revelation
Overcoming, The Finished Work
Revelation 12:11**

The Church, the community of the faithful has overcome because King Jesus has overcome. Overcome, in a conflict to get the better of someone or something, to prevail, triumph, to be victorious. The inhabitants of this world are in a continuous conflict with the father of lies. Known as the serpent he is the deceiver, the slanderer, a blackmailer. His tactics are fear, guilt, shame and accusation.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Revelation 12:11 NKJV

This is the way to victory, to overcome in this life in this world!

We overcome because King Jesus overcame!

I. THE EARTHLY CONFLICT

Revelation 12:1 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.

2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. **3** And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. **4** 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. **5** She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. **6** Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. NKJV

Woman: Faithful Israel through whom Jesus came; Dragon: 7 heads & 10 horns = completeness of oppressive power; 7 diadems (crowns) = political power & a blasphemous claim to earthly kingship; Stars: angelic beings

Male child: JESUS CHRIST, KING of all, crucified, risen and ascended

Verse 6: woman = faithful community, Jew & Gentile; persecuted & kept through the age of the Church

II. THE CONFLICT IN THE HEAVENLIES

Revelation 12:7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, **8** but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. **9** So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. **10** Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. **11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. **12** Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

NKJV

Serpent of old: Genesis 3:15 the devil (slanderer) & satan (adversary); deceiver of the whole world – 1 John 5:19; Eph.2:2; Cast down: to earth, wrathful, short time WE OVERCOME!: The Blood of the Lamb – 1 John 1:7

Isaiah 53:4 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. **5** But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

NKJV

The word of our testimony – an agreement with God by His Word & our personal experience – submitting to the Authority we are subject to, JESUS CHRIST, KING & LORD – Phil.2:9-11; Matthew 28:18b

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

Even unto death – tribulations, persecutions, trials – faithful to the end!

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. **5** Who is he who overcomes the

world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

NKJV

III. THE CONTINUING CONFLICT

Revelation 12:13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*. **14** But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. **15** So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. **16** But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. **17** And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

NKJV

Persecution during the Church age

Woman: The Church, the community of the faithful, Jew and Gentile

Flood: nations, political powers (Ps.18:4)

Wings: GOD'S PROTECTION

Psalms 91:1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. **2** I will say of the Lord, "*He is my refuge and my fortress;*

My God, in Him I will trust." **3** Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler *and* from the perilous pestilence. **4** He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth *shall be your* shield and buckler.

NKJV