

Rev 26-02-25b

We're in Revelation chapter 12 now. Let's read our passage. After the celebration in heaven and the temple of God is opened in chapter 11, verse 19, and the ark of his covenant, the ark of his testimony is seen in his temple.

This is a reminder, as we've noted many times, that the tabernacle, the temple on earth in Israel, even the temple that we represent, know you not that your body is the temple? Do you not know that you collectively are the temple of the Holy Spirit? These are all earthly shadows and reflections of a heavenly reality. And it is of interest to think about the fact that there is a temple and there is an ark of testimony, an ark of covenant in heaven. And you get the idea, it reminds me of these little necklaces or different things that you see that are in two pieces.

It's like a heart that's cracked and one person has one part and the other person has the other part. And each has a reminder of that covenant or that communion or that relationship or that trust or bond. And the fact that there is a temple on the earth in the Old Testament days in Israel, in New Testament days in our midst, more of a spiritual temple, much more of a spiritual temple, but there is a temple and an ark of the covenant in heaven as well.

And when you think about the connection between those two, one is the reflection or the shadow of the other, and it transcends the distance that separates us from God, earth from heaven, mortal from immortal, fallen and sinful from holy and pure. And the reminder that we have in the imagery and the symbolism of the accouterments, the implements and the table of showbread, the golden candlestick, the altar of incense, the veil, the ark itself, and the separate and distinct piece that goes atop the ark, which is the mercy seat. And God is pictured as sitting enthroned between the cherubim.

And that is on the earth. And we know that God's throne is in heaven and the throne room from which we have heard voices issue forth is in heaven, but this is a connection. The science fiction people love to talk about portals and here's a gate or a wormhole or something, but you're in one place and it, by entering what is near you, you are immediately transported to a great distance and a far away place.

And there is a sense, a spiritual sense in which we can enter into the throne room of God, as it talks about in Hebrews, the veil having been torn, which is the flesh of the Lord Jesus. And with our bodies washed with pure water, our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, we enter into the heavenly presence of our Father and are able to represent ourselves and make our requests known and come boldly for grace to help in time of need. So here we see another reflection of that.

The temple of God opened in heaven. If you want to do the study, you can find that there are seven openings in the book of Revelation. And there is the door that was opened in heaven in Revelation 4.1. Come up here, John, show you what's going to happen.

The seals are opened in Revelation 6, 7, and 8. Thirdly, the abyss is opened in Revelation 9, verse 2. The temple of God here in our passage, Revelation 11, 19, that's the first four. Then there are three more. The tabernacle of testimony is going to be opened in Revelation 15, verse 5. Heaven will be opened in Revelation 19, verse 11.

Revelation 19, the great triumphant victory chapter where the Lord rides forth with king of kings and Lord of lords emblazoned upon him. And finally, the books are opened for judgment in Revelation 20, verse 12. The books are opened.

But as with so many things that appear in sevens, there are seven prominent openings. This is number four here, the temple of God being opened. So there are lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Most of the time, these are not harbingers of the beatific vision, the peaceable kingdom, the Lord Jesus with a lamb at one side and a child on his knee and daisies blowing gently in the field. These are all associated with judgment. Lightnings, voices, when it says noises, these are voices, but this is the kind of voices that are ominous, that create a sensation of negative expectation.

Thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail. This sums up the seals, the trumpets, the thunders, and the bulls. Both what is known and what is unknown about these judgments at the end of the age of Israel.

And notice that there's not a poem read or a contract or a covenant. The Ark of the Covenant is seen, but the covenant itself is not detailed. These things are inscrutable in the sense that they are not verbal communications.

They are portents. They are the rumblings that precede judgment. God is through talking.

In a nutshell, that's what verse 19 says. God's through talking. He has deployed his two witnesses.

They have witnessed for 1260 days. That period is over. And those that have not responded, have not repented, have not availed themselves of God's grace, it doesn't matter if they understand or not.

God is not going to explain and spend a lot of time trying to get them to understand why their judgment is coming. As far as they're concerned, it's lightning, thunder, voices, earthquake, great hail. This is destruction descending from heaven.

And that's all you need to know. Can't escape it. You had your chance.

This is being outside the ark. Once the rain begins to fall and the fountains of the deep are broken up, it's over. There is a window of opportunity.

Seek him while he may yet be found. Call upon him while he is near. Why are these judgments

falling? I think this is a good time to go back and review what it is that God is up to.

Revelation is largely a book of judgment on the unrepentant and the preservation of those who have claimed God's grace for salvation and deliverance. Turn with me. I'm in a personal study now on the book of Jeremiah.

And depending on how that turns out, that may be our next Old Testament study. But I want you to take a look with me at Jeremiah chapter two. Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me saying, now, what are we watching for here? Why are we in Jeremiah chapter two when we're supposed to be in Revelation? Why is God perpetrating these judgments? What is wrong with the world? Is it too much pollution, too many landfills, too much ozone? Is it just corruption of the environment? Bad actions by a certain number of people? What is it that causes God to send judgment? Why would God judge his own people unless they are adopting the ways of the world that he is going to judge? Watch for the commonality between what God charges his people in Judah with in Jeremiah chapter two and what the world is being judged for in the tribulation period.

Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem saying, thus says the Lord, I remember you, the kindness of your youth, the love of your betrothal, when you went after me in the wilderness in a land not sown. Israel was holiness to the Lord. Remember that was stamped on the implements of worship for the tabernacle and later the temple.

Holy to the Lord. Kadosh le Yahweh. Israel was holiness to the Lord, the first fruits of his increase.

All that devour him will offend, disaster will come upon them, says the Lord. Those who bless Israel will be blessed. Those who curse Israel will be cursed.

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob and all the families of the house of Israel, thus says the Lord. What injustice have your fathers found in me that they have gone far from me and have followed idols and have become idolaters? Neither did they say, where is the Lord who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, who led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and pits, through a land of drought and shadow of death, through a land that no one crossed and where no one dwelt. I brought you into a bountiful country to eat its fruit and its goodness.

But when you entered, what did you do? You defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination. The priests didn't say, where is the Lord? Notice in verse six, the people didn't say, where is the Lord? I wanna be where he is. The priests didn't say, where is the Lord in verse eight.

And those who handle the law did not know me. Notice, those who purport to be, who pose as, who are positioned to be spiritual and religious leaders don't know God. Shades of our world today.

Those who handle the law did not know me. The rulers transgressed against me. The prophets prophesied by bail and walked after things that do not profit.

Therefore, I will yet bring charges against you, says the Lord, and against your children's children, I will bring charges. Notice the third generation curse. I bring charges against you, your children, and your grandchildren.

After three generations, you're done. Passed beyond the coast of Cyprus, sent to Kadar and considered diligently. See if there has been such a thing.

Has a nation changed its gods? And their gods aren't even gods. The gods in these foreign lands, they still worship the same gods. They didn't throw them over and adopt new gods.

The gods they worship in Cyprus and Kadar, they still worship the same ones. Has a nation changed its gods, which are not gods, but my people have changed their glory, capital G, for what does not profit. Be astonished, O heavens, at this and be horribly afraid.

Be very desolate, says the Lord, for my people have committed two evils. Two evils. They have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and they've hewed themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that hold no water.

Is Israel a slave? Is he home-born? Why is he plundered? The young lions roared at him and growled. They made his land waste. His cities are burned without inhabitant.

Peoples of Naf and Toppenese, there's a lot here that we're not gonna delve into, have broken the crown of your head. Have you not brought this on yourself? We ought to take the first part of verse 17 and just stick it on the mirror in the bathroom. Have you not brought this on yourself in that you have forsaken the Lord your God when he led you in the way? Now, why take the road to Egypt to drink the waters of Sihur? Why take the road to Assyria to drink the waters of the river? Jeremiah is prophesying that God's judgment has already been pronounced.

Babylon is coming and Jeremiah is counseling the people. Do not resist the judgment of God. You have earned it.

You deserved it. You didn't give the land its Sabbaths. You are going to go to Babylon for 70 years until the land has the Sabbaths that you disobediently denied it.

Comply. Be humble enough to accept God's judgment. They are sending to Egypt and trying to ally with Egypt and fight Babylon.

They are sending to Assyria that took their brothers in the north captive 120 odd years earlier and trying to ally with them. God says, don't do it. Jeremiah's message to them is just do not resist.

If they had gone quietly and obeyed Jeremiah, Jerusalem would not have been destroyed and

the temple would not have been torn down. It is their resistance. And Nebuchadnezzar tried twice to take them peacefully in 605 and in 598.

605 is when Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaiah and Azariah go. 598 is when Ezekiel goes. They continue to rebel and to try to form alliances with secular idolatrous nations.

And so in 586, God sends Nebuchadnezzar the third time and absolutely obliterates Jerusalem and the temple. There are times when for reasons we may have to experience the consequences of rebellious decisions, periods of time where we didn't respect God in our lives. And when those consequences come, we should, by his grace, endure them and be delivered through them and eventually out of them as Judah will be.

After the 70 years, they're gonna return to the land. They'll have the opportunity to rebuild the temple. But there is a time to pay the piper as it were, and we should accept it with grace and a renewed dependence upon God.

That's Jeremiah in a nutshell. And Jeremiah Lamentations is about the longest prophetic book in the Old Testament when you combine the two. So, but notice the attitudes.

This is what we're watching. The people didn't say, where is the Lord? The priests did not say, where is the Lord? The rulers, in verse eight, transgressed against me. The prophets turned to Baal.

And their advice and their teaching to the people is earthly, human, false. So why, in verse 18, take the road to Egypt to drink the waters of Sihor? Why take the road to Assyria to drink the waters of the river? This is the river Euphrates. Why are you going to these godless nations trying to ally yourself and fend off a judgment I have already told you is going to happen? Your own wickedness will correct you and your backslidings will rebuke you.

Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing that you have forsaken the Lord your God and the fear of me is not in you, says the Lord God of hosts. Verse 20, long time ago, I broke your yoke and burst your bonds. And you said, I will not transgress.

When you were delivered from Egypt and headed for the land at the foot of Mount Sinai, all the Lord has said we will do. That was your initial response. You said, I will not transgress.

But look, on every high hill and under every green tree, you lay down playing the harlot. Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a seed of highest quality. How then have you turned before me into a degenerate plant of an alien vine? Though you wash yourself with lye and use a lot of soap, your iniquity is marked before me, says the Lord God.

How can you say I am not polluted? I have not gone after the bales. Look at your way in the valley. Know what you have done.

You're a swift dromedary, a camel breaking loose in her ways, a wild donkey used to the

wilderness that sniffs the wind in her desire. In her time of mating, who can turn her away? If you've ever had cats and dogs in heat, even in a small way, if you don't live on a farm, you know that when it's time to mate, when something comes in season, fences won't keep bulls in and cows. There's this overwhelming urge that will not be denied and God accuses them of having this.

You're a dromedary, a wild donkey in the time of mating. All those who seek her will not weary themselves. In her month they will find her.

Withhold your foot from being unshod and your throat from thirst. But you said, there's no hope, for I have loved aliens and after them I will go. Verse 28, where are your gods that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise if they can save you in the time of your trouble.

For according to the numbers of your cities are your gods, O Judah. The number of things that we as believers will turn to for solace, for encouragement, for relief, for a way to get through the day or to get through a problem, we will rely on almost anything. And there's a myriad of things to which you can turn in this day and age, other than reliance on the Lord God who birthed us spiritually, who entered into covenant with us.

And these attitudes of self-interest, self-gratification, willful disregard of God's word and God's ways are the reason Judah is going to be judged, the reason the people of the earth, after the testimony of the witnesses, is going to be judged. God is going to take over the kingdom of darkness. He is going to rule, he's going to reign, he's going to reward the saints and he is going to absolutely judge the wicked.

That's where we are in Revelation. You can go on in Jeremiah, it is very detailed. I would also draw your attention to the Psalms, Psalm 129, you can also see Psalm 2 in this regard, but God is going to deliver his own.

We have sealed those, we have seen those who are sealed. We have seen those who, even if they are martyred, they are vindicated in their faith. The church in Smyrna, you'll have tribulation 10 days.

Be faithful unto death. Don't even let the prospect of death panic you into disregard of who you are and why you're here. Look at Psalm 129.

Many a time they have afflicted me from my youth, let Israel now say. Many a time they have afflicted me from my youth, yet they have not prevailed against me. The plowers plowed on my back, they made their furrows long, but the Lord is righteous.

He has cut in pieces the cords of the wicked. Let all those who hate Zion be put to shame and turned back. Let them be as the grass on the housetops, which withers before it grows up, with which the reaper does not fill his hand, nor he who binds sheaves his arms.

Neither let those who pass by them say, the blessing of the Lord be upon you. We bless you in

the name of the Lord. God is going to vindicate those who trust him, regardless of the momentary earthly outcome.

We have to think in timeless terms. Psalm chapter two. After this one, we're gonna return to our passage.

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against his anointed and saying, let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us. He who sits in the heaven shall laugh. The Lord shall hold them in derision.

Then shall he speak to them in his wrath and distress them in his deep displeasure. Yet I have set my king on my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree.

The Lord has said to me, you are my son. Today I have begotten you. This is another one of those timeless declarations.

David is writing this a thousand years before Christ. Today I have begotten you. True of David, true of the Lord Jesus, ask of me and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron. You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. So if the kings are wise and the judges are instructed, they need to serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.

Who will heed the warning? Back to our passage, Revelation chapter 12. So if you don't heed, if you don't hear, if you don't repent, if you're not on the right side of the righteousness and justice of God, you need to dread the lightning noise, thunder, earthquake, and great hail. Now, verse one of chapter 12, Revelation.

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 12 stars. There has been immediately widespread misunderstanding of who this woman is. Catholic church thinks it's the church.

Mary, mother of God. And when the child is born, the Lord Jesus, she's with child, she cries out in labor and in pain to give birth. Another sign appeared in heaven, a great fiery red dragon having seven heads, 10 horns, seven diadems on his heads.

His tail draws a third of the stars in heaven, throws them to the earth. The dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth to devour her child as soon as it was born. She bore a male child who was to rule the nations with a rod of iron.

Her child was caught up to God and his throne. The woman flees into the wilderness. The woman is not the church.

I'm not gonna go through all of the proofs. I could spend three sessions explaining why this

woman is not the church. Notice she's clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet and on her head, a garland of 12 stars.

Go back and review the first visions of Joseph that he communicates to his father that caused his brothers to hate him. I saw that we were in the field. I had my sheaf and these other sheaves began to bow down to mine.

I had another vision that the sun and the moon and 11 stars bowed down to me. Joseph anticipates and foreshadows the Lord Jesus. The woman is Israel.

The woman is Israel. Israel, 12 stars, sun and the moon. And she is with child and cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

There are countless passages that talk about Israel and pictures Israel as a woman in travail with birth pangs waiting for the revelation of the Messiah. And in distress until he appears. That's what's being reviewed here.

Being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. Another sign appeared in heaven. Notice these are signs, a great sign.

Remember, I've been talking a lot this evening about don't get hung up on chronology. Remember that in heaven, time is in a bottle. God can look at it from either end.

He and the angels can look at it from the side. God can pause time for as long as he wants. It's like putting your streaming program or if you still have a VCR, you can hit the pause button on whatever it is you're watching.

It's frozen. You can do any number of things. You can come back a day later and pick up.

And as far as the story you're watching, the movie, the documentary, whatever it may be, it picks up right where it left off without a break. And yet a lot has happened in the interim. Time is like this.

We are living the movie, but it can be paused at any point. God has as much time as he wants. He can listen to every prayer.

He can detail angels to implement any solution that he wants at any given moment. And even this is language of accommodation for us to understand the infinitude and the omnipotence of God. God isn't trying to catch up because time is marching on.

God literally has infinite time. And he can advance human history one frame and talk about it with his unfallen angels. He can entertain arguments from the fallen angels and the king of darkness himself, Satan.

And there can be a discussion. There can be an illustration. There can be the making of the argument in the great heavenly trial that is gonna result in the conviction of Satan and the

fallen angels and their eventual destruction in the lake of fire.

All of that is taking place outside of time. One day we too will live outside of time. So notice this perspective as we move forward in chapter 12.

Another sign appeared in heaven. Behold a great fiery red dragon having seven heads, 10 horns, seven diadems on his heads. This figure recurs throughout the revelation and harks back to Old Testament prophecy.

We'll see it shortly, actually next time. And another sign appeared in heaven and his tail draws a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. The dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her child as soon as it was born.

This is why I think you see such a heavy demonic presence around the time of the first coming of the Lord Jesus. Never has there been a period that we're aware of where there is so much overt demonic activity. Satan deployed his forces to try to do everything he could to prevent the success of the messianic mission.

He starts with the temptations in the wilderness and continues deploying those angels that are not confined to oppose, to call out the Lord Jesus, to reveal his identity out of time. And Jesus has to silence them, discipline them, order them to be silent and to come out and stop interfering with the opportunity for Israel to receive the one who has come to his own. So he stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, ready to give birth.

There's no church. This is why people have to redefine church. Well, Israel is actually the church.

It's just the Old Testament version. And the woman is Israel and morphs into Mary, mother of God in the church. And it gets so twisted, so confusing.

My advice is be careful if you decide to go down that road and try to understand how people reinterpret almost everything in the word of God. This is Israel. The Lord Jesus is a Jew.

First generation of the church was Jewish, which ought to rid the world of antisemitism when it comes to Christians. It didn't. But she bore a male child who was to rule the nations with a rod of iron.

This is very important. Look at what it says in Luke. And for those who want to spiritualize, who want to have the preterist view of revelation and so on, and saying that the Lord Jesus is already ruling.

Gabriel told Mary in Luke, the Annunciation, I think it's in chapter two or thereabouts, that he is going to take the throne of his father, David. You cannot, without severe distortion and pretzel logic, end up making Christ at home in our hearts, Jesus sitting on the throne of his father, David. There was no throne in existence for David at the time that the Lord Jesus was born and

accomplished his earthly ministry.

So that throne has to be re-established. Thus, the literal millennial Israel and the king on the throne, the Lord Jesus, ruling with his fellow sons of David, as Old Testament prophecy purports. You can't take Old Testament prophecy about the first coming literally, and then take prophecy about his second coming spiritually.

They're either all spiritual or they are all literal. You can't pick and choose which ones you're going to spirit away and say Jesus rules in our hearts. And the church is Israel replacement theology.

What a travesty. And there's gonna be a lot of surprised people when the Lord Jesus returns bodily to the earth and plants his feet on the Mount of Olives. A whole lot of surprised people.

So notice the compression of time in verse five. 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. There's 33 odd years compressed between two sentences.

Notice the mountaintop to mountaintop perspective with a valley in between. He's born. Is the baby caught up to heaven? That's not what I have in the gospel accounts.

But if all you had was John, people would say, oh, what do you mean? He lived and taught and healed and confronted the adversary and called out the Pharisees and was arrested and tried and crucified. All of that is compressed here. And this is very typical because what is prophecy? It points out a pattern.

What happened in the preceding chapter with the two witnesses? The Lord Jesus came and told Pilate, I've come to bear witness to the truth. Among other purposes, witnesses in the previous chapter bore witness to the truth. The Lord Jesus bears witness.

What happens after they are slain and raised? They ascend. They go up in a cloud. Here, even further compression.

Her child was caught up to God and his throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness. Now we're skipping over the entire church age.

We're skipping over the first part of the 70th week where there is the false peace, the covenant made with the many, but in the middle, he will break that. This is Daniel chapter nine. The woman flees into the wilderness where she has a place prepared by God that they should feed her there 1,260 days.

This is the last half of the tribulation period. By the way, the last half, which is the tribulation period, last half of the 70th week. By the way, I think this is also the time of the testimony of the two witnesses.

I think it is the last half. I think they are testifying during that period. Look at what happens.

War breaks out in heaven in verse seven. Michael and his angels fought with the dragon and the dragon and his angels fought. Michael is the archangel.

We have knowledge of him. If you look at who is being introduced here, there's a cast of seven individuals. There is, first of all, the woman, sun, moon, and stars.

There is the child. That's number two. There is the dragon, number three.

There is Michael, number four. And this completes this story. And it's fascinating to me.

How can this happen? Let me just ask you this question. How can there be a war in heaven? God, in three persons, blessed Trinity, is all-powerful. He can speak a word and every demon, Satan himself, can simply vanish.

God has that power. How can there be a war in heaven? And as soon as you admit that, well, there is going to be, so I don't have to answer how, there is going to be a war. So my next question is, why is there a war in heaven? If God can speak a word and disappear all of the opposition, and by the way, he could have done it the moment Satan finished his fifth I will in eternity past, well, enough of this nonsense.

Satan, be no more. The angels who follow you and agree with you, you're gone. And you return to an ironic heavenly environment where there is no rebellion, there is no alternative, there is no fallenness.

If there is war in heaven, notice that God has more or less evenly balanced Michael and his angels and the devil and his angels. That's why there's a war. It's not, well, we've got a nuke, we're gonna launch it, and three seconds after you declare war, you're gone.

There is a war, and this seems to be protracted. There is a struggle that has been going on, as we are aware from Daniel. There's been delay in what the unfallen angels can do and how soon they can get to Daniel with a message because they are opposed by various princes who are associated with idolatrous nations.

There is a conflict ongoing, and God has balanced this. Now, the unfallen angels under the leadership of Michael, the archangel, are going to prevail. Why? Not because God made them mightier, gave them an extra set of wings or more powerful Excalibur swords or laser vision or some other supernatural power that he has deprived the unfallen angels of.

How will they prevail? How does anyone prevail? How do the martyrs who are vindicated and justified and rewarded that we've already seen, how do they prevail? They prevail by the word of their testimony and their faithfulness to God. In some form or fashion, this is the distinction. This is the difference.

It isn't physical, it isn't power, it isn't capability. There is something intrinsic to those creatures, human and angelic, that place their faith in God, that gives them the victory. God gives us the

victory, not through superior force of arms, but through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Death, grave, where is your sting? Thanks be to God, Paul says, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. These angels are going to prevail over equally powerful angels because they have the light and the life of God and their opponents have forsaken those things and no longer have them. It's an important reminder for us.

Do not forsake our deliverance. We saw it in Jeremiah chapter two. I am the God who delivered you, brought you out of bondage, brought you to a wonderful land.

What did I do wrong that you have thrown me over for other gods? Idolatrous nations don't rid themselves of their gods. Egypt, they've been worshiping Ra and Toph and all these others for centuries. They keep their same gods.

You have an actual God who has done miraculous things unlike anything seen in history and you've ignored him, you've taken him for granted and you've eventually adopted other things in which you place your faith. Heaven forbid that should happen to us. Well, this scene in heaven is instructive.

It tells us in summary the history of Israel, the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, his ascension, the spiritual conflict between Satan and the unfallen angels because of his desire to consume the woman and her child. Once again, the 70th week is about Israel, national Israel, ethnic Israel, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob Israel. That's who Satan is after.

And when the child is born and accomplishes his purpose and is taken up to heaven, the dragon is angry and he's gonna be thrown down. So look at verse 13, we'll skip a little bit and cover it next time. When the dragon saw that he'd been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.

Even though the spiritual victory has been won, Satan persecutes the people of God. In this context, it's the woman, it's Israel. In our age, we're gonna be in the heavenly realms.

We won't be here for him to attack. We will be safely ensconced in the presence of God. Representative Israel is gonna be on the earth and the dragon is gonna go after them because he knows his time is short.

He even now roams the earth seeking whom he may devour. Christ beat him at the cross, but he's angry at those who place their faith in Christ and who justify and vindicate God's plan and purpose in sending the Lord Jesus. So you can expect satanic attack, you can expect demonic oppression, greater is he that is in you than he, Satan, who is in the world.

More about this next time. We'll see a great deal of this on Sunday. We'll close here in a word of prayer.

Father, thank you for these wonderful visionary pictures that remind us of realities that pertain

to us day by day, hour by hour, as we endeavor to redeem the time, to represent the Lord Jesus, to seize and lay hold of the victory that we have in him. We pray that God, the Holy Spirit, will help us to see clearly on the spiritual battlefield, to avail ourselves of the strength you have provided, the armor and weapons that you have granted to us so that we can be victorious, we can be overcomers and not be overcome, and be the reason for which there is reward and opportunity in the ages to come. We pray it in Jesus' name, amen.