

Main Street

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Revelation 12:1-17 **“Battlefield Earth”**

April 9, 2017
(6th Sunday in Lent)

Pastor Phil Thrailkill
Main Street UMC
211 North Main St., Greenwood, SC 29646
Church Office: 864-229-7551
Church Website: www.msumc1.org

“Following Christ From City Center!”

REVELATION 12:1-17 "BATTLEFIELD EARTH"

Vision Continues (11:19), Shift Of Consciousness Required, Animation!

2. 12:1-13:17 VISION: THE HOSTILITY OF THE DRAGON AND THE TWO BEASTS. Gk./Eg. Combat Myths

BIBLICAL LAYERS OF SIN & EVIL, NOT SIMPLISTIC

Earth

A) 12:1-17 THE WOMAN, THE CHILD AND THE DRAGON.

Individual And Personal Sin & Evil: "I" Stuff
Accumulated Human Sin & Evil = Iniquity: "My" Stuff

1) vv.1-6 First Rescue Of Child And Mother From The Dragon.

Institutional And Structural Sin & Evil: "Our" Stuff
Root Of Cosmic And Satanic Sin & Evil: "His" Stuff

a) vv.1-2 Woman And Pre-Born Child.

Not Isis (Apuleius, *Met.* 11:3-4), Jewish Nation "Births" Messiah As In:

1 And a great portent (sign) was seen in heaven, **a woman** clothed with the sun, Is. 26:17-18, 27:1(LXX), 66:7-9, I QH 3:4, Gal. 4:26
2 with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; Dan. 7-8, Heavenly Identity = 12 Tribes Of Israel, 21:12-14
2 she was with **child** and she cried out in her pangs of birth, in anguish for delivery. Leto/Apollo/Python Myth, Collective Image

Reality Behind Mary/Jesus, Cosmic Rebellion, Jesus Protected, Victor

b) vv.3-4, Dragon's Hostility To The Woman And Her Child (Dan. 7, Gen. 3, Wis. 22:4).

Jewish Myth

3 1 And another sign was seen in heaven; behold, a great red **dragon**, Red = Death, 16:13, 20:2, 2:9-10, Jn. 8:44
2 with seven heads and ten horns, and seven *diadems* upon his heads. Desire To Reign; Real/Limited Power: 1/3
4 His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth. Dan. 7:7, Angelic Rebellion, 12:7ff.
1' And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, Steeped In Imagery Of Genesis 3:14-15
2' that he might devour her child when she brought it forth. Jer. 51:34, Satan's Opposition To Jewish Messiah
Gruesome Imagery // Herod (Mt. 2:13-23), Jesus In Wilderness

a') vv.5-6 Woman And Newborn Child (No rapture!).

Jn. 16:20-21

5 She brought forth a male child, one who is to "rule all the nations with a rod of iron," 2:26-27, Ps. 2:7, 9 (Messiah), Is. 7:14, 66:8
6 but her child was caught up to **God** and to his throne, p.v., Completed Work, 5:6, Boundaries, Exalted/Enthroned, Acts 1:9
6 and the woman fled into the **wilderness**, where she has a place prepared by God, //v.14, Church In Wilderness Of Old Creation
in which to be **nourished** for **one thousand two hundred and sixty days**. Manna/Quail, Endurable 3.5 Years, Rev. 12:14

1. vv.1-6 = Satan Unsuccessful In Destroying Messiah: Trump Card = Resurrection

2) vv.7-9 The Defeat Of Evil In Angelic Battle (Dan. 10-12, Jude 9).

Mythic Heavenly Battle

7a a Now war arose in heaven, 2 Part Creation/Interlocking, Two Forces Under Leaders/ Misuse Freedom
b Michael and his angels warring against the dragon; Guardian (Dan. 10, 12:1, I En. 54:6, 90:14, T. Dan. 6:2)
8 b' and the dragon and his angels warred, Evil Has A Cosmic Source, Not Just Human, Syb. Or. 3.796-808
8 a' but they were defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. Satan's Power Broken In Principle/Heaven
1/3 Falls (12:9, 20:2, 20:10), Hard To Sequence These Events On A Time Line
9 a And the great dragon was thrown down, Lk. 10:18, Heb. 9:23, Banished (*Life of Adam And Eve* 15-16, 2 En. 29:4-5)
b that ancient serpent, (1) Gen. 3:15, Temptation As Back Story
b' who is called the **Devil** and Satan, (2) History + Two Titles + Function // 2:9, 10, 24, 3:9, 20:2
b' the deceiver of the whole world- (3) Lies/Propaganda As Basic Tool
9 a' he was thrown down to the **earth**, and his angels were thrown down with him. Active In History, I Pt. 5:8, Lk. 22:31
Now Limited In Sphere, 20:10 Satan Cast Into Lake Of Fire

2') vv.10-12 Heaven's Proclamation: A Song Of Victory And Woe.

Three Key Teachings:

10a a And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Meaning Now Given, God's Triumph Involves Devil's Defeat (1)
"Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God 11:15, 4 Assertions + Groundings = For/Gar
and the authority of his Christ have come, Accuser (Jon. 1-2, Zech. 3:1-7, 1 Chron 21-22), Evil Leader (1QM 17:5)
11a b for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. 6:19, 7:14, 1 Pet. 5:8
11a a' And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, Martyrs, We Conquer By Dying Rather Than Sin (2)
12a b' for they loved not their lives even unto death. Hymn Of Triumph! Invisible Realm Has Been Cleaned!
12a a'' Rejoice then, O **heaven** and you that dwell therein! Heavenly Warning! Visible/Lower Is Realm Not Yet Freed!
b But woe to you, O **earth** and sea, v.9, A Wounded Animal Is More Dangerous!
b' for the **Devil** has come down to you in great wrath, Satan Is Defeated And Angry, Havoc On Earth Now (3)
because he knows that his time is short!"

Satan = A Personified Image Of The Problem Of Purposeful Evil (T. Mos. 10:1)

1') vv.13-17 Second Rescue Of The Woman And Persecution Of Her Offspring.

Continues His Desperate Work

13 a And when the **dragon** saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, Action + Response In 3 Cycles, Grand Cosmic Drama
he pursued the **woman** who had borne the **male child**. The Woman = *The People Of God*, Male Child = *Messiah*
14 b But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle p.v., Ex. 19:4, Dt. 32:11, Ass. Moses 10:8 = Image/Divine Help
that she might fly from the serpent into the **wilderness**, Mt. 24:15-22, Pella?
to the place where she is to be **nourished** for "**a time, and times, and half a time**". 3.5, 12:6, Dan. 12:7, Limited Time
15 a' The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, Metaphor For Evil/Destruction (Ps. 32:6, 124:4, Is. 43:2)
to sweep her away with the flood. Ps. 32:6, 124:4, Is. 43:2
16 b' But the earth came to the help of the woman, Metaphor For Divine Help, Creation Cooperates (Wis. Sol. 16:24)
and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river which the dragon had poured from his mouth. Mt. 16:18
17a a'' Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and went off to make war on the rest of "her offspring" (seed), Gen. 3:15, God's People
on those who keep the commandments of **God** and bear testimony to Jesus. 2 Marks; Ethics & Witness: 2:26, 3:3, 8, 10
b And he stood on the sand of the sea. Awaits Next Battle See 12:12b "earth and sea," Understand The Deep Story!

BATTLEFIELD EARTH

*“Now war arose in heaven,
Michael and his angels warring against the dragon.....”*

There’s a reason life looks like a battlefield; it’s a war zone!

REVELATION 12 : 7 a

As a child, Carolyn Arends loved *Missionary Sundays*. The guests wore colorful clothes and showed slides of foreign countries. In a 2011 article titled “Satan’s a Goner” she writes:

“There’s one I've never forgotten. The missionaries were stationed in a steamy jungle. I don't remember much of their report; what stayed with me is the story about a snake.

One day an enormous snake slithered through the front door and into the kitchen of their simple home. Terrified, they ran outside and searched for a local who might know what to do. A machete-wielding neighbor came to the rescue, calmly marching in and decapitating the snake with a single clean chop.

The man emerged triumphant, assuring the family the great beast was defeated. But there was a catch; it was going to take a while for the snake to realize it was over.

Snake neurology and blood flow are such it can take considerable time for them to stop moving after decapitation. For the next several hours, they waited outside as the snake thrashed about, smashing furniture and flailing against walls and windows, wreaking havoc until its body finally understood it no longer had a head. Sweating it out in the jungle heat, they felt sickened but also grateful the rampage wouldn't last forever.”

"Do you see it?" asked the husband. "Satan’s a lot like that snake."

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Already defeated; he just doesn't know it yet. In the meantime, he's going to do damage. But never forget: he's a goner!" Arends concludes:

“The story haunts me; it’s an accurate picture of the universe. We are in *the thrashing time*, a season characterized by our pervasive capacity to do violence to each other and ourselves. The temptation is to despair. We have to remember, though, it won't last forever. Jesus has already crushed the serpent's head.”¹

So whatever you hear me say today about *Battlefield Earth*, remember this: *He’s a goner*. Our Enemy, and he has six different names and functions in the passage before us, which ought– at a minimum– be a sign of evil’s personal complexity, is: 1) The Great Dragon, 2) The Ancient Serpent, 3) Satan, 4) the Devil, 5) The Deceiver Of The Whole World, 6) The Accuser Of Our Brethren, and he and all his angelic army are as good as dead, the death blow having been struck by Jesus Christ in his pure and obedient life and then in his voluntary death and mighty resurrection over death as the climactic blow.

And when you note that this figure awaits the moment of birth to devour the infant Messiah, that he wars against Michael and his angels until defeated and displaced, that he focuses his final cruelties on “those who keep the commands of God and bear testimony to Jesus,” you see what a despicable, vile and vicious villain the Evil One is, and how much of his strategy is hidden as he works behind the scenes to make everything worse and to cloud the minds of those who do not follow Jesus Christ;² to keep them under his sway without knowing what’s going on is part of the plan. All armies use smoke screens, and this is his. But he is in retreat and will die. He is not God’s equal; there is no eternal yin and yang of light and dark, no permanent dualism. This is a rebel creature– a fallen angel, the dark image of Michael– for now tolerated and used by God but then extinguished. Not a joke in a red costume. Not a comic book character but *the great spoiler* and very much active in our day, in and outside the churches. And because he’s subtle and of a different order of being, he’s

¹ Edited, www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/february/satansagoner.

² 2 Cor. 4:3.

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often dismissed and mocked and marginalized in supposedly sophisticated circles. But if we take him out of the cast of characters that make up the drama as found in Scripture and in our lives, we change the story, and what right do we have to do that and to say Jesus was fundamentally mistaken?³

He is doomed, but in the interim between the fatal wound and his demise in the lake of fire,⁴ there's time for lots of damage to be done, as John makes clear in verse 12, "But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the Devil has come down to you in great wrath." And why so angry? Answer: "Because he knows his time is short." Why was Hitler killing Jews till the day each camp was liberated? Because he was trapped and cornered and angry and knew his time was short. It's how evil and the Evil One behave, adopting a nihilistic, scorched earth policy of *burn it all down*. Do as much damage as possible because you so hate God and all that Jesus Christ and his people stand for.

So why, I ask, does earth look like a battleground? Sarin gas asphyxiating children in Syria; a crazy North Korean with a bad haircut and a itchy finger on the nuclear trigger; a recent attack on Westminster bridge in London; a terrorist driving a stolen beer truck into a store in Stockholm to kill four; drug dealers in Greenwood corrupting our community; a third of Americans with STDs;⁵ passive Christians with dusty Bibles ensconced before flickering screens while the world cries for attention and love; fifty-five million abortions in our anti-infant land since 1973, including over sixteen million African Americans— three times their population percentage and making me wonder why they've been so targeted;⁶ husbands and wives cheating on each other and destroying families

³ See Richard Beck, *Reviving Old Scratch: Demons and the Devil for Doubters and the Disenchanted* (Philadelphia, PA: Fortress, 2016), "Don't Snip the Devil out of the Story," 33-36.

⁴ Satan is *thrown down* three times in Revelation: 1) from heaven to earth (12:9), 2) from earth into the abyss (20:2), and 3) into the lake of fire (20:10).

⁵ atlanta.cbslocal.com/2014/10/06/cdc-110-million-americans-have-stds.

⁶ Michael Novak, the Roman Catholic philosopher and ethicist, has calculated "Since the number of current living Blacks (in the U.S.) is 36 million,

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and children; addictions decimating communities; a flood of porn turning people into disposable objects; a weakened, divided church— including our own denomination— limping rather than leading;⁷ and all over the land a decline in morality and civility and on and on as *the weird* is now a celebrated cause and *the normal* a thing to be despised. Come up with your own list. But all bear the thumb print of *Ole' Scratch*— as he used to be called, the one who eats goodness and spits out ugly, who pollutes everyone he touches, closing their eyes to the goodness of God and the beauty of Christ. There is one who takes cruel advantage of every weakness and opening to spread poverty and vice and war and despair and unbelief and the lie that he's a better deal and a lot more fun. So now you know who stands behind the complex distortions of God's good world and how Jesus has come to destroy our ancient jailer and all his helpers.⁸

So why does earth look like a battleground? Answer: “Because it's war zone with every square meter contested territory, including each of us, and when you live on a battlefield, you shouldn't be surprised at the casualties.” And so when people come to me in genuine pain and anguish with a burning question in their eyes, “Why did God let this happen?” I ask— after listening for a season, “Do you know the ground on which you live?” and when they look bewildered, I do my best to do for them what John did for us in this remarkable passage. To engage their imagination with the imagery of a great hidden battle with daily visible consequences, including theirs. They thought, naively, that if they said a simple Yes to Jesus, God owed them a free ride and a pleasant passage full of good feelings about baby Jesus and Santa's elves and Easter bunnies and a life of modest success and material comfort in the American dream. Someone lied to them, even if through a preacher of smooth and comforting words, and they

the missing 16 million represents an enormous loss, for without abortion, America's Black community would now number 52 million persons. It would be 36 percent larger than it is. Abortion has swept through the Black community like a scythe, cutting down every fourth member,” www.blackgenocide.org/black.

⁷ For a much discussed recent proposal, see Rod Dreher, *The Benedict Option* (New York, NY: Sentinel, 2017); and for a rejoinder, Tim Tennant, “The Benedict Option or the Liele Option?” 3/29/27, timothytennant.com.

⁸ Mark 1:24, Acts 10:30, 1 John 3:8.

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believed it because it sounded so easy. Poor, uninformed, naive, biblically-ignorant, snowflake Christians melting all too quickly as the heat rises. What are we to do with so many who are not ready? And when they say, “But I thought,” or “Someone once told me” or “Isn’t it in the Bible somewhere?” I have to say, “Sorry, it’s just not the truth. And when you’re ready, I have some armor with which to outfit you and a sharp sword to place in your hand.”⁹

In his book *The Divine Intruder*, James Edwards recounts a story:

“Wilmer McLean was a small farmer in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. In the spring of 1861 two armies met on his property, the Union army under General McDowell, the Confederates under Beauregard. The bloodiest war in our history began at Bull Run, a creek that ran through McLean's property. Wilmer was not sure what the fight was all about, but he was sure he didn't want them fighting on his land. If he couldn't change things, he didn't have to be part of it. He'd sell and go where the war wouldn't find him, and so he chose an obscure place, or so he thought, an old house in the village of Appomattox Court House. Four years later Grant sent a message asking Lee to sign a truce. The document that ended the Civil War was signed in Wilmer McLean's living room!”¹⁰

Some things you cannot get away from. And the reality of multi-level moral and spiritual conflict of one of them. Dr. Charles Talbert breaks it into four levels. There is first my sin and evil: *I stuff*; then there is the accumulated sin and evil that comes to me in my family and its web of iniquity: *my stuff*; third is the larger issue of institutional and structural sin and evil which shapes our culture from within: *our stuff*; and finally, there is angelic sin and evil, which is *his stuff*; and all four levels are influencing us all the time in varying intensities and combinations.¹¹ There is no rear area in this theater of operations, no safe place to run and hide. Wherever you go, you are the front!

⁹ Ephesians 6:10-20.

¹⁰ Edited, PreachingToday.com search under Revelation 12:1-17.

¹¹ Charles Talbert, *The Apocalypse* (Louisville, KY: WJK, 1994), 49.

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The Christian life is not a tea party but a holy communion, not an evening stroll but a fellowship of struggle and a band of brothers, not a vacation but a deployment. You live on a battlefield, and in such a world, there are wise and foolish ways of conducting yourself which you must learn. This is a biblical, Christian, and I would say wise, wide-angle worldview. It helps make sense of how you experience both yourself and view the world, and so you can continue to sing “This is my Father world” as long as you remember it’s now temporarily inhabited by squatters who hate everything good and true and beautiful and innocent and whose delight is to twist and distort, to smudge and deface, to torment and to create distrust and deceit, pain and confusion. But one day they and all their cumulative effects will be removed. They are scared of Jesus Christ, and have every right to be; he beat them and will destroy them.

Now if I hand you a newspaper, you intuitively know how to read the news and editorials, the ads and stock pages, each requiring a bit of a shift within the one paper. But if I offer a book of poetry, the way you read it changes because it’s a different *genre*, a different kind of literature that requires a new set of skills. But if I bring you chapter 12 of the Bible’s last book, how do you read it if you don’t know the kind of writing it is? And this is why Revelation is so often misread by those who take it at face value, as if a woodenly literal reading is what John intended, which he most surely did not. The name for this special type of writing is *Jewish Apocalyptic*, the literature of coded divine revelation for believers under pressure, and it’s a form of religious writing from about 200 years before Jesus to 200 or so years after.¹² The Book of Daniel is an Old Testament example. And because it’s not being written in our day, and hasn’t in eighteen hundred years, it’s hard to get our modern minds around it, which is why it’s so little read in church except by a small groups of pastors who claim to have the inside scoop on the time line of the end times, and for all their zeal and charts and cross-references and secret news, they’re just flat wrong, and in my mind spreading nothing but fear and empty fascination. The

¹² For a sampling, see Mitchell Reddish, editor, *Apocalyptic Literature: A Reader* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2007); and for an introduction, see Stephen L. Cook, *The Apocalyptic Literature* (Nashville, TN: Abington, 2003).

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risen Jesus himself said the details are none of our business,¹³ but apparently it's very good business to trade in speculations because it makes people feel like elites and insiders when they buy your books and CDs and survival food supplies for the end of days. And if you find someone caught up in this stuff, treat them with love as you would any other conspiracy theorist, but do not buy their package of ideas; it's toxic to healthy faith.¹⁴

So if you want a modern parallel to Revelation, as close as you can come is a Marvel Comic about super-heroes and their battles against the forces of darkness, or else a great mythic saga like Tolkein's *Lord of the Rings*. Like a script writer, John takes the myths of the his world and fills them with Christian content because there are types and longings in these old stories only Jesus is able to fulfill. Jesus not only fulfills the Old Testament; he's the key to the questions of all human cultures and the myths they make.¹⁵

Take, for example, the Greek myth of Apollo, and when I use the word *myth*, don't think false or unreal; think so deep it can't be told any other way. In one version of the Apollo story the goddess Leto became pregnant by Zeus. The great dragon Python, after learning the soon-to-be-born would one day kill him, sought to kill the unborn child and his mother. But Poseidon, god of the sea, intervened and protected Leto by carrying her safely to the island of Delos

¹³ Acts 1:7, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority." So why do we keep acting as if it is?

¹⁴ For critiques, see J.M. Efir, *End-Times, Rapture, Antichrist, Millennium* (Nashville, TN: Abington, 1986), Chapter 1, "A Brief Sketch of Darbyism," 17-37; Barbara Rossing, *The Rapture Exposed* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2004).

¹⁵ C.S. Lewis wrote, "Now the story of Christ is simply a true myth: a myth working on us the same way as the others, but with this tremendous difference that it really happened: and one must be content to accept it in the same way, remembering that it is God's myth where the others are men's myths: i.e., the Pagan stories are God expressing Himself through the minds of poets, using such images as He found there, while Christianity is God expressing Himself through what we call 'real things'" (Letter from C. S. Lewis to Arthur Greeves on the Myth of Christianity, Oct 18, 1931, [emp.byui.edu/wardd/honors221/concepts/myth]).

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and then by sinking the island under the sea so as to hide it. The pursuit and search of Python was unsuccessful, and he went away. Poseidon then raised the island, and Leto birthed Apollo, who— because of his rapid growth— pursued the dragon and killed him in only four days.¹⁶ Thus, Apollo saved the world and is worth your devotion. Almost everyone in the first century knew a version of this combat myth, a hint that behind the mundane appearances of the world is a deeper struggle. It was common enough for Roman Emperors to claim to be *a new Apollo!* “I am the one who defeats our foes and brings the new age of peace to the world, so worship me and build temples to my genius.” Think Mao and Lenin, Stalin and Kim Jong-un.

Now I find several points of contact between this story and John’s treatment that is before us, and it’s no accident. He invokes the Apollo myth and changes the characters for resonance, as if to say, “One of the great stories of our world is resolved only when Apollo is replaced by Jesus. The woman is not Leto but the Jewish people of God portrayed as a great pregnant mother in a vision from God. Her son is not Apollo but the Messiah Jesus who is— as Psalm 2 says— to “rule the nations with a rod of iron.” The foe is not Python but another mythic serpent, a great red dragon, who through Herod tried to kill the baby shortly after birth and later in his wilderness testing. This is the deepest battle of all, not us against one another, but a cosmic battle between the world’s rightful ruler, Jesus Christ, and its corrupt usurper as played out in the great battle of Michael warring against the dragon and his ranks and their being displaced and thrown down upon the earth to wreak havoc till the end.

Now to make the retelling work, John must minimize— at least for the moment— something central, and that is the cross of Jesus. To say that the child “was caught up to God and his throne” is a veiled reference to the resurrection and ascension of Jesus as the fulfillment of God’s protection. But where is the cross? It is hidden in two allusions, the first being that the child was devoured by the dragon, but not at birth. Jesus was consumed at the cross, naked and exposed to the full wrath of evil. And secondly, in verse 11 as “the blood of the Lamb.” Apollo was not crucified, but Jesus was, and that is a difference in the

¹⁶ As retold in Mitchell Reddish, *Revelation* (Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys, 2001, 231-232,

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two great heroes. The world’s true Savior defeated the dragon by refusing to turn aside from his difficult path. Jesus chose to voluntarily die rather than sin by disobedience. And as the proven one, the one who passed the ultimate trial, he has authority– as demonstrated in his mighty resurrection– to rescue all who call upon him. Jesus is our champion! Our victor! Our King!

But back to the story, and here you must understand that the first hearers of the Bible’s final book were under increasing pressure from Imperial authorities to say that the Apollo story belonged to the Emperor alone and not to a dead Jew from a nowhere province. “Caesar has real world power; your Jesus is a foolish, dead, Jewish prophet, so come to the authorities and burn your pinch of incense as a sign that political loyalty trumps Christian conviction.” Some said Yes, but many said No; some suffered greatly, and others less so.

If you wanted to isolate one verse as the key to Christian resistance in any culture of idolatry, and they all are in one way or another, it’s verse 11, “And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.” Believers resist the pressures of the dark side with two resources arranged in proper order: 1) a complete reliance of life on Jesus Christ whose bloody self-offering demonstrates his utter commitment to us: he can be trusted; and 2) a willingness to bear public witness to what he means, even if it means suffering, even if it means death. Our greatest weapon against all the strategies of the Evil One is simple. It’s not some warlike crusade; it to trust that Jesus has set us right with God, and then to speak his name with conviction and love as a follower. God vindicated his Son. Amidst the carnage of history, God has preserved his church, as seen in the image of the woman and her offspring being rescued on eagle’s wings and from a great flood. The lights may be dimmed and go out in any local church, even a whole denomination, but God will keep the lights on in his church. He will preserve the reputation of Jesus to the end. And so we are the people “who keep the commandments of God and bear witness to Jesus Christ.” And if you tell me the commandments don’t matter, or if you tell me Jesus is just one among many and not one of a kind, I will fight you. I will resist you. You see, friends, I have been down to shore. And there our Adversary stands, waiting for the next battle, “And he stood on the sand of the sea.” Victory is assured and sealed in Jesus Christ, but the battle is not yet over, and the integrity of this faith is at stake in every generation. Are you ready?
