

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

Message Six

**The Revelation and Experience of the Heavenly Woman
with Her Manchild, the Firstfruits, and
the Victorious Ones as the Testimony of Jesus**

Scripture Reading: Rev. 12:1-17; Dan. 12:3; S. S. 6:10; Phil. 2:15; Eph. 2:6; 6:12; 3:14-19;
Rev. 14:1-5, 14-16; Matt. 13:3-8; 1 Cor. 3:9; Dan. 1:8

I. The testimony of Jesus is the universal, heavenly woman, representing the whole Body of God's redeemed, clothed with the sun and having the moon underneath her feet and a crown of stars on her head—cf. Rev. 12:1-17:

- A. The woman indicates the heavenly nature, position and disposition of the church as the testimony of Jesus; the local churches are in the heavens, and there is no earth but only the sun, the moon, and the stars:
 - 1. Christ's faithful followers are shining living stars who follow Christ as the shining and living star—Dan. 12:3; cf. Matt. 2:2-12; Micah 5:2.
 - 2. The moon signifies the church, the wife of Christ; the church shines in the dark night of this age by reflecting the light of Christ as the sun—Phil. 2:15; S. S. 6:10.
- B. The position of the church in the spiritual warfare is not on the earth but in the heavenlies; when the church is in the heavenlies, Satan is under her feet—Eph. 6:12; Rev. 12:10-11; cf. Eph. 2:6:
 - 1. In the proper church life, which is the main part of the heavenly woman, Satan is already defeated.
 - 2. The best way to defeat Satan in the local churches is to minister the heavenly things to the saints so that the church may remain heavenly; then there will be victory and Satan will be cast down.
 - 3. The wonderful, bright woman has no covering, shadow or darkness, everything is in the bright open air; this kind of church is a victorious one; in this sense there is no need for the church to fight against Satan; Satan has already been defeated and cast down, and the kingdom of Christ has been brought in.

II. The testimony of Jesus is the man-child, representing the overcomers as the stronger part of the people of God brought forth from the universal, bright woman—Eph. 3:14-19:

- A. The woman will be left on earth to pass through the great tribulation, but the stronger part, the man-child, will be raptured to the throne of God before the tribulation—Rev. 12:5b-6:
 - 1. The man-child will be raptured prior to the tribulation because God needs the man-child to fight against Satan in heavens and cast him down to earth.
 - 2. God will shame Satan by using the very man Satan corrupted to defeat him—v. 9.
- B. Although Jesus has defeated Satan on the cross, there is still the need for the church to execute His victory over the enemy; only the stronger part of the Body, the man-child, will execute Christ's victory over Satan; the man-child will be raptured to the heavens to accomplish this job.
- C. The man-child signifies the overcomers who put on Christ as the weapons of light to fight against His enemy and usher in God's kingdom—vv. 5-11; cf. Rom. 13:11-14:
 - 1. God has a need for us to be raptured to heaven to fight against the enemy.
 - 2. We must earnestly desire to be a part of the man-child; do not be satisfied simply to be a part of the woman.

III. The testimony of Jesus is the firstfruits, signifying the overcomers raptured before the great tribulation, and the harvest, signifying the majority of the believers raptured at the end of the great tribulation—Rev. 14:1-5, 14-16:

- A. The church as the testimony of Jesus is God's farm to grow the divine crop, which is first the one hundred forty-four thousand firstfruits, a small number, and then the harvest, the majority—vv. 1-5, 14-16:
 - 1. At His first coming to the earth, the Lord sowed Himself into His believers; all the believers since that time, who have received Him as the seed of life, have become God's farm, His crop, on the earth—1 Cor. 3:9; cf. Matt. 13:3-8, 24.
 - 2. The overcomers, as the first ripe ones in God's field, will be reaped (raptured) before the great tribulation as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb—Rev. 14:1-5.
 - 3. The majority of the believers will ripen with the help of the sufferings in the great tribulation and will be reaped at the end of the great tribulation—v. 15.
- B. In the church life we all need to grow; in order to grow, we need to stay away from any kind of defilement:
 - 1. Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself by eating food that had been offered to idols—Dan. 1:8.
 - 2. If the young people separate themselves to the Lord, they will grow every day, and will be the firstfruits produced by the church life.

FOCUS: *Three aspects of the testimony of Jesus seen in Revelation 12 and 14, the universal bright woman, the man-child, and the firstfruits, show us our need to be full of light and bright as the universal woman, to be the manchild as the stronger part of the woman, and to be the firstfruits who are growing and maturing in life quickly by removing all the barriers to our growth in life and being careful not to be defiled with the worldly things.*