**Revelation 12**

Introduction

I. Ephesians 6:12

A. We forget that the fundamental battle is a spiritual one (we focus on our financial, political, relational, emotional battles)

B. We forget that we are in a battle every day

There’s a difference between a wartime mentality and a peacetime mentality

II. Today’s passage is about how to “overcome” (Greek = “nike”) Satan

A. The fundamental call of Revelation is the call to overcome

B. This passage is here to both encourage us (= give us courage to fight the battle) and equip us (give us the weapons to fight the battle)

Passage

I. Overview of the Passage

A. Verses 1-6 and 13-17

1. These verses tell the story of Christ and Satan beginning with Jesus’ birth. Satan (the dragon) went after Jesus (the child) during his earthly ministry, and was unsuccessful, so now he goes after the closest thing to Jesus—his people (the Woman). But just as God protected Jesus, He will protect his people for the time allotted for Satan.

2. Satan, is angry, defeated, and knows his time is short, so he goes after us all the more

B. Verses 7-12

1. The question is: what is the relationship between this spiritual war in heaven and the story in the rest of the chapter?

2. This is depicting a battle either 1) at the beginning of time or 2) during Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection or 3) sometime in the future

3. See Luke 10:18-19, John 12:31-32, and Colossians 2:15 for how Satan lost a significant battle in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection

4. This is shown to give Christians confidence that ultimately they are fighting a defeated foe, and so they can overcome him in the victory that is theirs in Christ

III. They overcome him by the blood of the lamb

A. Satan’s weapon of accusation

1. v. 9: Satan = adversary, devil = slanderer

2. v. 10: He accuses day and night

3. Satan accuses us before God

a. See Job 1-2:

b. Today we hear his voice of accusation telling us we are not enough, not loved, not forgiven, not interesting, etc.

4. Satan accuses God in our minds

a. See Gen 3: Satan accuses God of being stingy, untrustworthy and wanting to keep his children from full life

b. He gets us to think God is unloving, conditional, a rule maker, disappointed, untrustworthy, etc.

B. We overcome his accusations “by the blood of the lamb” (v. 11)

1. Christ’s blood takes care of every single accusation made against us once and for all. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Jesus Christ (Ro 8:1)

2. Christ’s blood can overcome the false views of God Satan brings, because on the cross we see a God whose love for us is extravagant, generous, and unconditional

II. They overcame him by the word of their testimony

A. Satan’s weapon of deception

1. v. 9: Leads the whole world astray (like sheep being led astray from the fold)

2. 2 Cor 11:14: masquerades as an angel of light. He lures us with things that look attractive but are ultimately harmful

3. See Gen 3

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil (= the right to determine for ourselves what is good and what is evil) looked very attractive, but it was ultimately incredibly harmful for the human race

4. He continues to use money, sex, and power to draw us away from God

B. We overcome his weapon of deception “by the word of our testimony” (v. 11)

1. We immerse ourselves in God’s Word and let it shape our worldview, so that we don’t buy into his deceptions

2. We testify to his word within the private and public spheres of our lives

III. They did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death

A. Satan’s weapon of intimidation

1. v. 3: Red = color of blood and violence

B. We overcome his intimidation by “not loving our lives so much as to shrink from death.” (v. 11)

1. Death is the worst thing Satan can threaten, but if we die being faithful to Jesus, then our death is our great victory

2. Let’s not shrink back from death, and let’s not shrink back from his other threates that are less than death

**Discussion Questions**

1. C.S. Lewis begins his preface to the Screwtape Letters with this line: “There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.” Which error do you tend to fall into? Assuming Lewis has a valid point, what do you think is an appropriate and healthy balance in our focus on the spiritual battle before us?

2. On Sunday we discussed Satan’s weapon of accusation. If you’re willing to share, what are some of the voices of accusation you experience in your own heart and mind? When do they get louder for you, and what do you tend to do in response to them?

3. Verse 11 tells us that we overcome Satan’s accusations “by the blood of the lamb.” Practically speaking, how might you internalize Christ’s death on the cross and use it as a weapon against Satan’s accusations? Do you have any practical steps you can take?

4. On Sunday we also discussed Satan’s weapon of deception—how he leads us astray from God and his Truth much like a sheep wanders from the fold. What are the things he tends to use in your life to get you to wander from your devotion to God and His Truth?

5. Verse 11 tells us that we overcome Satan’s deception by “the Word of (our) testimony.” How can you approach God’s Word in a way that is helpful for you personally and keeps you close to Him and His truth?

6. Is there anything else from Sunday’s message that struck you that you want to talk about?