

The Glorious Church

And She Brought Forth... A Man-Child

The Rapture of the Man-Child

- **Rev. 12:5** – And she brought forth a son, a **man-child**, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was **caught up to God and to His throne**.
 - The **man-child** was caught up to the throne of God because someone is already on the throne.
 - The **Head of the church** is on the throne.
 - The **fleeing of the woman** into the wilderness and the **warfare in heaven** are both due to the man-child being caught up.
- Immediately after the man-child is caught up, there is **war in heaven**.
 - The rapture of the man-child is to **bring to an end** the warfare which has been going on for ages and generations.
 - Once the man-child is caught up, not only is the dragon unable to be enlarged any further, but **he is cast down from heaven**.
 - The rapture of the man-child is a **transaction** which causes Satan to have **no more position in heaven**.
- The **death of the Lord Jesus** has already dealt with the **position** which Satan gained by man's fall.
 - The work of the church is to **execute** in the kingdom of God what the Lord Jesus accomplished in redemption and, consequently, to **completely bring to an end the legal position of Satan** gained by man's fall.
- **Redemption** is Christ's solution for the fall; the **kingdom** is the church's solution for the fall.
 - Satan has already been **judged** by redemption; now the **punishment** must be executed by the kingdom.
- When the Lord Jesus died, **all** the power of Satan was **destroyed**.
 - But all his power can be **brought to an end** by God's children on earth repeatedly dealing with him.
 - The work of the church is to **resist** the work of Satan so that together we can **cast out the demons**.

- Casting out demons means that we cast out all the work and power of the demon. We **lay hold of the authority of the Lord** and **stand fast in our position**.

The Principle of the Man-Child

- The church which God desires must have the characteristic of Abigail—that of **cooperation** with Christ.
 - Since the church, however, has **not** attained to God’s purpose, God will **choose a group of overcomers** who will attain His purpose and fulfill His demand. This is the **principle** of the man-child.
- There are many examples of this principle in the Bible
 - In **Exodus**, originally all of the Israelites were chosen to serve God, but they failed Him; therefore, God chose the **Levites** to stand in their place.
 - During the time of the **Judges**, God raised up **Gideon** to lead a group to chase away the Midianites. The whole nation was set free because of this group.
 - God originally promised that the people of Israel would return and be restored to the land. However, only a **minority led by Ezra, Nehemiah, Zerubbabel, and Joshua** returned.
- The principle of the overcomers is **not** that an **individual** who is especially spiritual will have a crown and glory waiting for him.
 - The reason for the overcomers to be the overcomers is not to receive glory or crowns for themselves, but simply to **take the position which the whole church should take and do the work for the church**.

The Basis and Attitude of the Overcomers

- The reason the man-child can be **upon the throne** is because he has overcome.
- **Rev. 12:11** – And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.
 - “Him” refers to Satan. They overcame Satan by **rendering him unable** to do any of his work upon them.
 - They overcame him because of the **blood of the Lamb**, because of **the word of their testimony**, and because they had **an attitude of not loving their soul-life even unto death**.

(The Glorious Church – Chapter 4)