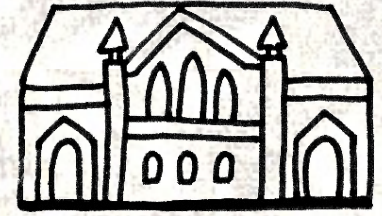


Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



- Phones on silent & airplane mode please -

Today 19th May 2019 speaker Philip Wells, Minister.
This morning - the book of Revelation 12
Satan cast down

www.calvary-brighton.org.uk

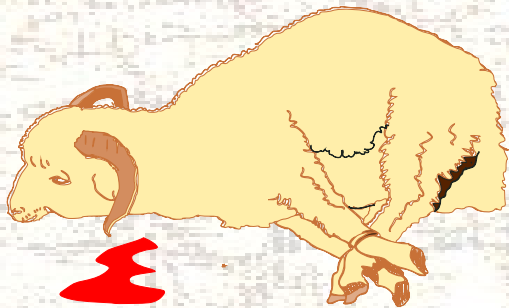
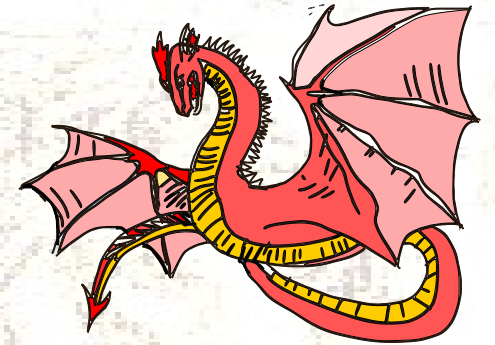
calvary-brighton.sermon.net

Introduction

If the reality behind this world is spiritual conflict ...

- Does God have an adversary?
- Do human beings have an adversary?
- Do the people of God have an adversary?
- If so
 - How dangerous is he?
 - What tactics does he use?
 - Can he be defeated?
 - How can he be defeated?
 - Ans: he can be defeated "by the blood of the Lamb and the word of testimony"
 - And for more information ... see this chapter!

Brief introduction to the "book of Revelation"

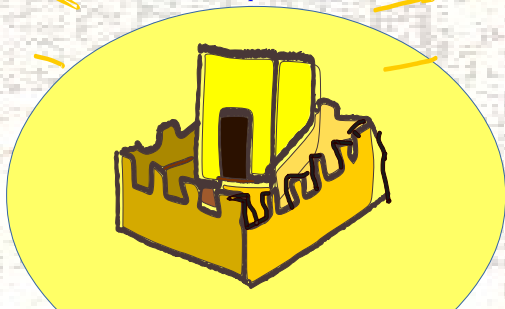
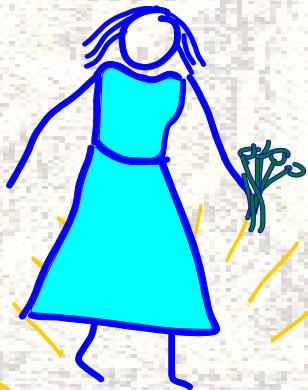


1. It is the last book in the Christian Bible

2. It is famous for its visionary depictions

- The Lamb and dragons and beasts
- Armies and battles
- Women - a bride and a prostitute
- The city of God and Babylon
- Over all is the throne in heaven

These all are symbols, designed to show the reality behind the everyday appearances! (N.B. APOKALYPSE = REVELATION)



Getting his "accent"

Like my friend who said "feeat"

- Meaning "faith" (with a NI accent)

Numbers have symbolic meanings

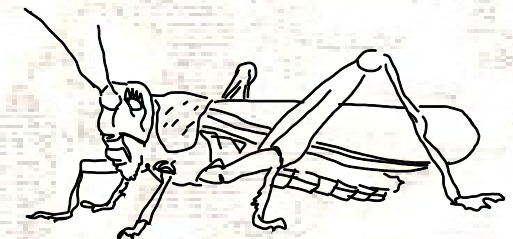
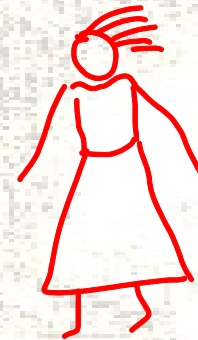
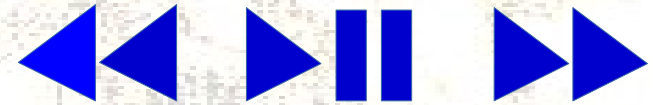
- e.g. 7, 12, 144, 144000
- Here - 1260
 - $360+360+360+180$
 - 3.5 years
 - Half of 7
 - Period of time that it did not rain in time of Elijah

Further on in the book is NOT further on in time

- e.g. 6:17 is clearly the end

He uses (and subverts) symbols

- From his culture
 - e.g. Roma - goddess of Rome
- From the bible (fulfilment of all prophecies)
 - e.g. locusts - instrument of God's judgment on ancient Egypt



Section for today is Satan cast down

1. the characters

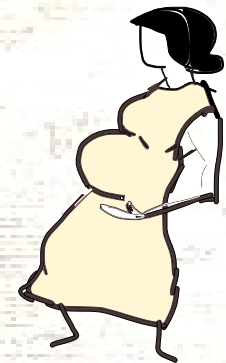
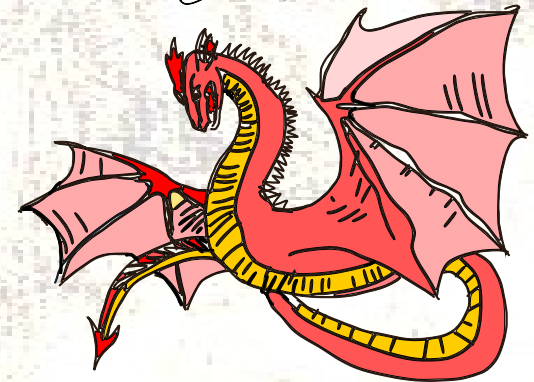
- The child (12:5)*
- The red-dragon (12:3)*
- The woman from whom comes the child (12:1)*

2. the action

- War, the casting down, the pursuit in the desert*

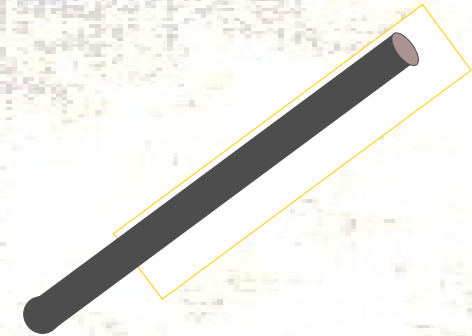
3. the interpretation

- In 2 stages*



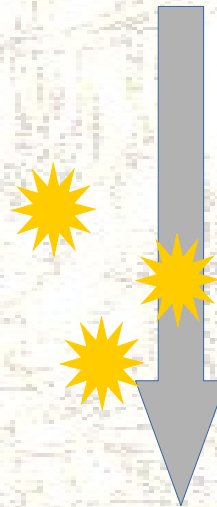
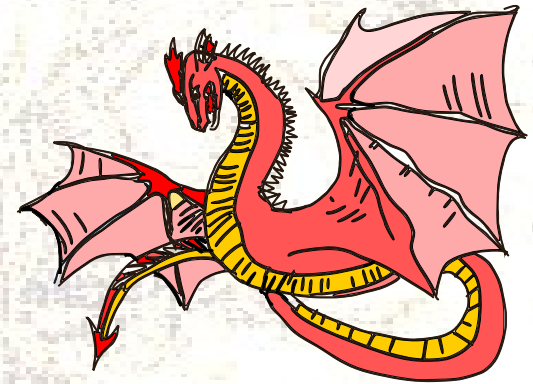
Character #1 The child (12:5)

- born of the woman
- rule nations with rod of iron
 - Psalm 2 v.5
 - "born of a woman" e.g. "seed of the woman" Genesis 3:15
- raptured/snatched to throne of God
 - = his ascension and enthronement
- = Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, the son of Mary, the seed of the woman



Character #2 The red-dragon (12:3)

- *Heads, horns, crowns v.3*
- *Destructive power v.4*
- *Has angels attending v.7*
- *v.9 the snake, the devil*
- *The satan (=enemy)*
- *The deceiver*
- *The accuser of the believers - night and day*
- *==> the not-to-be-underestimated FOE*
- *(but our Saviour is greater!)*



Character #3

The woman from whom comes the child (12:1)

Clothed with the sun, Moon under her feet

- *Very splendid*

Crown of 12 stars

- *12= People of God*

- *"sun moon and stars bowing down ..."*

 - *= Joseph's family*

- *Gives birth to?*

 - *Messiah*

- *AND is pursued after the Messiah is in heaven*

- *AND is kept safe in the desert*

? Mary

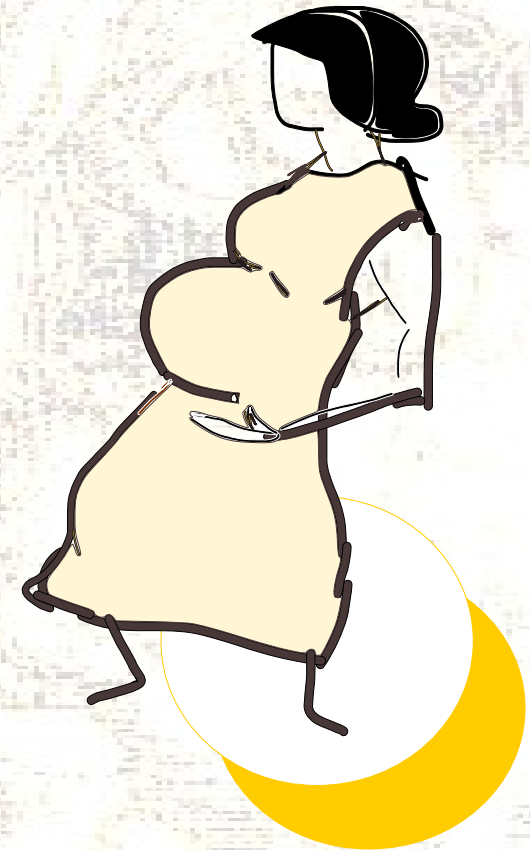
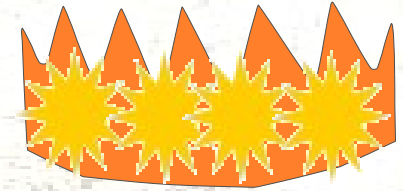
- *Partly ... but more*

?Israel

- *Truly ... but more*

The whole church of God, OT and NT

- *Yes!*



2. the action

the dragon

- *Disrupts the stars*
- *Poised to devour the newborn child*

the woman

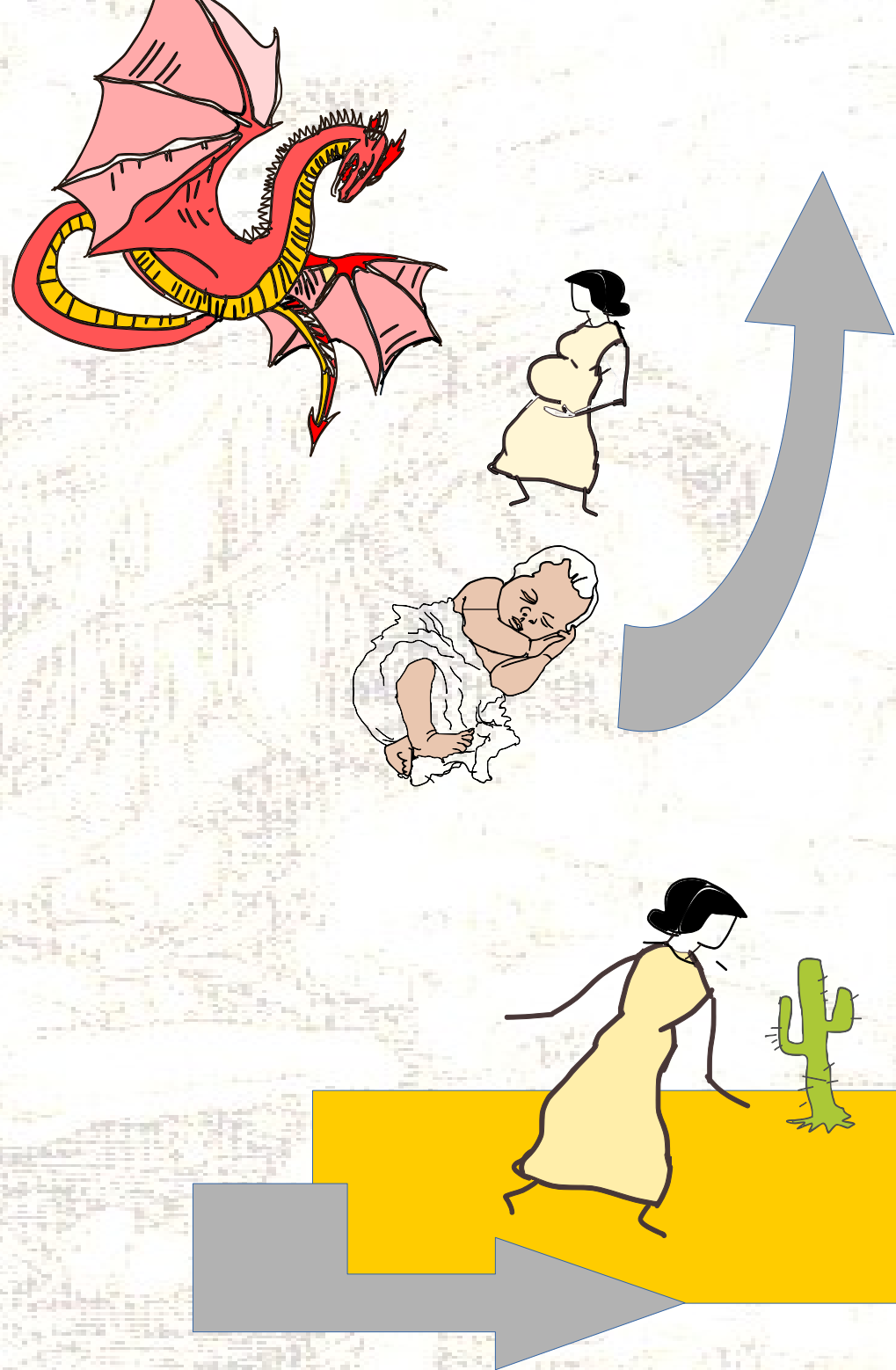
- *Gives birth*

The child

- *Is snatched up to heaven*

The woman flees to the desert

- *She is provided for in the desert for 1260 days*
- *She is cared for there*



2b. the action

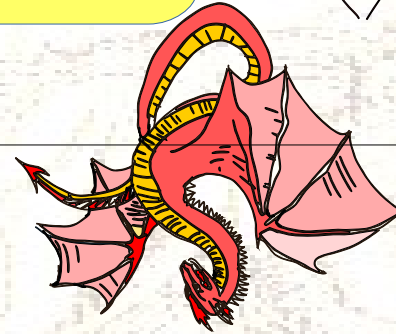
War in heaven 12:7

- Michael + angel
vs dragon + angels
- Dragon + loses place
in heaven
- Dragon hurled down
to earth

In heaven

- Loud voice
triumphant saying
v.10
- But woe to earth
and sea v.12

Rejoice :-)



Woe! : - (

2b. the action

On earth

- Dragon pursues the woman v.13
- Woman given 2 wings of eagle v.14
- Cared in desert for 3.5
- Attempt to sweep away in flood
- Earth opens mouth to swallow flood

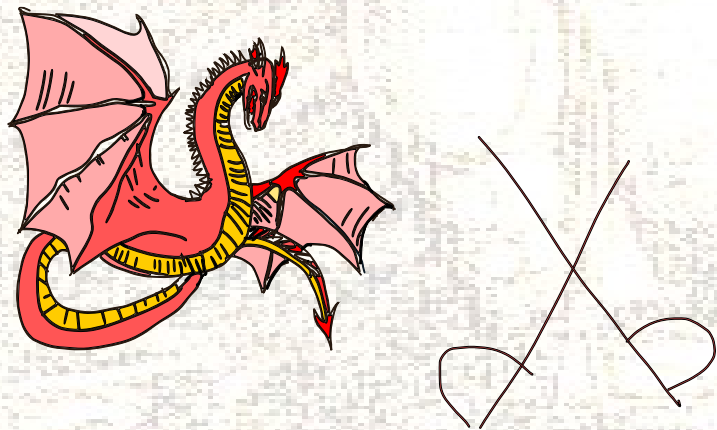


2b. the action

On earth

Dragon is angry

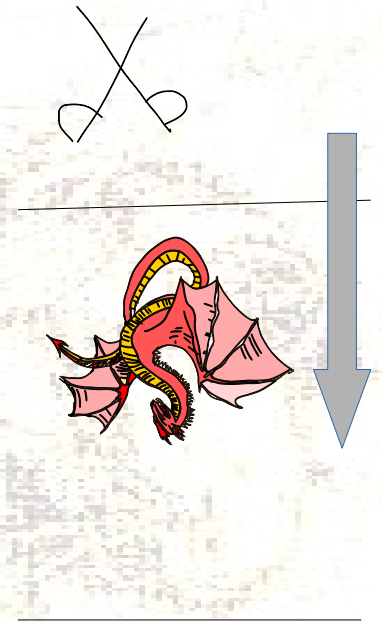
- *War on woman's offspring v.17*
- *= obey God's commands and hold to testimony of Jesus (v.17)*



3 Interpretation (i): satan cast out

N.B. The cross + resurrection is an event on earth
But affects things in heaven I.e. war in heaven

- “our struggle is not against flesh and blood
but against the rulers... authorities ...
powers of this dark world ... spiritual
forces of evil in the heavenly realms”
Ephesians 6:12



Satan's presence in heaven

= the heavenly court - headquarters. Top decisions.

- Job 2:1 “Satan presents himself before the Lord” ... “Job is a hypocrite”
- Zechariah 3:1 “He showed my Joshua before the angel of the Lord and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him”
- Satan is the Accuser and is/was in the place of “leverage” - legal decisions

3 Interpretation (i): satan cast out

Our Defender in heaven

John 12:30 "Now is time for judgment on this world; the prince of this world will be driven out. I, when I am lifted up from the earth will draw all to myself ... death"

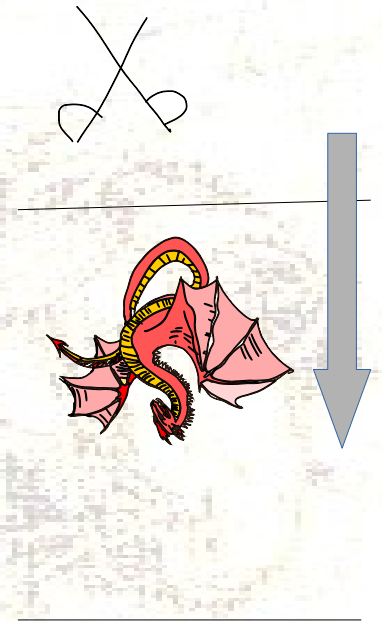
1 John 2:2 ... but if anybody does sin we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence - Jesus Christ the righteous one ... atoning sacrifice for our sins

Romans 8:33 who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen, it is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns. Christ Jesus who died - more than that is raised to life is at the right hand of God interceding for us

God says to Satan

- You have no right to accuse*
- Get out of here!*

*N.B. Martin Luther knew this and boasted! Do we?
Would we like to? (v.11)*



The interpretation 2. the woman persecuted but cared for

*Q. So: Satan - the accuser - is curtailed
... but is he dormant?*

*A. No: he is angry and active, but we are
kept safe and protected*

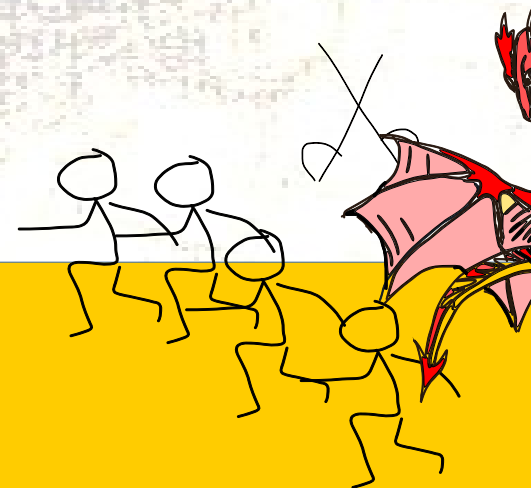
In the desert

- God brought his people on
eagles wings to himself (Ex
19:4)*
- their shoes never wore out (Deut
2:7)*
- God provided manna, cloud, fire*
- 3.5 = time of provision during
need*

When the flood comes,

- help comes too*
- The earth swallowed up rebel
priests*
- But now swallows up the threat*

***N.B. The way to the City is via the
desert!***



Conclusions

- 1. The Saviour is in heaven to rule the nations*
 - 2. The Accuser has been cast out of heaven*
 - This is glorious news for sinners*
 - 3. This does not mean that he is less active, but more*
 - 4. But the people of God are safe*
 - We are cared for upon our journey (v.6)*
 - We are transported upon our journey (v.14)*
 - With unexpected deliverances (v.16)*
- ==> we are to overcome*
- (not give up)*
 - By the blood of the Lamb / by our testimony*