

## SWEET BABY JESUS

Introduction – The traditional manger scene is burned into our corporate psyche. The reality of Jesus' invasion of planet earth as the promised child is more sobering.

- A. The Book of Revelation takes us behind the scenes to get a vision of the grand picture of God's rescue mission (Revelation 12:1-11).
  - 1. The glorious woman with the twelve-starred crown represents the people of God (Israel and the Church).
  - 2. The stars represent potential resurrected people of God (Daniel 12:1-3).
  - 3. The Dragon is identified as the ancient serpent, called the Devil or Satan, whose role is to lead the whole world astray.
  - 4. The role Satan has chosen for himself is to be the prosecuting attorney of heaven, bringing accusations against the family of God (Job 1-2 and Zechariah 3).
- B. The Dragon intends to destroy the child before he can overthrow his kingdom of darkness.
  - 1. Satan stirred up King Herod's paranoia over the news from the Magi of the birth of a rival King (Matthew 2:13-16).
  - 2. When Jesus went public about his identity in his hometown synagogue, they tried to kill him (Luke 4:28-30).
  - 3. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, this was the last straw for the religious leaders (John 11:45-53).
  - 4. Satan influenced one of Jesus' closest associates to betray him (John 13:21-27).
- C. Jesus' choice to offer himself as a sacrificial lamb on the cross leads to the climax of the struggle between good and evil. Ironically when Satan accomplished his goal of killing Jesus, it resulted in his expulsion from heaven (Revelation 12:7-10).
- D. Because of God's intervention in Jesus, we can finally overcome evil (Revelation 12:11).
  - 1. We overcome by the blood of the Lamb (1 John 1:5-9).
  - 2. We overcome by the word of our testimony (2 Timothy 1:7-10).

Conclusion – Sweet baby Jesus became the Suffering Servant who triumphed over evil for us. We can share in his victory if we choose to follow Jesus in our wilderness journey (Luke 9:23-26).