



The Narrative behind our Narratives
P James • August 6, 2017

- I. Psalm 2 invites the kings of the earth to worship Jesus.
 - A. The rulers of this earth rebel against God (verses 1-3).
 - B. God installs his Son as King over all kings (verses 4-9).
 - C. The kings of the earth must worship Jesus (vss 10-12).
- II. Jesus warns us to expect his return (Luke 21:36-38).
 - A. We are commanded to watch and be ready for Jesus' return.
 - B. Unlike those who heard him in person, we can't ask for clarification and satisfy all of our questions. We can study the rest of the Bible and stay humble in our understanding.
- III. The Narrative behind our narratives in Revelation 12.
 - A. The woman who has a son includes Mary, but the role played here is bigger than just Mary. It stretches back to Eve, and includes all of faithful Israel down through the centuries (verses 1-6).
 - B. The child born of faithful Israel is of course Jesus. As God's only begotten Son, he will rule the nations (verse 5, and Psalm 2:7-12).
 - C. Verse 5 is the shortest summary of Jesus in the Bible: Jesus was born and then snatched up to God's throne room...
 - D. The red dragon waiting to devour the son at his birth is identified in verse 9 as the devil or Satan (verses 3-4).
 - E. Satan made war in heaven. He and his angels were defeated by Michael and thrown out of heaven on to this earth (verses 7-9).
 - F. All in heaven celebrate that the accusing dragon has been expelled from heaven (verses 10-12).
- G. All on earth are warned to beware of the fallen dragon's fury. He will do his best to destroy everyone and anyone because his time is short (verse 12). His purpose is to lead the whole earth astray (verse 9). He will finally even destroy his own worshipers (see Revelation 17:15-18:3).
- H. As the woman is protected by the earth, the dragon makes war on the church (verses 13-17).
- I. We can overcome Satan by claiming our salvation in Jesus' sacrifice, and by proclaiming our love for God in our faithful testimony—even as we are tortured and killed (verse 11, and Rev 13:7-10).
- IV. This narrative behind our narratives raises many questions!
 - A. When in our history was Satan cast down upon the earth? This is not at all clear...
 - 1. All of the angels rejoiced as the foundations of the earth were laid (Job 38:4-7).
 - 2. It is a serpent tempting Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:1-7.
 - 3. But the accuser still has access to God's throne room in Job 1:6-12, and 2:1-7? Hmmmm...
 - B. Why does God allow Satan to harass and kill his people?
 - 1. For his own reasons, God uses even this evil for his own purposes.
 - 2. The ultimate example of this is the death of our Lord Jesus. Evil seemed to triumph, but was actually overthrown (See also Genesis 50:20 and Romans 8:28).
- V. We are at war! Learn to fight in God's way and remember that God wins!
 - A. Our enemy may be fierce, but we can stand firm and testify that God is good (I Peter 5:8-11).
 - B. Practice hospitality for God's people and all in need.