

Revelation -27

(continuing summary of speech figures, etc in Revelation 12-13)

12:4...a third part of the stars of heaven is often thought of as referring to the angels having gone with Satan in his rebellion and a later note is made of these in v. 9.

12:5...the man child best symbolizes the Lord Jesus and this is enforced with the symbolic rod of iron, the right to rule with a sceptre of power.

12:6...the wilderness may well be a literal place..we are not certain. But the woman is preserved in some place or way in which her enemies are not able to overcome her.

12:14..two wings of a great eagle...symbolize the means of the woman's flight and deliverance into the wilderness. I am not sure of the actual representation. I doubt that it means airplanes although some Bible scholars think so and I suppose carefulness is the best rule in this setting. It may go with Zechariah 14...and the remarkable deliverance of the remnant trapped in Jerusalem.

12:15..cast out of his mouth water as a flood...indicates the extent of the dragon to overcome the woman but we are not sure how the symbolism is fulfilled. This is also true of the expression in 16..the earth opened her mouth. In some way the forces of the serpent are overcome but forces of God contained in the universe setting.

12:16-17...the remnant of her seed is a symbol, I think, for those who have heard the witness of the 144,000, etc., and are ready to trust in God. The persecution will be much wider than this but this is surely the starting point and the initial trial thrust.

13:1...the sand of the sea...I interpret this as a figure meaning that the writer is looking over the nations. The sea as a symbol indicates the mass of the Gentile world and its confusion before God.

13:1...a beast, not like the "living creatures" or Revelation 4, etc., but a terrible creature, marked with the authority and power of the Dragon (as in 12:3). He is quick in action (a leopard, 13:2), severe in destruction (a bear, 13:2) and speaks with great force or might (a lion). His rule is underwritten by the dragon (13:2). There are many interpretations of his person and most of them are speculative. I think the fact that he is from the sea indicates a Gentile person who will promise Israel the security she seeks. Not all agree. I think (as noted on my chart) that this is the personal Antichrist who seeks to imitate and displace the Lord Jesus...not all agree with that, either.

13:3...a deadly wound indicates a death and the healing concept that follows indicates a coming to life again.

13:5...a mouth indicates the power of the beast to be heard by all men and to have his teachings received in many quarters. Power is given him for forty two months...I interpret this as the early part of the week...and hence do not treat it as a symbol.

13:11..two horns like a lamb...the term used for lamb is mostly a revelation term..most of us do not see horns on lambs...so some extended comment