

## Chapter 12

Recap and overview for where we are in the study:

Chapter 1 – John’s Vision – Jesus in Glory – The one who keeps the lamb stands burning - What he sees

Chapters 2-3 - Church Ages – History - The Things that are

Then, the Things After these Things:

Chapter 4 - Throne – Some Say the Rapture? No further reference of the church. Great Worship – 4 creatures because of Who Jesus is & the 24 elders for what he has done.

Chapter 5 – Lion and the Lamb, The Title Deed Book for earth, Redeemer, initially seated then Standing in Judgment.

Chapters 6 – 18 – The Great Tribulation -

Opens with 7 seals (including 144,000 – 12 tribes)

7 Trumpets (including 2 witnesses)

7 Bowls of Wrath

Babylon Falls - First and Last Judgment of Babylon Gen 11 & Rev 17-18

Chapter 19 – Armageddon - Wedding Supper & Great Supper of God

Chapt 20 – Millennium, then Satan and the Dead’s final Doom

Chapt 21 - New Earth and Heaven

Chapt 22 – Closing

Last chapter discussed the interlude or a time of explanation is continued between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> event. We covered the 42 months - half of the 7 year Tribulation. – foreshadowing of God dealing with the Nation of Israel, 2 witnesses, signs, plagues, judgments, martyrs, resurrection, ascension to Heaven, the doom of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Woe, earthquakes, lighting thunder, hailstorms, a glimpse into the millennium and the blowing of the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet which will usher the return of Christ and symbolize moving Israel to the Millennium. The blowing of the seventh trumpet opens the 7 characters, 7 bowls and sets in motion the conclusion of the Great Tribulation.

Now.... We move forward to chapter 12, and in this chapter we have the dramatic final conflict between Satan and Israel in the Heavenly realm where Satan is cast out of Heaven. His access privileges are revoked and his time is limited. Remember, we already heard there would be no more delay. The chapter opens with the introduction of seven characters.

Woman
Red Dragon
Arc Angel Michael
Remnant
Child
Wild Beast out of the Sea
Wild Beast out of the Earth

***Rev. 12:1 Now, a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.***

Several women have claimed to be this woman and started cults. The Catholic Church has called this woman Mary. Later, Protestants called it the church of ages.

**Who is this woman clothed with the sun and the moon?** Once again the answer is in the prior books of the bible. Let's read Gen 37:9-11 about Joseph that dreamer!

***Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?" And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.***

Most scholars agree the woman represents the Nation Israel. The sun and moon depict glory and dominion promised for Israel. The stars speak of the 12 tribes the sons of Jacob.

***Rev. 12:3-4 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.***

Red Dragon Represents Satan. Notice this is a "sign" not literal John makes this clear. Verse nine identifies him as Satan. Enormous in NIV some translations say great! He is red to signify bloodshed. Satan is the original murderer (Apple in the garden and Genesis 4:7– Cain – demon crouching at the door.) The third of the stars in heaven seem to represent 1/3 of the angels that followed Satan in his rebellion.

The seven heads symbolize perfection of Wisdom, and beauty. Notice, there is no forked tail like in our picture of the devil that came from the Greek God Pan. Remember the most beautiful Angel. The 10 horns likely represent the final kingdom of Roman empire. The crowns represent delegated authority from Satan.

**Isaiah 9:6-7 "Un to us a Child is born", so who is the "us" Isaiah is writing about?** Israel clearly, once again the church left the scene back in chapter 4. Let's look at a few more verses to be certain:

Heb 7:14	Lord sprang out of Judah
Micah 5:2-3	He comes out of Judah to be ruler through pain in birth
Isaiah 66:8	For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.

Child was born under the law to fulfill the promise to Abram and the existing covenant to the nation of Israel.

***Rev. 12:5-6 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.***

The world is a wilderness, Israel was sealed and protected 144,000 for the most intense part of the Great Tribulation. The Child is Christ clearly identified by Psalm 2:9 "Break them with the Rod." Christ will use violence to put down rebellion and take over the world. **Don't you think he would take it over with peace if it were possible? Do you think based on this the world can make peace with "radical Islam"?**

"The Child was caught up to God and His throne". This is a clear reference to the ascension of Christ. The Book of Revelation is essentially all about the unveiling of the Ascended Glorified Christ. Ephesians 4:10 puts it this way, "He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things." Gospels – emphasize the Death of Christ. Epistles emphasize on Resurrection of Christ Revelation emphasizes the Ascension of Christ – Acts 1:9-10, Heb 12:2 sat down on throne at the right hand of God.

**Israel birthed Christ, and Christ birthed the Church!**

***Revelation 12:7-9 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.***

War in Heaven – Satan has access to Heaven and God - Job & Zech. Luke 22:31 – Lord, says Satan desired to sift you Peter as wheat. Like Job he was granted that permission.

Michael and Gabriel are the only Ark Angels named in the Bible. Michael is mentioned as a prince that watches over Israel. Dan 10:21, 12:1 (Great prince which at that time stands up for the children of Israel). After this, Satan and his angels lose their access to Heaven. There are not defeated yet, just stripped of access to Heaven. How angry will Satan and his angels be?

Notice the names of the devil that are used. Satan & Devil is to be feared as - Lion, serpent & Angel of light  
Lion – Only roars after it catches its prey. Serpent - Yet, he is to be feared more as a serpent (note: he has not changed since the garden). Most of all, he should be feared as an Angel of Light. He will use this form frequently in the End times.

Satan will be able to total deceive the world in Great Tribulation. Today, he is restrained. Satan does not have the power that God will grant him in the End times. Remember, he has to ask God for access as he did with Peter and Job –today.

Satan wants to people not to believe he exists. Surprise is a great tactic. Great Slander with access to whole world and Heaven. Today, never underestimate your enemy. Satan wants you to believe you have the power to overcome the flesh, the devil and the world. He wants you to believe it is all about you. You are self-made when none is possible without Christ.

***12:10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.***

Accuser of the brethren (Tribulation Saints) - **Do you know that Satan stands in front of God accusing you day and night?**

Note: John says I heard to remind us he is a witness of these events...Four Freedoms in Christ when He comes:

Salvation		Consummation of Salvation
Kingdom of	God	Authority of Christ

***Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.***

Victory of the accused Saints will come through three avenues:

- **Blood of Lamb** (No blood of Christ – No way! It is the only way, so don't deny or be ashamed it is on the Mercy Seat in the Arc. It is what will make us righteous.
- **Word of their testimony** (tribulation reveals true martyrs) Matt 10:33 Deny me in front of man, and I will deny you before the father – paraphrased.
- They **loved not their own life** even unto death. - What a contrast to our life style today were people are too busy. Or don't go to church because they deserve to sleep in. I have even heard people say oh we will do the church thing when we have kids.

How do you stack on these three items? Do you claim the blood of the lamb as your salvation and solution in times of trouble today? How is your testimony out in the World? Would those that know you say that you are selfless (regularly loving others more than yourself)?

*The true value of your testimony is when it is given in the world.*

**Revelation 12:12** *Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."*

Here the Devil cast out of Heaven. This event is clearly the strongest stand against evil and Satan since the Resurrection of Christ. The casting out Satan stands in contrast showing the difference in Heaven and Earth.

Earth	Heaven
3 <sup>rd</sup> Woe	Celebration
Beginning of the final judgment	ushering in of a new Kingdom

**12:13-17** *Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

Documents the Last Wave of Anti-Semitism, and it will be the worst. This is the time of Jacob's trouble. Israel is going back to the land will be trouble. Christ will usher in the millennium and not without great cost. (All Semitism comes from the devil. Jesus was from the Jews and they are the chosen people of God and sworn enemy of Satan).

2 wings of an Eagle (some have said this is an airplane, commentaries tend disagree on whether this is supernatural or figurative. There is background on the symbolism of Eagle's wings. Exodus 19:4 Bear you on Eagle's wings into the Wilderness hear it is specified flee to the mountains – 42 months (times, times and half time). Israel like in Egypt will not be able to deliver itself. It will be God. Just like we cannot work for our salvation, God can save us.

The Dragon makes war with the rest of her seed. This is all out war on the 144k sealed, remnant and the converts. There is a reference here to keeping commandments which again speaks to the law and Jews not the church.

How will she be nourished if in the mountains? Maybe will provide as God did with Israel – Manna from Heaven and water from a rock. There is precedence though no clear answer provided here.

Homework question:

If the wilderness is literal, water maybe literal or water could be figurative as floods of armies coming upon them like rivers. **Based on scripture, can you pull verses that support a literal interpretation of the Earth swallowing up?**