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Revelation 12

The Pregnant Woman
Battle in Heaven
Safety in the Wilderness
Terrible Persecution

Revelation 12


OPENING NOTES...

- Last chapter about Temple in Jerusalem, and the two witnesses. Focus on Israel.
- **This chapter is an overview of the plan of God regarding Israel**, one of most important in scripture to help us understand this plan.
- Given **important "history lesson"**- both past and future history. Glimpse of life for Israel during 2nd half of Tribulation.



Official seal of the State of Israel

Revelation 12



- **7th Trumpet blown**, but have not yet seen beginning of last set of judgments (*Bowl Judgments, or "the 7 plagues"* not until ch. 16)
- Chapter 12 is still in **"interlude"** between 2nd set of judgments and 3rd (last) set.

Revelation 12

OPENING NOTES...

- **Critical to interpret correctly.** Test for Bible commentators (*so is chapter 6*). Don't get this right, probably won't get rest of book, or Bible, correct.
- **Several characters/"identities" to correctly decipher.** (*woman, [and her offspring], male child, the dragon, and Michael*)
- Chapter/verse designations man-made. Could say chapter 12 really begins in last chapter, verse 19: *"Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail."* **Chapter 11 ends in the heavenlies, chapter 12 begins there.**

Revelation 12:1-2

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. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

The Question of the Ages, full of Commentary and Controversy...

Who is this woman?

Some answers are laughable, far fetched, way off base and self-serving. But it's really very simple.




Revelation 12:1-2

Revelation 12:1-2

- **"a woman..."** 4 women described Revelation: 1) Jezebel (2:20); 2) Harlot (ch 17/18); 3) Bride of Messiah (19:7, 21:2, 9) and 4) this pregnant woman. **Getting her identity right is crucial.**
- **Who is this woman?** Many, many interpretations/ideas about her identity.
- Most common **error** is that she is the **Bride of Christ, or the Church** (*no scriptural basis for this thought*). If she is, she's in a lot of trouble, subject to stoning by the Law! She's pregnant, and a "bride" in Israel is engaged, not yet married, but covenant is binding. Church is, or is supposed to be, a virgin. **This just doesn't fit!**

Revelation 12:1-2

- Another common **error** is that she is **Mary, the mother of Jesus**. Does not fit with 12 stars, sun and the moon, and wilderness flight, nor content/context of vision.
- We could go into **all sorts of errors**, but perhaps one of the biggest, and **most arrogant**, is by **Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy, who claimed she was this woman**. The “man child” she delivered was supposed to be Christian Science, her “new religion,” and the dragon is “mortal mind” attempting to destroy her new religion.



Revelation 12:1-2

- **Won't spend time with errors**. Again, *only way to correctly interpret scripture, is with scripture.*

In the Old Testament, Israel is portrayed as:

- **a woman in travail** (Isaiah 54, 66).
- Also often referenced as **wife of God**.
- Perhaps **biggest clue is in Genesis 37:9**, when Joseph has a dream: *“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.”* Joseph sees his brothers, father and mother bowing down to him in this dream. (*Near and far prophecy*)

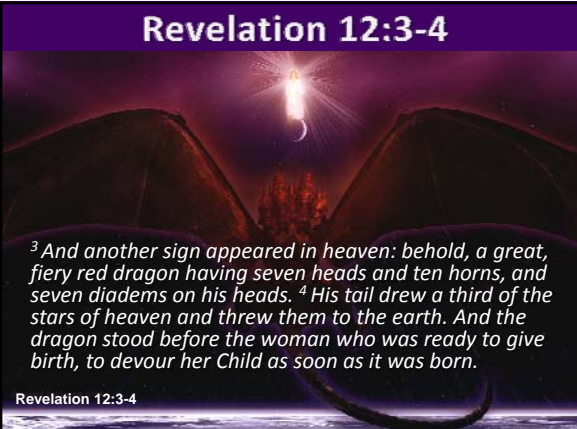
Revelation 12:1-2

- Sun, moon, and stars here in this vision. 12 tribes of Jacob (Israel) are here (12 stars). Joseph is a type for Jesus, the ultimate deliverer. Everyone will bow down to him one day.
- Isaiah 9:6, verse everyone knows from Christmas cards: *“Unto us a child is born....”* Unto whom? **Unto Israel**. Israel was in labor thousands of years.
- Isaiah 66:7 is clear on this: *“Before she was in labor, she gave birth; Before her pain came, She delivered a male child.”* This is a very specific and clear reference to Israel giving birth to the Messiah. Believers first reading Revelation understood this plainly.

Revelation 12:1-2

- **This woman in the vision is Israel** (*not the Church, not a constellation and not anyone or anything else*).
- 12 stars = 12 tribes of Israel
- The child she delivers is the Messiah.
- **Unless you use this correct interpretation of this vision, nothing will make sense** and any figurative identification will be stretched and scripture twisted (or ignored) to make things fit. **When we understand who this woman is, all the pieces fall into place and present the picture of God's plan for His people.** (*Rest of this chapter makes no sense without this interpretation.*)

Revelation 12:3-4



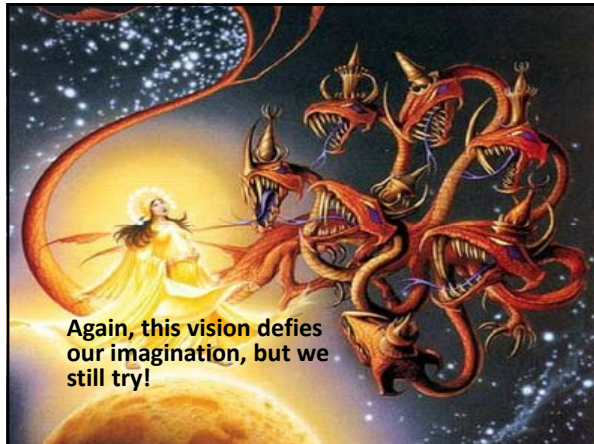
³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child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

Revelation 12:3-4

Revelation 12:3-4

- **“a great, fiery red dragon...”** dragon is interpreted for us in v. 9: *“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.”* No question who this is.
- Bible addresses **this enemy several places**, chiefly Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:2-15. If you don't already know about his origins and intentions, read these passages carefully (also Genesis 3; Jude 13; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; John 8:44).





Again, this vision defies our imagination, but we still try!

Revelation 12:3-4

- **RED** used 2X in this book, here and the 2nd horse in chapter 6. Red is associated with war and death. Satan has been at war with God and with God's people since his downfall.
- "The adversary" (literal meaning of "satan" or *HaSatan* in Hebrew) introduced what we call "**spiritual warfare**" (for more information on this see *Ephesians 6:10-13; 2 Corinthians 2:11; Daniel 10:1-9; Amos 7:1; Isaiah 59:17; 2 Kings 6:16; Revelation 9* and more.)
- Many references throughout scripture to this warfare but won't spend time here on this.

Revelation 12:3-4

- We are part of the **war of the ages**, the conflict between good and evil, God and the enemy.
- Enemy's biggest tactic is **deceit**.
- God's weapon is **truth**.
- **CRITICAL REMINDER: Don't make mistake** of considering these two "generals" on equal terms! One is a created being with limited power and an ultimate end. The other is Almighty, The Creator, All-Powerful, All-Knowing, and Eternal.

Revelation 12:3-4

- Spiritual warfare is real and present throughout ages. You are on one side or the other. No fence-sitters in this war.
- Learn of our **ultimate victory**: Psalm 110:1; 1 John 3:8, 4:4; 2 Kings 6:16; Romans 8:25-38; Hebrews 2:14, 10:12, 13; James 4:7; Ephesians 1:20-21; Revelation 12:10 and more. Do your own search and study. What every believer must know, be and do.



Revelation 12:3-4

- "**seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.**" description also appears in Revelation 13/17. *Will defer discussion of these heads and horns until then.*
- "**...a third of the stars of heaven...**" interpreted as 1/3 of heavenly host of angels that followed the enemy in opposition to God. (See *Daniel 8:10*)
- "**to devour...**" Satan (the dragon) has been trying to destroy the Messiah (the Child in this vision) since the beginning of time. The Messianic line begins with Eve, where He is first promised.

Revelation 12:3-4

COMMENTARY: "This vision of Satan standing before the woman 'who was ready to be delivered, to devour her child as soon as it was born' refers to the attitude of Satan ever since Genesis 3:15. This promise was given to humanity, predicting eventual deliverance from the domination of Satan....God guaranteed deliverance through the "seed of the woman." In response, Satan initiated what Bible scholars call "the conflict of the ages," attempting to stamp out the seed of the woman from the time of Adam and Eve to the Tribulation Period, from Genesis to Revelation. Satan tried to stop the seed by the murder of Abel by Cain (Gen. 4); by his effort to pollute the human race (Gen. 6, [*Nephilim*]); by his attempt to cut off the Hebrew nation in Egypt (Exodus 1, 2); and by the decree of Haman (Esther 3).




Revelation 12:3-4

COMMENTARY: *(continued)*

Several times during the life of Christ he tried to destroy the "seed of the woman" – Herod's decree to kill babies, the storm on the Sea of Galilee, and the attempts to throw Christ over a cliff. During the Christian dispensation the conflict is seen in Satan's persecution of the Church; his propagation of [false religions]; the Dark Ages, when the Word of God was kept from men; and false religions that spring up everywhere but offer no remedy for sin. This conflict will reach its climax during the Tribulation when Satan through the Antichrist will seek to get men to worship him."

(LaHaye)

Revelation 12:5



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.

Revelation 12:5

Revelation 12:5

- **"a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron.."** Have already identified male child, but this verse also identifies Him. Reference to Psalm 2:9 *"You shall break [rule] them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."*
- Verses immediately before provide identity: *"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession."* (Psalm 2:7-8)
- **Can only be speaking of Jesus**, the Messiah (*Yeshua HaMashiach*), Son of God, who will rule the nations, the male Child of this vision.

Revelation 12:5

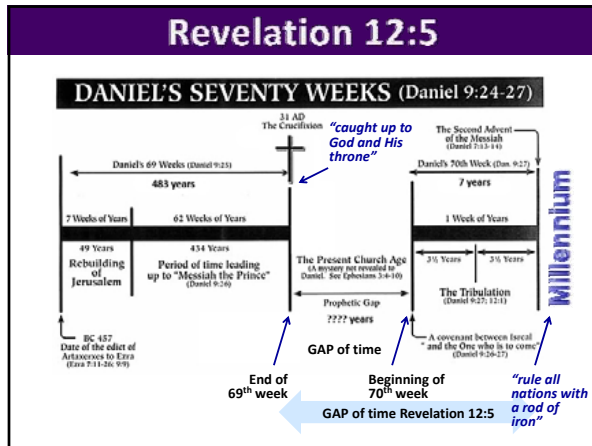
- **"...caught up..."** In Greek, *harpazo* – raptured! Jesus' ascension was a *rapture* event. He was snatched up by God, just as we will be.
- **Several "gaps" in time here.** First between woman "giving birth" and child being caught up (*about 33 years*), and also ruling the nations (*almost 2,000 years and counting*). Another gap between verses 5 and 6 (*between ascension of Jesus and tribulation, again, 2,000 years+*).
- Many **gaps** in scripture cover assumed periods of time. At least 24 such gaps. Daniel chapter 9 (the "70 weeks") has a large gap that is essential in our understanding of that passage.

Revelation 12:5

- Daniel's gap between 69th and final 70th week is period of time that passes between Messiah's being "cut off" and time of "Jacob's Trouble" (*Tribulation, 70th week*). Gap in these verses is between *ascension and return to rule* in Millennium.
- Important to note absolutely NO mention of Christian Era, Age of Grace, or Church itself in these verses (if interpreted correctly), except birth and ascension of male child born to this woman. Entire vision relates to Israel.

Revelation 12:5

- First 5 verses occur before end of Daniel's 69th week, then a gap (*where we live now, age of the Church*) followed by 70th week, the tribulation period. This chapter does not concern the Church, but Israel, and God's plan of the ages.
- **"to God and His throne."** Jesus is the only one who has ascended to heaven and to the throne of God (His authority). There is no question of His identity through these verses and through scripture. Any other interpretations are false.



Revelation 12:6

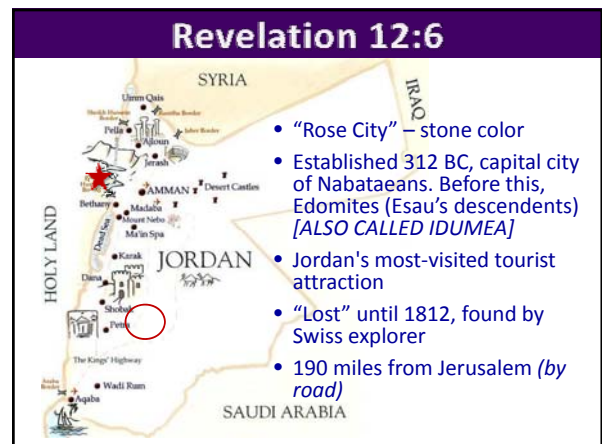
- **“the woman fled...”** The woman is Israel. “Israel” is national Israel, Jewish people today.
 - NOTE that any other interpretation of “the woman” won’t work in this context.**
 - Mary the mother of God fleeing into the wilderness?**
 - The Church fleeing into the wilderness (most likely gone by then),**
 - a constellation fleeing into the wilderness?**
- Understand that all interpretations must be done in context and with all known scripture.
- Israel is **“on the run”** from the enemy, who is madder than hell!

Revelation 12:6


- **“...into the wilderness...”** A literal place in actual wilderness? Where? The “wilderness” gives rise to all sorts of speculation. Like most of this book, *we must determine the method of interpretation – literal, or symbolic?*
- *Declaring a literal interpretation and assuming a literal wilderness place, ...where is this place? WE DON'T KNOW!!!* Not told.
- Many speculate could be region we call **Petra**, in southwestern Jordan, near southern tip of the current state of Israel.

Revelation 12:6

- Reasons for this speculation: Matthew 24:15-16, Isaiah 34 and 63, and Micah 2.
- Petra **can house about 250,000+** people in thousands of apartment-like caves.
- **Within “God-ordained” boundaries of Israel,** completely inaccessible (*very defensible*) except through Siq (*very narrow opening in rocks*), or overhead.
- Previously occupied by Edomites, descendents of Esau (means “red”), before being built into the “red rock” city of hand carved dwellings by Nabataeans in 3rd century BC.



Revelation 12:6



- The “Siq” - entrance to Petra
- Treasury Building in background
- Formerly inhabited by Edomites (Idumea)

Prophecy Against Edom

“Behold, I will make you small among the nations; You shall be greatly despised.

³*The pride of your heart has deceived you, You who dwell in the clefts of the rock, Whose habitation is high; You who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down to the ground?’*


⁴*Though you ascend as high as the eagle, And though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down,” says the LORD.* (Obadiah 1-4)

Revelation 12:6



- In current Jordan
- Treasury Building at entrance

Revelation 12:6



INDIANA JONES and the LAST CRUSADE

(In 1989 the movie “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade” made Petra famous. The scenes through the Siq that open up onto the Treasury Building are no movie set. Those are real!)

Revelation 12:6

Amphitheater



Revelation 12:6

Individual “apartments”



Revelation 12:6

- There is a reference in Isaiah 63 that the **Messiah will come (2nd coming) from Bozrah**, a city near Petra (Edom).



¹*Who is this who comes from Edom, [Petra] With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?— “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”*

²*Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?* ³*“I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes.”* ⁴*For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come.*

Revelation 12:6

- Speculation Bozrah (*literally "sheep pen"*) site of Jesus' 2nd coming, before He comes to Jerusalem. Isaiah 34/63, Micah 2 support this.
- Petra (*aka Mt. Seir in Scripture*) a stunning place, but plenty of information available, so won't spend more time on this.
- Whether Petra is the ancient fortress for Israel in last days or not **remains to be seen**. Seems likely, but regardless of where it is, God will divinely care for His people during "Time of Jacob's Trouble" – last 3 ½ years of tribulation – as they flee from persecution of world leader at that time.

Revelation 12:6

A very interesting discussion/speculation about how Petra fits into prophecy regarding the 2nd coming can be seen at <http://www.yeshuatyisrael.com/bozrah.htm>

This speculation is entirely possible, based on very clear scripture references.

Revelation 12:6

- Interesting passage in scripture seems to indicate **the areas of old Edom, Moab, and Ammon** escape from rule and control of final world ruler: *"He [the king of the North, identified as the final world ruler] shall also enter the Glorious Land [Israel], and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape."* (Daniel 11:41-42)
- All of these areas fall into modern day Jordan. Petra is located in this region.

Revelation 12:6

- Daniel 12, which continues this OT passage states: *"At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book."* (Daniel 12:1) Again, scripture is our best commentary on the book of Revelation, and on any book in the Word of God.
- VERY interesting to note the next passage in this chapter 12 of Revelation relates also to a war between Michael and Satan. These two passages may correlate.

Revelation 12:6

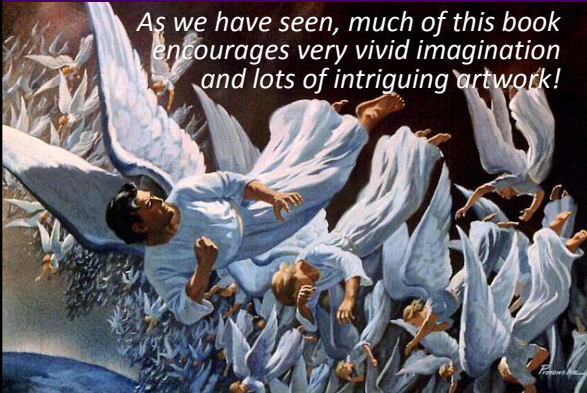
- **"...that they should feed her..."** *"they should feed"* all one word, *trepho* in Greek. Literally *to cherish with food, pamper, lovingly care for*. "They" not in original manuscript. Complete Jewish Bible states, *"...and she fled into the desert, where she has a place prepared by God so that she can be taken care of for 1,260 days."* God will lovingly care for His people, not merely feed them.
- **"one thousand two hundred and sixty days"** – unique time frame again. Stated so many ways we cannot misinterpret this, although some still try! Literal period of time, 3 ½ years (360 day years), the last half of the 7-year tribulation.

Revelation 12:7-9



Revelation 12:7-9

As we have seen, much of this book encourages very vivid imagination and lots of intriguing artwork!



Revelation 12:7-9



Revelation 12:7-9



Revelation 12:7-9

- Scene change from earth back to heaven. Now war in heaven. Continuation of age-old warfare between God/Enemy, truth/lies, which comes to a major battle during this time. Enemy and other fallen creatures ejected from heaven. Since rebellion of Satan, there has been war in spiritual realm
- **“Michael...”** identified as one of the “chief princes” in Daniel 10, and a warrior for Israel. Called an “archangel” by Jude, and apparently he is charged with the protection of God’s people, Israel. In Zechariah 14 and Numbers 21 we see him fight in wars for God.


Revelation 12:7-9

- **“...but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.”** Some interpret this as original “casting out” of Satan from heaven to earth in the beginning of time.
- However, Satan (*lit. “accuser”*) has apparently had access to heaven, and the throne of God, all along... until now.
- Seen in Job, Zechariah, Daniel, Luke, Jude and other places. Has been **accusing God’s people from beginning**, playing role of prosecutor before the bench of Almighty.



Revelation 12:7-9

- **The Accuser** soon to be **banished** from heaven, and lose ability to accuse God’s people. He and his supporters are cast out, no more access.
- God has determined there is no more room, or place, for these enemies any longer. (See Luke 10:18, John 16:11; 12:31) **The accuser responds in anger** in the next verses.



Revelation 12:7-9

- **“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world;...”** --no doubt as to identity of dragon. *“The serpent of old”* is the teller of lies in the garden. His name is the Devil (*“slanderer”*) and Satan (*“accuser”*) and he deceives entire world. NO ONE else fits this description.
- God always ensures we understand important points of scripture. Again, **the best commentator on scripture is scripture itself.**
- **The dragon is Satan, here in these verses and throughout the rest of the book of Revelation.**

Revelation 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.



Revelation 12:10

- Another unidentified loud voice from heaven declares it is time for the salvation, strength and kingdom of God to be proclaimed, and all promises to be fulfilled, for the Messiah to take His throne...*very soon*.
- Reason? The **one who accused believers before the throne of God can no longer do so.** The righteousness of God covers believers for all eternity.
- Some speculate voice actually crowd of believers who have gone on to heaven before these martyrs (witnesses) since they make reference to “our brethren.” Doubtful angels would speak of earthly believers like this.

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.



Revelation 12:11

“...they overcame him...” “they” = believers, part of spiritual warfare currently being fought. They (we) overcome the enemy by 3 things:

- 1) first and foremost by the **“blood of the Lamb,”** the blood of Jesus shed for us as payment for our sins, for “eternal redemption” *“...he entered the Holiest Place once and for all. And he entered not by means of the blood of goats and calves, but by means of his own blood, thus setting people free forever.”* (Hebrews 9:12) (His work, not ours). His blood covers us permanently; nothing more we can be accused of before God...ever.

Revelation 12:11

- 2) by the **“word of their testimony,”** - witness of a life lived for Jesus. Not just verbal testimony, backed up with whole life of witness.

COMMENTARY: *There is something that is strengthening in giving a testimony. Don't misunderstand me—some of the testimonies given today are pretty shallow. Some of them are given by those who ought not to be giving a testimony, because the people close to them know their shoddy living, and it makes them rather cynical and skeptical. The place to give a testimony is not at a nice, well-fed church banquet where all the saints say amen to everything you say. If you have a life to back it up, the place to give your testimony is out yonder in the world, when you are up against that godless, blaspheming crowd. Let them know that you belong to Christ and that you are in Christ. (McGee)*

Revelation 12:11

3) Love God and future lives with Him, more than corrupt lives on earth. And they did this "to the death," probably were true martyrs for God and died as a result of steadfast witness. But in so doing, they indeed overcame the enemy to become victors in Jesus.

These verses may apply to tribulation saints, but also give us real application information.

We also overcome the enemy first by the blood of Jesus, then by living a life that witnesses of our belonging to Him, and by not loving this life but yearning for the one to come with Him. Remember Revelation 2:10 – "...Be faithful even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life."

Revelation 12:12

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."

**A DOUBLE MESSAGE,
TO TWO DIFFERENT GROUPS...**

Revelation 12:12

- Messages to two different "dwellers" here. These events are a cause for **rejoicing in heaven**, and **woe on earth**.
- 1) the "dwellers of heaven" (*this can apply to those saints already in heaven and also to those still on earth at this time, believers who consider earth a mere place of sojourn and not home. Home is heaven, even if we haven't gotten there yet!*) and to the entire heavenly host
- 2) the "inhabitants of the earth" a phrase used over 20 times as reference to **unbelievers**, those who value their earthly lives more than anything else (*their citizenship is earth, not heaven*).

Revelation 12:12

- **THE MESSAGE?** It's almost over, the best news to the first group, and the worst news to that latter group.
- **This WOE corresponds to the third woe** from Revelation 11. The 7th trumpet has blown, the 7 plagues are ready to be poured out (*the 3rd set of judgments*) and with them, it will all be over. The wrath and judgment upon the evil on this earth, and those who oppose Him, will be complete.
- In God's economy and plan, it is already complete at this point. **HE INHABITS ETERNITY!**

Revelation 12:12

- **"...the earth and the sea!"** The addition of the "sea" here is merely an underscore that this is a reference to literal earth, the entire earth, no exceptions.
- The enemy was tossed out of heaven and is now angry (great wrath!). He knows scripture. He knows he only has a short time to do his best against God and His people. The evil coming on the earth will be greater than at any other time in history. The enemy cannot accuse anymore, *but can still wreak havoc here on earth*.

Revelation 12:13-14

¹³ Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. ¹⁴ 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.

Revelation 12:13-14

Revelation 12:13-14

Chapter 12 can read like a 3-act play:

Act 1: History of God's plan through Israel (*woman with the 12 stars, waiting to give birth*), the Messiah (*male child born to the woman*) and the enemy (*dragon*) shown on the "movie screen" of the heavens.

ACT 2: War in heaven, most likely yet to come, resulting in the enemy being cast out and he and his followers thrown to earth. They are mad!

ACT 3: Begins in this last section, where God delivers Israel (*the woman*) from the enemy's persecution, and brings her to a place of divine protection.

Revelation 12:13-14

- Remember correct identity of this woman. **It is Israel**, not the Church. Satan is very angry, knows his time is short, and now turns his full fury against Israel. He has always desired to devour Israel and her Messiah.
- However, in verse 17, we see him frustrated about Israel, so he turns his attention to **"her offspring."** (*more on this in a moment*)
- **"two wings of a great eagle..."** Eagles are often used in scripture as **symbolic for divine deliverance**.

Revelation 12:13-14

- Obviously, the entire nation of Israel will not mount up on the back of some gigantic eagle!
- In a literal interpretation, the guidelines are to *take literally whatever CAN be taken literally, and look for scriptural interpretation of those passages that are obviously symbolic.*
- Some have tried to make this eagle a symbol for the USA. This is a **big, unfounded, stretch** – especially considering Zechariah 12:3 (*all nations will be against Israel*) and the United States' rapidly waning support for Israel.
- **Always look for Biblical interpretation first.** Eagles are a known scriptural symbol for God's protection and deliverance.

Revelation 12:13-14

- **"...fly into the wilderness..."** We have already seen reference to the wilderness early in this chapter, and have discussed possibility of Petra being a literal place God sets aside for his people.
- However, there is another important note to be made about the wilderness. There are so many references and allusions to the **events in Exodus in the book of Revelation** that it is somewhat uncanny.



Revelation 12:13-14

When God delivered Israel out of Egypt...


- He brought them into the wilderness.
- Here Israel was protected and separated from rest of world so God could teach and nurture and build them into the nation He intended them to be.
- He sent them a deliverer.
- During entire wilderness experience, God provided for ALL needs, physical and spiritual.
- All food and water was provided, protection was afforded, guidance and teaching was given.

Revelation 12:13-14

- Israel's "nourishment" in the wilderness was both in body and in spirit. It is likely that the same thing will happen in the wilderness (Petra or some other place) here.
- God will divinely protect and provide for them, and He will teach them and guide them into the truth and into a saving relationship with His Son, their Deliverer.
- And **"they will look on Me, whom they pierced."** (Zech. 12:10)
- Israel is protected from the serpent's wrath in this time.

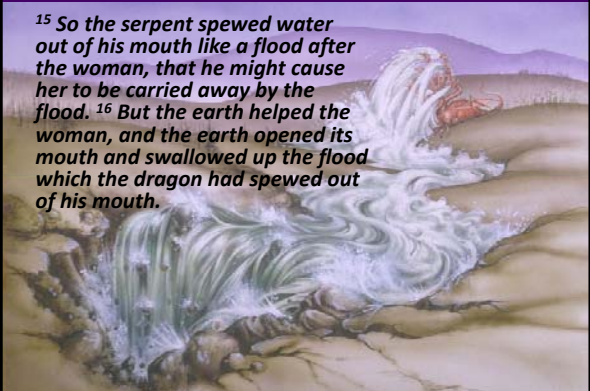
Revelation 12:13-14

- **“a time and times and half a time...”** Once again, we are given the exact length of this period of time.
- From the book of Daniel we know that a **“time”** is one year, **“times”** is two years, and **“half a time”** is ½ year. Total, 3½ years (360 day years).
- There is no question how long a time this is. And it is a literal period of time, not allegorical.



Revelation 12:15-16

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.




Revelation 12:15-16



And, of course, I couldn't resist this one...

Revelation 12:15-16


- Devil is frustrated by divine protection of Israel. He can't get to her. In his anger, he **“spewed water out of his mouth like a flood.”**
- **Is this literal?** Is there actually a flood of water in the desert? Well, *could be*, but likely it is a **euphemism**, one used before in scripture, **for military force**, or a great force of opposition.



Revelation 12:15-16

- In Daniel 9:26, a passage (part of Daniel's 70 weeks) which speaks of the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD reads:
“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.”

Revelation 12:15-16



The Temple was not destroyed with a literal flood, but by a “flood” of soldiers and military might (Roman armies) against Israel at that time.

Revelation 12:15-16

- In Isaiah 59:19 we read: *“So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.”*
- There are many other references to enemy forces like the force of a flood.
- Perhaps this reference here relates to some sort of military response on the part of the final world leader to destroy Israel while it is under God’s protection.
- **This plan, whatever it is, is foiled.**

Revelation 12:15-16

- *“But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood...”* We have no reason to believe this is NOT literal. And we know the earth does nothing without command from her Creator.
- God has done this before. In Numbers 16:31 (also Numbers 26, Deuteronomy 11, Psalm 106), God opened the earth to swallow up some Israelites who were disobedient.
- Micah 7:15 the prophet says that God will work just like He did in the times of the deliverance from Egypt against the enemies of Israel, now in this time.

Revelation 12:15-16

Here is what Micah says about these days (*well worth knowing!*)... (7:15-17)

As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders. The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; They shall put their hand over their mouth; Their ears shall be deaf. They shall lick the dust like a serpent; They shall crawl from their holes like snakes of the earth. They shall be afraid of the LORD [YAHWEH] our God, And shall fear because of You.

The world be truly be in awe of the wonders of Elohim during this time!

Revelation 12:15-16

- Whether this is a literal flood of water, or a flood of military action against Israel at Petra (*or wherever she is in the wilderness*), God will open the earth and swallow this evil meant to destroy the *apple of His eye* (Israel).
- In the “Left Behind” series, LaHaye portrays this as a massive military move, which is then swallowed literally into the earth, perhaps by an earthquake. It’s possible!
- Whatever happens, God delivers Israel from the harm meant by the enemy. And this serves to **enrage** the enemy.

Revelation 12:17

¹⁷ 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.



Revelation 12:17

- The dragon throws a **huge temper tantrum** here. He is enraged with Israel (the woman), but he cannot do anything to her at this point.
- So his rage is turned toward the next in line, **“her offspring”** (literally, “remnant of her seed”).
- We don’t have to wonder who this is. Again, the Word provides the answer right in this verse. These offspring are Believers, those who come to Jesus during the tribulation – tribulation saints. Now the persecution of believers is really stepped up.

Revelation 12:17

- “...who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” These two identifiers *may be* an indication that these Christians are more precisely Messianic believers. These could even be the sealed 144,000 (*chapter 7*). There is reference here to “the commandments” [the Law] and to the witness of Jesus [grace] (old and new covenants).
- Those now persecuted could be Jewish believers. However, could also be reference to any believer at this time, Jew or Gentile. It indicates the **entire covenant people of God**.

Revelation 12:17

- Cannot underestimate how **horrible and gruesome** these times will be **for believers**, (Jew and Gentile), but especially for Jews.
- The book of Zechariah makes this very clear: *“And it shall come to pass in all the land,” Says the LORD, “That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’; And each one will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”* (Zechariah 13:8-9)

Revelation 12:17

- During the time of “Jacob’s Trouble,” the Great Tribulation, 2/3 of the Jews will die. This passage deals specifically with Israel.
- God says that one third will be spared, and also “refined” through this time of persecution and testing, so that they are true believers, strengthened by God and standing firm for Him.
- This chilling chapter now paves the way for introduction to the dragon’s “henchmen” – the beast from the sea, and the beast from the land in chapter 13.

