

## REVELATION Chapter 12

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*We've seen the struggle between God's people and their oppressor, which in John's day was the Roman Empire. The struggle between Christ and Satan continues through the rest of the book. Satan and his forces (those whom he uses to do his will, whomever they are, to oppose God's work and oppress God's people) will be the ultimate losers in this battle!*

### I. DELIVERY OF THE CHILD & SATAN'S PERSECUTION, 12:1-6

#### A. **THE WOMAN**

1. Her description: *clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, upon her head a crown of twelve stars, with child, about to deliver her child.*
2. Her identity: She is the **PEOPLE OF GOD!**
  - a. Compare Isaiah 50:1; Jeremiah 2:32; Hosea 2:2, 7; Micah 2:15; 4:9-13
  - b. This woman must be more than only literally Mary.
  - c. It was through physical Israel that Jesus came, but not only physical Israel (compare verses 13-17).
  - d. This woman cannot be just the church (Jesus did not come from the church) nor physical Israel only (for all did not accept Christ), thus it must be both!

**GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE** (*whether in the Old or New Testament*)

- e. God's providence from Eden: Genesis 3:15 (see also Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:16; 4:4-7, 26; 6:16; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Romans 7:1-4).

#### B. **THE CHILD**

1. His description: *a man child who would rule all nations; Satan is after him; he will be caught up unto God and His throne.*
2. His identity: it is **JESUS!**
  - a. Compare Psalm 2:6-9; Hebrews 1:5; Revelation 2:26-28; 19:15
  - b. His throne: see Isaiah 9:6-7; Mark 11:10; Luke 1:32; Acts 2:29-36

#### C. **THE DRAGON**

1. His description:
  - a. "seven heads" = *complete, universal authority* (John 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4).
  - b. "ten horns" = *complete, universal power, including destructive power* (Matthew 12:28).
  - c. "seven crowns" = *symbolizing his rule* (see Ezek. 29:1-3; Psalm 74:13; Isaiah 51:9).

*Note: Remember, it was the Roman Empire which ruled; but the "power behind the throne" influencing the opposition to God's purpose was Satan.*

2. His identity: verse 9 tells us it is **SATAN**.
3. His work:
  - a. *“drew the third part of the stars of heaven and did cast them to the earth”* - stars often represent the people of God (see Genesis 15:5; Daniel 8:10ff; 12:3; Matthew 13:43), thus Satan has had some power in the lives of some of God’s people (to kill or harm them, or even make them fall away compare Acts 5:3; 1 Corinthians 5:5; 2 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Timothy 5:15; 2 Timothy 4:10; 1 Peter 5:8-9; etc.).
  - b. He stood before the woman, ready to devour her.
4. For comparison, see also Ezekiel 28:14; Isaiah 14:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 9
- D. The woman flees for protection for 1260 days (see Isaiah 50:1; 54:1ff; Revelation 11:3).

## II. WAR IN HEAVEN, 12:7-12

### A. THE WAR COMBATANTS:

1. Michael and his angels (cf. Daniel 10:13, 21; 12: 21:1; Jude 9).
2. The devil and his angels (cf. Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:11-19; 31:9; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6-9).

### B. THE WAR RESULT:

1. No place was found for Satan and his angels in heaven; they were cast down to the earth = Defeated! (see Isaiah 14:12; Luke 10:18; John 12:31; Romans 16:20; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 20:7-10).
2. There is rejoicing in heaven, vv. 10-12
  - a. The accuser of the brethren is cast out.
  - b. How they overcame:
    - (1) By the blood of the Lamb (Ephesians 1:7; Revelation 1:5).
    - (2) By the word of their testimony (2 Timothy 2:2)
    - (3) By loving not their lives even unto death (Luke 9:23; Rom. 12:1-2)
  - c. Woe for earth and sea!
3. Great wrath: Satan’s is angry at his defeat, knowing he has but a short time and that he will be overcome!

### C. See the picture: *VICTORY PROCLAIMED FROM HEAVEN!*

1. God has given salvation, demonstrated His power, and vindicated His kingdom.
2. God’s Son has taken His throne as King.
3. The accuser of the brethren cannot present his case in heaven anymore.

***WOW! – What a victory!***

### III. WAR ON EARTH, 12:13-17

#### A. The persecution and protection of the church, vv. 13-16

1. The dragon persecutes the woman.
2. The woman is given protection:
  - a. “two wings of a great eagle” = *God’s strength* (cf. Exodus 19:4-6; Isaiah 40:31)
  - b. “fly into the wilderness” = *this is a place of nourishment* (12:6) *away from the serpent* (12:4).
  - c. She is nourished “time, times, and half a time” = 3 ½ - this represents her period of persecution (see Daniel 7:25; 1 Kings 17:1-19:21; James 5:17; Revelation 18:10-13), during which time she shall be nourished by God and be ultimately triumphant! (see Revelation 17:3-6; 18:1, 21, 25, 30).
3. The serpent “cast out of his mouth water as a flood” =
  - a. The symbolism of this “flood”: *ungodliness, wickedness, persecution, and destruction* (see Psalm 18:4, 16; 124:4-5; Isaiah 8:5-8; 57:19-20; 59:19).
  - b. Through lies (false religion; deception), Satan attempts to destroy the influence of the church (God’s people).
  - c. But mankind in general, in falling for the lies of Satan (“the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood”), thereby helps the true church!

#### B. Satan is not finished, verse 17!

1. The dragon is wroth with the woman, and goes to make war with the remnant of her seed (compare Luke 22:31; John 13:2; Acts 13:6, 10)
2. Who is this “remnant”? *Those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ!*
3. But always remember: Satan will be fully and finally defeated through the death of God’s Son – *Matthew 13:35; 25:41; Ephesians 1:4; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 4:3; Revelation 17:8*