



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Chapter Twelve

- **Rev 12:1** A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; **2** and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. **3** Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. **4** And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. **5** And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. **6** Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.


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- **This section of John's prophecy reaches back into history to show that from before the fall of man, there was a war being waged between the forces of good and evil.**
- **And what we learn from scripture, and from history is that planet Earth is the main front in this running conflict between God and his angels, and Satan and his demons.**
- **Furthermore, man (and we ourselves) are more than just bystanders in the war and our eternal fate is determined by whose side we choose to support.**

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- **An observation at this point is this – this running war is only a running war because God has allowed it to be so.**
- **Satan only has some power to wage war because God has allowed it for His purposes that are sometimes mysterious, and at all times higher than we are fully able to grasp.**
- **Satan’s rebellion could have been quashed in an instant, the moment it occurred had God willed it to be so.**

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- This war has been waged in the Heavens as well as on the Earth and what started out to be a rebellion in Heaven, found its way to the Earth and mankind was dragged into the fray.
- So as we think about God taking back the Earth from the enemy, we should not be surprised to find that we live in a spiritual battleground. 
- This is why we so often feel ill at ease in the world's culture – there really is a battle in the Heavens going on that we've been forced into.

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- **The good news about this running war is that we already know who wins.**
- **Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”**
- **As shown above, John pronounced the ultimate victory of our God and Jesus Christ – so there is nothing to fear, because there is nothing in doubt.**

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- **Rev 12:1 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; 2 and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.**
- **So what exactly is a “sign”? Signs themselves have little, if any, importance without the issue or event to which they point.**
- **A “house for sale” sign is useless without the house it points to.**

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- The “sign” in this case points to the nation of Israel.
- Remember, we are in the Great Tribulation and what nation would be prominent in the end time?
- Daniel 9:24 **“Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.”**

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- **Further evidence that the woman is Israel –**
 - **A crown of 12 stars – the 12 tribes of Israel. (Genesis 37)**
 - **The woman has a child that the dragon (clearly the devil) wanted to destroy.**
 - **The woman needs to hide for 1260 days – the same length of time that the gentiles trample under foot the city of Jerusalem.**

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- **So next let's look at the fact the "woman" was pregnant. (in some ways, O.T. Israel could be said to have been pregnant with the Anointed One)**
- **Integral to the redemption plan has been this idea from the Old Testament that the offspring of the woman would crush the head of the serpent.**
- **Gen 3:15 "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."**

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- **To give some historical perspective to this idea of the “woman” (Israel) being pregnant, consider this.**
- **Satan, has always known that Israel would produce the “seed of the woman” who would one day crush his head.**
- **Because of that, he has been at work throughout history to hinder, injure, and try to destroy Israel. (this is true even after she gave birth)**

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- **In 1492 Spain drove all Jews out of their land.**
- **During the Inquisition, the Roman Catholic church slaughtered Jews by the thousands in the name of Christ.**
- **In 1882 there was a massacre of Jews in Russia.**
- **The “Dreyfus affair” in France was an effort to condemn Jews for their national problems in the late 1800’s.**

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- **Of course in the 1930's Adolph Hitler came to power with an agenda to exterminate the Jews and slaughtered more than 6 million.**
- **Today, we live in a world filled with despots who would try to wipe Israel off the face the Earth if they thought they could get away with it.**
- **To be sure, Satan, knows the role of the “woman” (Israel) in history and hates her because of it.**

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- **Gen 12:1** Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”
- **Gen 17:7** And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

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- **3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. 4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.**
- **The next sign we have points to Satan – In his vision John sees this “great red dragon” who turns out to be none other than Satan (formerly Lucifer) himself.**
- **And what is he doing? He is standing opposed to God’s plan to redeem men, and destroy the work of the devil through the promised Messiah who was to be “born of the woman”.**

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- So how can I be so sure the “great red dragon” is Satan?
- Rev 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 *And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan,* and bound him for a thousand years.
- And, in addition the devil is called the dragon 13 times in this book we call the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

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- **And what about the phrase, “having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems”?**
- **We will look at this in detail in chapter 17, but for now just know that we will discover that the “7 heads” represent all of the kingdoms that have ever ruled this planet.**
- **And those 7 kingdoms, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the end time confederacy, were, and will be, ruled behind the scenes by Satan.**

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- Daniel prophesied about the end time kingdom and the ten horns as being deadly, dreadful, and Satanic.
- Dan 7:7 After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.
- Dan 7:20 and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts and which was larger in appearance than its associates. 21 I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them 22 until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.

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- **Again, we see evidence of a running conflict throughout history where the devil is always trying to interrupt and stop God's redemption plan. (he is waiting in front of the woman for when she gives birth) ★**
- **There is no other reasonable explanation for the widespread hatred for Israel but to conclude that it is all inspired, and backed by, Satan's attempts to stop God's plan.**
- **First he worked to stop the existence of Israel, then he worked to try to prevent Messiah's birth, and now he is working to stop Messiah's return.**

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- **What is telling is that despite his considerable strengths and resources, and despite his best efforts, he always has, and always will, fail.**
- **That said, the fact that Satan will ultimately lose the war, he has still wrought a lot of pain, death, and carnage in the battles he wins.**
- **Satan wins battles when mankind fails to resist him, or willingly cooperates with him.**

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- **When Israel needed a deliverer from their bondage in Egypt, Satan worked actively against the “woman” trying to destroy her before she could produce her offspring.**
- **Satan inspired Pharaoh to kill all of the Jewish baby boys during the days of Moses.**
- **God countered by sparing Moses in the very house of Pharaoh, raising him up to become the one who delivered Israel from bondage. (what irony!)**

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- **Matt 2:16** Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.
- **Again, Satan (the ruler of this world) uses governmental authority to try to wipe out the “seed of the woman”.**
- **God countered by supernaturally revealing Herod’s plot to Joseph - so Joseph, Mary, and Jesus fled into Egypt.**

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- **5 And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.**
- **Here we see that the “woman” (Israel) did in fact deliver the promised “seed of the woman” and we also see that He succeeded in His mission.**
- **He was caught up to Heaven to very throne of God where He still sits to this day. (Jesus at the right hand of the Father)**

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- **And in verse #5 we have a good illustration of how time is sometimes lost in prophetic writings.**
- **If you were to read verse #5 without the context of the life of Christ on the Earth, you might conclude that Jesus was born and that God immediately grabbed Him from Satan's reach.**
- **But that was not the case – in fact, Jesus was allowed to stay with His parents to learn, and grow up in a world that was even more dangerous for Him than it is for you and I.**

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- **Jesus grew up with a target on His back put there by the enemy.**
- **Scripture does not record very much at all about Jesus' pre-ministry years, but it would be no stretch at all to think that Satan made numerous attempts on His life when He was young.**
- **Now eventually, after His resurrection, Jesus did ascend to the Heavens where He sat down at the right hand of the Father, but the timing in verse #5 can be misleading when read out of context.**

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- **6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.**
- **Next, remember now, we are looking back in time from the ground we covered in chapter 11 – and we learn that the “woman” is going to flee into what John describes as the “wilderness”.**
- **Where is this “wilderness”? Some believe it will be the ancient city of Petra. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNU0D-F_WpM**

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- **The verse also speaks of God nourishing them – I wonder if He will once again send manna?**
- **After all, there is precedence for this from the wilderness wanderings of Israel.**
- **So far then, we have the “woman”, and the “dragon” identified as being in conflict in throughout history- next week we will add more details to this war of the ages that has influenced history more than most people know.**

Questions