



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Chapter Twelve

- **7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. 12 For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."**

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- **7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.**
- **Now this war is not the same as the running conflict between the Angels of God and Satan and his demons. It is not the same as the fall of Lucifer.**
- **Isaiah records for us the cause of the fall of Lucifer in the 14th chapter of his prophecy.**

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- **Isaiah 14:12** “How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world. 13 For you said to yourself, ‘I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God’s stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. 14 I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.’ 15 Instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead, down to its lowest depths. 16 Everyone there will stare at you and ask, ‘Can this be the one who shook the earth and made the kingdoms of the world tremble? 17 Is this the one who destroyed the world and made it into a wasteland? Is this the king who demolished the world’s greatest cities and had no mercy on his prisoners?’”

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- There was a battle in eternity past when Lucifer fell, was renamed Satan, and lost his status in Heaven.
- However, he was not banished from Heaven, or the presence of God, and we know that from other scriptures, like Job chapter 1 and chapter 2.
- Rev 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.”

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- **It is in verse #10 of Rev 12 that we learn that Satan has been now been banished from Heaven, and will now be restricted to Earth.**
- **But this sort of begs this question – “what started this war recorded on Rev 12:1?”.**
- **We are not told what started this war, so we will have to speculate a little bit about why it may have started.**

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- **Jude 9** In the same way, these people—who claim authority from their dreams—live immoral lives, defy authority, and scoff at supernatural beings. **9** But even Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but simply said, **“The Lord rebuke you!”** (*This took place when Michael was arguing with the devil about Moses’ body.*)
- So it seems like there at least argument between the angel Michael and Satan over the body of Moses.
- And then we have this **Luke 16:22** **“Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet.”**

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- Many believe that when a believer dies that angels, or at least our guardian angel (Matt 18:10 for guardian angels), will escort us into the presence of God.
- So if that is true, and if one day millions of believers are caught up to Heaven through enemy territory (the air), then the rapture could be the catalyst for this new war in Heaven described in verse #7.
- Satan is the “prince of the power of the air”, and since we know there was a dispute over Moses’ body, and since angels carried Lazarus to Paradise, why wouldn’t there be a big commotion over millions going to Heaven in a flash?

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- **9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.**
- **Satan and his demons lose the war that started in verse #7 – at his first rebellion Satan lost his standing and status in Heaven, this time he loses his access to Heaven.**
- **And he seems to know where that puts him on the prophetic timeline because verse #12 tells us that he knows he has but a short time left to do his dirty work.**

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- **Now if we accept that the Rapture is the event that provoked the “war in Heaven” of verse #7, then consider what that means.**
- **If the above is true, then that puts Satan’s restriction to Earth at the Rapture, so Satan and his demons, who were clearly tossed out with him, will all be on the Earth for the entire 7 year period of Daniel’s 70th week.**
- **Think about it – Satan and his demons are concentrated on the Earth during the Tribulation along with the demons that were loosed from the bottomless pit, and the ones chained in the Euphrates.**

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- **Satan is a deceiver according to verse #9 and that has been his method of operation ever since his initial rebellion.**
- **2nd Cor 4:4 Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.**
- **Most, if not all, of the people we meet who deny Jesus, have been directly affected by the deceptions of Satan.**

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- Rev 18:23b For your merchants were the greatest in the world, and *you deceived the nations with your sorceries.*
- Rev 19:20 And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the *beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue.*
- Rev 20:3 The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked *so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished.*

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- **10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.”**
- **Prior to the war of verse #7 Satan had access to God – and he used his access for nefarious purposes, reminding God of our sin and unworthiness.**
- **The hypocrisy of Satan is of course laughable – after all, who is he to be throwing stones when he lives in a glass house. 😊**

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- **11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.**
- **Multiple times in the letters to the churches in Revelation we read of those who overcome – and the answer comes from another of John's letters.**
- **1st John 5:5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**

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- **I want to pause for a moment, and talk about the “blood of the Lamb”.**
- **We live in a day when many churches have removed all references to the “blood” from their hymn books and liturgies.**
- **Blood is shocking, blood is messy, and blood is often the result of violence – and all of those apply to the cross of Christ.**
- **Shocking, messy, and violent, but oh so effective!**

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- **We also see here that believers have great power to defeat Satan and his minions simply by remaining true to our faith.**
- **When Christians do not wilt in the face of certain death, even if they die, there is a certain power that goes forth from such a stand.**
- **In Hebrews 11 we read of great heroic acts of faith that led some to glory and others to death, but all are honored in the book for their faithfulness, and for their powerful testimonies.**

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- **12 For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.**
- **So throughout history Satan has been persecuting the “woman” (Israel) and trying to thwart the plans of God.**
- **When he lost the war in verse #7, he was cast out of Heaven and now knows he has just a short time to defeat God, or his doom will be sealed.**

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- **13** And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. **14** But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. **15** And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. **16** But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth. **17** So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

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- **13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. 14 But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.**
- **So Satan turns up the heat on Israel, but God has already planned how He will preserve His people.**
- **The picture is that of the woman receiving two large eagle wings from God, that allow her to fly away out of the grasp of Satan.**

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- **And indeed, Israel (or at least a remnant of Israel) escapes to a place of hiding called the “wilderness”.**
- **Some believe the area they will go to is in Moab (Jordan today), where Moses peered into the promised land, and some believe they will be hidden in the ancient city of Petra.**
- **We really can’t be sure of where God will place them for protection, but we can be certain that He will keep them sufficiently safe for (a time, times, and half a time). 3.5 years**

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- **Matt 24:15** “The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place.” (Reader, pay attention!) **16** “Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. **17** A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. **18** A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat. **19** How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. **20** *And pray that your flight will not be in winter or on the Sabbath.* **21** For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. **22** In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God’s chosen ones.
- Just because Israel will go into hiding does not mean that Satan will cease trying to find them.

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- Jesus even prophesied about a time when Satan will try to lure Israel out of her safe place by reports of Messiah's arrival.
- Matt 24:23 “Then if anyone tells you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah,’ or ‘There he is,’ don’t believe it. 24 For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God’s chosen ones. 25 See, I have warned you about this ahead of time.
- Matt 24:30 And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

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- **15 And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.**
- **Here is an example of the difficulty in the Revelation of determining whether John's vision was symbolic or literal.**
- **Arguments can be made for both – so I will go with John Walvoord's wisdom on this one.**

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- **Some, like J. B. Smith, prefer to take this literally as a flood of water let loose to sweep away Israel down some valley. In this case, the earth would be either naturally or supernaturally enabled to swallow the water to prevent it from overtaking the Israelites. However, the contour of the Holy Land, and the fact that Israel would probably not all flee in the same direction combine to make a physical interpretation, such as Smith offers, improbable. It is more plausible that this passage should be understood in a symbolic way. The flood cast after Israel is the total effort of Satan to exterminate the nation, and the resistance of earth is the natural difficulty in executing such a massive program. The nature of the terrain in the Middle East, including many areas not heavily populated, provides countless places of refuge for a fleeing people. Whether the exact meaning of these two verses can be determined with certainty, the implication is that Satan strives with all his power to persecute and exterminate the people of Israel. By divine intervention, both natural and supernatural means are used to circumvent this program and to carry a remnant of Israel safely through their time of great tribulation. John Walvoord**

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- **17 So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.**
- **So Satan has been thwarted again and is now in a rage – he has always failed to destroy the plans of God, and he knows time is running out.**
- **So if he can't get to the remnant that God has hidden and protected, then he will settle for any believing Jew or Gentile he can get his hands on.**

Questions