

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

CHAPTERS 11-12:6

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Welcome back to our study of the Book of Revelation. We recommend that you begin by reading Revelation Chapters 11 and 12. (*Note: All Scriptures are KJV unless otherwise noted.*)

TWO WITNESSES

When we looked at the two witnesses in Revelation Chapter 11, I explained three possibilities as to who these two witnesses are. Some think they are Joshua, the High Priest, and Zerubbabel from the book of Zechariah. Others believe they are Enoch and Elijah since neither man ever died. However, most Bible prophecy preachers and scholars believe they are Moses and Elijah.

They look out of place because they prophesy and wear sackcloth, like men from ancient history. They are headquartered in Jerusalem, where Jesus died. God gives them supernatural power to destroy anyone who tries to hurt them. Fire comes out of their mouths to consume their enemies, and they can call plagues up at will. God has these two men do in the modern times what they did in Biblical times.

***6** "These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will."*

Revelation 11:6

In the Old Testament, Elijah had power to shut up the heavens for three and a half years, and he also called down fire. Some of the plagues Moses executed in Egypt were a severe hailstorm, fire mingled with the hail, and a thick darkness that covered all of Egypt. These types of events are also found in the Book of Revelation.

After three and a half years, these two men will be assassinated. The world will celebrate as their dead bodies lie in the streets of Jerusalem, but after three and a half days, God will resurrect them and take them up into Heaven. The world will see this on satellite TV and the Internet, and terror will strike all who are watching this.

Then, look at what happens in **Revelation 11:13**:

***13** "And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven."*

This leads us to what we are going to be covering next.

***14** "The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly. **15** And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." **16** And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, **17** Saying, 'We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. **18** And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst*

give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. 19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail."

Revelation 11:14-19

We have already covered the previous six trumpet judgments. (*Revelation 8:6-9:21*)

Trumpet 1

There is hail and fire mingled with blood. One-third of the trees and all green grass are burned, grazing livestock die, and there is great smoke and stench.

Trumpet 2

A great mountain burning with fire is cast into the sea, and 1/3 of the sea becomes blood. There are lowered oxygen levels on Earth, making it hard to breathe. One-third of the sea creatures die, and 1/3 of the ships are destroyed, so commerce is greatly affected.

Trumpet 3

A great star called Wormwood falls from heaven. One-third of the freshwaters become bitter, and many men die from the water.

Trumpet 4

One-third of the sun, moon, and stars are darkened. This results in colder weather on Earth.

Trumpet 5 - First Woe

The bottomless pit is opened, and evil locust creatures are loosed. Men are tormented for five months and cannot die. It is literally Hell on Earth.

Trumpet 6 - Second Woe begins

The four angels bound in the Euphrates River are loosed. There are demonic horsemen and horses which kill 1/3 of mankind.

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET SOUNDS

15 "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

Revelation 11:15

This begins the consummation of the age when the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our God. We are beginning the last 42 months (three and a half years) of the Tribulation, which will usher in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

We are now at Revelation Chapter 12, which describes a great division in the Apocalypse. It is the result of the 7th Trumpet sounding in Revelation 11:15. Let's begin by reading **Revelation 12:1-6**:

1 "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: 2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. 3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. 5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. 6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days."

THE RADIANT WOMAN

First, I want to take a close look at this radiant woman. She has been identified in many ways through the years. Some say she is the Virgin Mary. Others say she is the Church, but let's look closer. It is important for many reasons. Who is she? The radiant woman is Israel. She is plainly identified in this Scripture:

1 "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:"

Revelation 12:1

This parallels with Joseph's dream:

9 "And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?"

Genesis 37:9-10

There were only 11 stars in Joseph's dream because the twelfth star was Joseph. The other 11 were his brothers, representing the other tribes of Israel. Jacob understood that Joseph was describing the brothers. Through Joseph's dream, we can interpret Israel as the radiant woman in Revelation 12 who produced Jesus, the Messiah.

In Scripture, we see that Israel is referred to as a married woman again and again. She is also identified as a mother. When Israel was in captivity, she was referred to as a divorced woman

and also as a widow. The Church is referred to as a chaste virgin who will someday be presented to Christ.

2 "For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

II Corinthians 11:2 NKJV

The radiant woman giving birth is not and cannot be the Church. In Scripture, the Church is never referred to as a mother. The Church is called a Virgin or the Bride of Christ. John the Baptist said, in **John 3:27-30 (NKJV)**,

27 "John answered and said, 'A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before Him. 29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease.'"

THE MAN-CHILD

If the radiant woman is Israel, then the man-child is the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Let's look at it.

2 "And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. 3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born."

Revelation 12:2-4

This dragon, Satan, stood before the woman to kill her child as soon as it was born. There are also other places in Scripture where Jesus escaped death before He was crucified.

11 "And when they (the wise men) had come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. 13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, 'Arise, take the young child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy him.'"

16 "Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

Matthew 2:11-13, 16 NKJV

Why is this passage about Christ, the man-child, briefly mentioned in Revelation 12? Listen to the beginning of the Apostles' Creed.

"I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead."

Reading this creed makes it sound as though Christ had no life or ministry on Earth. It goes from His birth straight to His suffering under Pontius Pilate and then to His crucifixion and resurrection. However, the Apostle's Creed was intended to be solely a doctrinal statement emphasizing Christ's virgin birth, His blood atonement, and resurrection. The rest of His life on Earth was not under review.

GAPS IN PROPHECY

So many times, Scripture records prophecies the same way: It leaves out gaps of long periods of time and centers on certain things pertinent to the prophecy. Look at **Isaiah 61:1-2 NKJV**.

1 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn,"

This was a prophecy about Jesus. He was sent and anointed to preach. But look at **Luke 4:18-20 NKJV**:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.' 20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down."

Jesus stopped reading mid-sentence after the words "*the acceptable year of the Lord.*" He closed the book and did not read the words "*the day of vengeance of our God*" from Isaiah. Between those two statements, 2,000 years have expired.

Jesus proclaimed and completed the first half of the prophecy. However, the second half of the prophecy, proclaiming the Day of Vengeance, has not happened yet. The Day of Vengeance has yet to be fulfilled.

I am trying to show us that Scripture abbreviates major events to emphasize one that sums up the life or ministry being discussed.

Look at another instance in **Isaiah 11:1-2**

1 "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2 And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;"

This is a prophecy of the beginning of Christ's ministry on Earth, but let's go down to verse 6.

6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them."

Isaiah 11:6

This prophecy in verse 6 has not come to pass. The first part of Isaiah 11 was fulfilled, but verse 6 will not be fulfilled until Christ's Kingdom is set up on Earth. There is a huge gap between the Spirit of the Lord resting upon Christ and the event described in Verse 6. It is a gap of over 2,000 years. Verse 6 will be fulfilled during Christ's Millennial Rule on Earth after His Second Coming.

ROD OF IRON

So, the man-child is born, and Satan tries to kill Him. In the Scripture, this child is identified by his rule over the nations with a rod of iron.

5 "And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."

Revelation 12:5

This is a signature Scripture of Jesus ruling with a rod of iron. Now, let's look at some other Scriptures about ruling nations with a rod of iron:

Psalms 2:7-9 NKJV, a Messianic prophecy, states:

7 "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

Revelation 2:26-27 adds that we will rule and reign with Christ.

26 "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father."

Revelation 19:15-16 also mentions the rod of iron:

15 "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King of Kings, And Lord of Lords."

Some believe the man-child is the 144,000, but these Scriptures that we read about ruling nations with a rod of iron clearly identify the man-child as Jesus.

In Revelation Chapter 12, the Bible refers to the man-child's birth, not His life or death. Why? The reason is that God is dealing with Israel here. The "clock stopped" when Israel rejected her Messiah after the 69th week of the Book of Daniel. The events in Daniel's 70th week (the Tribulation) are used to remove the blindness from Israel.

25 "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."

Romans 11:25 NKJV

After the man-child was caught up into Heaven, Christ's ascension, the clock starts ticking again for Israel during the Tribulation, which is Daniel's 70th week. John the Baptist could not fully see the two comings of Christ in his day. When John announced the coming Messiah, **Matthew 3:10-12** records that he said the following:

10 "And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore, every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Later, John was put in prison, and look what happened.

2 "Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, 3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?"

Matthew 11:2-3

He was essentially asking, "Where is the Messiah who is going to rule with a rod of iron, cutting down the tree of iniquity, separating the chaff from the wheat, and burning the chaff?" John saw a magnificent First Coming of a Reigning Messiah but never saw Jesus' Second Coming or the significant gap between them. John didn't see Jesus dying. He was looking for the reigning Lord and King.

Paul said that John the Baptist and others did not see the mystery of Christ because it could only be revealed once it was made known to the apostles and prophets.

4 “When you read this you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;”

Ephesians 3:4-5 RSV

The Book of Revelation describes the days of Christ’s unveiling, His return to Earth, His coronation as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and the establishment of His Millennial Reign on Earth.

THE WOMAN FLEES

6 “And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Revelation 12:6

Now, Israel, the radiant woman, flees into the wilderness for three and a half years (1,260 days). It is persecution that causes her to flee.

13 “And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.”

Revelation 12:13

GOD PREPARES A PLACE

6 “And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. God will aide her and protect her.”

Revelation 12:6

14 “And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.”

Revelation 12:14

When the dragon learns she is fleeing, he will cast out of his mouth water as a flood to swallow up Israel, but the earth will help her and open its mouth to swallow the flood. This permits her to escape from the dragon.

15 “And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. 16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.”

Revelation 12:15-16

The woman is Israel, and the dragon is Satan. The flood is armies. In Scripture, armies are often symbolized as a flood.

7 “Who is this that cometh up as a flood, whose waters are moved as the rivers? 8 Egypt riseth up like a flood, and his waters are moved like the rivers; and he saith, I will go up, and will cover the earth; I will destroy the city and the inhabitants thereof.”

Jeremiah 46:7-8

1 “The word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah the prophet against the Philistines, before that Pharaoh smote Gaza. 2 Thus saith the Lord; Behold, waters rise up out of the north, and shall be an overflowing flood, and shall overflow the land, and all that is therein; the city, and them that dwell therein: then the men shall cry, and all the inhabitants of the land shall howl.”

Jeremiah 47:1-2

26 “And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.”

Daniel 9:26

PETRA

I want to show you some Scriptures that speak of Israel’s protection during the last three and a half years of the Tribulation. The name of the place Israel will flee to is Petra in Jordan, located within the historical region of ancient Edom. This is part of the geographical area where Israel wandered in the wilderness long ago.

Petra is the Greek word for “rock” or “stone.” It lies in a very large valley and can only be reached by entering through a narrow passageway. This passageway is so narrow that, at some points, two people cannot enter simultaneously, and the sides and top are so close to each other in proximity that the sun barely peeks through. Mountains form the wall of the city, at some points reaching heights of 200 to 1,000 feet. The sides of the canyons are lined with structures such as houses and tombs, which are all hewn out of the great rocky sides. They are formed by skilled artisans as if they were hewn yesterday.

1 “Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. 2 Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? 3 I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. 4 For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. 5 And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. 6 And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.”

Isaiah 63:1-6

This Scripture is about Christ returning to Earth to destroy the nations at Armageddon. Christ comes over the area where Israel is secluded, in Petra. They will see Him when He comes, and He will show Israel that He fought for them. He will truly be their deliverer.

They will see Him up-close and personal as the One who has defended them throughout the centuries. God has always been behind every deliverance Israel has experienced, but this time, He is up-close and personal. They will actually see Him as their deliverer. They will see Jesus as their Messiah. Let's look at some Scriptures.

Jesus said in **Matthew 23:39 NKJV**:

39 "For I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Look at this in **Isaiah 42:11-13**:

11 "Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains. 12 Let them give glory unto the Lord, and declare his praise in the islands. 13 The Lord shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies."

Psalms 60:9-12 adds,

9 "Who will bring me into the strong city? who will lead me into Edom? 10 Wilt not thou, O God, which hadst cast us off? and thou, O God, which didst not go out with our armies? 11 Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. 12 Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies."

Israel will be in desperation to be preserved from the dragon and the Antichrist. God will keep and protect Israel.

Look at **Hosea 2:14**:

14 "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her."

Matthew 24:15-22:

15 "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. 19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: 21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days

should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

In Scripture, Jesus is saying to run when the Antichrist breaks the covenant, ends the daily sacrifices, and sets himself up in the Temple to be worshipped. Flee to the mountains! Go quickly! The Great Tribulation is about to begin!

God will care for Israel during the last three and a half years of the Tribulation. As you can see, God has prepared a place for her to be preserved, kept, protected, and fed.