

Again, the central message is not that satan is powerful; the central message is that **satan is defeated, Christ is victorious, and believers have overcome**

Revelation 12:12–17 continues the **heavenly conflict** described in **verses 7–11**

This passage reveals an important biblical reality: **a defeated enemy** can still be a **dangerous**

Verses 12:12–17 has a logical flow that we have studied before

The dragon knows his time is short: **verse 12**, the dragon persecutes the woman; **verses 13–14**, God protects the woman from the dragon; **verses 15–16**, then the dragon turns his fury toward God's people, **“the rest of her offspring,”** **verse 17**

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. Revelation 12:12 NKJV

The importance of the Word: **Therefore**, the word **“therefore”** connects **verse 12** directly with what has happened; in **verse 9**, the dragon is cast out; **verse 10**, the accuser is cast down; in **verse 11**, the saints overcome him; and in **verse 12**, **“Therefore rejoice, O heavens”**

That rejoicing is based upon satan's defeat and the advancing victory of God's kingdom

For those of you **tracking** the **“three woes”**, this is the third **“woe”** that is tied to the **seventh trumpet**

Here is the progression: **Revelation 8:13**; the three woes are announced, **Revelation 9:12**; the first woe completed, **Revelation 11:14**; the second woe completed, **Revelation 11:15**; the seventh trumpet/third woe begins

Verse 12 begins with an extraordinary contrast; heaven rejoices, but the earth experiences **woe**

Why? Because **satan has lost his place in heaven**, his activity upon the earth **intensifies**

“For the devil has come down to you having great wrath”: the Greek word translated **wrath**, thymos, carries the idea of intense anger, rage, or fury. **Notice why satan is furious: “because he knows that he has a short time”** Revelation 12:12 NKJV

This is significant because satan knows his destiny; he is **not fighting** because he believes he can **overthrow God's throne**; he is fighting because **his eternal judgment is approaching quickly**

The Bible repeatedly reveals satan's ultimate destiny. **The God of peace will crush satan under your feet shortly.** Romans 16:20 NKJV and **Then the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone...** Revelation 20:10 NKJV

Just a reminder: God has not surrendered His throne; Christ has not lost His authority, and the Gospel has not lost its power; satan will not and **cannot rewrite the ending**

Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. Revelation 12:13 NKJV

The woman introduced in Revelation 12:1 represents Israel; the male Child is Jesus Christ. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron... Revelation 12:5 NKJV

This language comes directly from the Messianic prophecy of Psalm 2. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel. Psalm 2:9 NKJV

So, after **failing to destroy the Messiah**, satan turns his fury toward the people through whom the Messiah came

As I have taught before, this pattern runs throughout the Bible. This consistent and persistent hostility against God's people and His redemptive plan can be traced throughout biblical history

Pharaoh attempted to destroy the Hebrew sons. **Haman** attempted to annihilate the Jewish people. **Herod** attempted to kill the infant Jesus

But satan continually **encounters the same problem**: God keeps His covenant promises

And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant... Genesis 17:7 NKJV

God's faithfulness is not grounded in Israel's perfection, or ours, but in His own covenant faithfulness

Grace: opposition does not mean that God has abandoned His purpose for your life

Sometimes the very thing being attacked is the thing God intends to use for His glory

Joseph was attacked before being elevated; **David** was hunted before becoming king; **Daniel** was thrown into the lions' den because of his faithfulness; **Jesus** was opposed throughout His earthly ministry; **Paul** suffered repeatedly while spreading the Gospel

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 12:14 NKJV Verse 14 this echoes verse 6: Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. Revelation 12:6 NKJV

This corresponds to three and one-half years in **Daniel**

Daniel uses similar language: ...then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. Daniel 7:25 NKJV

“two wings of a great eagle” The imagery recalls God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt

You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Exodus 19:4 NKJV

The imagery we're seeing communicates **God's supernatural deliverance and protection**

Just as **God delivered Israel from Pharaoh**, God will again preserve His people in the **wilderness**

Biblically, **the wilderness** has a **fascinating meaning**. It can be a place of testing, dependence, discipline, protection, provision, and an encounter with God

Israel and **Elijah** were sustained in the wilderness; **John the Baptist** ministered in the wilderness; **Jesus** was tested in the wilderness; and **Revelation 12** says God has prepared a place for the woman there

Which gives our Church Body an **important theological principle**

The wilderness is not always evidence that something has gone wrong. Sometimes the wilderness is the very place **God has prepared**

Sometimes God's wilderness seasons feel restrictive because we cannot see what God sees

And yet the wilderness teaches us that **God Himself is enough**

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. Revelation 12:15 NKJV

John describes another attempt by satan to destroy the woman

Whether this flood should be understood **literally or symbolically** has always been debated

Biblically, flood imagery can represent overwhelming destruction, invading armies, or catastrophic opposition

Isaiah uses flood imagery for overwhelming invasion: **The LORD will bring up over them the waters of the River, strong and mighty—the king of Assyria and all his glory...** Isaiah 8:7 NKJV

The central point, however, remains clear: **the enemy wants to overwhelm**

One of the enemy's strategies is to make **circumstances appear overwhelming**

The situation becomes so large that we begin looking at the flood instead of looking at God

David described this feeling: **Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. Psalm 69:1 NKJV**

Have you ever felt like that? One problem arrives, then another, then another. Suddenly you feel spiritually underwater

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you... Isaiah 43:2 NKJV

Notice that God does not always promise to remove the waters. **He promises, I will be with you in them**

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 12:16 NKJV

This is one of the **most fascinating statements** in the chapter: satan sends destruction; God uses His created earth to stop it. **Creation itself becomes an instrument of divine protection**

A biblical parallel — The Red Sea: Israel once stood trapped between Pharaoh's army and the sea. From a human perspective, there was no escape. Then Moses said...

Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD... Exodus 14:13 NKJV

God used creation itself to deliver His people. The sea opened, Israel crossed, the sea closed, and Pharaoh's army was destroyed

The parallel in **Revelation 12**: The enemy pursues; God intervenes; the enemy's plan fails

God is sovereign **not only over spiritual beings**, but He is also sovereign **over creation itself**

Sometimes, we look at our circumstances and say: There is no way out

God says: You simply cannot see the way I am going to make for you

Regarding temptation, Paul writes in **1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV**

Never limit God's deliverance to the options you can currently see with your eyes

God can use: **people** you did not expect, **resources** you did not know existed, **circumstances** you could never have arranged, **doors** you could never have opened

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 NKJV

The dragon fails again: he could not destroy the **Child**; he could not defeat **Michael**; **he could not maintain his place in heaven**; he could **not destroy the woman**; because of God's protection

So now: He turns his rage toward **“the rest of her offspring”**

John describes them with two characteristics: **They keep the commandments of God. They have the testimony of Jesus Christ**

This is enormously important! They are not identified by where **they live**, what they **possess**, or their **social status on Facebook**

This is why we, the Church, must know who we are in Christ. We must understand satan's most effective deceptions

That is, getting us to believe something false about who we are

There are two directions to that deception: **satan can deceive us into thinking we are MORE than we are**

This is the deception of **pride, self-sufficiency, and spiritual superiority**

For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Galatians 6:3 NKJV

That can sound like this... “I’m more spiritual than they are.” “I would never fall into that sin.” “I don’t need accountability.” “I know what is best for my life.” “God should do things my way.”

One of the most dangerous places **spiritually is thinking we're too strong to fall**

Satan can deceive us into thinking we are LESS than God says we are

The opposite lie is equally destructive... “You’re worthless.” “Your past defines you.” “God could never use someone like you.” “You've failed too many times.” “You aren't really forgiven”

Yet the Bible says: **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV**

The enemy wants the believer to build his or her identity around what he or she has done, rather than around what Christ has done for us

Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me