

## **The Dragon and Israel**

### ***Revelation 12:13-17***

- I. The coming kingdom of the Lord.
  - A. Jesus is king!
  - B. Satan does not want the kingdom to come!
- II. The schemes of Satan in chapter 12
  - A. To destroy the coming Messiah, a cosmic/spiritual view of Christmas (Vs.1-6).
    - 1. Matthew 2 is the physical view of the same story.
    - 2. Satan fails and wars with God via Micheal and the angels resulting in being thrown out of heaven to earth.
      - a. Satan's wrath covers the earth (V.12).
  - B. To prevent the coming kingdom of the Lord, a cosmic/spiritual view (Vs. 13-14).
    - 1. Opposing view—*Replacement Theology*: The church has replaced Israel in God's redemption plan.
      - a. What about the revival of the modern state of Israel?
      - b. How do we explain the "miraculous" forming Israel into a nation 1947?
      - c. The "supernatural" tenacity and survival of the Jews.
      - d. Has the church done any better?
    - 2. God's purpose for Israel.
      - a. To be a blessing to the world.
        - Genesis 12:1-3
        - Genesis 26:4
        - Genesis 28:14
    - 3. God's restoration of Israel foretold.
      - a. Deuteronomy 30:1-6
      - b. Ezekiel 36:22-30
      - c. Romans 11:25-27

### III. Israel's blessings to us.

- A. God's Word, Jesus Christ, the prophets, the apostles, the early church, martyrs, the apostle Paul—all were Jewish.
- B. The coming kingdom will come through the Jews.
  - 1. Jeremiah 30,31; Isaiah 2:2-3
- C. What accounts for Jewish hatred?
  - 1. Ephesians 6:12

### IV. God's protection of Israel—The woman (Vs 13-17.)

- A. Where 12:3-17 is a cosmic/spiritual view, Matthew 24:7-28 is the physical view.
- B. A great war results in 2/3 of the Jews killed. 1/3 is protected by God (Vs. 13-14).
  - 1. Zechariah 13:8-9
- C. Israel must flee, but not on their own strength (V. 14).
  - 1. Two wings of the great eagle—Exodus 19:4.
    - a. God delivers His people!
- D. "Her place"
  - 1. A place prepared by God—Rev. 12:6
  - 2. A place where God nourishes them—Rev. 12:6; Isaiah 33:16
  - 3. It will be in the wilderness—Rev.12:6;14
  - 4. It will be in the mountains Isaiah 33:16; Matthew 24:16
  - 5. Its Defensible Isaiah 33:16
  - 6. It will be in Jordan known as the "Beautiful Land" in Daniel 11:41

### V. Satan tries to "flood"/sweep away Israel.

- A. Literal water flood or a huge military that "floods" Israel?

### VI. Take aways for Thanksgiving?

- A. God is faithful to His people
- B. God takes care of His people

## The Dragon and Israel

### *Revelation 12:13-17*

Shadrach Meshack Lockridge [Great name for a preacher!...] Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church a prominent African-American congregation in San Diego...raised the bar of preaching to another level...preached an unforgettable sermon back in the 1980's...you don't fall asleep in a Lockridge sermon... the title was "*Jesus is My King*"

*The Bible says my King is a seven-way king. He is the king of the Jews. That's a racial king. He is the King of Israel. That is a national king. He is the King of righteousness. That's a spiritual king. He is the King of the ages. That's an eternal king. He is the King of heaven. That's a celestial king. He is the King of glory. That's a magnificent king. He is the King of kings and He's Lord of lords. That's a divine king. That's my divine king!*

**Jesus is THE King**...a king has a kingdom...and His kingdom will come...as we pray for in Matthew 6 the Lord's Prayer... in the spiritual sense, since the victory of the cross...Satan has been defeated, the ruler of this world, he just has not yet been silenced and confined...

So in that sense...the kingdom is already here...but after the future seven years of tribulation... Jesus will physically return to earth...with His church...(that has been raptured before the tribulation) and He will set up His earthly kingdom for the next 1000 years...

Satan does not want that to happen!

Revelation 12 is an important set of events that play a vital role in the coming kingdom... we looked at the first six verses a few weeks ago... then I said that in chapter 12 we get to see two major schemes or strategies of Satan... His first major scheme was to prevent the Messiah, Jesus Christ from being born...Kill Jesus , kill God's redemptive plan.

We looked at that cosmic, spiritual battle of Satan attempting to destroy the newborn baby Jesus... We saw that while verses 1-6 reveals the spiritual conflict... Matthew chapter 2 reveals to us the physical events that took place... what the eye saw...the Christmas story that includes King Herod... tool for the Devil to accomplish his scheme...

Herod attempts to destroy the Messiah by killing off all the male children two years and younger in Jerusalem... surely eliminating the Messiah...of course that scheme failed....*kill Jesus there would never be the cross...no cross, no atonement for sin... no resurrection... no eternal life...* logic of the devil.

We saw last week that what followed was a great war in heaven...initiated by Satan himself against Michael the arch angel and heaven's angels... this was a very important and decisive

battle... until this battle Satan had enjoyed having limited access to heaven...spending his time accusing believers with whatever he could accuse them with in the presence of God.

This battle results in a massive defeat for Satan and he is permanently thrown out of heaven and cast down to earth... lucky us!... verse 12 says **woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath** (hot anger), **knowing he has only a short time...**

How short?...no more than three and a half years...1260 days...42 months...*a time and times and half a time*... knowing he has but a short time... he literally lets all hell break loose on earth...Satan knows what is going to happen to him...he's read the Bible... he knows God's Word... He has a good grasp of this book Revelation...he knows he's doomed... but as we said last week... he is persistent.

[How are we doing on time?]

[I had a swimming pool...]

Satan's strategy number two?... **destroy Israel**...his logic is destroy Israel you prevent the kingdom from coming and he can continue to reign on earth....before we get into this passage I want to spend probably too much time talking about Israel which helps our context and background for what is taking place in chapter 12.

Last week I said that people generally make one of two mistakes regarding Israel... they either think too little of Israel or they think too much of Israel... regardless of what you think of Israel... it plays a vital role in God's plan.

I am very aware there are different interpretations of this great book Revelation...I've mentioned this a few times... the three major views are Premillennial, Amillennial, and Postmillennial... with a plethora of differing views within these views...

If you are sitting out there thinking "*I don't really care about all these views just give me Jesus*"... I feel your pain!... I've spent many hours studying the early church... the three hundred years after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ... the early church had one passion...and they were united under this one passion... one topic and everything else wasn't an issue... that was...the gospel....

They read the Bible that they had...with a straight forward understanding...and they were obsessed with Jesus and the sharing of Jesus.... **Now we are so much smarter**... now we have major divisions within the church over every doctrine on the Bible...theologian Ken Wilson has estimated over 40,000 different "Christian denominations" ...over 1000 Baptist denominations...each denomination represents and opposing view from the other denominations...maybe even a war... *Just give me Jesus!*

But theology and doctrine are very important...they are vital...the doctrines of salvation... of man... the church... sin.. eschatology... how this world is going to end up.... your view of eschatology... does matter greatly...it will affect how you view missions... evangelism, how you share Christ...if you share Christ...how you prepare yourself IF you prepare.

The major views generally all agree that the premillennial view is the most literal reading of the Bible...that's why it is my view... the other views rely on allegory to explain what it's all about.

The postmillennial say Revelation is all basically history... Most of it happened back in 70AD... the Amillennial believe that the future 1000yr. millennium describes the present church age and has for the last 2000+ years... during which Satan's influence is significantly restrained, allowing the gospel to spread throughout the world....I could argue...

Both of those views reject the idea of the rapture of the church...

*How many of you don't believe in the rapture of the church?... good, we're going to need someone to watch our dog while we're gone.*

[If that sounds like Dave McGarrah to you, it's his, he loaned it to me last Thursday]...

I think one of the biggest ramifications of these other views is their view of Israel... and this is becoming a prevalent Christian view today... that is the church has replaced Israel in God's plan. This is called *replacement theology*....supersessionism.

They believe the Jews are no longer God's chosen people...through their rebellion, sin and unfaithfulness God no longer has specific future plans for the nation of Israel...so the many promises made to Israel in the Bible are fulfilled in the Christian church, not in Israel...

The prophecies in Scripture concerning the blessing and restoration of Israel to the Promised Land are spiritualized or allegorized into promises of God's blessing for the church...All this means that God's **everlasting** covenant with Israel was temporary... I have a problem with that!

*I think all this fits in with Satan's number two scheme... to destroy Israel...* I made a short list of some of the problems with this theology...How do you explain...

- The continuing existence of the Jewish people throughout the centuries and especially with the revival of the modern state of Israel... If Israel has been condemned by God and there is no future for the Jewish nation... how do we explain the supernatural survival of the Jewish people over the past 2,000 years despite the many attempts to destroy them?

Look at a world map...giant countries all around this little speck on the map... famously compared to the size of New Jersey...just 267 miles long in length... under 8 million Jews live there... surrounded by 8.2 Billion people... the majority of which are very hostile to Israel. Pew research this year reports from their survey 68% of the world has a extremely negative view of Israel...28% favorable... 4% doesn't know what they think....Netanyahu speaking on just how

small Israel is said *It is so small if you look at a world map, the word ISRAEL doesn't fit on the country, it has to be on the Mediterranean sea.*"

- How do we explain why and how Israel reappeared as a nation in the 20th century after not existing for 1,900 years?... prior to 1948 the Jews had been scattered all over the world... mostly because of persecution...remember... they had just come out of the Holocaust in 1945... just three years before they became a nation!...683,000of them.

The prophets reveal that Israel would be dispersed, as it was in the first century, yet would be regathered to their land and reborn as a nation. This occurred when Israel became a nation in 1948.

- Here's Dan talking... Replacement theologians say that Israel forfeits their "everlasting covenant" because of their disobedience and unfaithfulness... so God passes it along to the church... *and the church has proved to be so very faithful and obedient to God... right?...*I would think by now God would rethink the church as the current possessors of His "everlasting " covenant!

The Premillennial view says the church is different and distinct from Israel...God has a future plan for Israel as He does for the church...they intersect... Three truths of Scripture I would like to bring out regarding Israel.... I think this will help us regarding Israel and Revelation. ***The purpose of Israel and God's future restoration of Israel... The kingdom of God comes through Israel.***

Yes... they have been and still are a disobedient and unfaithful people as far as God is concerned... Many Israeli Jews are plain apostate.... But in God's redemptive plan He hasn't forgotten nor abandon His people Israel.

### **Purpose of Israel—To be a blessing to the world.**

Genesis 12:1-3

**Yahweh Appears to Abram,  
And Yahweh said to Abram,  
"Go forth from your land,  
And from your kin  
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.”**

Israel as a people was called into existence because of God’s mission to bless the nations and restore His creation....again to Abraham, the father of Israel:

**In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,** because you have listened to My voice.”

Genesis 26:4 **And I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and I will give your seed all these lands; and by your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;**

And again: Genesis 28:14 **And your seed will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**

The overall purpose of Israel is to be a blessing to the world.... Now... read the Old Testament... Israel is revealed as a mess... they certainly didn’t deserve God’s covenant with them... Over and over the pattern is **God blesses Israel... Israel becomes complacent... they sin... they go against God’s laws... God punishes.... Disciplines...** Israel becomes faithful until they become complacent....*kind of like all sinners right?*

Israel didn’t and doesn’t deserve God’s covenant...God disciplines Israel...breaks Israel down...

### **God’s Restoration of Israel Foretold**

Deuteronomy 30:1-6

Yahweh Will Take You Back

“So it will be, when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you cause these things to return to your heart in all the nations where Yahweh your God has banished you, 2 and **you return to Yahweh your God and listen to His voice with all your heart and soul** according to all that I am commanding you today, you and your sons, 3 then Yahweh your God will return you from captivity and return His compassion on you, and **He will gather you again** from all the peoples where Yahweh your God has scattered you. 4 If those of you who are banished are at the ends of the sky, from there Yahweh your God will gather you, and from there He will take you back. 5 And Yahweh your **God will bring you into the land** which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. 6 “Moreover Yahweh your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your seed, to love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.

Ezekiel 36:22-30

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says Lord Yahweh, “It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations, to which you have come.<sup>23</sup> I will prove the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am Yahweh,” declares Lord Yahweh, “when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.<sup>24</sup> **And I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you into your own land.**<sup>25</sup> Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your uncleanness and from all your idols.<sup>26</sup> Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.(all pointing to the New Covenant in Jesus Christ)<sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to do My judgments.<sup>28</sup> **And you will inhabit the land that I gave to your fathers;** so you will be My people, and I will be your God..

God will restore Israel to be His full-fledged people... He will give them their land...He did....

Psalms 105...so clear:

**Remember His wondrous deeds which He has done,  
His miracles and the judgments uttered by His mouth, 6 O seed of Abraham, His servant,  
O sons of Jacob, His chosen ones! 7He is Yahweh our God;  
His judgments are in all the earth. 8 **He has remembered His covenant forever,**  
The word which He commanded for a thousand generations, 9 Which He cut with Abraham,  
And His oath to Isaac. 10 Then He confirmed it to Jacob for a statute,  
**To Israel as an everlasting covenant,****

Not only the Old Testament... this restoration is promised in the New Testament... The apostle Paul wrote in Romans 11:25-27

**25 For I do not want you, brothers, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;<sup>26</sup> and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written,  
“THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, Who’s that?...where did He come from?...  
HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.”  
27  
“AND THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM,  
WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.”**

Just in case your heart is hard towards Israel... Think of the blessings that Israel has passed on to us ... first of all what about Scripture...the Bible... Romans 3:2 tells us that the Jews **were entrusted with the oracles of God**...if it were not for God’s relationship with HIS people Israel... we would not have this Bible.



As if that wasn't enough... the most important way that Israel "blessed" us was by giving us a Savior... Jesus Christ!...listen to John in John 4:22...speaking to the woman at the well...

**You worship what you do not know...we worship what we know... for salvation is from the Jews....Jesus was a Jew...I thought He was Southern Baptist!...** salvation is only through Jesus Christ!... well...since we're on the topic...looking through all of redemptive history:

- God's Law... it was given to the Jews....Moses was not Southern Baptist either!
- All of the prophets were Jews.
- The Messiah...Jesus Christ was a Jew.
- All of the apostles were Jews.
- The early church were not Southern Baptist...they were Jewish.
- The early 1<sup>st</sup> century Christian martyrs were all Jewish.
- The apostle Paul was what?...a Jew.

And Isaiah tells us in Isaiah 2:2-3 referring to the coming kingdom of the Lord...for the most detail... read Jeremiah 30 and 31, amazing passages!... God is going to restore Israel... bring them before a Jewish ruler... David?... David like?... how about Jesus.

## 2

**Now it will be that**

**In the last days**

**The mountain of the house of Yahweh** Mt. Zion, the location of the temple in Jerusalem

**Will be established as the head of the mountains,** This is Christ's millennial kingdom...

**And will be lifted up above the hills;**

**And all the nations will stream to it.** All the nations will now be under one ruler... Jesus Christ... this is His kingdom...

## 3

**And many peoples will come and say,**

**"Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh,**

**To the house of the God of Jacob,**

**That He may instruct us from His ways**

**And that we may walk in His paths."**

**For from Zion the law will go forth**

**And the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem.**

Not only will the Kingdom of the Lord come through the Jews...Jerusalem will be the capital of the world... the kingdom will center on that Jewish city....NOT ROME

If there is anything that Satan would like to stop at this time it would be the restoration of the Jews thwarting the coming kingdom of the Lord....Satan seeks to prevent from coming to fruition.

He knows that once it comes...his days are over....Revelation 20 tells us that when the kingdom comes... Satan will be bound for 1000 years...he will be released for a very short

time then permanently thrown into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10)...Satan wants to destroy the intermediary in which this kingdom will come...Israel.

Ever since Satan failed to destroy the child... He has been focused on destroying God's people... nearly succeeding several times through history.

**So... what accounts for all the Jew hatred...** all the acts of violence vetted on the Jewish people?... it is the influence of Satan himself... remember what has become a favorite passage for us in Revelation... Ephesians 6:12

**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

Satan is constantly, relentlessly, persistently, passionately... doing everything in his power to derail the plans of God... and he works especially hard on the church of Jesus Christ... he wants 100,000 denominations by next year!

I said last week there are three wars in chapter 12... the first was the attempt to destroy the Messiah. The second was Satan against Micah and the heavenly angels (Against God)... Satan has been permanently evicted from having access to heaven and thrown down to earth and he's not happy...verse 12 says he comes to earth with great wrath...he launches war number three.... Not in heaven this time...but on earth against the Woman.

Remember there are three primary characters in chapter 12... The red dragon who is Satan... the child who is Jesus Christ the Messiah.... And the woman who represents God's people Israel....

Something else to know... just as Matthew 2 was the physical picture of Christmas and Revelation 12:1-6 are the spiritual reveal...

What happens here in verses 13-17 is the spiritual picture of God's protection of Israel where Matthew 24 gives us the physical picture (**you might want to turn over to Matthew 24**)...of course... Matthew 24 is interpreted in several diverse ways depending on the eschatology you embrace...some say...a lot say... it is all now history...it's already happened... *but if you take the straightforward more literal reading...*

Verses 1-14 refers to a future event **for those listening to Jesus's words**...they are now history to us... Jesus was telling His disciples...comforting His disciples... he was going to leave them (die) and then filled them in on the near future events... the destruction of the temple... all of which took place in 70 AD with the invasion of the Roman general Titus.

**But that is not the final end...** Jesus told them all that will be just "Labor pains" using the imagery of the term of a pregnancy...labor pains start before the birth happens....labor pains tell the woman (and her husband) that the birth is on its way... and still is.

### Read Matthew 24: 7-8

When you see Titus standing in the temple...and the stones of the temple start falling down...that's a sign that God's end time clock has started...Now Jesus points their attention to the future... what we see in Revelation 12:

### Read Matthew 9-14

### Read Matthew 15-28

Back to Revelation 12...we see the view from the spiritual...Satan knows he has only a short time... he knows he has now less than 3 ½ years... remember Jesus said in Matthew 24 He has cut the time short...

### Read verse 13

Notice the first thing Satan does after being tossed out of heaven... **persecuted Israel**...His specialty... why?... to thwart the coming kingdom!... notice Satan's style which can be summed up as "hatred"... here in verse 13 he **persecutes**... in verse 15 he wants to derail Israel by having them "**swept away**".

In verse 17 he is **enraged** and finally he **makes war**...stay away from this guy!... one takeaway in these verses is that when Satan attacks Israel... God protects her... That is how God operates for His people... we can count on that as Christians... Satan...or more likely his demons.

[rarely if ever is Satan the one attacking us... unlike God he is not "omnipresent"... he can only be one place at a time...his demons are attacking us all the time... the mere fact that you are in this building this morning is proof God has been protecting you.

First he *persecuted* the woman...Israel...this same word is found in Matthew 5:11...the sermon on the mount.. Jesus tells us that persecution is what happens to the Christian from the world around us...

**Blessed are you when people insult and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.**

**The reaction of the world to God's people will be persecution...** I got first hand experience of how this plays out for the Jew and the Christian... Now... I wasn't exactly "persecuted", but I was given insight into how this could happen:

### [Sweatshirt]

Now... we get to verse 14 and we might get the impression that there is no actual battle going on... actually what takes place is one of the most horrific battles for the Jewish people... Zechariah 13 fills in the blank for us...

Zechariah prophesies specifically about this time:

8

And it will be in all the land,”  
Declares Yahweh,  
“That two parts in it will be cut off *and* breathe their last;  
But the third will be left in it.

9

And I will bring the third part through the fire  
And refine them as silver is refined  
And test them as gold is tested.  
They will call on My name,  
And I will answer them;  
I will say, ‘They are My people,’  
And they will say, ‘Yahweh is my God.’”

2/3ds of the Jewish people will be eliminated...

I think this is how God sifts through the genuine Jew who loves God from those who are apostate... have turned from God...read the war history of the Jews... the death rate is staggering...the Jews that came through the Holocaust at the end of World War II were only 2/3rds of the total Jewish population... 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the Jews lost their lives... and what became the slogan of the Jews?... “NEVER AGAIN”.

When I went to Israel after October 7<sup>th</sup>...they were dismayed that *it happened again*...

Here in verse 14 I think the 1/3 have come to Christ... I think the 144,000 Jews in chapter 7 who will come to Christ is included...and all those who come to Christ through their massive evangelistic outreach may be included...

But this future war... 2/3rds of the Jews will be killed...NEVER AGAIN HAPPENS ONE LAST TIME... the 1/3 that is protected by God I believe are those the apostle Paul refers to as **All Israel will be saved**... the true Israel... the redeemed Israel through the blood of Jesus Christ. ...notice how God saves them...this is the spiritual reality of that time in Matthew 24 when **those in Judah must flee to the mountains... “leave your houses...go! Go! Go!”**

What we see here is that they won’t have to flee on their own strength!

### Read Verse 14

Many have of course speculated what the **two wings of the eagle** will be...some are I think crazy ideas...

- The eagle represents the United States...right?... when Israel is attacked and the great war breaks out... our military will swoop in with C-17 Globemaster III’s and fly fleeing Israel to safety...

- A fleet of Airbus A380's will swoop down and fly them to safety...
- Now I loved flying on Israel's national airlines when I went to Israel during the worst part of the Gaza war... amazing airline!... I was nervous about flying in to Ben Gurion airport knowing that you can see Gaza from your window... and I reasoned if I can see them they can see me... and they had been launching hundreds of missiles a day!...

But the stewardess informed me that El Al is the only airline in the world that has an anti-missile system on board!...if a missile is launched at the plane...within 2 seconds the system responds and the oncoming missile is deflected... amazing... **surely El Al is the wings of the great eagle!**

I don't think any of those are the Great Eagle... I stopped counting after looking up 10 references in the Old Testament that pictured God's providential protection of His people as being swept away on wings... Just one of those... Exodus 19:4 after three months from the miraculous deliverance of Israel out of Egypt by God... God says:

**'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I lifted you up on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.**

I think that is the idea here in verse 14... GOD DELIVERS HIS PEOPLE....not necessarily painlessly!... God's goal is not for us to never experience any pain, tribulation or even death... but to deliver us to Him for eternity!

Again...verse 14...where is Israel flown to?... it says **her place... where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time**...a time is one year...times is two years... and a half a time is ½ a year... add it all up it is three years...

For the rest of the seven year tribulation period... the last 3 ½ years where Satan unleashes his wrath... the worst part of the 7 years... known as The Great Tribulation"... God will protect His people... He will nourish them through the entire remaining three and a half years.

Where is "**her place**"?

I don't know... doesn't say... but if you take all the references to this in the prophetic books we can gain insight... quickly...seven requirements:

1. **A place prepared by God**—We read that back in Revelation 12:6.
2. This place will be a place where **God can provide Israel with food and water** Revelation 12:6 and Isaiah 33:16.
3. **It will be in the wilderness** Revelation 12:6;14...that would be a huge swath of land east of Jerusalem.

4. **It will be in the mountains** Isaiah 33:16; Matthew 24:16 **then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.**

5. **Its Defensible** Isaiah 33:16

6. **It will be in Jordan** known as the “Beautiful Land” in Daniel 11:41

Using all the above... many have speculated that there is one place that satisfies all those descriptions... that is that ancient city of Petra... that amazing city you can visit today... the city carved into the rock... a safe refuge...surrounded by steep rock cliffs with the way in and out is a narrow “siq” or entrance ...

A narrow gorge (in some points no more than 10 ft wide and winds its way approximately 3/4 mi. I don’t know... could be...the point is...God provides for His people...He will protect His people from the evil one...but He doesn’t always make it apparent HOW He does it or will do it.

What’s interesting to me when you look at Matthew 24 and Revelation 12 side by side...on the one hand...in Matthew, Israel is told to run!...when you SEE all these things happening... GET OUT OF TOWN... it sounds like they have to escape on their own effort...

What Revelation 12 reveals is that God carries them out to safety on His wings... we think we’re on our own... we must survive under our own power... we think it is under our energy we must run from evil... I see a joint venture here don’t you?

Well Satan fails to destroy this remnant... but he is persistent!...he tries another tactic:

### **Read verse 15**

Maybe Satan is trying to reenact the Genesis flood but this time it is the righteous who will drown... The flood has always disappointed the devil!... he thought the flood would destroy EVERYBODY!...the seed would be destroyed...maybe.

I think two options:

1. Satan is literally trying to drown the Jews... or
2. The flood refers to an army... an army the size and destructive ability the world has never seen...so big is this army that it looks like a tide wave coming to destroy Israel.

Whatever or whoever this is... God protects Israel.

### **Read verse 16**

I think this has a precedent that is not an accident... back in Numbers 16... interesting story of Korah’s rebellion... I’ll sum it up for you through oversimplification and a little embellishment:

A bunch of people got together and didn’t like what their pastor was doing (Moses)... Probably his sermons were too long...they didn’t like the way he was pastoring ... they were upset that

they were not getting their preferences... they were not getting their way anywhere... so they ganged up on Moses.

They began to grumble about the established leadership... God tells Moses... *don't worry about it... I'll take care of it... this one's on Me...* the ground opens up and swallows up all the disgruntled church goers!... Hmmm...

I don't have any problems at this church so this has not been a threat... nonetheless grumbling over the established leadership can have some grave consequences!... God is very good about opening up the ground and swallowing up the enemy... here in verse 16 God again shows that He is faithful to protect His people.

Verse 17 sums it all up.

### **Read verse 17**

**The war goes on and on against God's people!...** Notice who this ongoing war is against... people who **keep the commandments of God** and what? **Have the witness of Jesus...** Satan hates for God's people to share the gospel with the people in his world!

There is an ongoing relentless Satanic war against the witnesses of Jesus Christ... do you feel it?... do you see it?... have you experienced it?... Satan does not want your testimony with Jesus Christ to pass your lips!

If you are one who obeys God's Word... you keep His commandments... you strive to emulate Jesus Christ in your life.... Satan hates you!... He will do whatever he can to release his wrath on you... persecute you... sweep you away in a flood... he will be enraged and launch a war to stop you.

I know... These are great words to take us into the Thanksgiving holiday!... remember I'm famous for preaching on death on Mother's Day!... But I think there is a wonderful, great takeaway in these verses this morning:

**GOD IS FAITHFUL**

**GOD TAKES CARE OF HIS PEOPLE**

**IF YOU ARE IN JESUS CHRIST YOU WILL BE TAKEN TO YOUR ETERNITY WITH HIM!**

**regardless of our level of faithfulness... regardless of our shortcomings... in spite of our sins... if we are covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.... How is that?... giving your life to Him!**

**Resulting in the removal of you off your throne replacing you with Him!...**