



Αποκάλυψη

REVELATION

12:13-17

OUTLINE

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- 🌐 The Flight of the Woman (v. 14)
- 🌐 The Flood of the Serpent (v. 15)
- 🌐 Help From the Earth (v. 16)
- 🌐 The Dragon's Rage Against the Woman (v. 17)
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MAIN POINT






- 👤 Now cast out of Heaven and unable to attack the Child, the Dragon now turns to the woman
 - 👤 Sends an attack against her (national Israel)
 - 👤 But she is able to reach safety and refuge
 - 👤 The Dragon then turns to the remainder of “her seed” and plots against them
 - 👤 Will see, in part, how the Dragon does this in the next chapter
- 👤 We see here God’s provision and protection
 - 👤 Nothing happens unless God knows about it and allows it
 - 👤 Even at a time of judgment and chaos, God is, in fact, in control
- 👤 The woman is protected, but what about those that cannot make it?
 - 👤 Why would God allow some to not make it?
 - 👤 Why would God allow persecution for some of His most faithful followers?
 - 👤 When suffering comes to our life, it is often more productive to ask what God is doing/teaching you, instead of trying to find a way out of it

THE VISION











THE DRAGON'S ACTIONS ON EARTH (V. 13)




Recall the context

-  Told about the flight of the Woman in v. 6
-  The main target of the Dragon is the Child
-  With the Child gone, all he can do is attack the woman
-  V. 7-12 are chronologically between v. 5 and 6
-  We now have the context and background for v. 6

Past or future

-  Attempts to like this to a previous flight from satanic elements do not fit the context
 -  Flight from Egypt
 -  Flight of Joseph and Mary from Herod
-  While these may be typologically useful, they are not the direct, literal meaning of the passage
-  Best aligned with the flight spoken of by Jesus in **Matthew 24:15-28**
 -  Aligned with the End-Times scenario
 -  Fits the overall context of both passages
 -  Revelation essentially acting as an expansion of **Matthew 24**

Is this pursuit “rational”?

-  Recall Satan is not stupid (c.f. **Ezekiel 28:12**)
-  Satan knows that Jesus is coming back and He will come back for His Chosen People (c.f. **Hosea 5:12-6:1**)
-  But if they do not ask for His return because they no longer exists, Satan hopes to thwart His return

THE FLIGHT OF THE WOMAN (V. 14)

📍 Specific means of the woman's escape are not disclosed

- 📍 Similar language used in **Exodus 19:4** and **Deuteronomy 32:11**
- 📍 References God's protection (**Psalm 91:1-4**)
- 📍 Much speculation about the mechanism at work, but that is not disclosed
- 📍 Given the figurative nature of the woman already discussed, it is logical that the "wings" here are also figurative (Thomas v2, p. 139)

📍 Most people see the place of refuge as Petra

- 📍 This is not explicitly stated
- 📍 Could be inferred from **Isaiah 63:1** and **Matthew 24:16**
- 📍 May also be that general area instead of the specific site
- 📍 Likely not relevant to us in any functional sense

📍 Necessary provision

- 📍 Similar to Elijah in the wilderness
- 📍 Mechanism also not mentioned
- 📍 Could be like Manna in **Exodus**
- 📍 Will be required as no one can buy or sell without the Mark (**Revelation 13:17**)

📍 The time

- 📍 3.5 years previously given is months (**Revelation 11:2; 13:5**), days (**Revelation 11:3; 12:6**) and by "times" (**Daniel 7:25; 12:7**)
- 📍 Given how often these are spoken of one can only conclude this as a literal period of time

THE FLOOD OF THE SERPENT (V. 15)

- 👤 It is unclear from the text if this is a literal use of water or an army of some sort
 - 👤 “swallowed as a river” does seem to indicate a literal meaning (Thomas v2, p. 140)
 - 👤 We know that the spiritual domain is real and that, it appears, there are spiritual entities granted powers over parts of the earth (c.f. **Daniel 10:13, 20; Revelation 7:1**) so it is not inconceivable that there is a spiritual actor behind the scenes bringing forth a “natural disaster” in the form of a flood
 - 👤 Elsewhere similar imagery refers to armies (**Jeremiah 46:7-8; 47:2-3**)
 - 👤 Either possibility could work here and I will not be dogmatic
- 👤 Could be a separate mechanism altogether
 - 👤 Could be a supernatural torrent working to slow the flight of the woman so she could be killed by a conventional military force
 - 👤 Could be something else entirely that we have not yet considered and do not have the capacity to understand
 - 👤 Where Scripture is silent, it is best to remain silent
 - 👤 While it may be fun to speculate, is it fruitful?

HELP FROM THE EARTH (V. 16)

- 👤 Whatever the flood may be it seems protection (also supernatural) comes to the Woman
 - 👤 The splitting of the earth by an earthquake would work if this was a literal torrent of water
 - 👤 Would also work if this was a military force of some kind
 - 👤 But if this is the case, what about helicopters, or aircraft?
 - 👤 Is there some reason why other methods of attack/pursuit are not feasible?
 - 👤 Again, we are not given the specific mechanism, and the text does not give us enough information
 - 👤 Speculation may be fun, but is it useful
- 👤 Why attack the Woman now?
 - 👤 Prevent the return of Christ (c.f. **Hosea 5:15-6:2**)?
 - 👤 Out of irrational anger and rage?
 - 👤 Remove an example of God's protection and "another way" beyond the Beast-system?
- 👤 The main thing to consider is that the Woman is protected
 - 👤 The protection of God is better than anything else
 - 👤 God is still in control and nothing happens without His knowledge and approval

THE DRAGON'S RAGE AGAINST THE WOMAN (V. 17)

👤 A final group of people

👤 Her seed

👤 Those who believe, but were not able to make it to refuge (c.f. **Revelation 13:7; Daniel 7:21**)

👤 Do not be confused here

👤 We are not talking about the Church

👤 There were saints before the Church, and there will be Saints after the Church

👤 The only target that yet remains for the Dragon

👤 A good argument to be made that this group is, specifically, the 144,000

👤 They are Jewish (“her seed” thus fits)

👤 They are already spoken of, and act in opposition to the Beast-system

👤 Would be a logical target for the Dragon

👤 We see them in Heaven later, presumably martyred (**Revelation 14:1-5**)

👤 They are specifically witnesses during this time

👤 But what about the “seal”

👤 Does not mean they do not suffer, die, or have problems during this time

👤 Only means that they are ultimately God's and are Saved

👤 Also means they are not the target's of God's judgments, but that does not preclude attacks from Satan

👤 Seems to follow the previously-established pattern in **Ezekiel 9:4**

LESSONS FOR US

👤 There was, is, and will be a spiritual battle all around us

👤 Being on the “right side” is not always protection from persecution

👤 In fact, if you are doing the right thing and are a genuine threat to the enemy, you are likely to face more suffering

👤 We will all face suffering, but let’s make sure it is for the right reasons

👤 We may be in this fight for a long time

👤 It may not be common to say that, but we need to be prepared to run our race for a long, long time

👤 Our goal should be to be effective (c.f. **Hebrews 12:1-2**)

👤 We should be most concerned with our fruit-bearing (c.f. **John 15:1-11**)

👤 Satan is real and he is powerful

👤 We cannot win on our own

👤 Will only triumph if we do what God tells us (**James 4:7**)