

The Woman, the Dragon, and the Male Child **Revelation 12:1-17 (Part 20)**

Big idea of chapter 12: Satan's character and actions in the tribulation as he is banished from heaven to earth.

Revelation 12:1-2 *And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. 2 She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.*

A great sign: John sees a symbolic woman, dragon and child. He uses the word great (mega) as a reference to the size or the significance or both.

A woman clothed, sun, moon, twelve stars: The woman gives birth to the Messiah. The Virgin Mary, the Church, the nation of Israel are seen as interpretations. **Genesis 37:9-11**

Birth pains and the agony of giving birth: This takes us back to Eve and the promise conflict between her offspring and Satan and pain during childbirth.

Revelation 12:3 *And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.*

• Satan is the power behind a 10 nation confederacy and the Antichrist eliminates 3 nations or leaders to be the supreme leader. **Daniel 7:7-8**

Revelation 12:4 *His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.*

His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth: Satan is symbolically seen taking 1/3 of the angels with him when he originally sins or when Christ is about to be born and live on earth, or here in verse 9 when he and his angels are kicked out of heaven.

The dragon intends to devour the child: Satan has always sought to terminate the lineage of the coming Messiah.

1. Our main enemy is in the spiritual realm.

Revelation 12:5-6 *She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, 6 and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.*

Rule all the nations with a rod of iron: This definitely identifies the male child as Jesus. The identifying factor is His future rule and reign over the earth after it is redeemed (Psalm 2).

Her child was caught up to God and to his throne: The birth of Jesus ("a Son, a male") and His ascension ("caught up to God") are the events in view here.

The woman fled into the wilderness: The woman (Israel or Jews) flee to the wilderness (an unspecified location of protection) which is especially made ready for her by God and a place that she will be nourished and protected for 3 1/2 years. **Matthew 24:15-21**

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She is to be nourished for 1,260 days: This connects the events to the 7 year tribulation and half of it specifically.

A place prepared by God: Many Bible scholars see this as a place in the Dead Sea area known as the rock city of Petra.

2. Our main proponent is in the spiritual realm.

Revelation 12:7-9 *Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*

War arose in heaven: Some believe it (1) looks back to the time of Satan's fall. Others believe it (2) looks to the time of the crucifixion. Still others believe it (3) looks to the future at the beginning or midpoint of the tribulation.

Michael and his angels: Michael is named in Scripture as the archangel (Dan 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9). The name Michael means, "Who is like God?"

The dragon and his angels fought back, but was defeated: There is a war in the spiritual realm between good angels and evil angels.

The great dragon: this is a physical description of Satan's character. He is mean, ferocious, destructive.

Ancient serpent: This description takes us back to the Garden of Eden where the serpent or Satan deceived Eve and the fall of mankind was set in motion.

The devil and Satan: Diabolos (devil) means slanderer, defamer, or false accuser. Satan is a Hebrew word that means adversary.

Deceiver of the world: Satan has fooled the Jews for the first half of the tribulation. He is a liar and has always deceived and lied to men and women of all ages.

- **Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 - Satan's sinfulness and fall.**

3. Satan and his demons main tactic is deceiving people.

Revelation 12:10 *And 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 brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.*

Salvation, power, kingdom, authority have come: The earthly kingdom of Christ is close and is as if it has already done.

Who accuses them day and night before our God: Satan is the accuser of believers. He advocates for their guilt and punishment.

4. Satan wants to continually remind us of our guilt.

Revelation 12:11 *And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.*

They have conquered him: Conquered = Overcame. Satan was conquered or overcome.

By the blood of the Lamb: The sacrificial death of Christ for our sins is our overcoming power.

By the word of their testimony: Their stand for Jesus as the Messiah and not wavering from that.

They loved not their lives even unto death: Their love for Christ will be greater than their love for this world and their physical life.

Revelation 11:3, 7

5. We overcome Satan and death by the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 12:12-14 *Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!" 13 And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. 14 But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.*

He pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child: Satan through the Antichrist will attempt to kill the Jews after the halfway point of the tribulation.

The woman was given the two wings of the great eagle: The Israelites will receive divine assistance in fleeing from the dragon. God bore the Israelites "on eagle's wings" when He enabled them to escape from Pharaoh (Ex. 19:4).

Revelation 12:15-17 *The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. 16 But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. 17 Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.*

Water like a river out of his mouth: It is an indication of his desire to destroy the woman. This most likely refers to an army because often an army is pictured as a great flood of water (Jer. 46:8; 47:2).

The earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river: It may be that one of the frequent earthquakes during the Tribulation will cause the ground to split open and swallow Satan's forces. **Revelation 6:12-17**

Went off to make war: The Antichrist will persecute any who identifies as Jews and those who identify with Jesus for the rest of the tribulation time.