

Vision 4 – Part 1: The Woman and the Dragon

Rev 12

Second Division (Chapters 12 – 22) Realities and Counterfeits

(Reformation Study Bible, 2005)

1. The People of God Depicted with the Imagery of Light and Creation (12:1-2)
 2. The Dragon – Satan (12:3-6)
 3. The Beast and the False Prophet (13:1-18)
 4. The Bride: The People of God in the Imagery of Sexual Purity (14:1-5)
 5. Babylon the Harlot (17:1-6)
 5. Babylon Destroyed (17:15-18:24)
 4. The Bride is Blessed with Marriage (19:1-10)
 3. The Beast and the False Prophet Are Destroyed (19:11-21)
 2. The Dragon is Destroyed (20:1-10)
 1. The People of God in the Imagery of Light and Creation (21:1-22:5)

Reality	Counterfeit
Christ is exact image of God, begotten by the Father (Ps 2:7; Col 1:15; Heb 1:3)	Beast is image of Satan, whom Satan brought forth (Rev 13:1)
Christ has many crowns and worthy names (Rev 19:12)	Beast has ten crowns and blasphemous names (Rev 13:1)
Christ has power (Rev 5:12-13), throne (Rev 3:21), and authority (Rev 12:10) from the Father (John 5:21-23)	Beast has power, throne, and great authority from Satan (Rev 13:2)
Evangelistic proclamation of the resurrection of Christ (Matt 28:18-20)	Beast has seemingly fatal wound from which he has recovered (Rev 13:3) – attracts followers
Worship the Father and the Son (John 5:23)	Worship the dragon and the beast (Rev 13:4)
Christ worshiped universally (Rev 5:9)	Beast attracts the worship of the whole world (Rev 13:7)
Christ utters the praises of God (Heb 12:2)	Beast utters blasphemies (Rev 13:5)
Christ wars against the beast (Rev 19:11-21)	Beast wars against the saints (Rev 13:7)
Song to God (Ex 15:11)	Song of praise to the beast (Rev 13:4)
Christ is the divine warrior (fulfills Ex 15:3; Is 59:16-18; 63:1-6; Hab 3:3-15; Zech 9:13-15; Rev 14:1-5)	Beast is the unholy warrior (fulfills Dan 7:1-8)
The Father created out of water (Gen 1:2)	Satan brings forth his image out of chaotic waters (Rev 13:1)
Holy Spirit glorifies Christ (John 16:14)	False prophet desires that people worship the beast (Rev 13:12)
Holy Spirit performs miracles	False prophet works false miraculous signs (Rev 13:13-14)
Christians sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13)	False prophet marks non-Christians (Rev 13:16)
Creator	Imitator
Bride of Christ (Rev 19:7-9)	Babylon the harlot (Rev 17:1)
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit	Dragon, beast, and false prophet



The Woman and the Dragon

Rev 12:1

1. A woman
 - a. Is 50:1 – Thus says the Lord: “Where is your mother's certificate of divorce, with which I sent her away? Or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities you were sold, and for your transgressions your mother was sent away.”
 - b. Is 54:1-6 – “Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married,” says the Lord. 2 “Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. 3 For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your offspring will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities. 4 “Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more. 5 For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. 6 For the Lord has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God.”
 - c. Jer 31:31-32 – Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord.
 - d. Ez 16:32 – Adulterous wife, who receives strangers instead of her husband!
2. Clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

Gen 37:9-10 – Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, “Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” 10 But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?”

Rev 12:2

Gen 3:14-15 – The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Rev 12:3

1. Seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems
 - a. Rev 13:1 – And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.
 - b. Eph 2:1-2 – And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience



- c. Eph 6:12 – For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
 - d. 2 Cor 4:4 – In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
2. Ten horns
- a. Dan 7:7 – After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.
 - b. Dan 7:24 – As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings.

Rev 12:4

- 1. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth.
 - a. Dan 8:9-10 – Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land. 10 It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them.
 - b. Job 38:7 – when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
 - c. 2 Pet 2:4 – For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment
 - d. Jude 6 – And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day
- 2. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.
 - a. Gen 3:15 – I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.
 - b. Gen 4:8 – Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.
 - c. Gen 4:25 – And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, “God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.”
 - d. Gen 6:5-8 – The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 So the Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord
 - e. 1 Sam 18:10-11 – The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand. 11 And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, “I will pin David to the wall.” But David evaded him twice.
 - f. 2 Ki 11:1-2 – Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family. 2 But Jehosheba, the daughter of King



Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being put to death, and she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Thus they hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not put to death.

- g. Matt 2:13-16 – Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” 14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” 16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.

Rev 12:5

1. She gave birth to a male child.
 - a. Mic 5:3-5a – Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. 4 And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. 5 And he shall be their peace.
 - b. Is 7:14 – Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
 - c. Is 9:6 – For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 - d. Luke 2:6-7 – And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.
2. One who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron.
 - a. Ps 2:7-9 – I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”
 - b. Rev 2:26-27 – The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, 27 and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.
 - c. Rev 19:15 – From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
3. But her child was caught up to God and to his throne
 - a. Acts 1:9 – And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.
 - b. Phil 2:9 – Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name

Rev 12:6

1. The woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God



- a. Dt 8:2-4 – And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. 3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. 4 Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years.
 - b. 1 Ki 19:3-8 – Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. 4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." 5 And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." 6 And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. 7 And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." 8 And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.
 - c. Luke 1:80 – And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.
2. 1260 days
- Rev 11:1-3 – Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, "Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, 2 but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. 3 And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

Rev 12:7 – Michael

1. Dan 10:13 – The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia
2. Dan 10:21 – But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.
3. Dan 12:1 – At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.
4. Jude 9 – But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."

Rev 12:8 – There was no longer any place for them in heaven.

1. Job 1:6 – Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.
2. Job 2:1 – Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord.
3. Zech 3:1-2 – Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. 2 And the Lord said to Satan, "The



Lord rebuke you, O Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?"

4. 1 Ki 22:17-23 – And he said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And the Lord said, "These have no master; let each return to his home in peace." 18 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?" 19 And Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left; 20 and the Lord said, 'Who will entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said one thing, and another said another. 21 Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, saying, 'I will entice him.' 22 And the Lord said to him, 'By what means?' And he said, 'I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And he said, 'You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.' 23 Now therefore behold, the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the Lord has declared disaster for you."
5. Rom 8:33 – Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Rev 12:9

1. The great dragon was thrown down
 - a. Luke 10:17-19 – The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" 18 And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.
 - b. John 12:31 – Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.
 - c. Col 2:15 – He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.
2. That ancient serpent
 - a. Gen 3:1-5 – Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
 - b. Rev 12:14-15 – 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. 15 The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood.

Rev 12:10

1. The authority of his Christ

Matt 28:18 – And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
2. For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down
 - a. Job 1:6-12 – Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. 7 The Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." 8 And the Lord said to Satan,



“Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?” 9 Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? 10 Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.” 12 And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

- b. Zech 3:1-10 – Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. 2 And the Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, O Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?” 3 Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. 4 And the angel said to those who were standing before him, “Remove the filthy garments from him.” And to him he said, “Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments.” 5 And I said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the Lord was standing by. 6 And the angel of the Lord solemnly assured Joshua, 7 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here. 8 Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch. 9 For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the Lord of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. 10 In that day, declares the Lord of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree.”
- c. Luke 10:17-20 – The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” 18 And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. 20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”
- d. Rom 8:1-4 – There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
- e. Rom 8:33-34 – Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
- f. Rom 3:21-26 – But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show



God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

- g. Thus the battle that issues in the dragon's expulsion from heaven is not the primeval conflict before Adam's fall, when Satan and other angels who had been created good inexplicably turned against their Creator. Rather, the war in heaven that John sees in symbol was fought on earth, when Jesus suffered and died on a cross outside Jerusalem and then rose from the dead. The dragon's banishment from heaven to earth marks the coming of God's kingdom and of his Christ's authority. (Johnson, 2001)

Rev 12:11

1. They have conquered him
 - a. Rom 8:37-39 – No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - b. 1 Cor 15:57 – But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. By the blood of the Lamb
 - a. Matt 26:28 – for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
 - b. John 6:54-55 – Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.
 - c. Rom 5:9 – Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.
 - d. Heb 9:22 – Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.
3. And by the word of their testimony (Rev 1:2, 1:9, 6:9, 12:17, 19:10)
4. They loved not their lives even unto death
 - a. Matt 10:39 – Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
 - b. Acts 20:24 – But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.
 - c. Heb 11:35-38 – Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—38 of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Rev 12:12 – Woe to you, O earth and sea (Rev 6:3-8)

Rev 12:14



1. The woman was given the two wings of the great eagle
 - a. Ex 19:4 – You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.
 - b. Dt 32:10-12 – He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. 11 Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions, 12 the Lord alone guided him, no foreign god was with him.
 - c. Is 40:31 – but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.
 - d. Ps 91:4 – He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
2. For a time, and times, and half a time (Rev 11:2-3; 12:6; James 5:17)

Rev 12:15 – The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood.

1. Col 2:8 – See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.
2. Matt 7:15 – Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.
3. Matt 24:24 – For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.
4. 2 Pet 2:1 – But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.
5. 1 John 4:1 – Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.
6. Acts 20:28-30 – Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.
7. In Revelation what proceeds from the mouth symbolizes words and their power. Thus John sees a sharp sword proceeding from the mouth of the Son of Man (1:16), whose sovereign pronouncement of judgment on false teachers will bring destruction unless they repent (2:12, 16). This same Son of Man, armed with the same sword proceeding from his mouth, is the faithful and true captain of heaven's cavalry, the Word of God (19:11, 13, 15, 21). The word of Jesus' two prophetic witnesses is so strong that "if any one wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies" (11:5). John will see emerging from the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet deceiving demonic spirits in the form of frogs, sent out to gather the world's kings to wage war against God (16:13-14). Here the floodwaters from the dragon's mouth symbolize deceptive teaching that would, if believed, drown the church's faith, destroying its life. (Johnson, 2001)

Rev 12:16 – The earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river

1. Ex 15:12 – You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them.



2. Nu 16:30-32 – But if the Lord creates something new, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, then you shall know that these men have despised the Lord.” 31 And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. 32 And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods.
3. 2 Thes 2:9-10 – The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

Rev 12:17 – The rest of her offspring

1. Gen 3:15 – I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.
2. Is 66:7-11 – “Before she was in labor she gave birth; before her pain came upon her she delivered a son. 8 Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be brought forth in one moment? For as soon as Zion was in labor she brought forth her children. 9 Shall I bring to the point of birth and not cause to bring forth?” says the Lord; “shall I, who cause to bring forth, shut the womb?” says your God. 10 “Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her; 11 that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious abundance.”
3. Because the woman seems to be distinguished from “the rest of her children,” some commentators have identified the woman with a Jewish remnant who believe in Jesus and “the rest of her children” with Gentile Christians. In John’s visions, however, distinct symbols often point not to different referents but to differing perspectives on the same referent. So here the protection of the mother promises that “the church shall never perish,” and the dragon’s war against her offspring reminds us that God shields the church’s members not from physical violence but from spiritual destruction. (Johnson, 2001)

Why 42 months, 1260 days, and time, times and half a time?

It is in order to ask why the term ‘three years and a half’ is used to characterize this long period. To answer this question we must remember that during the old dispensation there was a period of three years and a half which God’s people could never forget. It was a period of affliction, yet also a period during which the power of God’s Word was exhibited (1 Ki 17; James 5:17). When you compare James 5:17 with Revelation 11:6, you immediately see that the apostle was thinking of the days of Ahab and Elijah. During that period of three and a half years God’s Church was persecuted (1 Ki 18:10, 13) yet not destroyed (1 Ki 18: 4, 39; 19:18). God’s Word showed its great power (1 Ki 17:1). Jehovah nourished Elijah and others in a miraculous manner (1 Ki 17:4, 9ff.). Similarly, throughout the present long period of gospel activity, beginning with Christ’s first coming and extending nearly to the second coming, the Church is persecuted but not destroyed, God’s Word exerts a powerful influence, and God’s people receive spiritual nourishment.

The expression ‘a time, and times, and half a time’ occurs first in the book of Daniel 7:25; 12:7. It is the period of the antichrist. John emphasizes the fact that the spirit of the antichrist is in the world already (1 John 4:3). In the Apocalypse this period of three years and a half refers to the entire gospel age. It is followed by the ‘three days and a half’ during with ‘the beast that comes up out of the abyss’ – the antichristian



world in its final phase – will kill the witnesses and will silence the voice of the gospel (cf. Rev 11:7ff.). (Hendriksen, 1967)

In Revelation 11-13 the time frame now associated with her desert retreat is measured in three distinct but synonymous ways: 42 months (11:2; 13:5), 1,260 days (11:3; 12:6), or “a time and times and half a time” (3½ years; 12:14). The inverted repetition in which these time measurements appear – 42 months, then 1,260 days, then 1,260 days, then 42 months – helps John’s hearers to recognize that the same time period is being symbolized throughout these three chapters. The additional “time and times and half a time” makes explicit allusion to the period of the saints’ persecution under the fourth beast in Daniel 7:25. As we saw in connection with Revelation 11:2-3, this era is characterized by persecution of the church (holy city, heavenly woman) by its enemies, but also protection of the church by its God (measuring the sanctuary, refuge in the wilderness). In other words, the time period symbolized in 1,260 days encompasses the church’s ongoing experience of suffering and safety, bold testimony and bitter trial, alienation in the desert but nourishment from God, from the time of Jesus’ ascension to heaven until the trauma that preceded his glorious return. (Johnson, 2001)