

Revelation

Revelation Twelve: War in Heaven

Introduction

1. This text introduces us to the "**War of the Ages.**" There has been a constant war going on in the universe since Satan's fall. This is the real Star Wars.
2. When Satan fell, he dragged a third of the angels into the warfare with him. When he went into the garden of Eden and deceived Adam and Eve, he dragged the human race into the war as well. This war has going on since Satan's fall and will culminate in the Great Tribulation.
3. The seventh and last trumpet of judgment from God has blown at the end of chapter eleven. But the details that describe what that blowing causes don't begin until chapter fifteen. In the meantime, chapters twelve, thirteen and fourteen take us back through time to creation and will bring us forward again to the Great Tribulation. This time we will see things that have been happening through the perspective of Satan. By the time we reach chapter fifteen, where we will pick up the seventh trumpet, we will have a full picture of what has gone on during the tribulation.
4. In chapters twelve through chapter fourteen the main figures of the tribulation are described. Seven of them are mentioned in these next two chapters.
5. So far in our study we have discovered that Israel will make a league with the Antichrist for seven years (Daniel 9:27).
 - Chapter seven indicates that 144,000 servants of God will go forth to preach the gospel of Christ.
 - Two special witnesses with the supernatural powers like those of Elijah and Moses will counteract the supernatural powers of Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:9-12).
 - The next two chapters review much that has been left unsaid. Satan's schemes are unmasked and his plan since the dawn of time will be revealed.
 - Satan's ruling passion is revealed in chapter twelve and Satan's regent prince is the theme of chapter thirteen.

THE SUN-CLOTHED WOMAN (vs.1-2)

- A. This is the first of seven signs in the last 3 ½ years of tribulation.
- B. Many suggestions have been offered to identify this woman.

1. The Church of Rome says she is Mary.
 2. Some propose that she is the church.
 3. Mary Baker Eddy claims to be this woman.
- C. Identifying her is important. Chapter twelve is the crucial test in translation of the entire book.
- D. The Holy Spirit warns us that He is about to describe a great wonder.
1. What we are about to see is symbolic of something else.
 2. This is a sign.
- E. **Three things should concern us about this woman.**
1. The prophet significance of the woman.
 - She represents the ***nation of Israel***.
 - This takes us back to Genesis 37:9-11.
 - Joseph misunderstood the meaning of his dream.
 - Now we are given a glimpse of Israel's glorious dignity in God's thinking.
 2. The glorious destiny that is Israel's.
 - This takes us back to Genesis 3:15 and the promise of the seed of woman defeating Satan.
 - Israel's destiny is to be the nation through which all people are blessed.
 3. Later.

THE DRAGON (v.3)

- A. John does not describe the woman giving birth at this time.
- B. The dragon is seen in heaven but on earth he is described according to his evil nature.
1. He is described as a "dragon" only in Revelation and he is described as such thirteen times, eleven of them here.
 2. Three specific terms are used to describe him because they are specific forms of attack against us.
 - Verse three: a great red dragon or a ***devourer***.

- Verse nine: that old serpent, the devil, or **deceiver**.
- Verse ten: the accuser of the brethren or **accuser**.

C. **Satan's Governmental Operation.**

1. Seven crowned heads refer to the seven stages of the Roman Empire, which is the embodiment of evil government.
2. Ten horns refer to the ten kings who will be dominant during the Tribulation, from whom the Antichrist will receive his power.
3. Antichrist is a pawn in the hand of Satan.

D. **Satan's Fall.**

1. "...his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven and did cast them to the earth."
(v.4)
2. This refers to the original fall of Satan as described in Isaiah 14. But it was not the final fall.

E. **Satan's conflict with the seed of woman.**

1. This is the third thing we notice concerning the woman.
2. The vision of Satan standing before the woman "who was ready to be delivered, to devour her child as soon as it was born refers to the attitude of Satan ever since Genesis 3:15.
3. The promise was given of eventual deliverance through the seed of woman and in response Satan initiated what Bible scholars call "the conflict of the ages."
4. Satan's attempts to stop the seed.

THE MAN-CHILD; SEED OF WOMAN (v.5)

- A. The identity of the man-child should not be hard to interpret for only Jesus Christ fits this description.
 1. Rule all nations with a rod of iron (Psalm 2 and Revelation 19:15).
 2. Further directions for interpretation are the statement "her child was caught up unto God, and to His throne."
- B. The frustration of the devil by the resurrection of Christ caused him to attack the church (v.s.5-6).

1. Verse six tells us that during the tribulation He will attack Israel with such fury that she will have to flee into the wilderness for protection.
2. Jordan may well be the place that God is preparing for the nation of Israel.

THE WAR (6-10)

- A. Where the war is fought (v.7).
- B. There are two reasons given for this all-important conflict.
 1. To cast Satan down from heaven.
 2. To cast Satan down to earth.
- C. The effect of this operation is twofold: One will deal with heaven and the other will deal with earth.
 1. The great ***proclamation in heaven***. For countless ages Satan has had access to the throne of God where he stands to accuse us before God. Now the door is shut and Satan's way into the presence of God is bolted and barred forever.
 - Now in the presence of God instead of the vices, are rehearsed the victories.
 - They tell how we overcome.
 2. This proclamation is followed by a grim ***proclamation on earth***.
- D. Satan's final antisemitic crusade.
 1. Two wings of a great eagle fly Israel into the wilderness where for three and a half years God will supernaturally protect her.
 2. Satan again tries to drown Israel with a great river, but the earth now helps her.
 3. When he cannot destroy her, he turns to make war on the "***rest of her seed, the ones who keep the commandments of God and who have the testimony of Jesus.***"
 4. God will use this final act of antisemitism on the part of Satan to cause a worldwide revival.