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REVELATION

CHAPTER 12

WAR

A riot is a spontaneous outburst. A war is subject to advance planning. --Richard M. Nixon

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. We will continue our study in the book of **Revelation** and we are in **Chapter twelve**.
1. This chapter is a chapter of "signs" as stated in verses 1 and 3.
 2. Much of it is "symbolic" in nature!
- B. **Chapter 12** is also a chapter of "**great**" things. We will see phrases like "a **great wonder**" in verse **1**, and "a **great red dragon**" in verse **3**, "**great wrath**" in verse **12**, and "two wings of a **great eagle**" in **verse 14**!
1. The first "sign" we see in **Chapter 12** is "**a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars**"
 2. You might want to make a note of what I am about to say because it will help a great deal in understanding the book of Revelation:
- The woman, representing Israel
 - The dragon, representing Satan
 - The man-child, referring to Jesus
 - The angel Michael, head of the angelic host
 - The offspring of the woman, representing Gentiles who come to faith in the Tribulation
 - The beast out of the sea, representing the antichrist
 - The beast out of the earth, representing the false prophet who promotes the antichrist¹

II. **REVELATION 12:1-2 (NKJV) 1 NOW A GREAT SIGN APPEARED IN HEAVEN: A WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN, WITH THE MOON UNDER HER FEET, AND ON HER HEAD A GARLAND OF TWELVE STARS. 2 THEN BEING WITH CHILD, SHE CRIED OUT IN LABOR AND IN PAIN TO GIVE BIRTH.**

- A. There are 4 "women" represented in the book of Revelation.
1. They are: **Jezebel** (**Rev. 2:20**), who represents **paganism**.
 2. **Israel** (**Rev. 12:6**)
 3. The "**scarlet woman**" (**Rev. 17:1**), who represents the apostate, or **backslidden church**.
 4. And **the Lamb's Wife** (**Rev. 19:7**), which is the true church!
 - a) *Which one is this?*
 - (1) This is not the Virgin Mary as the Catholic Church teaches.
 - (2) This is not the Church as some Protestant churches teach today.
 - (a) You see, the Church did not give birth to Christ. Christ gave

¹ Guzik, D. (2013) [*Revelation*](#). Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik (David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible), p. Re 12:1.

birth to the Church.

- (3) Mary Baker Eddie claimed this woman to be herself and that the "man-child" she brought forth was Christian Science.
 - (a) Dr. Henry Ironsides was quoted as saying about this theory, *"I need not take up the time of sane people."*
 - (b) We, likewise, will spend no more time on Mary Baker Eddie's theory.
- (4) If you will remember Joseph's dream in **Genesis 37:9**, he interpreted the sun to be his father Joseph, the moon to be his mother and the 12 stars to be his 12 brothers who would one day bow down to him.
 - (a) Symbolically this "woman" is the nation of Israel!
 - (i) *It was indeed the chosen nation of Israel that "gave birth" to the Messiah!*
 - (ii) *And evil would have done ANYTHING to keep the Savior from being born.*

III. THE NEXT "SIGN" WE SEE IS IN VERSES 3 AND 4: REVELATION 12:3-4 (NKJV) 3 AND ANOTHER SIGN APPEARED IN HEAVEN: BEHOLD, A GREAT, FIERY RED DRAGON HAVING SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS, AND SEVEN DIADEMS ON HIS HEADS. 4 HIS TAIL DREW A THIRD OF THE STARS OF HEAVEN AND THREW THEM TO THE EARTH. AND THE DRAGON STOOD BEFORE THE WOMAN WHO WAS READY TO GIVE BIRTH, TO DEVOUR HER CHILD AS SOON AS IT WAS BORN.

A. We shouldn't have much of a problem identifying this guy!

- 1. **Revelation 12:9 (NKJV) 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**
 - a) *Seven speaks of completeness, the heads, horns, and the crowns speak of authority and power!*
 - (1) **Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)** gives us a wonderful summary and interpretation of this verse: **12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**
 - b) *The "stars" speak of the fallen angels (demons) under the influence and authority of satan to "control" these earthy powers and dominions!*
 - (1) Scripture gives strong indication that there is a least one powerful demon in charge of the destruction of every nation.
 - (2) The "seed of the serpent" has been at war with the "seed of woman", "Israel's" child since the divine pronouncement in **Gen 3:15 NKJV** **And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."**
 - (a) He has been trying to destroy the Christian witness since his proud heart rebelled against the plans of God.
 - (b) But every attempt he has made against the "man-child" and HIS mission, has failed!
 - (i) *"God never made an evil being; but He made angels, principalities, and powers capacitated for mighty joys*

and distinctions in His glorious domain, yet with free will, implied in the very creation of moral beings, which they could exercise for their everlasting weal or woe. Many have remained steadfast, to wit, 'Michael and his angels.' But some abode not in the truth, but revolted against the rule of Heaven, and became unchanging enemies of God and His Kingdom." (Seiss)²

IV. REVELATION 12:5-6 (NKJV) 5 SHE BORE A MALE CHILD WHO WAS TO RULE ALL NATIONS WITH A ROD OF IRON. AND HER CHILD WAS CAUGHT UP TO GOD AND HIS THRONE. 6 THEN THE WOMAN FLED INTO THE WILDERNESS, WHERE SHE HAS A PLACE PREPARED BY GOD, THAT THEY SHOULD FEED HER THERE ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY DAYS.

1. The time frame here is 3 1/2 years into the tribulation! **Verse 6** tells us that the Lord will provide a special place and preserve the nation of Israel through the tribulation!
 - a) *Some believe this **place in the wilderness** is the rock city of Petra, south of the Dead Sea. Reportedly, Christian businessmen have stocked the place with food and evangelistic tracts written in Hebrew.³*

V. REVELATION 12:7-9 (NKJV) 7 AND WAR BROKE OUT IN HEAVEN: MICHAEL AND HIS ANGELS FOUGHT WITH THE DRAGON; AND THE DRAGON AND HIS ANGELS FOUGHT, 8 BUT THEY DID NOT PREVAIL, NOR WAS A PLACE FOUND FOR THEM IN HEAVEN ANY LONGER. 9 SO THE GREAT DRAGON WAS CAST OUT, THAT SERPENT OF OLD, CALLED THE DEVIL AND SATAN, WHO DECEIVES THE WHOLE WORLD; HE WAS CAST TO THE EARTH, AND HIS ANGELS WERE CAST OUT WITH HIM.

A. These events of **verses 7-9** will take place during the final half of the tribulation!

1. They begin with the blowing of the 7th trumpet and continue through **chapter 19 of Revelation**.
 - a) *They are the last 3 1/2 years of Daniel's 70th week!*
 - (1) Christians we must remember that satan is not in hell! Not yet.
 - (2) It is a place prepared for him and his angels **but**, his present home is the "air" or stellar heavens!
 - (a) **Ephesians 2:2-3 (NKJV) 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.**
 - (3) satan has access to heaven and stands before the Lord accusing the brethren.

² Guzik, D. (2013) [Revelation](#). Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik (David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible), p. Re 12:4.

³ Guzik, D. (2013) [Revelation](#). Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik (David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible), p. Re 12:6.

The Bible describes four different falls of Satan. **Revelation 12:9** describes the second of these four falls.

- From glorified to profane (**Ezekiel 28:14–16**)
- From having access to heaven (**Job 1:12**, **1 Kings 22:21**, **Zechariah 3:1**) to restriction to the earth (**Revelation 12**)
- From the earth to bondage in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (**Revelation 20**)
- From the pit to the lake of fire (**Revelation 20**)⁴

(4) It is this domain the Lord recaptures first! Satan loses this battle!

(5) This time, he is cast to earth and only earth!

VI. REVELATION 12:10-12 (NKJV) 10 THEN I HEARD A LOUD VOICE SAYING IN HEAVEN, "NOW SALVATION, AND STRENGTH, AND THE KINGDOM OF OUR GOD, AND THE POWER OF HIS CHRIST HAVE COME, FOR THE ACCUSER OF OUR BRETHREN, WHO ACCUSED THEM BEFORE OUR GOD DAY AND NIGHT, HAS BEEN CAST DOWN. 11 "AND THEY OVERCAME HIM BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY, AND THEY DID NOT LOVE THEIR LIVES TO THE DEATH. 12 "THEREFORE REJOICE, O HEAVENS, AND YOU WHO DWELL IN THEM! WOE TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH AND THE SEA! FOR THE DEVIL HAS COME DOWN TO YOU, HAVING GREAT WRATH, BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT HE HAS A SHORT TIME."

A. All of heaven rejoices over the victory of Michael and the angels as Satan is kicked out of the heavens! He will never be allowed to stand before the Lord again to accuse the brethren!

1. Notice how they (the Christians) overcame Satan! **They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...**
 - a) **2Corinthians 10:4 (NKJV) 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,**
 - b) They, (WE) overcame with 3 simple weapons: the blood of the lamb (**the cross**), the word of our testimony (**the only true Word**), and our desire and **ability to live for Christ** and His purposes instead of our own!
 - c) While heaven is rejoicing, earth is definitely not.
 - (1) Satan is upset! He has only a short time to do all the damage he can!

VII. CONCLUSION

A. **Revelation 12:13-17 (NKJV) 13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child (Israel). 14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. 15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and**

⁴ Guzik, D. (2013) [Revelation](#). Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik (David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible), p. Re 12:9.

swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. **17** And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

1. satan steps up his persecution of the remaining Jewish 144,000.
2. The Lord provides some sort of divine "airlift" that John symbolically describes as "two wings of a great eagle".
 - a) John doesn't tell us specifically what it is, but we know that the Lord divinely protects her for the remainder of the tribulation.
 - b) With all this evidence, why would anyone want to be on the losing side of this war?