

## **BOOK OF REVELATION**

### **Part 19 – Third Parenthesis: The Woman, The Man Child, The Dragon and The War In Heaven: Chapter 12**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

**REVIEW:** We are now at the middle of the Tribulation. The seal and trumpet judgments have already taken place in Chapters 6, 8, and 9 with the first parenthetical passage occurring in Chapter 7, with the sealing of the 144,000 witnesses. The second parenthetical passage began in Chapter 10 and goes through Chapter 11 verse 14. Chapter 10 shows us where the Lord Jesus Christ makes an appearance on earth with a message from God and with a little book for the Apostle John to consume and with that consumption teaches the Apostle John a lesson as well. Chapter 11 dealt with the death of the two witnesses and their subsequent resurrection and ascension back into heaven, the seventh and final trumpet sounding.

**REVIEW OF THE CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE TRIBULATION PERIOD:** The middle of the tribulation time period commences with the following sequence of events most likely in the following sequence. We will study all of these events in Chapters 11, 12, and 13::

- (1) After trumpet judgment number six, the war in heaven, and the subsequent loss of the war by Satan and demonic forces and expulsion out of heaven, which we will study in this lesson.**
- (2) After Satan arrives back on earth, he resurrects the body of the Antichrist and indwells it.**
- (3) Then the resurrected Antichrist, animated by Satan, overcomes and kills the two witnesses and the seventh trumpet judgment following their ascension back into heaven. The end of their ministry is the middle of the tribulation.**
- (4) Then the Antichrist will break the treaty with Israel and defiles the rebuilt Jewish temple by entering it and sets up an image of himself and demands worship. This is Abomination Of Desolation spoken of in Daniel 9 and Matthew 24.**
- (5) The False Prophet comes on the scene, gives life unto the image of the Beast, and leads the world in worship of the Beast.**
- (6) Then the Antichrist will persecute and kill many of the Jewish people.**
- (7) Institution of the Mark Of The Beast which without no one on earth can buy or sell.**

**Now we begin the third parenthetical passage, It begins here in Chapter 12 and goes through Chapter 14.**

## II. EXEGESIS – THE WOMAN, THE MAN CHILD, THE DRAGON AND THE WAR IN HEAVEN

### A. VERSES 1-6: THE WOMAN AND THE MAN CHILD

*VERSE 1: “And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:”*

The woman here is a picture of the Nation of Israel, the descendants of Abraham through Issac, as promised by God. Let us look at the introduction of the promise in Genesis 12 when God called Abram from Mesopotamia, which is in modern day Iraq, to what would become the land of Israel.

*Genesis 12:1-3: “(1) Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: (2) And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: (3) And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

Genesis Chapter 17 clarifies further God's promise to Abram right after changing his name from Abram to Abraham. Abram carries the meaning in the original language of “high father”. The name Abraham, which is an extension of Abram, carries the meaning of “father of many multitudes”. God did promise that many nations would come out of Abraham, due to the birth of Ishmael with Hagar the Egyptian woman,. In Genesis Chapter 25, Abraham married his second wife Keturah, after the death of Sarah, who would give birth to Midian, the father of the Midianites among others. We see the fulfillment of that promise in this chapter.

However God's special “everlasting covenant” with Abraham would be through Issac, the son of promise. The special relationship that God had with Abraham would continue through the lineage of Issac and his second son Jacob.

*Genesis 17:15-21 “(16) And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be. (16) And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her. (17) Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear? (18) And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee! (19) And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. (20) And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. (21) But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.*

We see that God declared to Jacob, that his “everlasting covenant” with Abraham would continue through his descendants and not those of his brother Esau.

***Genesis 28:12-15: “(12) And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. (13) And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; (14) And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. (15) And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.***

God changed Jacob's name to Israel. The name “Jacob” carried the meaning in the original language of “heel catcher”, a reference to how he was born, or “supplanter”. In Genesis Chapter 28, when the “angel” , who said His name “is a secret”, wrestled with Jacob changed his name to Israel, which carries the meaning in the original language of “he will rule as God”. This “angel” was in reality an appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Old Testament and since he was not revealed yet, His name was still a secret at that time.

**Genesis 32:28: “And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.”**

Jacob's descendants would come to be called Israel after the name given to Jacob by God. Israel's twelve sons would become the twelve tribe of Israel.

Now that we have established, through a review of the scripture, that God's has a special relationship with Israel. During the Church Age, God has mostly been working through the New Testament Church, due to Israel's initial rejection of their Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. However, due to his “everlasting covenant”, God has not forgotten or replaced Israel with the New Testament Church. The New Testament Church could be what Jesus referred to in the New Testament as “sheep which are not of this fold”, being the New Testament Church was mostly Gentile in descent.

Now let us describe the appearance of the woman. The sun is a description of the glory that God has given her through his “everlasting covenant” and the blessing that Israel would be to the whole world. The moon reflects the light of the sun and thus reflects the glory that God has given her as well. The crown upon her head is composed of twelve stars. Notice the number of stars given is twelve, the same number as the number of tribes of Israel.

Therefore the woman can be no other than the Nation of Israel. Some Bible scholars have believed that the woman could be the New Testament Church. This conclusion cannot be sustained once a thorough study of this portion of scripture is completed.

*VERSE 2: "And she being with child cried,  
travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.*

The Nation of Israel at the time of the birth of Christ was under the occupation of the Roman Empire and not autonomous at all. The people of Israel had not been an autonomous nation for over 100 years and even had been previously under the tyranny of Antioch Epiphanies, a brutal tyrant, who we will see later was a picture in scripture of the coming Antichrist. The identity of the child is given in Verse 5 and we will discuss that shortly. Notice here that in this verse and the verses to come there is no mention of the woman having an husband. The woman's child was virgin born.

*VERSE 3: "And there appeared another wonder in heaven;  
and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns,  
and seven crowns upon his heads."*

The "great red dragon" here is none other than Satan himself. Verse 9 later in this chapter tells you this and leaves no doubt as to the identity of the dragon: The seven heads is possibly representative of the seven hills of Rome and the horns a reference to the Ten Kingdoms of the Antichrist which is also eluded to the image that the prophet Daniel saw in Daniel Chapter 2, specifically the ten toes of the image. Remember the Antichrist in the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation will be still a "flesh and blood" man strongly influenced and used by Satan.

*VERSE 4: "And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven,  
and did cast them to the earth:  
and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered,  
for to devour her child as soon as it was born."*

The "third part of the stars" here is a reference to the angels that God created. Remember the word "angel" carries the meaning of "messenger". The context of the passage here leads you to the conclusion that this is a reference to the created angelic beings of God. When Lucifer rebelled against God, he caught one-third of the angels of God up in his rebellion and were all expelled from heaven for the consequences of their rebellion. These fallen angels are the demonic beings that since then have served Satan. However Satan still comes from the earth and makes an appearance at God's throne on an occasional to frequent basis.

*Job 1:6-7: (6) Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. (7) And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.*

*VERSE 5: " And she brought forth a man child,  
who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron:  
and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

Now the identity of the "man child" is given and the scripture gives you no doubt as to His identity. The "man child" is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ himself. The scripture tells us that the Lord Jesus Christ will rule with "a rod of iron", a reference to clear and strong leadership that will not tolerate rebellion or insurrection, in Revelation 19:15.

**Revelation 19:15** "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

This passage is recounting the birth, life, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ back into Heaven in one verse. A detailed recording was not necessary because the Apostle John clearly knew who this "man child" was and was present during his ministry as he had previously pinned under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit his earthly ministry.

**Acts 1:9-11** "(9) And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. (10) And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; (11) Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

*VERSE 6: "And the woman fled into the wilderness,  
where she hath a place prepared of God,  
that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*

Now the vision moves ahead at least 2000 years in time, as prophecies often do in scripture, to the middle of the tribulation where we are at now currently in our study in Revelation. Chronologically, this verse will happen between verses 12 and 13 later in this chapter but the Apostle John witnesses this event now. After the Antichrist is resurrected from the dead, he will break the peace treaty with Israel, enter the Jewish temple, and commit the Abomination of Desolation as prophesied in Daniel 9 and restated by the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 24. We will study the Abomination of Desolation in Chapter 13.

At that time is when the nation of Israel, after having a time of peace. Notice the period of time that she will be in hiding in the wilderness: 1260 days. Again this is 3 ½ in duration by the Jewish calendar as we explained in the study of Chapter 11. This will be the last 3 ½ of the tribulation, since the first 3 ½ years have already occurred and the tribulation is 7 years in length total.

## **B. VERSES 7-9: THE WAR IN HEAVEN AND SATAN CAST OUT OF HEAVEN**

*VERSES 7 : “And there was war in heaven:  
Michael and his angels fought against the dragon;  
and the dragon fought and his angels,”*

Now the Apostle John sees in the vision that a war in heaven is taking place. Remember this is chronologically at the midpoint of the tribulation following the seventh trumpet judgment. You see in the last verse of Chapter 11, a scene which is unusual. Could this have been a prelude to the war we see that is being fought now in these verses? No one knows for sure but God, but it is interesting to note.

*Revelation 11:19 “And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.”*

This is the war in heaven that Satan no doubt wanted to fight after he became filled with pride and wanted to assume the place, power, and status of God. He led many, if not all, of the one third of the created angels that chose to follow him back into heaven. Remember the fallen angels that had been held in the bottomless pit in chains, referred to in Jude 6, were released from the bottomless pit in trumpet judgments number five.

Michael, the archangel, is leading the two thirds of the angelic beings that remained loyal to their creator God against Satan and his forces. Michael understood his adversary well and was cautious not to be filled with pride as we see when he contended with Satan over the body of Moses but simply allowed God to rebuke him

Let us take a look and read the Old Testament references from the prophets Isaiah who both describe in detail the creation of Lucifer and his subsequent fall from heaven. Lucifer is referred to in scripture as Satan or the Devil, or the Dragon, after his fall from heaven. His original name is only mentioned once in scripture: Isaiah 14:12. The name “Lucifer” carries the meaning in the original language of “light bearer”, which accurately convey his original purpose of giving glory to God. The name “Satan” in the original language carries the meaning of “accuser”. This is an appropriate name for Lucifer had been from the time of the creation through the Church Age had been the “accuser of the brethren” as is stated in verse 10.

Lucifer, who had once led the angels in worship of God and had been even the “anointed cherub” angel that covered the throne of God. However, Lucifer became filled with pride, after very possibly admiring his God given abilities and beauty too much, attempted to overthrow God from his throne. Lucifer even led one third of the angelic beings in rebellion against God with him. This was referred to verse 4.

Take a look at the fall of Satan from the two passages in scripture that record the details for us in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28:

**Isaiah 14:12-17:** “(12) *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!* (13) *For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:* (14) *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.* (15) *Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.* (16) *They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;* (17) *That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?”*

**Ezekiel 28:12-19:** “ (12) *Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.* (13) *Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.* (14) *Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.* (15) *Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.* (16) *By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.* (17) *Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.* (18) *Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.* (19) *All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.”*

*VERSE 8: “And prevailed not;  
neither was their place found any more in heaven.”*

Satan, leading the one third of the angels that fell with him, back into heaven, lost his war and his “coup de' etat” failed. He had no doubt been planning his war in heaven for many thousands of years. All is going according to the plan of God.

God has allowed Satan to come before his throne on occasion. Notice that Satan and his angels were never to appear in heaven after this battle. Satan will never be able to come before the throne of God again to “accuse the brethren night and day”.

*VERSE 9: "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."*

The passage clearly gives you the identity of the dragon. It is the fallen angel Lucifer, now referred to as Satan by the scripture. After losing the war in heaven, Satan was cast out of heaven and the fallen angels with him. You do not see in scripture where Satan ever enters heaven again of its own accord to accuse the brethren. Now Satan and his angels are confined to the earth.

## **C. VERSES 10-12: THE SAINTS REJOICING IN GOD'S VICTORY AND A WARNING TO THE EARTH**

*VERSE 10: "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."*

What has just happened in heaven is unprecedented. Satan and his angels, the demons, have returned to heaven to attempt once again to overthrow God off of His throne. The war even had to be disturbing to watch for the believers present. But the believers never had to fear as the outcome of the war was never in doubt.

The loud voice is not identified but it could have been one of the angels around God's throne. Notice the voice is loud and bold and not soft and uncertain. The truth being proclaimed here deserves no less than to be proclaimed loudly and with enthusiasm. The voice is celebrating the victory that belonged to God and was never in doubt. God has once again saved the believers from the power of Satan. God protected them in their lifetime on earth and has once again protected them even in heaven during this brief war.

*VERSE 11: "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."*

The believers off all the ages, Old Testament, Church Age, Tribulation saints, had victory through salvation in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ shed on the cross. Their testimony was that they served God and were faithful in that service. Their service to God was so important, that they put their testimony of God was more important than staying alive.

*VERSE 12: "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."*

The believers in heaven have now even more reason to rejoice. They would never had to face the opposition of Satan and or his fallen angels ever again. However the loud voice here is giving a warning to the earth. Satan is a sore loser and upon arriving back on earth, will make life on earth miserable for everyone saint and lost person alike. He will vent his frustration of losing upon the inhabitants of the earth.



## **D. VERSES 13-17: THE DRAGON PERSECUTES THE WOMAN**

*VERSE 13: "And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child."*

Whom does Satan go after first after being cast out of heaven after losing the war with God? He goes after "the apple of God's eye", the people that brought "the man child" the Lord Jesus Christ into the world to redeem the world from their sins. Since he could not destroy God the Father or the Lord Jesus Christ, he goes after the people who brought the Lord Jesus Christ into the world, the people of Israel.

*VERSE 14: "And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent."*

After Satan loses the war in heaven and is cast out of heaven along with the fallen angels, he resurrects the body of the Antichrist from the dead, by animating his dead body. Then the resurrected Antichrist will break the peace treaty with Israel, desecrate the Jewish temple, and sets up an image of himself in the temple and demands worship. This event is known in scripture in Daniel 9 and Matthew 24 as "The Abomination of Desolation" The Jews, will realize that they have been betrayed and that Antichrist is not their Messiah. Due to the wrath of the Antichrist, now animated and indwelt by Satan, will be forced to flee from Jerusalem as the Antichrist will attempt to commit genocide of the Jews. We will study this in much more detail as we study through Chapter 13.

The expression "two wings of a great eagle" could be possibly a reference to travel by modern day jet powered aircraft. Scripture does not tell us whether this is true or not. In either case, many of the Jews will be taken away quickly, so the Antichrist will not be able to kill them. Many have speculated that the place prepared for the Jews fleeing from the Antichrist will be Petra which is near the modern day Israeli/Jordanian border. Petra is enclosed in a mountain and would be militarily defensible. However, scripture does not tell us for sure where this prepared place will be, but it does teach here that the place will be prepared for them. The expression "time" represents a period of one year. The expression "times" would be two sets of time or 2 years. One-half of time would be six months or 1/2 year , so if you add all these periods of time mathematically, it would equal 3 1/2 years of time.

They will be out of sight of the Antichrist, but not out of mind, as we will see the next few verses. For the time being they are protected.

*VERSE 15: "And the serpent cast out of his mouth water  
as a flood after the woman,  
that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood."*

Here the Dragon begins his next attack upon the people of Israel. Notice the expression "water as a flood". This is not a literal flood of water but is representative very possibly of the military forces of the Antichrist. In the book of the Revelation, the word "sea" is sometimes used to represent a mass or large group of people. In this case a "water as a flood" could be representative of an army. It is also possible that this could be a natural phenomena as well but most likely is the military forces of the Antichrist or civilians that are sympathetic to his cause.

*VERSE 16: "And the earth helped the woman,  
and the earth opened her mouth,  
and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth."*

The expression "the earth" here most likely is representative of the tribulation saints, being aware of the plight of the Jews, endeavor to help the Jews who are on the run from the Antichrist. The context of this verse could lead you to believe that not all the Jews who left the land of Israel, went to one place but that a number of them were scattered throughout the Eastern Hemisphere or possibly the world and that the Tribulation saints the world over help to hide and take care of these Jewish people.

*VERSE 17: "And the dragon was wroth with the woman,  
and went to make war with the remnant of her seed,  
which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."*

Satan, who is indwelling the dead body of the Antichrist, as a result of the Tribulation saints hiding these Jews from him, is very angry with the surviving Jews. The phrase "the remnant of her seed" leads one to believe that many of the Jews had died under the initial persecution before they arrived at the place prepared for them and under hiding places in the world. The phrase "which kept the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" confirm that many of this surviving remnant have finally acknowledged their true Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. They have accepted him as their Saviour and are now Tribulation Saints like their Gentile brothers in the faith.

### **III. APPLICATIONS**

- **The Church Age Saint will not go through the Tribulation and will be spared these judgments. PRAISE GOD!!**
- **Satan still desires to have God's throne and will try even today to hurt those who serve God: both the Gentile Saint and the Jewish people.**
- **Satan in the end will lose and God will have the final victory. As a result you can have victory over Satan through accepting Christ as Saviour and following his word.**
- **God deserves all the praise for the victories now over Satan and his forces both.**