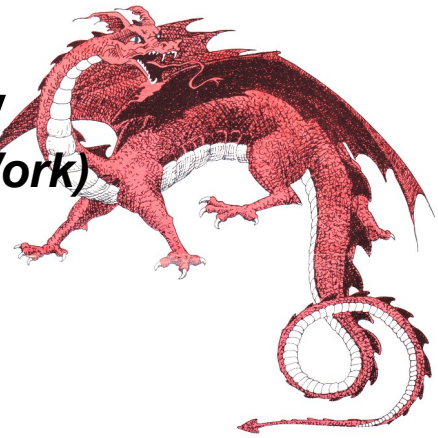


The Devil's Final Fury

(Satan's Attempts to Destroy God's Work)

Revelation 12

7-10-2022

INTRODUCTION:

The Meaning of the Imagery -

1. The "woman" = Israel
2. The "great red dragon" = Satan
3. The "man child" = Christ
4. 1,260 days = the last 3 1-2 years of the Great Tribulation

***Beware: Satan is attempting to destroy God's work!**
(Like he has tried in the past and will again in the future.)

I. Satan's Attempt to Destroy:
THE <u>SON</u> OF GOD (Christ) (v. 1-5)

II. Satan's Attempt to Destroy:
THE <u>PEOPLE</u> OF GOD (Israel) (v. 6-17)

Satan's tactics include:

A. Deception (v. 9)

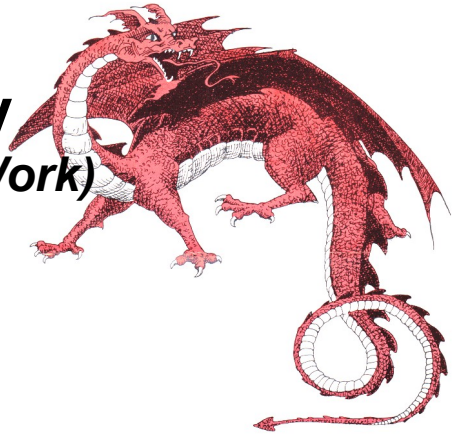
B. Accusation (v. 10)

C. Persecution (v. 11-17)

CONCLUSION: The Believer's source of victory over Satan:

1) The <u>blood</u> (v. 11a)

2) The <u>Word</u> (v. 11b)



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Revelation 12

7-10-2022



INTRODUCTION: The importance of Keys (Legend) to a Map. The keys Give you important information to help you understand the map.

The "Keys" to understanding Revelation 12. The Meaning of the Imagery -

1.	The ***"woman"*** =	Israel
	"Sun and moon" =	Jacob & Rachel
	"12 stars" =	12 sons of Jacob (12 tribes of Israel)
2.	The ***"great red dragon"***	Satan
3.	The ***"man child"*** =	Christ
4.	***1,260 days*** =	The last 3 1-2 years of the Tribulation

Since Lucifer's rebellion (Is. 14), he has been attempting to resist and destroy God's work.

Satan tried to resist:

1) Joshua the high priest (Zech. 3:2)
(NOTE: This has future prophetic significance - v. 9, 10)

2) Jesus from going to the cross (Mt. 16:21-23)

3) Sergius Paulus from getting saved
(Acts 13:4-12 *v. 10)

(Satan either works independently, or he uses people)

A Practical Key Truth -- ** Beware: Satan is attempting to destroy God's work! *(like he has tried in the past and will again in the future.)*

I. Satan's Attempt to Destroy: THE <u>SON</u> OF GOD (Christ) (v. 1-5)

V. 1

"There appeared" - John was caused to <u>see</u> with his eyes a panoramic vision of something described as "a great wonder" (lit. a great <u>sign</u>).

A sign is something that <u>points</u> to something else. A sign is not literal reality, but points to literal reality. Hence, this vision involves analogies or symbolic representations of something actual.

[NOTE: Always interpret revelation literally unless God tells us otherwise as He does here.]

"A woman" - This woman is not the Virgin Mary, nor the church, for two obvious reasons:

1) The Virgin Mary will not be persecuted in the future - this woman will be (v. 6, 13ff)

2) The church did not give birth to Christ - but Christ did proceed from Israel (Rom. 9:4, 5).

"A woman" = Israel.
Israel is often depicted as a woman in the Bible (Is. 54:5; Ezek. 16:32; Hos. 2:16) - both as the "wife" of the Lord (Jer. 31:32; Hosea), and as the "mother" of the Jewish nation (Gal. 4:26).

****SEE Gen. 37:9-11 - for the same imagery depicting Israel.**
Sun = Jacob
Moon = Rachel
11 Stars = Joseph's 11 brothers.

We know that Rachel died before the trip to Egypt (Genesis 35:15-20). So she never made it down to Egypt and never bowed to her son. Here are my reasons for Rachel being the reference of the symbolism in Joseph's dream:
1. Rachel was Jacob's favored wife (Gen.29:18) (and perhaps his only legitimate wife)
2. Jacob replies to Joseph's dream by saying: "Shall I and thy mother (which was Rachel) and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?" (Gen.37:10)
3. When Herod murdered the male children (of Judah primarily, who were living in the Bethlehem area) the Scripture was fulfilled and Rachel's children are referred to (not the other three women):
Matthew 2:18 - In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.
This quote by Matthew is a reference to Jeremiah 31:15: "Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not."

Rachel is probably just representative for all of the mothers involved since all 11 brothers (from different mothers) would come to Egypt and bow down to Joseph.
The bigger and most important aspect of the symbolism however, was that Joseph's dream and the reference to it in Revelation 12:1 refers to the Nation of ISRAEL.

V. 2
In Isaiah 26, Israel cries out for deliverance awaiting the arrival of the Messiah, and exclaims: *"Like as a woman with child that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD."*

V. 3
NOTE: ***"Another wonder"*** (sign). This sign is not "great" as was the first.
This sign involves a description of Satan, who is not great in terms of virtue (goodness),
but is "great" in terms of power and wickedness (v. 9).

"Great red dragon" = none other than Satan himself (SEE v. 9; cp. 20:2).
"Red" = fiery red. The word literally means the "color of fire" - it is interesting that Satan, who is destined for fire [Rev. 20:10} has the appearance of it.

"Seven heads . . . seven crowns" = indicative of the completeness of Satan's authority (cp. Satan's authority in the world - Lk. 4:6; Eph. 2:2; 6:12; I Jn. 2:15).

Why ***"10 horns"***? - a horn represents "power" or "control"
Satan has 10 horns because he will be the world ruler of the "10-horned beast" (a world government system comprising 10 kings - 17:12-13) that will reign in the Tribulation (Rev. 13:1).

V. 4
"The stars of Heaven" = angels who rebelled with Lucifer (Satan).
Angels are referred to as "stars" elsewhere in the Bible (Job 38:7; Rev. 1:20; 9:1; Dan. 8:10).

"Cast them to the earth" - SEE v. 9 - "he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."
[NOTE: Some demons are presently in hell in chains of darkness, reserved unto judgment (Jude 6; II Pet. 2:4), while other demons are free to work with Satan.]

The gruesome picture is that of a hungry carnivorous dragon waiting in front of a pregnant woman to eat up her child as soon as it is born. Why is Satan so furiously desirous to destroy the Christ-child?

In Genesis 3:15, the “Protoevangelium” (first Gospel) is given by God. Here Satan learns of the Deliverer and His Defeat

Genesis 3:15 – “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed (Messiah); it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel”.

** When Christ was born, Herod the king heard about it, and being inspired by Satan sought to destroy the child (2:1-8; **16**).

V. 5
"She brought forth a man (male) child" = Christ
It is Christ who will (future) "rule all nations with a rod of iron" -
Rev. 2:27 - *"And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father."* SEE Psalm 2:9, Rev. 19:15.

"Caught up unto God" = The ascension of Christ.
Christ's ascension shows the failure of Satan's efforts to destroy Him.

"...And to his throne" = The exaltation of Christ at the Father's right hand)

II. Satan's Attempt to Destroy: THE PEOPLE OF GOD (Israel) (v. 6-17)

V. 6

NOTE: How God skips the time period from Christ's ascension to the Tribulation (actually to the mid-point of the 70th Week).
** Such a transition is typical of prophecy.

"The events of prophecy are seen as one would look across mountain peaks. He would see the next major event that is coming, but he would not necessarily see all that is in the valley, nor understand how much time would elapse between the major events" (Epp, Revelation, p. 179).

The woman (typifying Israel) flees at the mid-point of the Tribulation. Israel will flee because of persecution (cp. v. 13-14).

SEE Matt. 24:15-21. (*V. 16 - "Mountains")

"The wilderness" = Literally "desert." This desert is the same wilderness where Moses led O.T. Israel (cp. v. 14).

NOTE: Dan. 11:41 - Edom, Moab, & Ammon escape from Antichrist's hand. Perhaps Israel will find refuge here.
(SEE Ezek. 20:33-38 [***v. 36**]; Jer. 31:1-6 [***v. 2**])

It will be in the wilderness where God will be reconciled with Israel (SEE Hosea 2:14-16).

"A place prepared" - Just as God had a great fish "prepared" for rebellious Jonah (Jonah 1:17), He will have a place prepared for rebellious Israel. (cp. Epp, p. 185)

V. 7

"Michael" is the "archangel" (Jude 9) who stands up for Israel and defends her (Dan. 12:1). [This is not the first time there was a fight between Satan & Michael - Dan. 10:13, 21]

Though Michael respects the power of Satan (Jude 9), Satan is no match!

V. 8

Though Satan has previously fallen from Heaven (Is. 14:12; Lk. 10:18), the Devil (prior to the mid-point of the 70th Week) still does have access to Heaven.

Though Heaven is not his home, he stops in on occasion to accuse God's children (Rev. 12:10). Evil angels also report to God and are ultimately under His authority (Job 1:6, 11; I Sam. 16:14, 18:10).

How does Satan attempt to destroy the people of God?

Through:

A. DECEPTION (v. 9)

V. 9

***"Dragon"*=** fierce and cruel nature (Jn. 8:44 - "a murderer from the beginning")

***"Serpent"*=** crafty and deceitful character (Gen. 3:1 - "more subtle..." II Cor. 11:14 - "angel of light")

***"Devil"* =** accuser, slanderer (Job 1, 2)

***"Satan"* =** adversary (I Pet. 5:8 - "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary...")

"Which deceiveth the whole world" -

How does Satan deceive today?

--He promises salvation from sources other than Christ

--He paints a beautiful picture of sin

--He counterfeits the truth with a lie (II Th. 2:10-12)

Satan seeks to destroy God's work by lying about God's people. As he has in the past, so will he in the future "deceive the nations into thinking that the people of God are dangerous, deluded, even destructive" (Wiersbe, p. 603).

"Cast out" - thrown out like a piece of unwanted garbage

B. ACCUSATION (v. 10)

V. 10

"Salvation *(deliverance)* ***and strength"*** - will be needed by God's elect in the Tribulation.

"The kingdom of our God and the power (authority) of His Christ" is about to be fulfilled once the accuser is cast down. Just 3 1-2 years to go from this point.

"The accuser of our brethren" - Beware: Satan is an <u>initiator</u> of slander and gossip<u>.</u>

NOTE: In Genesis, he accused <u>God</u> to man (3:1-5)

In Job, he accused <u>man</u> to God (Job 1:8-11, 2:4-6; Rev. 12:10)

In Matthew, he accused the <u>God-man</u> (Christ) (Mt. 4:1ff)

"Satan is the accuser of the brethren; let's leave the dirty work to him" (H.A. Ironside).

C. PERSECUTION (v. 11-17)

V. 12

"Rejoice ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them" - The "Dead in Christ" (I Th.4:16).

"Woe" - the third "woe" (cp. 8:13, 9:12, 11:14).

"Wrath" - a hot anger, an explosive, eruptive heat.

Note this Wrath is not God's Wrath, but Satan's, which will be vented upon God's people via the Antichrist and his forces (Luke 21:23).

"A short time" = Satan will realize that only 3 1-2 years remain until he is bound (Rev. 20:1-3).

Satan is always at his worst (even now) when he "knoweth he hath but a short time"

EX: How Satan fights the hardest just before: 1) Salvation; 2) Rededication; 3) You begin a new ministry; 4) A wedding (marriage)

V. 13

Satan failed in destroying Christ, so now he makes an all-out last-minute effort to destroy the vehicle God used to bring Christ into the world -- the nation of Israel.

Satan has always hated the Jews (EX: Moses [Ex. 1 & 2]; Holocaust - 6 million Jews killed in Germany).

Because Satan hates God, he hates God's plan and people.

"He has a special hatred for the Jewish people and has been the power behind anti-Semitism from the days of Pharaoh and Hamam (see the book of Esther) to Hitler and Stalin" (Wiersbe, p. 602-603).

Why would Satan seek to destroy Israel? ANSWER: Because God is going to redeem a remnant of Israel at the end of the coming Tribulation and Satan knows it!

Though many say: *"God is finished with Israel"* and say: *"The church is the Israel of God"* (Amillennialists) - God's Word teaches that God will turn back to His chosen nation and will save a remnant according to grace under the New Testament Covenant (SEE Rom. 11:11-12, 23, 25-31).

Why would Satan seek to destroy Israel, if that nation had no future prophetic significance? Satan will so strongly desire to destroy the nation because as the time draws near for the Messiah to return to earth to establish the promised kingdom, a Jewish remnant must be ready to receive Him and form the nucleus for the kingdom (Zech. 12:9-14:21; Rev. 1:7) (Wiersbe, p. 604).

V. 14
"Two wings of a great eagle" - Alluding to the O.T. promise - *"Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagle's wings"* (Ex. 19:14; cp. Dt. 32:11, 12).

"Time** (one), **times** (plural = two), **and half a time" - Again, 3 1-2 years (cp. Dan. 7:25, 12:7). The last 3 1-2 years of the 7 year Tribulation (the second half of the "70th week" of Daniel).

V. 15
"Water" = waters of wrath (Hosea 5:10).
"As a flood" - overwhelming wrath

V. 16
Somehow the earth (whether referring to the physical land providing supernatural drainage for the water or to the people of the earth who take the brunt of Satan's blows for Israel) will protect Israel by absorbing the torrent that flows from Satan (cp. Is. 43:2, 59:19).

V. 17
"The rest of her seed" - the remnant. This remnant are saved Jews as evident by their fruits. Possibly the implication is that those Jews in the wilderness are not yet saved, but come to Christ eventually by the end of the Tribulation (Ezek. 20:33-38; Jer. 31:1ff; Zech 12:10).

CONCLUSION:

V. 11
Just as Satan will oppose the elect nation of Israel in the future, he opposes God's elect church today (Eph. 6:10ff).
The devil is out to destroy the church. But there is a source of victory!

"Overcame" = conquered
Satan is a defeated foe only by means of:
1) The blood of Christ (our only means of salvation - Rev. 7:14)
2) The Word of our testimony (our only means of sanctification - Eph. 5:26; Jn. 15:3, 17:17)
3) The sacrifice of the believer (our surrender - James 4:7; Eph. 6:10ff)

"Loved not their lives unto the death" - "He who loves his life shall lose it . . ." (Mt. 16:25)
These, who are willing to die because of their faith in Christ and His Word (cp. Rev. 1:9, 6:9, 20:4), are no doubt the martyrs described in Revelation 6:9 and 20:4.
"Greater is He that is in you than he (Satan) that is in the world" (I Jn. 4:4).