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**A0608 – February 29, 2006 – Rev 12:6-17 – The Woman, The Dragon, & The
Male Child - Part 2**

Outline

- i. The Woman, the Dragon, and the Male-Child (12:1-18)**
 - i. The Past (12:1-5)**
 - ii. The Future (12:6-18)**

Last week we looked at the past conflict between God and Satan before the cross. This week we will look at the future conflict between God and Satan after the cross. Satan's strategy shifted from attempts to feast on the flesh of Messiah at His birth to attempts to feast on the flesh of Israel since she gave birth to the Messiah. This is the behind-the-scenes view of the major forces behind world history. Satan is the "god of this world" and he is the primary influence behind world kingdoms and world rulers. He is the 1st member of the Unholy Trinity. He is presently putting together a Revived Roman Empire in his final attempt to destroy Israel once and for all and to be worshipped through the Antichrist. Today we will look at the future conflict between the *fiery red dragon* and the *sun-clad woman*.



The Great Tribulation (12:6-18)

Revelation 12:6 And the woman fled to the wilderness, where she has there a place prepared (perfect passive participle) by God, in order that there they may nourish her one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

And the woman, who is Israel, ***fled to the wilderness*** parallels Matt 24:15-16. This fleeing takes place at the middle of the tribulation in response to the Antichrist's "abomination of desolation" which is the signal for Israel to flee. Jesus spoke of this in the Olivet Discourse saying, "when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains" (Matt 24:15-16). So, the signal is the abomination of desolation at which time the believing remnant of Israel will flee to ***a place prepared*** for them ***by God***; a geographical location that God has prepared in advance and keeps prepared for this future day. most likely this is Bozrah, the region where the rock city of Petra is located (Jer 49:22).

At this place God will ***nourish her*** for ***one thousand two hundred and sixty days***. So, the first half of the Tribulation will be peaceful for Israel but the second half will be travail because of the Antichrist and Satan's being kicked out of heaven. God will supernaturally nourish Israel during the 2nd half of the Tribulation because the Antichrist will require the mark of the beast in order to buy or sell for these 3 ½ years. God's instrument in doing this will be Michael, the archangel (Dan 12:1)
This is similar to God's providing manna in the wilderness for Israel during the forty year wilderness wanderings.

Holy Angels War With Fallen Angels in Heaven (12:7-8)

Revelation 12:7 And a war came in the heaven, Michael and his angels waged war with the dragon. And the dragon waged war and his angels,

This is not the same ancient war mentioned in verse 4 but a future ***war in heaven*** between ***Michael and his angels*** and the ***dragon...and his angels***. ***Michael*** is the protecting angel of Israel and this is not his first conflict with Satan (Jude 9). ***Michael*** is also an arch angel and thus holds one of the highest ranks among the angels. He is therefore the leader of the holy angels in battle. Satan, although fallen, was also of high rank and as such is the leader of the fallen angels in battle. ***Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon and his angels in heaven***, at the middle of the Tribulation a

great war will erupt in heaven. This is Satan's last attempt to usurp the reign of Christ and to rule from the holy mountain of God.

Revelation 12:8 and he was not strong nor moreover did he find a place for them in the heaven.

It is a failed attempt as verse 8 describes the defeat of ***the dragon and his angels***. ***He was not strong***, it is a complete victory for ***Michael and his angels***. Therefore, ***he did not find a place for them in heaven***. Originally, Satan was a holy angel and was stationed in heaven on God's holy mountain. Then his prideful lust for power resulted in his fall and he lost his station. Nevertheless, he still retained access to heaven in order to accuse sinners. His access to heaven is mentioned in the Book of Job. But after this defeat he will no longer have access to heaven in any respect.

Fallen Angels War With Israel and Saints on Earth (12:9-18)

Revelation 12:9 And he was cast out the great dragon, the old serpent, the one having been called devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world, he was cast to the earth, and his angels with him were cast down.

And thus the ***great dragon*** is ***cast out*** of heaven with force. This is the first step in Satan's final demise. The ***dragon*** was defeated on the cross but his final demise takes place in three stages.

1. Cast out of heaven to earth (12:9)
2. Cast into the abyss for 1,000 years (20:1ff)
3. Cast into the eternal lake of fire (20:10)

The identification of the ***great dragon*** is now made explicit so there is no mistaking his identity. ***The great dragon is the old serpent***. this figure comes from the Garden of Eden and the beginning of history. The ***serpent*** is the craftiest of beasts. His shrewdness led humans into the first sin when he had his first occasion to accuse them before God but this war marks his last occasion to accuse (Thomas, 131). Having ***been called the devil***. The name ***devil*** comes from *diabolos* and means "the diabolical one". He is a false accuser, a slanderer. He is also called ***Satan*** from *satanas* meaning "adversary". He is the adversary of God and all aligned with Him. Finally he is described as ***the one who deceives the whole world***. By ***world*** John means "the world system". It is under his control as he is the "god of this world". Don't be caught up in the ***world system*** because it

is anti-God and under **Satan**'s direct control. It is easy to be caught up in the world system. Even Eve who had no sin nature was caught in his snare. You are not too wise to be craftily lead astray.

So, this **great dragon...was cast to the earth along with his angels** so that they no longer enter heaven. And so the **earth** will become his residence. At present he roars about like a lion seeking someone to devour. When he leads us into sin he takes this information back to God and accuses us in the heavenly court of God. In the future great tribulation he will no longer be able to accuse in heaven so he will increase his persecution on earth. Once cast to the earth the purging of heaven from all uncleanness will be complete.

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a voice great in the heaven saying, "Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down (passive), the one accusing us in the presence of our God day and night.

As a result there is a great proclamation made in heavenly worship. ***A great voice in heaven*** singing a song of three stanzas

1. The arrival of God's kingdom and Christ's authority
2. The victory of the saints on earth through the blood of the Lamb
3. Rejoicing in heaven and rage on earth

The first stanza is in verse 10. Since the casting of Satan out of heaven is the first step in the final demise of Satan it is *apropos* to announce that ***the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come***. Even though the final victory and kingdom have not come in the sequence, it nevertheless is so certain that it can be said to already ***have come***.

Revelation 12:11 And they conquered him through the blood of the Lamb and through the word of His testimony and they did not love their souls until death.

The second stanza in verse 11 describes how those on earth ***conquered*** Satan. Satan was defeated in heaven and now he has been defeated on earth by those who had faith in Christ and entered that relationship ***through the blood of the Lamb even the word of His testimony***. Faith in Christ is having faith in His testimony. Even though their lives will end in violent deaths of martyrdom they will have won the spiritual victory through

Christ. They will have avoided the cunning deceptive tactics of Satan through the world system. All he can do is take their physical lives but they already have the victory.

These are some of the most heroic saints the world will ever see. ***they did not love their souls until death.*** They have put their entire lives on the line for the sake of Christ! Paul had this attitude and so did Christ. They would rather die a violent death than to renounce their profession and faithfulness to Christ. Being ready to die for Christ is the ultimate in Christian faithfulness and signals the highest level of discipleship has been attained.

Revelation 12:12 For this reason (you all) rejoice, those who dwell in the heavens. Woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you having great rage, perceiving that he has a little time.

The third stanza of the worship in verse 12 says ***For this reason, those who dwell in the heavens rejoice.*** They have reason to rejoice because the dragon no longer has access to heaven. Satan is cast out never to return to heaven again. However, while heaven is rejoicing the earth is full of rage. ***Woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you having great rage, perceiving that he has a little time.*** *Woe* means “how horrible it will be” for the ***earth and the sea.*** Now, not only does the earth have to deal with God’s judgments in the seven bowls but they will also have to put up with the ***rage*** of the ***devil.*** This is not the third woe because that comes from God but this rage comes from the ***devil.*** The word ***rage*** is *thumos* and is more intense than *orge*. This is an emotional anger unleashed irrationally. It is a flailing madness. The reason for this madness is because he ***perceives that he has a little time.*** This is his last campaign so it is the most intense fury unleashed upon mankind that the world will ever see. He only has 3 ½ years left of fury and he will make use of every second.

Dragon Persecutes Israel (12:13)

Revelation 12:13 And when the dragon perceived that he had been cast down to the earth, he persecuted (pursued) the woman who gave birth to the man.

He persecuted the woman. Since ***the dragon*** can no longer usurp Christ’s throne in heaven he unleashes his fury on the one who gave birth to the Christ, Israel. We would say that when the dragon saw he could not reach the woman’s Son, he turned to the mother to try to hurt the Son through her (Swete). Israel will enjoy peace during the first half of the tribulation but the wrath of Satan during the second half of the tribulation. That is why it is called “the time of Jacob’s trouble” for ***the dragon*** will pursue her by every available means.

God Protects Israel (12:14)

Revelation 12:14 And the woman was given two wings of the great eagle, in order that she may fly (middle) into the wilderness to her place, where she will be nourished there a time and times and half a time from the presence of the serpent.

Despite his attempts ***the woman was given two wings of the great eagle, in order that she may fly into the wilderness to her place.*** In verse 6 she was nourished for 1,260 days. Here she is nourished for ***a time, times, and half a time*** which is the same amount of time.

- time = 1 year = 360 days = 12 months
- times = 2 years = 720 days = 24 months
- half a time = ½ year = 180 days = 6 months
- total = 3 ½ years = 1,260 days = 42 months

A time, times, and half a time is the equivalent of 3 ½ years, 1,260 days and 42 months, all expressions used to designate the second half of the Tribulation. The OT describes Israel's deliverance as being upon ***two wings of a great eagle***. The ***eagles wings*** signify the expansive strength and swift flight required to escape ***the dragon's rage***. Only those Jews who have believed in Jesus as Messiah will flee and enjoy this supernatural flight to safety. Those who have aligned themselves with the False-Messiah will remain in Jerusalem

Revelation 12:15 And the serpent cast out of His mouth after the woman water as a river, in order that he may sweep her away by a river.

Since the ***serpent*** could not keep up with the supernatural flight of the woman He will ***cast out of His mouth a river of water*** in an attempt to ***sweep her away*** in the flood. The Judean wilderness is known for its flash floods. Within minutes what was dry desert can be a deadly torrential flood. Perhaps a similar event supernaturally caused by ***the serpent*** will take place in an attempt to drown the fleeing Israelites.

Revelation 12:16 And the earth helped the woman and the earth opened her mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon cast out of his mouth.

Verse 16 shows that this attempt out of his rage was unsuccessful. God supernaturally uses the ***earth to help the woman***. The ***earth opened her mouth and swallowed the river***

that the dragon cast out of his mouth. Perhaps an earthquake at the proper place and the proper time, just behind the fleeing Israelites will open up the earth and *swallow the river* and foil the *dragon's* plan.

Dragon Wars with Israel's Seed (12:17)

Revelation 12:17 And the dragon became furious at the woman and went away to make war with the rest of her seed the one's obeying the commandments of God and having the testimony of Jesus.

And the dragon became furious – His rage will turn to fury because he failed to topple the Messiah in heaven and now his strategy on earth to destroy the Messiah's mother on earth has also failed. ***and went away to make war with the rest of her seed.*** Since he cannot get to this localized group of Jewish believers he will set out to ***make war with the rest of her seed.*** *her seed* refers to the *seed of Israel*. This is not the *seed of Abraham*. All who have faith are the seed of Abraham but that does not make them the *seed of Israel* (i.e. Jacob). Thus, ***the dragon*** will focus his energies on destroying the Jewish believers of the *Diaspora* which include the 144,000 Jewish Witnesses of Rev 7. Jewish believers of the *Diaspora* refer to those scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.

Revelation 12:18 And he stood upon the sand of the sea.

Your English Bible does not have a verse 18 but the Greek places the first sentence of 13:1 as the 18th verse of chapter 12 (where they rightly belong). However, most translations help you see that it really goes with chapter 12 by translating 13:1 ***and the dragon stood upon the sand of the sea.*** So, ***the dragon*** is still the subject. The point is that as the ***dragon*** sets off to destroy the believing Jewish *Diaspora* he stops on his way to war to summon his next instrument, ***the beast out of the sea***, “the little horn” of Daniel, “the man of lawlessness”, “the Antichrist”, Satan-incarnate, the 2nd person of the Unholy Trinity.

Conclusion

I think we have shown that even though Chapter 12 is the most symbolic chapter in Revelation and probably the whole Bible, it is nevertheless understandable. The woman is Israel who gives birth to the Man-Child, the Messiah. The dragon is Satan who caused the fall of 1/3 of the angels of heaven and then stood waiting to destroy the Messiah at His birth. He has operated through six kingdoms and their kings; Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Each of these Gentile kingdoms has reigned

under Satanic dominion. But he was unsuccessful in destroying the Messiah and He was safely born of the woman. After fulfilling His mission He ascended to heaven. However, Satan continues to prowl about like a roaring lion leading us into ruin and then going to heaven to accuse us day and night. He is currently building a new Revived Roman Empire as his ultimate weapon and kingdom. But at the middle of the Tribulation Michael and his angels will war with the Dragon and his angels. And the dragon will be defeated and they will all be cast out of heaven to the earth. Heaven will rejoice because this is the first step in the final demise of Satan and he is no longer in their surroundings. This will cause Satan to rage, venting his anger upon the Mother of the Messiah, Israel who will supernaturally take flight into the wilderness where God will nourish her for 1,260 days. In a last gasp attempt the dragon will pour forth a river of water to drown the Israelites but God will supernaturally open the earth to swallow the water and protect His believing remnant who will then be supernaturally nourished for 1,260 days at Petra because they will not be able to buy or sell without the mark of the beast. This will only increase the serpent's fury and he will then set off to make war with the rest of Israel's seed, the believing Jews of the Diaspora. On his way to war he will stop and summon his next instrument, the Antichrist.

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