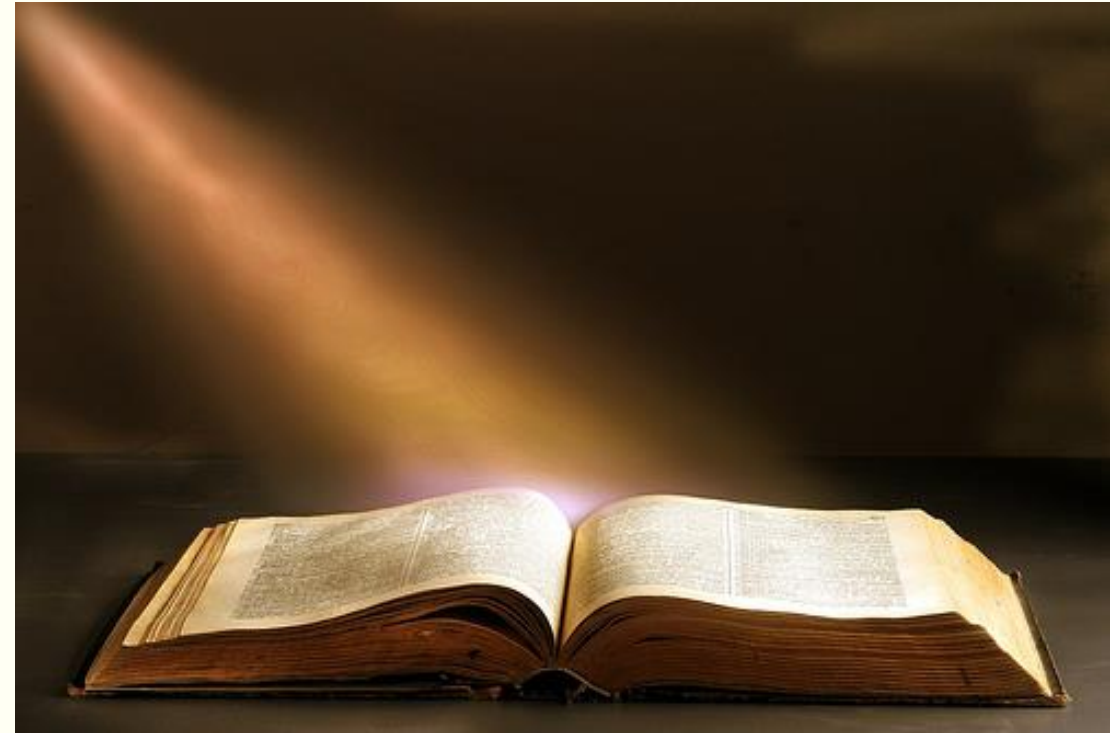




Exploring the Book of Revelation: Verse by Verse

Chapter 12



CHAPTER 12

Michael, the Dragon and the Woman



Chapter 12



Primary purpose of our Bible study is to understand each message as it applied to the church to which it was given AND its personal application for us today

Introduction

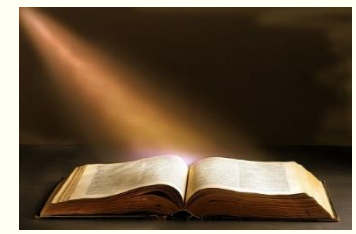
Sign in heaven

The Great Red Dragon

Cast down

War shifts to Earth

Revelation 12:1-6



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. **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. **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.

Introduction

The dramatic story of the Woman, the Child and the dragon traced back to the Garden of Eden

“And I will put enmity between you [**dragon**] and the **woman**, and between your seed and her **Seed**; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” Genesis 3:15

Jesus was the promised Seed who would be in bitter conflict and crush the serpent (Satan) but at the same time suffering a deadly bite (the cross)

Chapter 12 is an overview of the history from the birth of Christ to the final events with allusions to the original conflict in heaven

The story of this Great Controversy highlights Satan’s attack on Jesus which has continued through the ages, even in the fierce persecutions of the saints from the early church, through the Dark Ages, and will culminate in the final conflict as earth’s history draws to a close

Rev 12	Focus	Timeline
vs 7-9	Heaven (Flashback)	Before the creation of man
vs 1-2	Old Testament	Creation through 4 BC
vs 3-5, 10-12	Jesus birth & death	4 BC – 31 AD
vs 6, 13-15	Papal Rome persecution of God’s people	538 – 1798 AD
vs 16	Protectors of God’s people	538 - 1798 AD
vs 17	Final war unleashed on the remnant	Time of the end

Sign in heaven

The first half of the Book of Revelation: Chapters 1-11 focuses on the three persons of the Godhead (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) and their plan of salvation to redeem and restore man

The second half of the Book of Revelation: Chapters 12-22 focuses on the devil's efforts to thwart God's plan and destroy man through his counterfeit satanic trinity (the dragon, the sea beast and the earth beast)

John the Revelator, is in the spirit and sees a new vision

He is shown the underlying cause for the hostility that would follow God's faithful remnant people before the final battle between the trinities

Two signs appear in heaven; the first was greater

“sign” comes from the word “signified” meaning the vision uses much symbolism

A pure woman symbolizes the people of God, God's true church (2 Cor 11:2)

A harlot symbolizes the apostate and unfaithful church (Rev 17-18)



Sign in heaven

The portrayal of the woman evokes the **description of a bride**

“Who is she who looks forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun,
awesome as an army with banners? – Songs of Sol 6:10

The church is clothed with the **Sun of Righteousness**, the glory of the gospel of Christ,
with the **moon under her feet** reflecting His glory with the **crown of 12 stars**
representing the twelve tribes of the Old Testament church

“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows
Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” – John 8:12

“But to you who fear My name, the **Sun of Righteousness** shall arise with healing in His
wings” – Malachi 4:2

She symbolizes the bride of Christ, the people of God of both OT & NT

The crown on her head, “**stephanos**” the crown of victory is promised to the
overcomer

“And they **cried with a loud voice**, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You
judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” – Rev 6:10

Like the cry of the martyrs, the Seed of the Woman is born through pain and torment
through the lineage of Adam to Abraham to the Jewish nation as Satan continually
attempted to thwart God’s plan for the Messiah to be born



The great red dragon

Another sign appears in heaven and a second character emerges

The great red dragon (Satan, Devil, Lucifer) is the arch enemy of God and man

Red signifies bloodshed and denotes Satan's oppression against the church

He is the focus of Chapter 12 as the antithesis of God the Father

A beast is a symbol of political or religious system or kingdom (Dan 7:17,23)

Horns are a symbol of rulership, kingship (Rev 17:12)

Seven heads and ten horns on the dragon are also on the sea beast (Rev 13:1) and the scarlet beast (Rev 17:3)

Recall the total number of heads and horns of the beasts in Daniel's vision (Dan 7:3-7)

Symbolize the political powers (Babylon, Media Persia, Greece and Rome) and apostate teachings which Satan has used to work against God's people

“His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns (diadems).”
Rev 19:12

The seven crowns on the heads of the dragon are diadems “royal crowns” also counterfeited by the sea beast (Rev 13:1) which only belong to Christ



The great red dragon

- **Babylon** – Papal Roman doctrines and traditions from pagan sun worship (Mithraism)
 - infant baptism,
 - sprinkling during baptism,
 - teachings on death and immortality,
 - celibate priests with power over the dead,
 - prayers to the dead and to relics,
 - repetitive prayers with the use of beads,
 - doctrines on forgiveness of sins,
 - teachings on hell,
 - the mass,
 - Sunday worship
- **Medo Persia** – Laws cannot be changed
- **Greece** – Humanism (laws of man supersede the laws of God)
- **Rome** – Persecution of dissenters



The great red dragon

The great hostility of the dragon (ancient serpent) towards the woman recalls the enmity between the serpent's seed and the Seed of the woman, Christ

John is clear on who this male Child is...the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ

Working through King Herod of Pagan Rome, the dragon made an attempt to destroy Jesus at His birth (Matt 2: 13-18)

“You shall break them with a **rod of iron**; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.” – Ps 2:9

“He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. **And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron.** He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” – Rev 19:13-16

He is the One to shepherd all the nations with the rod of iron, the true Davidic king

Just like the Two Witnesses, Jesus the Word of God, was bruised by the serpent in His death on the cross. But He resurrected and was caught up unto God

Jesus is victorious over His enemies and His rule begins in the heavenly places



The great red dragon

Christ incarnation, crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection forever settled the issues raised by the original war in heaven

After Jesus ascension, His church faces the outpouring of Satan's wrath

Working through Papal Rome, the dragon forces the true church to flee into the wilderness for 1260 years from persecution (538 – 1798 AD)

The wilderness was prepared by God for His people like ancient Israel where God provided for their nourishment after their escape from Egypt

The Waldenses, Lollards, Albigenses and many other of God's faithful people had to flee to the mountains and wilderness to exercise their freedom to worship according to their conscience and read the Word of God

The multitude of persecutions that took place, the Inquisitions, torture and death are recorded in Fox's Book of Martyrs by John Foxe



“As a model of Israel's wilderness experience, John portrays God's people as cared for and nourished spiritually by God during the time of their wilderness hardship and the severe oppression that they experienced in the world. God's care of the woman in the wilderness is evidently intended to assure the suffering Christians that no matter how fierce the trials they may be called upon to bear, He is watching over His church and will sustain them.”

Revelation of Jesus Christ, Commentary on the Book of Revelation, page 391

The great red dragon

It was the birth of promised Seed, the Male Child that changed the course of history

Michael (Hebrew “**Who is like God?**”) is mentioned 5 times in the Bible
[Dan 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jud 9]

He is Jesus, Commander, Chief prince of the angels, the Great Prince, Archangel

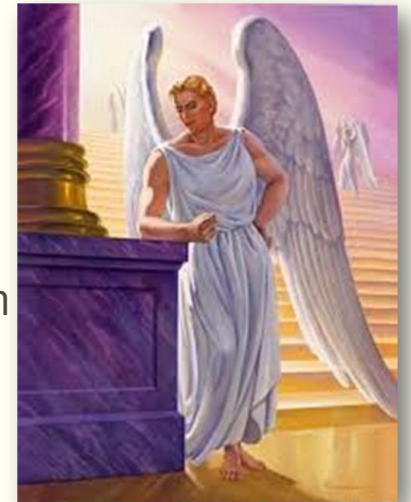
From the beginning of time, Lucifer’s bitterness was foremost against Christ

Lucifer was the first of the covering cherub in the immediate presence of God

He was the highest of all created beings. He was next in honor to Christ. He stood nearest the throne of God, and in glory surpassed all the angels. Created with wisdom and perfection, he was an exalted angel in heaven.

His heart was lifted up because of his **beauty and splendor**

“You were the **seal of perfection**, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. “You were the **anointed cherub who covers**; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were **perfect in your ways** from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.” – Eze 28:12-15, 17



The great red dragon

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and **Satan also came among them**. And the Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?” So Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.” – Job 1:6-7, 2:1-2

Now is the judgment of this world; now the **ruler of this world** will be cast out...of judgment, because the **ruler of this world** is judged. John 12:31, 16:11

“According to the **prince of the power of the air**, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience” – Eph 2:2

The creation of our world was brought into the councils of heaven. There the **covering cherub** prepared **his request that he should be made prince to govern the world** then in prospect. This was not accorded him. Jesus Christ was to rule the earthly kingdom; under God He engaged to take the world with all its probabilities. The law of heaven should be the standard law for this new world, for human intelligences. Lucifer was jealous of Christ and this jealousy worked into rebellion and he carried with him a large number of the holy angels. Jesus, the Son of God, was not deceived by Lucifer's sophistry. He stood true to principle and resisted every line of reasoning of Lucifer and all the angels who had taken sides with him, thus evidencing that as He stood, every angel might have stood.

7LtMs, Ms 43b, 1891, par. 3



The great red dragon

“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, **according to Our likeness**; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So **God created man in His own image**; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” – Gen 1:26-28

“What is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him **a little lower than God**, and You crown him with glory and majesty!” Ps 8:4,5 NASB

“a little” – Hebrew [mehat] “God” – Hebrew [Elohiym]

“But one has testified somewhere, saying, “What is man, that You remember him? Or the son of man, that You are concerned about him? “You have made him **for a little while lower than the angels**; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and have appointed him over the works of Your hands” – Heb 2:6,7 NASB

“for a little while” – Greek [brachus]

Next to the angelic beings, the human family, **formed in the image of God, are the noblest of His created works**. God desires them to become all that He has made it possible for them to be, and to do their very best with the powers He has given them. MH 397.1

Man was the crowning act of the creation of God, made in the image of God, and designed to be a **counterpart of God**....Man is very dear to God, because he was formed in His own image. CD 45.2



The great red dragon

Satan brings great sufferings upon the bodies of human beings. He hates mankind because they are the **workmanship of God**. He opposed the creation of man.
6LtMs, Ms 38, 1890, par. 13

When Satan rebelled, there was war in heaven; and he, with all his sympathizers, was cast out. He had held a high office in heaven, **possessing a throne radiant with light**. But he swerved from his allegiance to the blessed and only Potentate and fell from his first estate. All who sympathized with him were driven from the presence of God, doomed to be no more acknowledged in the heavenly courts as having a right there. Satan became the avowed antagonist of Christ. On the earth he planted the standard of rebellion, and round it his sympathizers rallied.

20LtMs, Ms 78, 1905, par. 18

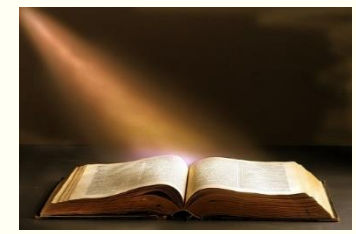
“For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, **I will exalt my throne** above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’”
– Isa 14:13,14

“To him who overcomes, I will grant to **sit with Me on My throne**, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne” - Revelation 3:21

“But the saints of the Most High shall **receive the kingdom**, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever...Then the kingdom and dominion, and the **greatness of the kingdoms** under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him”. Daniel 7:18, 27



Revelation 12:7-12



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. 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.”

Cast down

Little by little Satan came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation

“Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will **fall down and worship me.**” – Matt 4: 8-9

Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself. Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself. And coveting the glory with which the infinite Father has invested His Son, this prince of angels **aspired to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone.** To the very close of the controversy in heaven, the great usurper continued to justify himself. When it was announced that with all his sympathizers he must be expelled from the abodes of bliss, then the rebel leader boldly avowed his contempt for the Creator's law. He denounced the divine statutes as a restriction of their liberty and declared that it was his purpose to secure the abolition of law. Satan's rebellion was to be a lesson to the universe through all coming ages, a perpetual testimony to the nature and terrible results of sin.”

Bible Commentary, Volume 4, page 1162

“And He said to them, “I saw **Satan fall** like lightning from heaven.” – Luke 10:18

God informed Satan that...he (Satan) had proved himself unworthy a place in Heaven. Then Satan exultingly pointed to his sympathizers, comprising nearly one half of all the angels, and exclaimed, These are with me! Will you expel these also, and make such a void in Heaven? He then declared **that he was prepared to resist the authority of Christ, and to defend his place in Heaven by force of might, strength against strength.** 1SP 22.2



Cast down

Lucifer wanted to be **equal with God**, not desiring His character, but God's position and power (Eze 28:2,6)

Devil (Greek – “diabolos) meaning **slanderer**, false accuser

Satan (Greek – “satanas”) meaning **adversary**, circumventing by his **wiles**, incites apostasy

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” – 1 Pet 5:8

Abundance of “**trading**” (Greek: rekullah) meaning peddling merchandise or traffic

“You are of your father the **devil**, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a **murderer from the beginning**, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for **he is a liar and the father of it.**” – John 8:44


As the ancient serpent, he deceived one-third of the angels (demonic spirits)

“Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to **accuse** him.” – Zech 3:1

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.” – John 10:10

Satan is man's adversary, enemy and accuser who deceives the world





“...the exalted angel who was given a position next to Jesus Christ in the heavenly courts. Lucifer was enshrouded with glory as the covering cherub. Yet this angel whom God had created, and entrusted with power, became desirous of being as God. He gained the sympathy of some of his associates by suggesting thoughts of criticism regarding the government of God. This evil seed was scattered in a most seducing manner; and after it had sprung up and taken root in the minds of many, he gathered the ideas that he himself had first implanted in the minds of others and brought them before the highest order of angels as the thoughts of other minds against the government of God. Thus, by ingenious methods of his own devising, Lucifer introduced rebellion in heaven. But the exalted angel standing next to Christ was opposed to the Son of God. The underworking was so subtle that it could not be made to appear before the heavenly host as the thing that it really was; and so there was war in heaven, and Satan was expelled with all who would not stand on the side of loyalty to God's government. The Lord God stood forth as Supreme Ruler.”

Bible Commentary, Volume 4, page 1143

Cast down

“Cast down” – Greek [ballo] is a technical judiciary term for excommunication

“How art thou fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou **cast down** to the ground.”
– Isa 14:12

“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned but **cast them down** to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.” – 2 Pet 2:4

Satan casting down from heaven occurred twice: before the creation of man (in his contest with Michael) and at the cross. He was now fully excommunicated from the heavenly councils

“Now is the judgment of this world; now the **ruler of this world** will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to Myself” - John 12:31,32

After man’s creation, Satan still had limited access to heaven (Job 2:1,2) Not so after the cross! Victory and salvation was accomplished at Calvary. Christ death sealed the doom of Satan.

“Christ bowed His head and died, but He held fast His faith and His submission to God. “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.” Revelation 12:10. Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings. **Henceforth his work was restricted**. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken.” – Desire of Ages, page 761

Satan will be cast for the third time into the bottomless pit. His fourth and final casting is when he will receive his final reward when he is cast into the lake of fire. - Rev 20:1-3, 10



Michael won twice!!! Christ death on the cross assured Satan’s total defeat

“Good angels wept to hear the words of Satan, and his exulting boasts. God declared that the rebellious should remain in Heaven no longer. Their high and happy state had been held upon condition of obedience to the law which God had given to govern the high order of intelligences. But no provision had been made to save those who should venture to transgress his law. Satan grew bold in his rebellion and **expressed his contempt of the Creator's law**. This Satan could not bear. He claimed that angels needed no law; but should be left free to follow their own will, which would ever guide them right; that law was a restriction of their liberty, and that to abolish law was one great object of his standing as he did. The condition of the angels he thought needed improvement. Not so the mind of God, who had made laws and exalted them equal to himself. The happiness of the angelic host consisted in their perfect obedience to law. Each had his special work assigned him; and until Satan rebelled, there had been perfect order and harmonious action in Heaven. Then there was war in Heaven. **The Son of God, the Prince of Heaven, and his loyal angels, engaged in conflict with the arch rebel and those who united with him.** The Son of God and true, loyal angels prevailed; and Satan and his sympathizers were expelled from Heaven. All the heavenly host acknowledged and adored the God of justice. Not a taint of rebellion was left in Heaven. All was again peaceful and harmonious as before. Angels in Heaven mourned the fate of those who had been their companions in happiness and bliss. Their loss was felt in Heaven. The Father consulted Jesus in regard to at once carrying out their purpose to make man to inhabit the earth. He would place man upon probation to test his loyalty, before he could be rendered eternally secure. If he endured the test wherewith God saw fit to prove him, he should **eventually be equal with the angels**. He was to have the favor of God, and he was to converse with angels, and they with him. He did not see fit to place them beyond the power of disobedience.”

1SP 22.3 - 1SP 23.1

Cast down

Now the unfallen worlds and angel saw the real character of Satan that he was indeed a murderer and usurper for he shed the innocent blood of his Creator. Any residual sympathies regarding his rebellion were gone. Any doubts regarding the lies he peddled about God's character for over 4000 years were dissolved.

There was cause for loud rejoicing in heaven because the devil, the accuser of the people of God has been cast down. God's law has been vindicated.

But time must still be given so that the church, God's people can see these truth

“The **power** of His Christ” – exousia in Greek: means authority

Now the authority of Christ which was under question was finally established

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority has been given to Me** in heaven and on earth.” – Matt 28:18

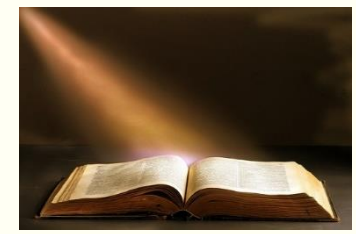
This is the secret of the victorious life for Christians. Their victory over Satan comes by virtue of what Christ has accomplished on the cross.

No more can Satan keep luring the believer to sin and then accuse them before God. The strength to successfully resist Satan is now available to all believers.

There is power in the blood. We overcome Satan because of Christ's shed blood. We also overcome Satan as we testify of the transforming grace of Jesus in our lives. Our victory is affirmed by our faithful witness to Christ and to the power of the gospel.



Revelation 12:13-17



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. **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 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.

War shifts to earth

The love of Christ gives the believer victory to triumph, remaining faithful and loyal, even in the face of hardship, trials, oppression, persecution or death

Recognizing his true character has been exposed and his doom has been sealed, Satan vents his fury upon the human race. His wrath increases as his time grows short as he intensify his efforts to deceive and destroy

The earth and sea together represent our world still under the deception of the devil

Satan knows he has a **short fixed time** until when the kingdom of glory is ushered (Christ second coming), and he is determined to take as many people as he can to destruction – to the fire prepared for him and his angels (Matt 25:41)

First the Jews were relentless in their persecution of the early Christians. Next was Pagan Rome. It is believed that 2.5 million Christians were martyred for their faith in the 1st century alone. Finally, persecution came from the Church of Rome

Wilderness (Greek – eremos) refers to a place of seclusion, obscurity or an uninhabited place, remote and removed from civilization

“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I **bore you on eagles’ wings** and brought you to Myself.” – Exodus 19:4

“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall **mount up with wings like eagles**, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” – Isa 40:31

As ancient Israel was carried out of Egypt on eagle’s wings, spiritual Israel escaped to the wilderness as persecution began in AD 538 under Justinian, the emperor of Eastern Rome. Many believers fled to desolate and solitary places of the earth to escape persecution



War shifts to earth

A time, times and half a time which commenced in 538 AD is 1260 years (Rev 12:6,14)

Through these years of Papal supremacy which lasted until 1798 AD, millions lost their lives

“Church historian Dr Summerbell states that Emperor Justinian published edicts in 538 AD compelling all to join the Catholic church in 90 days or leave the Empire and confiscated all their goods...His oppressive decrees precipitated persecution and led to the setting up of the bishop of Rome as **universal bishop**, The head of all the holy churches...and the **true and effective corrector of heretics**. True Christians were compelled to leave the empire amid massacres and flight.”

The Waldensian Christians were nourished in the wilderness where they fled for safety and refuge. There were remarkable valleys which were natural fortresses against invasion, which were also self-supporting. The soil was very fertile with an abundance of trees that bore nuts. The mountain was full of slate which the Waldensians used as building materials for their homes. Their territory was within the diocese of Milan which was for centuries independent of the Roman See. Milan was closely connected with the church of the East, which had been founded by apostles and withstood the papal influence. The **Christians of Milan kept the seventh-day Sabbath** when Rome was keeping the first day.



An attempt has been made by the Church of Rome to identify the Waldenses as followers of Peter Waldo of Lyons, France (12th century) or that they are a myth.

When the rest of Europe was deprived of the Scriptures which were locked up in the Latin language, the Waldenses had the Bible in their own language. God fed them through the study of His Word. They kept the lamp of truth burning throughout Europe during the Dark Ages. Their work culminated in the great Protestant Reformation.

War shifts to earth

Dragon and serpent are used interchangeably. Serpent represents deception, falsehood and cunning (Gen 3:13), while dragon denotes ferocity and persecution

The flood-like river refer to the strategies Satan used during the 1260 years to harm and destroy the people of God: **coercion, false teaching, deception, lies, persecution**

Flood (Greek – potamos) describes an overwhelming flow of water symbolizing destruction by the enemies of God's people: crusades, inquisitions, torture, death

When the snow on Mount Ararat melted, the great river Euphrates often overflowed into the Israel's territory. The prophets used this imagery to illustrate the invasion of Israel by her enemies from the north ("King of the north")

“Do not let the swift flee away, nor the mighty man escape; they will stumble and fall toward the **north**, by the River Euphrates. “Who is this coming up like a flood, whose waters move like the rivers? Thus says the Lord: “Behold, waters rise out of the **north**, and shall be an **overflowing flood**; they shall overflow the land and all that is in it, the city and those who dwell within; then the men shall cry, and all the inhabitants of the land shall wail.” - Jer 46:6-7, 47:2



God used the elements of the earth such as the mountains, natural fortresses, isolated valleys, deep forests, secret caves, cloud, mist, fog, wind, tempest, and tides to protect His people

Earth, as opposed to water, symbolize sparsely populated areas. Beyond Europe, other areas of refuge included parts of Ethiopia which were cut off from papal intrusion because of the Muslim conquests. Ukraine, southern Russia, Armenia and many other areas isolated from the papal influence by Arab and Turkish rule provided safe havens for the believers from persecution.

“Earthly rulers protected God’s people throughout the 1260 years of persecution. The first one of note was the noble **Theodoric, king of the Ostrogoths** in the 6th century. Count Raymond of Toulouse was a noted protector of the Albigenses. The king and queen of Bohemia were protectors of John Huss and his followers. The Protestant princes of Germany protected Luther and his followers. Some of the independent city states of Germany protected the Anabaptists. Some cantons of Switzerland protected Zwingli and his followers. The city state of Geneva gave asylum to John Calvin and to French and British Protestants. William of Orange...protected Dutch and German Protestants. Gustaf Adolphus, king of Sweden, led the Protestant armies against the Catholic European powers...to protect the Protestants. **Oliver Cromwell**, within the Commonwealth of England, was a great protector of English dissenters. He protected the people from the intolerant, pro-Catholic, Anglican church. Cromwell was also a threat to the persecutors of the Waldenses of his day. Count Zinzendorf of Saxony was a protector of the Moravians who fled from Roman Catholic persecution in their country. Probably the greatest protector of all was the **United States of America**, which by legislating civil and religious liberty, became the home of the oppressed...Thus in a symbolic sense, the earth opened her mouth and swallowed up the flood of persecution.”

AN ENDURING VISION - REVELATION REVEALED, PAGES 398

War shifts to earth

to make “war” (Greek – polemos) has its origin from pelomai meaning “to bustle”

One of the ways the devil is making war is by keeping God’s people busy in the hustle and bustle of life. Another powerful tool is the media

Media is the most serious and widespread addition in America today

Scott Ritsema’s study on “Media on the brain” highlights how the devil is using Hollywood, Bollywood, Nollywood, popular music, TV, video gaming, spectator sports, social media and porn to saturate the lives of God’s professed people

Science is showing the mind-altering effects of 21st century media as a result of the spiritual agenda in the **entertainment, social media and advertisement industries**



“The average teen now spends 9 hours/day on entertainment and social media, with the average adult logging nearly 8 hours. The average child will spend more time watching television by the age of 6 than he will spend in conversation with his father in his entire lifetime. Playing violent video games for only 10 hours a week results in weaker prefrontal brain function.” – Scott Ritsema

The typical child views over 200,000 acts of violence and 79,500 sexual scenes by the age of 18. Based on brain scans, science has confirmed that **what we see with our eyes is interpreted by the brain as if we are not merely seeing, but actually doing the activity being watched.**

“The conscious and intelligent manipulation of the organized habits and opinions of the masses is an important element in democratic society. Those who manipulate this unseen mechanism of society constitute an invisible government, which is the true ruling power of our country. We are governed, our minds molded, our tastes formed, our ideas suggested, largely by men we have never heard of.” – Propaganda, page 37

War shifts to earth

A remnant is a small piece of material left over from the original cloth with the same characteristics (texture, color, pattern) as the original

The rest of her offspring or seed (Greek – loipoy) means “**remaining ones**”

Followers of God are often depicted as a remnant, a minority clinging to the true faith while the professed followers who compromise with apostasy are often in the majority

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” – Matt 7:13,14

In the last events of earth’s history, as the whole world renders their allegiance and loyalty to Satan and his allies, God will have a remnant with unreserved faithfulness to him in keeping His commandments and holding to the testimony of Jesus

“who bore witness to the word of God, and to the **testimony of Jesus Christ**, to all things that he saw.” – Rev 1:2

“And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! **For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**” – Rev 19:10

The testimony of Jesus is the revelation communicated by Jesus Himself to His church, the testimony which Christ himself bears through those who have the gift of prophecy. The role of the prophet is to bear the testimony of Jesus to His people by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

God’s end-time people will be in possession of the prophetic gift. They will also uphold all ten commandments. The warfare the devil makes against the remnant is detailed in Chapter 13-17



“The trying experiences that came to God's people in the days of Esther were not peculiar to that age alone. The revelator, looking down the ages to the close of time, has declared, “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.” Revelation 12:17. Some who today are living on the earth will see these words fulfilled. The same spirit that in ages past led men to persecute the true church, will in the future lead to the pursuance of a similar course toward those who maintain their loyalty to God. **Even now preparations are being made for this last great conflict.**”

“As the people of God approach the perils of the last days, Satan holds earnest consultation with his angels as to the most successful plan of overthrowing their faith. He sees that the popular churches are already lulled to sleep by his deceptive power. By pleasing sophistry and lying wonders he can continue to hold them under his control. Therefore, he directs his angels to lay their snares **especially for those who are looking for the second advent of Christ and endeavoring to keep all the commandments of God.**”

“Satan is at work with those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus. The most bitter hatred exists within him against all who are **loyal to God and who obey His commandments**. He sleeps not; he does not abate his vigilance for one moment. Would that God's professed followers were half as wise, diligent, and persevering in the work of God as Satan is in his work.”

PROPHET AND KINGS, PAGE 605

MARANATHA, PAGE 208,

TESTIMONIES TO THE CHURCH, VOL 3, PAGE 456

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