

Revelation - Chapter 12 & 13

The War, The Beast & His Prophet

After John has witnessed God's wrath poured out in the Trumpet Judgments he experiences the second interlude. John is recommissioned for the second half of his prophetic role. During these interludes God comforts His people that He has not forgotten them, that He is still in control, and that they will ultimately be victorious.



John witnesses a massive angel vowing before God that there will be delay no longer. The time of God's patience is seen as having ended. The final number of the redeemed will be fulfilled and the judgment of the wicked will soon be complete.

John is given a measuring rod to measure the temple of God signifying that it belongs to God. Two fearless witnesses preach the gospel, fulfilling Jesus' declaration that, "the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matt 24:14).

The seventh angel blew the seventh trumpet and John hears a great symphony of voices expressing unrestrained joy that the power of Satan is to be forever broken and Christ is to reign supreme. There is a promise given to believers of unbroken fellowship with God forever.

The War

John will not see the results of the seventh trumpet until later in Chapter 16. He now sees a series of signs or symbols of events that will occur in Heaven and on earth during the Great Tribulation. There are six main characters:

- **Israel** - A woman clothed with the sun, moon under her feet, crown of twelve stars, with child, gives birth.
 - Described as a great sign indicating regal splendor for the nation of Israel.
 - Israel is represented throughout the Old Testament as a woman in travail. (Isa 26:17-18; 66:7-8; Micah 4:10; 5:3). Just like a pregnant woman in labor feels pain, so the nation of Israel was in pain, waiting for Messiah to come forth.
 - Also frequently described as the wife of Yahweh.

- Sun and moon represent Jacob and Rachel and the stars the sons of Jacob from Joseph's dream in Genesis 37:9-11. This identifies the woman with the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant.
- Crown of twelve stars refers to the twelve tribes of Israel.
- Moon could also include the concept of God's covenant relationship with Israel, since the moon was part of the cycle of Israel's required times of worship (Num 29:5-6; Neh 10:33; Psalm 81:3; Isa 1:13-14; Col 2:16).
- Israel is the source of many blessings including Jesus Christ, the apostles and the Bible.



- **Satan** - A great red dragon, seven heads, ten horns, seven diadems on his heads
 - Star of the morning (Isa 14:12) now a fallen angel; serpent of old (Gen 3:1), emphasizing his subtlety and treachery; devil or slanderer constantly trying to arraign God's people before the throne of God in Heaven; forever branded the adversary; the one who deceives the whole world. It is his habitual, continual activity. Satan lures people to their destruction by causing them to pay "attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons" (1 Timothy 4:1). He seduces people to believe him and not God (Genesis 3:4).¹
 - Red dragon describes Satan's vicious, deadly nature.
 - He is depicted as the ruler of the world. A seven-headed monster that represents seven consecutive world empires running their course under Satan's dominion: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and Antichrist's future empire.
 - The ten forms represent the kings of the ten-nation confederacy who will rule under Antichrist.
 - The shifting of the diadems from the dragon's heads to the beast's horns reveal the shift in power from the seven consecutive world empires to the ten kings under the final Antichrist.
 - The counterfeit of God, the Father.
- **Christ** - The woman's Male Child
 - Israel brought forth the Messiah (Isa 9:6).



- **Michael** - A Holy Angel

- An archangel; an angel of high rank.
- Daniel identifies Michael as one of the chief princes who guards the people of Israel (Dan 10:13; 12:1).
- The New Testament also reveals Michael to be the defender of God's people (Jude 9).



- **Antichrist** - The Beast from the sea, ten horns, seven heads, 10 diadems on his horns, blasphemous names on his heads, like a leopard, feet like bear, mouth like a lion

- Described as a wild vicious monster, ferocious personality.
- Represents both a kingdom and a person. Daniel and Paul both describe the Antichrist as a person (Dan 7:25; 8:24-25; 11:36-45; 2 Thes 2:4).
- Comes out of the sea summoned by Satan. He is seen as coming out of the sea which in the Old Testament is a metaphor for satanic activity (Job 26:12).

Therefore the Antichrist is probably coming out of the abyss where demons are currently located (Rev 9:1-11; Luke 8:31). Satan will be imprisoned in the abyss during the Millennial Kingdom (Rev 20:1-3). May also mean that he is a Gentile and comes from the Mediterranean area.



- He has a similar description to Satan having ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on his horns. Horns symbolize strength and power both for attack and defense. They represent the power of the kings who will rule under his authority.
- Seven heads represent the seven successive world empires listed above.
- Antichrist has the characteristics of the animals in the vision recorded in Dan 7:3-7. The lion symbolized the fierce, consuming power of the Babylonian Empire. The bear represents the ferocity, strength and stability of the Medo-Persian Empire. The speed and viciousness of the leopard represents the Greeks' swift conquests. The Antichrist's final empire will incorporate all the ferocity, viciousness, swiftness and strength of the other world empires. It will be unparalleled in human history.

- He will be a gifted orator, an intellectual genius, possess great charm and charisma and have immense leadership power.
- He will blaspheme God continually.
- The counterfeit of Jesus Christ.
- **False Prophet** - Beast from the earth, two horns like a lamb, speaks like a dragon
 - Comes out of the earth suggesting that he will be less overpowering and terrifying than the Antichrist.
 - Will appear as a subtle deceiver, with meekness and gentleness.
 - Will be winsome and persuasive, similar to the wolves in sheep's clothing Jesus warned of (Matt 7:15).
 - He will be Satan's (the dragon) mouthpiece, speaking his words, luring the world to worship the satanic dictator.
 - He will lead the worldwide religion of Antichrist worship.
 - Antichrist will delegate authority to him.
 - The counterfeit of the Holy Spirit.



John witnesses the following events which represent the most symbolization in the entire Bible:

- **Satan Sweeps a Third of the Angelic Host with Him to Earth.**

Lucifer was a beautiful angel in heaven, but one day he decided he was too wise, strong, glorious, and mighty to be anything less than God (Isa 14:12-15). He led a rebellion, ultimately fell, and took a third of the angels with him (Isa 14:12; Eze 28:12-17) ²

Since one-third of the angels fell, and Revelation 9:16 reveals that two hundred million demons will be released from captivity near the Euphrates River, there must be at least four hundred million holy angels. ³

This was the beginning of Satan's long war against God and His people. Satan hates Israel because she is the chosen of God and essential to the overall purpose of God for time and eternity.

- **Israel gives birth to the Christ Child & Satan Attempts to Devour Christ.** In spite of Satan's relentless efforts over the centuries to prevent it, Jesus is born. The dragon, referring to the Roman Empire at that time as dominated by Satan, is seen awaiting the birth of Jesus with the intent to destroy Him as soon as He is born.

When God told Satan in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman “shall bruise your head” (Genesis 3: 15), Satan began his campaign to eradicate that promised seed, Jesus Christ. Satan has attempted to cut off the Jewish line every since.

Satan incited Esau to attempt to kill his brother, Jacob, who would father the twelve tribes of Israel. He incited Pharaoh to murder all the Jewish baby boys in Egypt but Moses was hidden. After David’s descendant King Jehoshaphat died, a series of intrigues and murders eliminated the entire Davidic line except King Ahaziah’s youngest son who was hidden by the high priest’s wife. Thwarted but undaunted, Satan incited the wicked Haman to plot the extermination of all the Jews. God raised up Esther “for such a time as this,” and the promised seed was spared (Est 4:14).



When Jesus was born, Satan instilled fear and hatred in King Herod, who had all the babies in Bethlehem murdered. God intervened and directed Joseph to flee with his family to Egypt, thus sparing Jesus’ life. Herod an Edomite was a descendant of Esau and of the people who were the traditional enemies of Jacob and his descendants. (Matt 2:13-15). ⁴

Satan then confronted Jesus in the wilderness and attempts were made to murder Jesus several times. Each time Jesus miraculously escaped unharmed. When Jesus died on a cross on a Friday afternoon at three o’clock, Satan thought he had won his centuries-long campaign, but Jesus was raised from the dead once again thwarting Satan’s efforts. ⁵

- **Christ Ascends to Heaven with God on His throne.** This seems to represent Christ’s ascension where He now sits at the right hand of God, the Father interceding for all believers (Heb 2:17-18; 4:13-14; 10:14).

Jesus has brought salvation to all who will call on His name and believe in their heart and confess with their mouth that God raised Him from the dead (Rom 10:9-10) and during the Millennial Period He will rule all the nations with a rod of iron (Rev 12:5).

- **War in Heaven**

There has been war in heaven since the fall of Satan (Isa 14:12-14; Eze 28:11-18).

Satan and his evil angels have actively opposed both the holy angels and God's people since Satan's fall (Dan 10:12-13; 1 Pet 5:8).⁶ Even though Satan has been formally expelled from Heaven, God has still allowed him to come and accuse all the saints before God. The ultimate victory has been won, but it won't be totally implemented until some point in the future.



The grammatical construction of the phrase in the Bible indicates that Satan will start this particular battle. War wages and Michael and his angels are more powerful than Satan and his host. Satan and his evil host are cast down to earth. This describes Satan's second and permanent expulsion from heaven.

It is not specified when the war begins nor how long the war lasts but it may start at the beginning of the seven-year Tribulation, when the church is raptured but probably no later than the midpoint of the Tribulation.⁷ Perhaps Satan attempts to interfere with the passage of the believers as they are raptured through Satan's realm, triggering the battle with Michael and the holy angels.

This event was prophesied by Daniel the prophet in Daniel 12:1. From this point on Satan and his hosts are excluded from the third heaven, the presence of God, although their temporary dominion over the second heaven (outer space) and the first heaven (the sky) continues. Satan will now wage an all out war to prevent Christ from establishing His Millennial Kingdom.

- **Warning is Given to Earth & Sea Because Satan is Thrown Down to Earth**

The warning indicates that Satan has great wrath because he has only a short period of time left. This probably indicates that Satan is cast to the earth at the beginning of the Great Tribulation period with only three and one-half years left until Christ returns at which time Satan suffers his final defeat.

No longer having access to God to accuse believers, Satan will wage an unprecedented war on anyone belonging to God, especially Israel. Horrors of earthly evil will increase. Satan is described as the serpent of old, emphasizing his subtlety and treachery; the devil meaning slanderer or false accuser; Satan meaning adversary or enemy; and deceiver.



He will attempt to erase Israel from the face of the earth (Rev 12:13). The Jews have been hated, ridiculed and persecuted throughout all of history. This will be the worst and final wave of anti-Semitism that will roll over the world as God defends and protects His people.

- **War on Earth**
 - **First Attack**

Enraged by his ejection from Heaven, Satan pursues and persecutes the Jews. God will use believing Gentiles to aid the Jewish people and intervenes directly on their behalf. John sees Israel escaping into the wilderness on wings of the great eagle as also described in Ex 19:4 when God delivered the nation from Egypt. Wings symbolize strength (Isa 40:31) and protection (Deut 32:9-11; Psa 17:8; 57:1).



The location of the place where the Jews will flee is not revealed. Some have suggested Petra, an ancient city carved into the rocky cliffs of Edom between the Dead Sea and Gulf of Aqaba. Petra was easy to defend in ancient times because the only approach was through a narrow gorge. Jesus' warning to flee to the mountains (Matt 24:15-16) suggests that the place of refuge will not be in the coastal plain to the west of Jerusalem, or the relatively flat Negev desert region to the south. More likely, it will be in the mountainous region east of Jerusalem. ⁸

Just as God provided manna and quail in the wilderness to His people (Ex 16:12) He will again supernaturally feed His people for three and one-half years. While it is clear that God does preserve a godly remnant, Zechariah 13:8 indicates that two-thirds of Israel in the land will perish. ⁹ Frustrated by his defeat, Satan will launch a second attack on the Jews.

- **Second Attack**

Having failed at his initial attempt to massacre the Jewish people, Satan will resort to long-range tactics. Satan's attacking force will sweep toward the Jews' hiding place like a great flood. Reminiscent of Moses' description in Exodus 15:12: "You stretched out Your right hand, the earth swallowed them," the earth will swallow Satan's forces. Perhaps one of the frequent earthquakes during the Tribulation (Rev 6:12; 8:5; 11:13; 19; 16:18; Matt 24:7) will cause the ground to split open.¹⁰

- **Third Attack**

Enraged that he has lost again, Satan turns his fury toward new targets. This time he attacks all of those who name the name of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and hold to the testimony of Jesus. As we will see, Satan also is defeated in this attempt.

- **Satan Sets Up His Earthly Kingdom**

Satan will try to prevent Jesus from setting up His earthly kingdom by setting up his own kingdom under Antichrist. Together with the False Prophet, they will embody the sum total of all the world empires that have opposed God and His people throughout history.

Satan is depicted as the ruler of the nations of the world but in reality, he is a usurper who seeks the world's worship and adoration. His powerful empire, unparalleled in human history, will be his last and greatest attempt to stop the reign of Christ. Like all of Satan's other attempts to thwart God's purposes, it will ultimately fail. Jesus will come again, defeat Satan, set up His Millennial Kingdom and reign forever and ever.

- **Antichrist Arrives - Beast From the Sea**

Satan summons the Antichrist and gives him his power, throne and great authority. He will reign supreme and unchallenged by earth and hell. His totalitarian regime could accurately be described as "hell on earth."

Conquering the world has been the dream of countless rulers in the past and it is finally achieved by this last Gentile ruler.

He will make a seven-year covenant with Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation period, promising to protect the Jews from their many enemies. Israel will let down its guard and rebuild the Jewish Temple. Halfway through the seven-year Tribulation period, the Antichrist will break his covenant and turn against Israel (Dan 9:27).

He will cause deceit to prosper under his rule (Dan 8:25) and he will come into power peaceably and seize the kingdom by intrigue (Dan 11:21). Later he will

use force beginning a massive world war that continues until the return of Christ. The war is a rebellion against the universal rule of Antichrist and comes at the very end of the Tribulation period.



A startling event will help Antichrist solidify his hold on the world. He will suffer a fatal wound to the head that will be healed. Whether his death is real or fake is not clear. However, his alleged death and resurrection will be a counterfeit of Christ's death and resurrection.

People will believe that he has transcended death at a time when the world will be experiencing death at an unequaled level. With the horrific events of the Tribulation going on people will be devoid of hope and will flock to him like desperate sheep, ready to do whatever he says. The whole world will be amazed and follow after the beast. Their fascination with Antichrist will quickly become worship.

He will encourage and demand that worship by exalting himself above every god or object of worship and taking his seat in the temple of God (the abomination of desolation) displaying himself as being God (2 The 2:4). All whose names are not written in the Book of Life will worship him. By worshiping Antichrist, unbelievers will actually be worshiping Satan, the real power behind him. This worldwide worshiping of Satan will be the final form of apostasy.

Like Satan, he will be an arrogant blasphemer. God will allow Antichrist to blaspheme and his arrogance will surpass that of anyone else in human history. He will voice his master, Satan's, frustrated rage against God in a world filled with blasphemers. He will twist everything good, pure and holy. With burning eloquence he will turn people away from Jesus and to himself. The ultimate in blasphemy will occur when he sits in the temple of God to proclaim that he is god. God will grant Antichrist authority to act for three and one-half years, the last half of the Tribulation Period.

He will make war with the Tribulation saints on the earth and overcome them because they refuse to worship him. Believers will bear the brunt of his murderous fury. The result will be a worldwide slaughter of God's people like has never occurred in all of history (Rev 6:9-11; 7:9-17: 11:7; 17:6; Dan 7:25).

This persecution will require a level of spiritual stamina unparalleled in the numerous persecutions throughout history. This persecution will begin at the midpoint of the Tribulation when Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel and sets up the abomination of desolation (Dan 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Matt 24:15; 2 The 2:3-4).

The Counterfeit Christ ¹¹

Christ	Antichrist
Son of God	Son of perdition
Holy One	Lawless one
Came down from Heaven	Came up from the bottomless pit
Energized by the Holy Spirit	Energized by Satan
Does the Father's will	Does his own will
Cleansed the Temple	Defiles the Temple
Man of Sorrows	Man of sin
Humbled Himself	Exalts himself
Called the Lamb	Called the Beast
Received up to Heaven	Sent to the lake of fire

• False Prophet - Beast from the Land

John witnesses the rise of a second figure who will serve as the Antichrist's right-hand man. He will be Antichrist's propaganda or branding agent. Just as the false Christs who have plagued mankind will culminate in the final Antichrist, so also will the false prophets culminate in a final false prophet. He will be the counterfeit of the Holy Spirit.

He will be Satan's last and most powerful lying deceiver and Antichrist's partner in Satan's massive final deception of the world. His mission will be to cause people to worship Antichrist. He will be a unifier of the world's religion and he will then lead the worldwide religion of Antichrist worship.

His prestige will be elevated with Antichrist's resurrection. Those who reject the saving gospel of Jesus will eagerly accept the false gospel preached by the false prophet since it appears to be verified by spectacular supernatural signs. He will perform miracles that will be deceitful and deceptive in their purpose.

One of these wonders will be a celestial fire out of heaven. This is probably a counterfeit of when Elijah called down fire from Heaven (2 Kings 1:10). The Bible also teaches the Jewish tradition that Elijah will precede the Messiah (Mal 4:5). This fire may be Satan's counterfeit to tempt the Jews to worship the false messiah.

He will command the people to make an image to Antichrist and the world will engage in the most shocking, blatant idolatry ever seen. The blasphemous image will probably be set up on the temple ground in Jerusalem (2Thes 2:4) and will be connected with the abomination of desolation (Dan 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Matt 24:15).



The false prophet is enabled by Satan to impart a spirit to the image probably one of Satan's evil demons. As a result the image will speak intelligibly. People will be convinced that the image is alive and speaking of its own volition. This is another example of the dark power that will characterize the Tribulation period and allow Satan to gain credibility in the world's eyes so he can carry out his evil program and deceive many in the final days.¹²

The death sentence will be decreed for those who refuse to worship the image of Antichrist. Not all believers will be killed as some will survive until Christ returns and will enter His Millennial Kingdom as living people (Isa 65:20-23; Matt 25:31-40), including many Jews (Rev 12:6-7, 14).

As a counterfeit to God's sealing of the 144,000 Jews, the false prophet marks the unsaved to preserve them from Antichrist's wrath against God's people. They will receive the mark of the beast or Antichrist on their right hand or forehead. No one, rich or poor, will be exempt from receiving the mark. The number of the mark of the beast is 666, the number of man three times; this is man showing himself that he is God.



Those refusing to take the mark of the beast will have dire practical consequences to daily life; no one will be able to buy or sell without it. The

penalty for not taking the mark will be death. Antichrist's empire will maintain strict economic control over the world. He will now control religion, miracles, and money.

The Two Beasts

Antichrist - First Beast	False Prophet - Second Beast
Rises from the sea	Rises from the Land
7 heads with blasphemous names	1 head
10 horns with crowns	2 horns like a lamb
Authority given to him by the dragon, Satan	Exercising authority of Antichrist
Whole world worships the Antichrist because of the beast	Causes people to worship Antichrist
Speaks blasphemies against God for 42 months	Performs amazing signs to deceive the whole world into worshipping the rest beast's image
Makes war with the saints and overcomes them	Forces the world to receive the mark of the beast or be killed

Two-Part Tribulation: From Dimming to Darkness ¹³ Daniel 7:25; 9:27; 12:7 & Revelation 11-13 7 Years Total

First 3 Years	Second 3 Years
3.5 Years	3.5 Years
2 Witnesses	2 Beasts
Temple Restored	Temple Desecrated
Israel Flees	Israel in Wilderness
Saints Protected	Saints Martyred
Trumpets	Bowls

The Holy Trinity The Unholy Trinity

God	Satan/Red Dragon
Christ	Antichrist/Beast from the Sea
Holy Spirit	False Prophet/Beast from the Earth

The Celebration

When Satan is cast from Heaven to the earth, a loud voice begins praise to God. It appears to be the shout of triumph of the tribulation saints longing for and anticipating their ultimate victory. They identify Satan as the accuser of our brethren (Rev 12:10) eliminating the loud voice as being angels and indicating believers in Heaven.



So certain is the establishing of the kingdom and the rule of Christ that even though it is yet a future event, they are spoken of in the past tense. The heavenly worshipers rejoice that the first step, Satan's defeat and final ejection from Heaven, has already taken place. The salvation, power, kingdom of God and the authority of His Christ has come. The Tribulation saints have

overcome Satan because of the blood of the Lamb & word of their testimony. The Tribulation saints received their courage from Jesus even unto death where they joined Him in Heaven for eternity (Rev 12:11).

Ending

The warning "If anyone has an ear, let him hear" is echoed fifteen times in the New Testament with the phrase "He who has an ear ..." to emphasize a particularly important truth. In all its previous uses in Revelation (2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22), it is followed by the phrase "what the Spirit says to the churches." The omission of that phrase suggests that the church is not in view in this passage, having been raptured before the start of the Tribulation (Rev. 3:10).

If you have not accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, we encourage you to do so today while there is still time. You too can be counted in the redeemed and spend eternity with God in Heaven. Please pray the Scripture below:

"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."
(Romans 10:9–10, NASB95)