

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Revelation 12

Revelation 12: Israel Into the Wilderness to Dwell

Dr. Mark Alan Langner



Summary from Chapters 10-11

In Chapter 10, John was commanded to eat the Little Book, seemingly indicative of the coming judgments in the Tribulation Period.

Two Jewish Witnesses prophesy in Jerusalem, are ultimately killed by the Antichrist's forces, and are miraculously raised to life by God.

The end of Chapter 11 offers us a preview of the end of the Millennial Kingdom, apparently 1,000, plus 3 ½ years away.

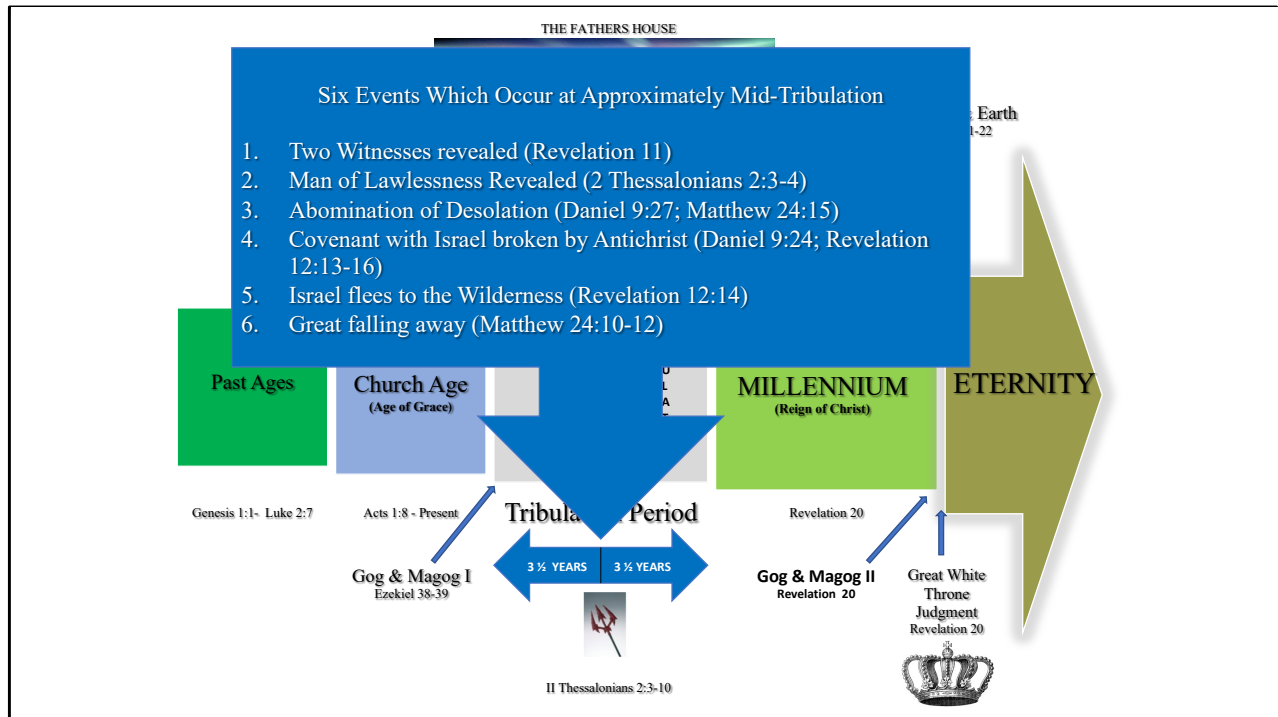
Two Key Points:

- 1) Chapters 10-14 all apparently contain parenthetical portions; that is, there are added details which help us understand the entirety of Jesus's Vision to John.
- 2) This section is overtly Jewish and expounds upon Daniel 9:24-27.

Revelation Rhymes

Revelation Chapter 1: A Picture of the Eternal Son
Revelation Chapter 2: Work of the Church to Do
Revelation Chapter 3: Where Should Our Church Be?
Revelation Chapter 4: God Worshiped By 24 and More
Revelation Chapter 5: Jesus the Lamb Alive
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Revelation Chapter 12: Israel Into the Wilderness to Dwell





The Mid-Point of the Tribulation is a tremendous turning point: Israel flees into the Wilderness; Persecution increases for both Israel and the Tribulation Church (people saved during the Tribulation, apparently and primarily through the witness of the 144,000 and the two Jewish Witnesses); and the antichrist and false prophet begin their open assault on all who oppose them. Regardless of the judgment and horror that took place during the First Half, Jesus still will save millions upon millions and the Holy Spirit is still very much at work. The Second Half (Great Tribulation) will be a horrible time upon the Earth.

Four Central Characters of Chapter Twelve



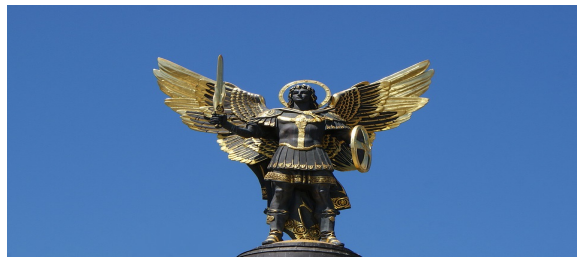
Israel: Revelation 12:1-2



Jesus the Christ: Revelation 12:5, 10



Satan, the Great Red Dragon (Revelation 12:3-4)



Michael the Archangel (Daniel 10:13, 12:1; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7)

The pictures you see are meant to help with the symbolic portions of Chapter 12. Please note the supporting Scriptures when you go back to review the notes.

Genesis 1:26-27
Made in God's Image

Genesis 3:1-13
The Fall

Genesis 3:15
The Provision

Genesis 12:3
The Promise

Egyptian Bondage; The Golden Calf; Saul and Absalom; Nebuchadnezzar; Haman; Herod; The Jewish Leaders and Rome; Hitler and the Death Camps; The Six Day War; The Yom Kippur War; the Munich Olympics; The United Nations; The Palestinian Authority; Hamas;
Future Failings: Gog and Magog 1; The Terror of the Antichrist

The Enemy's Failed Plans Against Israel

Revelation 12:16 (New International Version)
"But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth."

Satan's desire has always been to combat anything God chooses. Satan began to attack Adam and Eve, made in God's image, relatively soon after the man and woman were created. God spoke His plan for humankind's redemption in Genesis 3:15 and reiterated that promise through the Abrahamic Covenant.

Although the enemy is strong, he has still proven to be no match for our Great God.


Salvation for Zion

Isaiah 51 Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the Lord:
Look to the rock from which you were cut,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
² Look to Abraham your father,
and to Sarah who gave birth to you.
When I called him, he was only one;
I blessed him and made him many.
³ For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and he will make her wilderness like Eden,
and her desert like the garden of the Lord.
Joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and melodious song.
⁴ Pay attention to me, my people,
and listen to me, my nation;
for instruction will come from me,
and my justice for a light to the nations.
I will bring it about quickly.
⁵ My righteousness is near,
my salvation appears,
and my arms will bring justice to the nations.



The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon

12 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. **2** She was pregnant and cried out in labor and agony as she was about to give birth. **3** Then another sign appeared in heaven: There was a great fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven crowns. **4** Its tail swept away a third of the stars in heaven and hurled them to the earth. And the dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she did give birth it might devour her child. **5** She gave birth to a Son, a male who is going to rule all nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and to his throne. **6** The woman fled into the wilderness, where she had a place prepared by God, to be nourished there for 1,260 days.

<p>This is Israel, noted by the prophets as a woman who is going to give birth (Isaiah 26:17, 66:6-9; Micah 4:9).</p>	<p>Represents the Twelve Tribes of Israel (Genesis 37: 9-11). Notes Hindson: "The woman is not the Church! The woman is depicted here as giving birth to the Messiah ("the male child"). The Church did not give birth to Christ. Rather, Christ gave birth to the Church."</p>	<p>Satan, completely evil, attempted to kill the Child (seven here represents the totality of the enemy's evil nature). That he is red in color is reminiscent of the red horse in 6:4. This description of Satan is also given in Daniel 7:7-8, 20-24. Apparently, this passage also refers to the time past when Satan and a third of the angels (now demonic) fell from Heaven to the Earth. This passage also determines that it is Satan who is the real power behind Antichrist.</p>
<p>This is Jesus Christ (Psalm 2:7-9). The vision's content is emphatic – Jesus is the Messiah, and He will rule the nations.</p>	<p>This protection of Israel most likely takes place immediately after the midpoint of Daniel's Seventieth Week (during the Great Tribulation). This is a departure from the norm of the first half too; in that, Israel will be supernaturally protected by God (Israel will once again be in the wilderness).</p>	
		

Psalm 104:1-2 conveys God's majesty, perhaps the great sign (or wonder) of verse 1.

The wilderness in John's Gospel "functions as a place of witness, salvific healing, provision, and protection.

We should also note that John's Gospel contains many signs – all pointing to Jesus!

Genesis 37:9-10 help us to understand this vision regarding the woman. There may be some to attempt to insert Mary here, but the better view is that this is Israel. Isaiah 54:1 and Galatians 4:26 also both depict Israel as "a royal mother."

In verse 3, the description is similar to that of Daniel 2:7-8, 24, in which the enemy (Satan) is pictured as having primary control over the world empires during Great Tribulation.

In verse 5, the term "caught up" (*harpazo*: snatched away) is also the term used with Philip in Acts 8:39, Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:2-4, and in the Rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Because of the significant Jewish imagery in this Chapter, Amillennialists struggle to find meaning here. This chapter again provides significant evidence for dispensationalism. The identities of the woman, child, and offspring help determine whether one holds a pre- or post-Tribulation perspective.

The Dragon Thrown Out of Heaven

⁷ Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought, ⁸ but he could not prevail, and there was no place for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was thrown out—the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him.

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say, The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have now come, because the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been thrown down.

¹¹ They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; for they did not love their lives to the point of death.

¹² Therefore rejoice, you heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you with great fury, because he knows his time is short.

Although the war between God and Satan has been going on since the enemy and his loyal angels were cast from Heaven (Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1), this Revelation 12 war seemingly takes place at the midpoint of the Tribulation. Apparently, Satan continues to have access to God's presence (see Job 1:6-12, 2:1-7), but will lose this access when Michael the Archangel and his forces permanently banish the enemy. Satan, who deceived Eve, has been utilizing his manipulative methods from at least that time (The Fall) forward. But here, such tactics accomplish nothing at all. Michael and his fellow angels mightily triumph in behalf of their (and our) great God. The Triumph of Christ is noted here.

Regardless of the devil's accusations, our martyred brothers and sisters in Christ overcame the enemy through the blood of Jesus Christ and by the testimony of His salvation.



God's wrath will be poured upon Earth during the Great Tribulation. Added to God's wrath will be the wrath of Satan, who realizes the shortness of his time, and therefore attacks Israel in his great (Greek *mega*) fury.

The enemy continually accuses us (Christians) as well even today. Our Divine Advocate is none other than Jesus Christ the Lord!

The Woman Persecuted

¹³ When the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ The woman was given two wings of a great eagle, so that she could fly from the serpent's presence to her place in the wilderness, where she was nourished for a time, times, and half a time. ¹⁵ From his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river flowing after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman. The earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river that the dragon had spewed from his mouth. ¹⁷ So the dragon was furious with the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep the commands of God and hold firmly to the testimony about Jesus.

Persecution of Israel continues.

The great eagle is perhaps a symbol of divine activity (see also 4:7, 8:13; Exodus 19:4; Deuteronomy 32:11-12).

One year, two years, and half a year (3 ½ years).

The flood here is likely a symbolic rendering of a great attack by Satan upon Israel and the passage denotes God's corresponding supernatural protection.

Verse 17 is a point of some contention among scholars, with some theologians pointing to Jewish converts who encounter the wrath of the enemy, and others who believe that saved Israel will be protected; therefore, this offspring instead refers to the Tribulation Church (Gentile converts). Dogmatism here seems unwise, but it should be noted that the rest of the chapter (and Chapters 12-14 in general) are overtly Jewish in nature.



Catholics generally find verse 17 to be about the overall Church, with protection given to it rather than, necessarily, to individual Christians.

The Beast from the Sea

18 The dragon stood on the sand of the sea.

Some translations place this verse as the first verse of the next chapter. Nevertheless, there is a direct tie of the angry dragon and the beast of the sea.



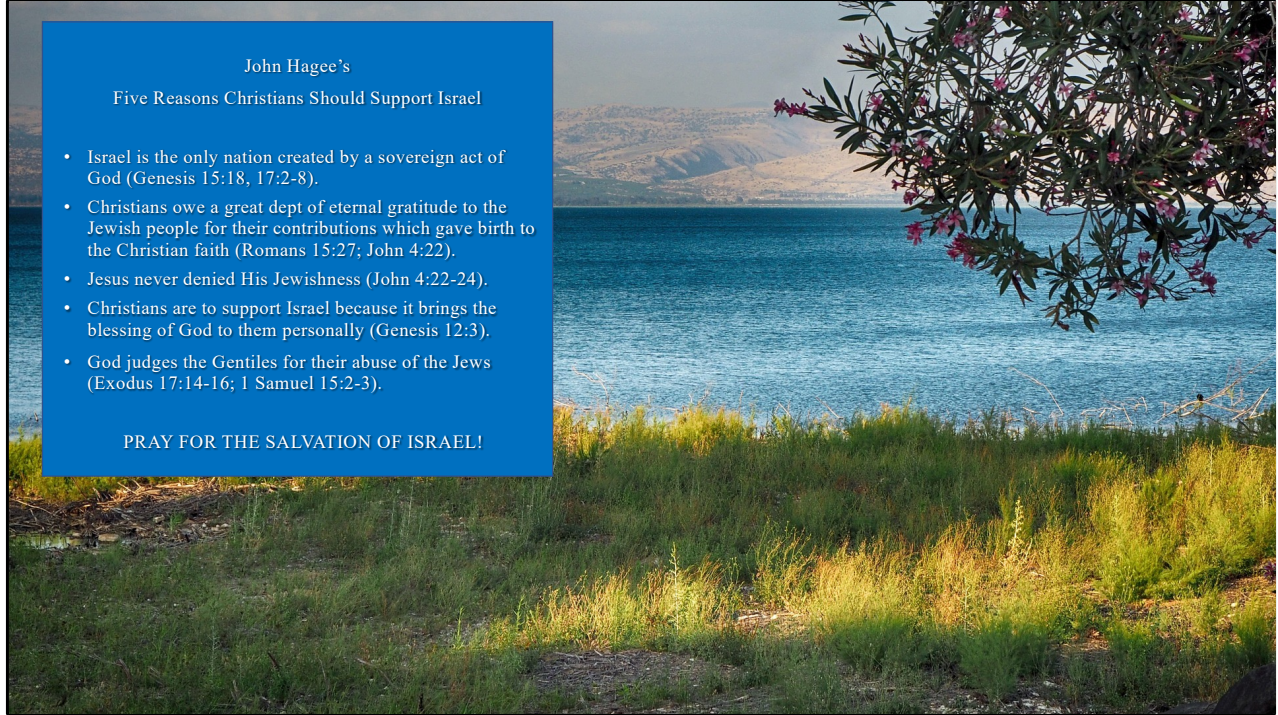
10 Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. **11** Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. **13** For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. **14** Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest, **15** and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace. **16** In every situation take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—which is the word of God. **18** Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.

“The Sea” is often referred to as:

The Mediterranean Sea.

The Roman Empire (Daniel 7).

People or nations of the world.



Galatians 3:29: “And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, heirs according to the promise”(CSB).

This is my favorite Bible verse, and connects the salvation of an individual to the Abrahamic Covenant (Praise God!).

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Revelation 13

Revelation 13: Antichrist the Great Unclean

Dr. Mark Alan Langner



The end of Chapter 12 leads directly into Chapter 13.

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Revelation Chapter 12: Israel Into the Wilderness to Dwell
Revelation Chapter 13: Antichrist the Great Unclean



13:1 And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten crowns, and on its heads were blasphemous names. ²The beast I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. The dragon gave the beast his power, his throne, and great authority. ³One of its heads appeared to be fatally wounded, but its fatal wound was healed. The whole earth was amazed and followed the beast. ⁴They worshiped the dragon because he gave authority to the beast. And they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to wage war against it?" ⁵The beast was given a mouth to utter boasts and blasphemies. It was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶It began to speak blasphemies against God: to blaspheme his name and his dwelling—those who dwell in heaven. ⁷And it was permitted to wage war against the saints and to conquer them. It was also given authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation. ⁸All those who live on the earth will worship it, everyone whose name was not written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slaughtered.

⁹If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen.
¹⁰If anyone is to be taken captive,
into captivity he goes.
If anyone is to be killed with a sword,
with a sword he will be killed.

This calls for endurance and faithfulness from the saints.



Thomas and Macchia:

"Mention of this beast would remind hearers of the reference to the beast who comes up from the Abyss, who made war against, overcame, and killed the two prophetic witnesses earlier in 11:7."

The beast is similar to the dragon in that it has ten horns and seven heads, apparently indicating strength and absolute power.

The description of the beast is similar to that of Daniel 7, which represent four kingdoms, the last making war against the saints and which also devours the whole earth. This beast appears to combine all the terrible aspects of the the Daniel 7 descriptions: the worst of the worst!

In verse 3, it appears that the antichrist will somehow be killed and raised to life, or at least have the appearance of being killed and healed. People will deny the resurrection of Jesus to follow the beast.

The Beast of the Sea: The Antichrist



The antichrist will rise from European roots (likely Rome or Greece); will come to power through diplomacy; will sign a covenant with Israel; will establish a one world government; will appoint ten kings/leaders over ten regions or countries; will set up a one world religion and a one world economy. He will allow Israel to build a new Temple in Jerusalem (perhaps at least partially due to Israel's initial alliance, covenant, and cooperation with the antichrist).

Daniel 8:8-12, Revelation 13:1; Daniel 8:25; Daniel 9:27, Isaiah 28:18; Revelation 17:12-15; Daniel 2, Revelation 17:12-15; Daniel 11:36-39, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, 2:4, Revelation 17:13; Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 11:1.

*Passages Color-Coded to Provide Biblical Background



Jesus Christ

From Above – John 6:38
Came in His Father's Name – John 5:43
Humbled Himself – Philippians 2:8
Despised by Men – Isaiah 53:3; Luke 23:18
Will be Exalted – Philippians 2:9
Came to Father's Will – John 6:38
Came to Save – Luke 19:10
Good Shepherd – John 10:1-15
True Vine – John 15:1
Is the Truth – John 14:6
Is the Holy One – Mark 1:24
Man of Sorrows – Isaiah 53:3
Son of God – Luke 1:35
Mystery of Godliness- 1 Timothy 3:16

The Antichrist

Will Ascend from the Pit – Revelation 1:17
Will Come in His Own Name – John 5:43
Will Exalt Himself – 2 Thessalonians 2:4
Admired by Men – Revelation 13:1-4
Cast Down to Hell – Isaiah 14:14; Revelation 19:20
Comes to do His Own Will – Daniels 11:36
Will Destroy – Daniel 8:24
Is the Evil Shepherd – Zechariah 11:16-17
Vine of the Earth – Revelation 14:18
Is a Liar – 2 Thessalonians 2:11
Is the Lawless One – 2 Thessalonians 2:8
Is the Man of Sin – 2 Thessalonians 2:3
Son of Perdition – 2 Thessalonians 2:3
Mystery of Iniquity – 2 Thessalonians 2:7

-Tim LaHaye



The Beast from the Earth

¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; it had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. ¹² It exercises all the authority of the first beast on its behalf and compels the earth and those who live on it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. ¹³ It also performs great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in front of people. ¹⁴ It deceives those who live on the earth because of the signs that it is permitted to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who live on the earth to make an image of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵ It was permitted to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast could both speak and cause whoever would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. ¹⁶ And it makes everyone—small and great, rich and poor, free and slave—to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, ¹⁷ so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark: the beast's name or the number of its name.

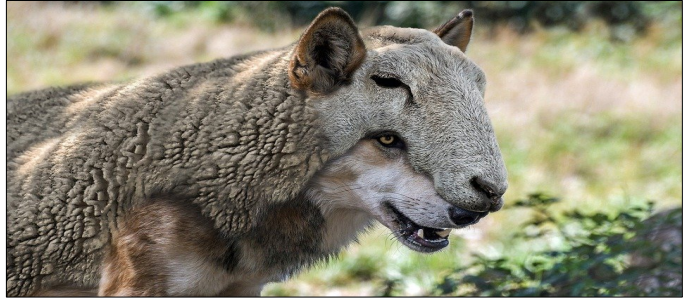
¹⁸ This calls for wisdom: Let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, because it is the number of a person. Its number is 666.



The Beast of the Earth: The False Prophet



The False Prophet will serve the Antichrist; will force people to worship the Antichrist (or face a penalty of death); will deceive through satanic sorcery; will make the image of the Antichrist; will compel people to take the Mark of the Beast; and will lead the world into a false one world religion.



666

The Mark of the Beast

Some attribute this number to the reign of Nero. Major Problems with this View: 1) Written significantly after Nero's reign and prophesy is about the future; 2) Scholars who posit Nero treat this number (666) literally here but almost all other Revelation numbers figuratively; 3) Nero was not worshiped by the entire world.

Some state 6 is the number of man, and that the triplicate form simply emphasizes complete evil and depravity.

Some state this is gematria (a numerical value associated with names). For example, in Hebrew each of the 22 letters also holds a numerical value. Therefore, 666 is simply the name of the antichrist.

Some note that seven (7) is the number of perfection, and 666 falls just short of such a number.



Revelation 14:10-11 seemingly indicates that those who take the mark can no longer be saved. We will talk more about this next week.

Fight the Enemy Through the Power of God

⁶But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says:

**God resists the proud
but gives grace to the humble.**

⁷Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

-James 4:6-8

