

The Church of the Servant King

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PROPHECY SERIES

(Proph21N_Revelation_chp12_Satan Cast From Heaven)

The Seventh Trumpet is sounded in Revelation 11:15. The details of the judgments associated with the Seventh Trumpet is not revealed until chapter 16. Chapters 12—15 seem to be another insertion of information about this same period of time – only from a different perspective. These chapters introduce the personages who are prominent during the second half of the Tribulation (a.k.a. the Great Tribulation). They do not advance the narrative chronologically, but they present events and situations that are concurrent with the trumpet soundings. The chronological progress of events resumes in chapter 16.

THE WOMAN, THE CHILD AND THE DRAGON (12:1-6)

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; 2 and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns and on his heads were seven diadems. 4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. 5 And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. 6 And the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she might be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Verse	Phrase	Notes
1	"...a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars..."	<p>The woman symbolizes Israel. In Genesis 37:9-11, the sun and the moon referred to Jacob and Rachel, Joseph's parents. It is undisputed that the virgin Mary was the human mother of Jesus. However, the symbolism doesn't fit Mary, but Israel – specifically believing Israel during its period of greatest suffering as the 2nd Advent approaches.</p> <p>The stars in the woman's crown are allusions to the 12 sons of Jacob and they identified the woman as Israel at the time that the Covenant with Abraham is on the verge of being fulfilled.</p>
2	"...and she was with child...in labor and in pain to give birth..."	<p>In John's vision, he sees Israel as the source of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>At the 2nd Advent, a new nation of Israel will be born and will become the center of the Messianic Kingdom. However, the birth of the Messianic Kingdom with Israel at its center will follow a period of great "labor" and "pain" – i.e. the Great Tribulation.</p>
3	"...another sign...a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns..."	<p>See Daniel 7:7-8, 24 and Revelation 13:1 for similar descriptions.</p> <p>Revelation 12:9 identifies the dragon as Satan. During the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation, Satan will directly empower (and probably indwell) the Anti-Christ who is described similarly in 13:1. The red color represents the bloodshed to establish his power.</p> <p>The "seven heads" and "ten horns" represent seven nations</p>

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		and ten rulers (cf. Rev 17:12). Ten kings will rule under his authority, but when the Antichrist rises to prominence among them, he will subdue three of them leaving only seven (Dan. 7:7-8, 20, 24; Rev. 13:1).
3	"...and on his heads were seven diadems."	The seven royal crowns (Gr. <i>diadema</i>) picture the political authority of these seven rulers during the Great Tribulation.
4	"And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and threw them to the earth."	The "stars" represent the angels Satan led in rebellion against God (cf. vv. 8-9; 9:1; Dan. 8:10; Jude 6; 2 Pet. 2:4). Satan has extensive authority, power and influence and the organizational structure for the angels that followed him must have been patterned after the organizational structure of the heavenly hosts of angels prior to his moral fall – a structure implemented by God the Father at their creation.
4	"And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth...devour her child."	Prior to the first advent of Jesus, the major component of Satan's strategy was to prevent the Advent of the Messiah (cf. Exod. 1:15-22; 1 Sam. 18:10-11; 2 Chron. 22:10; Matt. 2:16).
5	"And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron..."	The birth referred to is that of Jesus Christ at His first advent (v. 5; cf. Psa 2:9; Matt. 2:13; Rev 19:15).
5	"...and her child was caught up to God and to His throne."	This is an obvious reference to the Ascension of Christ after His resurrection (Acts 1:9).
6	"And the woman fled into the wilderness ...a place prepared by God, so that she might be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days."	Satan was not able to prevent Jesus' Advent to earth nor His ascension into heaven in a human, resurrected body. So, he turned his attention to Israel – attention that will climax during the Great Tribulation period, the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation period. John saw Israel as having fled into the wilderness where God will protect her for 1,260 days (three and a half years), the second half of the tribulation period (v. 14, 11:2-3). The protection that the wilderness will provide to believing Jews during this period is prophesied by Jesus in Matthew 24:16. Throughout Scripture a wilderness often represents a place of desolation, safety, discipline, and testing. The passive "be nourished" suggests that others, perhaps Gentiles but definitely God and angels (cf. Dan. 12:1), will care for the Jews at this time.

SATAN IS CAST OUT OF HEAVEN (12:7-12)

7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. 11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death. 12 "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them, Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth

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and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.”

Verse	Phrase	Notes
7	“And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon.”	<p>Michael the archangel (Jude 9) is the leader of God’s angelic army. He is presented as Israel’s special patron (Dan. 10:13, 21; 12:1). He evidently holds a very high rank among unfallen angels – comparable to Satan among the fallen.</p> <p>John saw him engaged in battle with Satan and his angels, the demons. Michael battled with Satan in the past (Jude 9), but the conflict in view here evidently takes place just before the last half of the Tribulation.</p>
9	“And the great dragon was thrown down...to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”	<p>Satan’s forces proved weaker in the angelic battle and they are cast out of heaven. Satan will no longer have access to heaven (cf. 20:11; Dan 2:35; Zech 10:10). With Satan no longer having access to heaven, God will no longer hear the accusations against believers from the great accuser.</p> <p>The timing of this event is the middle of the Tribulation period. This is the point at which the AntiChrist breaks his covenant with Israel and erects his statue in the Holy of Holies and requires all to worship him – the ‘abomination of desolation’ (cf. Matt 24:15; Dan 9:27). This conclusion also reconciles well with the Satanic activity on earth, the hardness of men’s hearts and the judgments that are poured out upon the earth as described in the revelation of the Great Tribulation (chs. 6 –11 and 13 - 18).</p> <p>The Bible presents a progressive defeat of Satan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is cast out of heaven in the middle of the Tribulation (Rev 12:8-9) • He is later bound for the duration of the Millennial kingdom (Rev 20:1-3) • He is released, leads a revolt, is defeated and is thrown into the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:10) to join the Antichrist and the false prophet
11	“And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.”	<p>John hears another chorus of praise in heaven – praise that anticipates the imminent expulsion of Satan from heaven. The believers who Satan formerly accused before God in heaven became the more intensified focus of his attacks once he was ejected from heaven. Many will suffer martyrdom as a result of their faith and testimony. But their “defeat” in life will translate to a victory celebration in heaven.</p>
12	“...rejoice, O heavens...Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath knowing that he has only a short time.”	<p>Satan’s activities increase in intensity during the 1,260 days (3 ½ years) of the Great Tribulation period because he knows that he only has a short period before the Christ returns to reassert complete dominion over the earth and he is bound (Rev 20:1-2).</p>

THE WOMAN IS PERSECUTED (12:13-17)

And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. 14 And the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, in order that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. 15 And the serpent poured water like a river out of

his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. 16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who kept the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Verse	Phrase	Notes
14	“And two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, in order that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.”	<p>The Israelites will flee from Satan in the future as they fled from Pharaoh in the past (cf. Exod. 14:5; Josh. 24:6). Jesus predicted this flight in the Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24:15-28; Mark 13:14-23).</p> <p>The Israelites will receive divine assistance in fleeing from the dragon (note the passive “were given”). God is described as bearing the Israelites “on eagles wings” when He enabled them to escape from Pharaoh (Exod 19:4; Deut 32:11; cf. Isa 40:31).</p> <p>Therefore, we should understand the eagle to be a metaphor describing the way God will save them, i.e. with strength and safety. The comparison between an eagle that can fly overhead and an earth-bound serpent implies the superior protection of God.</p> <p>No one will be able to buy or sell during the Great Tribulation without the mark of the beast (13:17), so it is likely that God will make miraculous provision for these believers.</p>
15	“And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.”	<p>This could be a literal flood of water, but the contour of the land of Israel would not really lend itself to such a flood that could carry everyone away. Perhaps the best explanation is to understand this to be a reference to armies that give the appearance of an overflowing river when viewed from the vantage of the mountains to which the believing remnant has fled (cf. Jer. 46:7-8; 47:2-3).</p> <p>Throughout the Bible, a flood is a metaphor for overwhelming evil (cf. Ps. 18:4; 124:2-4; Isa. 43:2).</p> <p>Zechariah 13:8 indicates that two-thirds will be struck down and will perish, but one-third will be delivered.</p>
16	“And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.”	<p>In the past the ground swallowed the Egyptians (Exod. 15:12) and later Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (Num. 16:28-33; 26:10; Deut. 11:6; Ps. 106:17). Perhaps God will do similar miracles to preserve the fleeing Jews in the future.</p>
17	“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who kept the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”	<p>Frustrated with his failure to completely annihilate all of the Jews who have fled, Satan (via the Antichrist) turns his attention to the Jewish people who did not flee – particularly believers.</p>

Revelation 12 introduces four important persons and one group of people who are living during the Great Tribulation: Israel, Satan, Christ, the archangel, and the remnant of Israel. In Revelation 13, two more important persons are introduced to complete the scene.