

Revelation 12:1-17 (NIV)

¹ A great and wondrous 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 pain as she was about to give birth.

³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads.

⁴ His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.

⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.

⁶ The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

⁷ And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.

⁹ The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

¹¹ They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

¹² Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

¹³ When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

¹⁴ The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.

¹⁵ Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent.

¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

¹⁷ Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring--those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Revelation 12:1-17 (NIV)

2-4-2024

In Rev. 11:15 we saw the 7th trumpet had sounded. It's outcome/details will not be revealed until Chap. 16. Chapters 12-15 view end time prophecies from another perspective, introducing great personages who are involved in the 2nd half of the 7-year period.

¹ A great and wondrous 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 pain as she was about to give birth.

1. **THE WOMAN** The woman (while yes, Mary) symbolized Israel (out of which she came), with the 12 stars on her head (crown) being the 12 sons of Jacob. The woman (Israel) fulfilled the covenant with Abraham. The woman clothed with the sun refers to the future glory of Israel.

Genesis 37:9-10 (NKJV) "Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers...this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." ¹⁰ So he told *it* to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What *is* this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

So, OT Jacob (the sun), OT Leah (the moon), and the 12 stars (12 sons of Jacob) SCRIPTURE HELPS TO INTERPRET

³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads.

2. **THE RED DRAGON (w/ 7 heads/10 horns)**

Dragon used 13 times in Revelation—8 in chap. 12. In Rev. 20:2 "...the dragon., that serpent...the Devil..."

Dan. 7:24 "Its ten horns are ten kings who will rule that empire..." **Demonically controlled kings**

3. **THE MALE CHILD** -- Jesus Christ (the "male child, who will rule all the nations..."—v5)
4. **THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL**—casting Satan out of heaven
5. **THE OFFSPRING OF THE WOMAN**—persecuted by the dragon
6. **THE BEAST OUT OF THE SEA** -- the future world dictator
7. **THE BEAST OUT OF THE EARTH** – the False prophet

⁴ His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman (Mary yes...Israel yes) who was about to give birth (Jesus yes... rebirth of Israel yes), so that he might devour her child the moment it was born (Jesus yes...Israel, 1948 yes).

The devil's influence and power is seen here, as he extends his power over those who oppose him spiritually or politically.

⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.

- Mary (a Jew) gave birth to a son... Jesus (a male child) ultimately will rule!
- After Jesus' resurrection, he was "snatched up," which speaks of Jesus' ascension into heaven.

⁶ The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

Here, the woman (Israel) flees into the desert – must flee Israel.

God will prepare a place for His people...a place they will be fed, for ½ of the Great Tribulation period.

In my study...

Matthew 24:15-16

Many believe this refers to Jordan...and more specifically Petra. Petra grew in the middle of a harsh, barren desert. The Nabataens were experts in surviving in the desert—they knew how to collect and distribute water.

They developed a way to collect and store water in watertight holes/cisterns, that kept water safe from evaporation and enemies. GOD WILL DO THAT FOR ISRAEL...AND HE'S PREPARED IT AHEAD OF TIME.

ALSO, GOD HAS A PLACE OF REST AND PROVISIONS PREPARED FOR CHRISTIANS! 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 (NLT2) "I don't want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground. ² In the cloud and in the sea, all of them were baptized as followers of Moses. ³ All of them ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ.

John 7:37-39 (NIV) "On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Revelation 7:13-17 (NIV) "Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?" ¹⁴ I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. ¹⁶ Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

⁷ And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

NOTE: Wars, battles on earth are also being fought in the heavens!!! Win there, and we win here!!!
The great struggle for the souls of Israel and the believers in the end time will be occurring in the spiritual world. Remember: Israel and the believers are having to flee for their lives from the worst holocaust the world has ever seen. It has been launched by the antichrist, the one man who embodies the very evil of the devil himself.
YAY! THE DEVIL AND DEMONS WERE EXPELLED FROM THE HEAVENLIES! WOE...THEY ARE HURLED TO THE EARTH!
GOD HAD A PLACE FOR HIS PEOPLE... BUT FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS DEMONS...THEY LOST THEIR PLACE!
MICHAEL – GOD'S ARCHANGEL, with God's other angels.

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

A LOUD VOICE – DECLARATION OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE...HAS BROUGHT ABOUT!

The devil accuses the "brothers," Christians... day and night.

Scripture teaches that Satan takes the sins of believers and throws them up into God's face. He points out every failure of a believer. Why? As stated before, to hurt and cut God. God gave His Son to die for the sins of men.

Therefore, every time a believer sins, the devil tries to convince God...

- the death of His Son was wasted and useless—not
- that the believers' love for Christ and God is hypocritical and shameful.
- that the believer could care less about God—not enough to obey God. If he did, the believer would not sin.
- the believer is not worth all the pain and hurt; that God should go ahead and wipe out the human race.

¹¹ They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

As the victory was won in the heavenlies...then... Israel AND the church overcome because of 3 things:

- 1. The blood of Jesus**
- 2. The word of our testimony**
- 3. NOT loving our lives—even unto death!**

Matthew 16:25 (NLT2) “If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.”

¹² Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.” ¹³ When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

Satan will severely persecute the woman (Israel), and all believers who refuse to deny Christ. There will be a holocaust unparalleled in human history. Through the antichrist, Satan will launch an attempt to literally wipe the Jews and believers from off the face of the earth. The world will witness not a local or national holocaust but a world-wide slaughter. All over the world...

- the knock on the door by the secret police will be heard by frightened Jews and believers hovered in the corners of their homes.
- Arrests and jailing will be efficient and quick and will include children as well as adults.
- Boxcars will roll once again as they have so often in history, packing Jews and believers together like herded cattle.
- Execution camps will be restored and the executions will be quick and efficient.

¹⁴ The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.

The woman (Israel) and believers will be delivered by the wings of an eagle. This is simply a picture of the delivering arms of God. This does not mean, of course, that no Jew and no believer will be killed. The exact opposite is true: the antichrist will slaughter millions, more by far than any other holocaust ever launched in history (cp. Rev. 7:4, 9). God will give His dear people the wings of an eagle to deliver some on home to heaven and others to safety upon earth. Note that the persecution will continue for three and one half years (cp. Rev. 12:6).

¹⁵ Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷ Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring--those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

The serpent, the devil, will attempt to flood Israel and believers with tribulation after tribulation. The idea is an onrushing flood of trouble and persecution, attempt after attempt, horror after horror.

Does this mean that the Lord will cause natural disasters to stop, distract, require the attention of the antichrist?

No matter how, the dragon will launch an attack on Jews and Christians. **1 Peter 5:8-11 (NLT2) “Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are. ¹⁰ In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. ¹¹ All power to him forever! Amen.**