

The Revelation

Lesson 10

A pattern has emerged in these last few chapters. With the end of the *Sixth Seal*, the “**great multitude**” that no one could number armed with palm branches had arrived in heaven – the Church. All church members from the Day of Pentecost to the blowing of *Seal Six* were together with the LORD forever and ever. No believers were left on earth. Then, with the end of the *Sixth Trumpet*, the people of the Nation of Israel, with its headquarters in Jerusalem, gave “**glory to the God of heaven.**” Israel had put away her rabbinic Judaism and finally acknowledged the LORD as God thanks to the ministry of the two witnesses. Those two events will take care of the Church and Israel the two most precious things that belong to the LORD. When we get to the *Sixth Bowl of Wrath*, Satan will have called for all his forces to gather in the Valley of Megiddo. From all over the world, the evil rebellious God-hating people would gather in one accord to do away with the LORD at His Second Coming. Little did they know, although they should have known because of the presence of the Holy Scripture in the world that they would be doomed. Proverbially, they were *sitting ducks* in the valley. They were the one thing in the world the LORD hated – idolaters. But their story would have to wait. For now, with the *Seventh Trumpet*, the LORD has antagonized tribulation participants to introduce along with their long histories and rebellion in the world.

7. Trump Seven – Woe Three (11:15-15:4)

a) The Sound in Heaven (11:15)

Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

What a grand announcement from heaven! It was not from just one loud voice, but it was from the “**voices.**” The creatures in heaven knew what the world did not. It was an announcement of fact, not fiction. The plan of God was in process and the day was quickly approaching when the LORD would sit on His throne in Jerusalem and rule the world as one kingdom, His kingdom. Throughout the ages, the world has been divided into kingdoms, some large and some small, none of them powerful enough to rule every square inch of the earth. But that will be different with the LORD. He is powerful enough! The world under His rule will be one kingdom. John heard the voices speak, “**The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.**” Once the LORD is King, no other king will ever reign again on earth.

b) The Reaction in Heaven (11:16-17)

Rev 11:16 And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying, "We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign."

Of course, upon the announcement that the LORD would soon reign as King of the world, the twenty-four elders fell on their knees and worshiped God just as they had done since they were created. Their words of worship were, **“We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. ...”** It was God the Father who symbolically gave the LORD God (God the Son), all the power needed to reign over the world. He has had it all along; He could have come at any time to be the King, but a plan was in place for the world and that included allowing Satan time to do his thwarted will. But his time in office was soon coming to a close. Satan had never really been in control and soon he would be removed from his office completely.

c) The Decision in Heaven (11:18)

Rev 11:18 "And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time *came* for the dead to be judged, and *the time* to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth."

Continuing on, the twenty-four elders spoke, **"And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time *came* for the dead to be judged, and *the time* to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth."** The wrath of the LORD had already been felt worldwide because of the two witnesses of the LORD. Time on earth up to this point in the story had been filled with terrible affliction because of their ministry. All the nations were thrilled when they were finally killed but were horrified when they were resurrected and ascended into heaven. They were **“enraged”** according to the elders at the **“wrath”** that came through the ministry. The time for judgment and reward was on its way, the **“dead”** to their eternal destruction and the bond-servants and saints to their eternal **“reward.”** The decision had been made in heaven and the countdown to **“destroy those who destroy the earth”** would soon begin.

d) The Appearance in Heaven – History within Prophecy (11:19-13:8)

John’s eyes have not left heaven. He has just watched the twenty-four elders react to the announcement by the voices proclaiming that the LORD was about to begin His reign over the whole kingdom of the world. To do that, He would need to **“destroy those who destroy the earth.”** For a clear picture of who those destroyers are, it is time for a history lesson. The purpose of the review of this history is to quickly tell the story of the world up to this point in the REVELATION, the world the LORD controlled in His righteousness and ruled over with a rod of iron. Furthermore, it is the story of the Nation of Israel, the same Israel that just accepted the LORD as Savior in the previous section. This history began on the first day of creation and will run through the ages to bring us right back to this place in the story where Israel found her salvation at the end of the ministries of the two witnesses.

(1) The Ark (11:19)

(a) The Sight in Heaven (11:19a)

Rev 11:19a And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple,

Assuredly, the history of the story of the world began with God. It began with God's Covenant for His creation, signed, sealed and delivered to the safety of the "Ark" in God's home in "His Temple." This Ark was not the one constructed by Moses and his craftsmen at the foot of Mount Sinai! This Ark was the One measured by Moses in order to construct a replica on earth. The one constructed by Moses represented the covenant of God on earth. The One that John was seeing was the eternal Covenant of God, untainted by the world and all its ills. This Covenant contained the whole plan of God, everything from eternity past to eternity future. It was put in place on the first day of creation before the LORD hung a blue water ball out in the courtyard of His home and called it earth.

(b) The Reaction on Earth (11:19b)

Rev 11:19b and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

Just the mention of the original Ark of the Covenant in the temple of God caused a reaction on earth. A storm broke out and an earthquake occurred, it was another quake, different from all the others.

(2) The Woman (12:1-2)

(a) Clothed with a Crown of Twelve Stars (12:1)

Rev 12:1 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;

John then saw the representation of a woman and child in heaven. It symbolized the actual story which had long since occurred on earth. Adam, Seth, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enosh, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah, Shem, Apachad, Eber, Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, Terah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were the twenty-one generations of men, the son of a son of the one who came before, all an important part of the story designed in the Covenant stored in the Ark in the Temple of God in heaven. This story is foundational in the history of the world. It is the story found in the book of Genesis. Oh, each of these men listed had other sons, but God's story was not so much about them as it was about these twenty-one men. The list began with Adam – the first human created by the LORD. The others represented the godly line of men who lived over a 2,650 year period found in the pages of Genesis. The last in the list was Jacob and the LORD did something special with him; he changed his name to Israel. By the end of the book of Genesis, Jacob had twelve sons, Reuben, Levi, Simeon, Judah, Isaachar, Zebulun, Gad, Asher, Dan, Naphtali, Joseph and Benjamin. These boys were the twelve stars in the crown of Jacob whom the LORD called Israel. Thus, we have a small nucleus of a family born and soon to be known as the Nation of Israel. Her birth was recorded in the book of Genesis, her toddler years were recorded in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. It was then that she learned about her LORD and received instruction from Him as a toddler learns from a parent the important lessons of life. In the books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth, she was a like most girls 6 to 11 years old, smart enough to know right and wrong but not quite smart enough to know why things are right or wrong. In the rest of the books of the Old Testament we see her in rebellion to God in her teenage years. In First Samuel we see her rebelling against God, rejecting God and demanding a king. She received what she wanted as she grew into a full mature woman, continuously out of God's will. Her rebellion was so bad that she needed a judicial correction

and God took virtually everything from her and sent her to spend time in the custody of another nation. She was released to return home and, for a short while, she acted as if she had changed her ways, reformed we might say, but that was not the case.

Surely you have noticed in this story that encompasses the whole of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New that we have referred to the Nation of Israel with feminine pronouns – she and her. In the passage John said, **“and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.”** He, too, used feminine pronouns and this language was not without purpose. However, in the original language of Hebrew for the Old Testament, the Nation of Israel is always *masculine* and it is always *singular*, meaning the nation as a whole is treated as if it was one entity even though it consists of many people.

To confuse the subject even more, the original Hebrew Old Testament addresses the Nation of Israel in feminine terms. What is the difference between the Nation of Israel being *masculine* and the Nation of Israel being *feminine*? The answer is simple. Are you addressing the people of Jewish blood called the Nation of Israel or are you addressing the physical country named the Nation of Israel? Simply speaking, if the text is speaking of a group of people, the *masculine pronoun* is used; if the text is speaking about the country that the people live in, the *feminine pronoun* is used. The same applies to people of Israel, Babylon, Egypt, Syria or any other group bound by a national name. The *masculine* is to be used. The same applies to the physical boundaries of Israel, Babylon, Egypt, Syria or any other land mass with a national name. The *feminine* is to be used.

Was John correct when he calls this woman with twelve stars *her*? Absolutely! It just so happened that when the Nation of Israel (*masculine*) conquered the Promised Land, the land mass acquired the same name as the people, the Nation of Israel (*feminine*). From the taking of the Promised Land in 1464 BC until Nebuchadnezzar became its ruler in 606 BC, the term, the Nation of Israel was a truthful name for the land and the people. However, when Nebuchadnezzar became *her* ruler, as a Gentile power, the Nation of Israel was only a group of landless people until 1948 AD when *he* finally took control of the Promised Land again and owned *her* own country again.

John is correct in this passage because the two main purposes of the REVELATION focus on first, the salvation of the people of the Nation of Israel (*masculine*), whose political and religious capitals are housed in the country called the Nation of Israel (*feminine*), and second, the battle for that country in order for it to become the earthly home and throne of the LORD when He arrives to make the whole world His kingdom. In the context of this passage, John is speaking about the country and the people.

(b) With Child in the Pain of Birth (12:2)

Rev 12:2 and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

The Nation of Israel ultimately came to a point where she needed a Savior to save her from herself. She was living on her Promised Land, but the Romans owned it. She was just a tenant. As the Nation of Israel, she was trying to have a child that could rule over the nation, she was laboring and in pain for a Savior. God sent her a Savior in the form of a baby, sent from heaven. He was not just any baby; He was the Baby - God in the form of a Baby.

(3) The Great Red Dragon (12:3-4)

(a) His Look (12:3)

Rev 12:3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads *were* seven diadems.

Then John saw the “**great red dragon**.” In verse 12:9, John will tell us that this dragon is “**the devil and Satan**.” It is by no mistake that the *child of the woman of Israel* was born at a specific time in history. This description of the dragon is specific to Satan’s activity in the world through the ages. John was not imagining the appearance of this devil. He was actually seeing seven heads with ten horns and seven diadems; however, even though Satan is portrayed this way in the REVELATION, the three descriptions of him tell his history and the affliction he inflicted on the Nation of Israel through the years.

(i) His Seven Heads (12:3)

The seven heads represent the seven empires that Satan has controlled – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and the final government we will call the Revived Roman Empire. Satan’s first control of the Nation of Israel began in Egypt when she was but a child. In her young adult life, she was divided into two nations, the Northern and Southern Kingdoms. Assyria controlled the north with *his* devilish ways until *she* was finally stolen from her land. The remaining Southern Kingdom held out for a while but finally followed the devilish ways of the north and was removed from her land and taken to Babylon. Just seventy years later, the Medo-Persian Empire took over the Babylonian Empire and acquired the Nation of Israel by default. About two-hundred years later, Alexander the Great conquered the Medo-Persian Empire and began to rule the Nation of Israel. After his death, four of Alexander’s generals divided the Empire into four quadrants and each took a part to rule. They were referred to in the Bible as the kings of the North (Syria), South (Egypt), East (Babylon), and West (Roman) but they were all Greek by heritage. As time progressed, marriages and wars among the families of the four generals and their successors through the years caused a melding of the four into one – the Roman Empire. It was this empire that was in power when Jesus was born, all of them Gentile empires, all of them ruled by Satan and the ways of his world.

With six empires clearly defined in a prophecy to Daniel found in the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, the LORD revealed that the Roman Empire would be divided into two sections, called two legs – the east and west. We also discover that the two empires, the Western Empire and the Eastern Empire, would both be conquered and the conquerors would divide the land mass of each into five toes or countries on each leg – ten in all. Then it further tells us that those ten toes will one day join to form the final empire to afflict the Nation of Israel as all the other six have done through the ages. Those ten countries are called “**horns**” in the Scripture.

(ii) His Ten Horns (12:3)

As just mentioned, “**horns**” are the symbols of countries in the Bible. The actual number of kings or rulers to lead each country makes no difference when considering the “**horns**.” Each horn is a country. With the takeover of the Western and Eastern Roman Empires, ten countries were formed. The Germanic Goths defeated the Western Empire in 476 AD and subsequently divided the land mass into the countries of *Britain, France (Gaul), Spain, Italy and North Africa*. The Ottoman Muslim Turks defeated the Eastern Empire in 1453 AD and

subsequently divided the land mass into the countries of *Greece, Macedonia, Turkey, Syria and Egypt*. These are the ten countries that surround the *Great Sea*, known as the Mediterranean Sea, save for the horn of *Britain*.

(iii) His Seven Diadems (12:3)

The mention of the “**seven diadems**” is a confirmation that Satan was the ruling agent over the seven empires we have already mentioned in this passage. The word “**Diadem**” is another word for *crowns*. In this case, each empire had a ruler and each ruler wore a *diadem*. This great red dragon was seen wearing a *diadem* on each of his heads because he was, in essence, the ruler and power of the seven major empires of the world that inflicted great affliction on the Nation of Israel. We must remind ourselves, none of this was a surprise to the LORD.

(b) His Legion (12:4a)

Rev 12:4a And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.

Satan did not act alone in his dealings with the world and the Nation of Israel. Satan is only one creature and can be in only one place at one time. He cannot be in heaven and on earth simultaneously. Neither can he leave heaven but still know what is taking place in heaven. He is not all-knowing, all-powerful or all-present. Therefore, he needed help in his devilish deeds. He recruited one-third of the angels in heaven to leave their positions of authority in the LORD’s work to take positions in Satan’s evil spiritual army. John saw it as a sweeping of Satan’s tail which is a way of symbolically saying that he successfully convinced them to rebel against the LORD and join his forces.

(c) His Longing (12:4b)

Rev 12:4b And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

Once Satan sinned against the LORD before entering the garden to tempt Adam and Eve, he knew the plan of the LORD and that He would one day come to the earth to be the Savior through the Nation of Israel. When Jacob had his twelve sons, Satan finagled a way to get them into Egypt, an empire he controlled. This, too, was no surprise to the LORD; He had already told Abraham that this would happen. Evidently, Satan was hoping to thwart the rise of the Nation of Israel by keeping them in bondage and slavery in Egypt, but that, too, was not unknown by the LORD; He had a plan to thwart Satan. Through each of the successive empires, the Nation of Israel survived. Finally, under rule of the sixth empire it was time for the birth of Jesus. Satan could not stop it. He was waiting with a plan! His faithful lunatic king, Herod the Great, would do the job. He would have all the babies under the age of two killed. The plan failed.

(4) The Child (12:5)

Rev 12:5 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.

Thirty-three years transpired in this one verse covering the birth of Jesus, the details of His life, the impact of His ministry, the establishment of His ultimate rule, the day of His

death, His resurrection and His ascension to return to His seat on His throne with God the Father. Satan was definitely outwitted by the Creator.

(5) The Wilderness (12:6)

Rev 12:6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

After the LORD's resurrection, the Nation of Israel became the enemy of His followers. That, too, was not a surprise to the LORD. Forty years after His ascension, Satan's empire destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem and that was fine with the LORD. His people had rejected Him, He no longer inhabited the Temple. It was not needed any more. It was time for His nation, the Nation of Israel, to go into the wilderness. That was His plan and Satan unwillingly participated in it. It would have been better for Satan if the Temple still stood. It would have given him more authority as he hid in the recesses of its halls and walkways and ruled in the rituals put in place by the LORD. With the Temple gone, the leaders of the Nation of Israel recreated their faith into a Judaism barely recognizable in relations to the instructions of the LORD given at the foot of Mount Sinai when she was just a toddler.

But in the REVELATION, it was time for the LORD to bring the Nation of Israel back into a relationship with Him. He was going to provide for her for 1260 days. She did not understand yet; she was still rebellious, she, too, hated those dreaded two witnesses. She did not understand that they were there for her. They had stopped the rain, destroyed the crops, rid her of the ability to play the harlot with other nations and put her in position so that she had no other place to turn for help but the LORD. And if she thought her affliction had been bad in the past, she had no idea about what was coming to earth next.

Where are we in the story at this point? The history of the Nation of Israel has been told right up to the point of the appearance of the two witnesses. We already know their story, we are now going to learn about the Satanic attempt on earth. The 1260 days of Israel's tribulation that would lead to their belief in the Messiah would soon start in the story! But first, all the characters that would cause their tribulation must be put in their respective places on earth.

(6) The War (12:7-8)

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. 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.

Following the story line, we are now looking past our future for a war to break out, not on earth, but in heaven. It will be a war that will result in the eternal eviction of heavenly creatures from God's home and throwing them to earth. It will be an angelic war – **“Michael and his angels”** against **“the dragon and his angels.”**

Before we go any further in this story we must address the place of the dragon in the here and now – where is Satan? For that answer we must go to the Scripture. In the book of Job, we found Satan, **“roaming about the earth and walking around on it”** (Job 1:7; 2:2). In the days of King David, we found Satan standing up **“against Israel”** (1Chronicles 21:1). In Zechariah, we found Satan in heaven before the LORD, **“standing at his right hand to accuse him”** – Joshua the priest (Zechariah 3:1-2). In that passage, Satan was attempting to

prove that Joshua was not worthy to serve in the Temple as the priest. In the Gospels, Satan was in the wilderness with Jesus (Matthew 4; Mark 1).

With just that background we found Satan doing his work in both heaven and on earth. Now we must ask a question. “*Was Satan thrown out of heaven when he rebelled against the LORD in the beginning?*” This thought is based on words we find in Jude 1:6, “**And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.**” This verse is a direct reference to the extremely evil angels whom the LORD saw fit to put in an angelic jail until the time of the judgment. However, this verse has been applied to Satan in order to say that he was kicked out of heaven long, long ago. First, if that is the case, they were not kicked out of heaven because the text says, “**angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode.**” If anything, it was the angels who left their “**domain**” and “**abode**,” on their own. But with a closer look we can find that the scholars tell us the word “**domain**” means *beginning or origin* and the word “**abode**” means *habitation*. Satan and these evil angels were not created without a purpose. They had a job to do in heaven. When they sinned, they were not kicked out of heaven. Think of it this way, Satan and the angels simply abandoned their jobs in heaven when they decided to rebel against God. Throughout all the centuries, they have been able to go and come from heaven as they wish or as directed by their leader, Satan. But, in the future, just before the beginning of the tribulation, the LORD will rid heaven of all the rebellious heavenly creatures once and for all. How will that happen?

A war will break out in heaven between Michael and a group of righteous angels against Satan and a group of rebellious angels. Satan’s throng will not have enough power to win the battle. Heaven will have no place for evil any longer and the streets will be washed of evil forever. It is the place where sin began. At this point in the story, the angelic war will oust Satan once and for all.

(7) The Eviction (12:9)

Rev 12:9 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.

The eviction of Satan from heaven and his evil band of angels will occur. In this passage, the LORD makes sure we know the identity of this character – without question. This great red dragon being thrown to earth from heaven is no other than “**the devil and Satan.**” We have both names for a reason. The name “**devil**” is found only in the New Testament, a translation of a Greek word. The name “**Satan**” is found in the complete Bible, both in Hebrew and Greek. With all the uses of the name “**devil**” in the New Testament, it is extremely important that he is directly identified as “**Satan.**” If this passage did not occur in the Scripture, we would have the possibility of the development of a theology that would have applied these two names to two different creatures. With this passage we know the two names apply to the same creature. This passage also applies another name to Satan, “**the great dragon**” or as in another location in the Revelation, “**the great red dragon.**” We saw him in Eden as a serpent; by the end of the Bible, he had grown into a “**great dragon.**”

(8) The Accuser (12:10)

Rev 12:10 Then 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, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

As this great red dragon is being identified, the little information that he had in the Scripture concerning the work of Satan is greatly expanded in just a few words, **“for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.”** Just the words **“day and night”** indicate that Satan’s work of accusing believers has been constant, without a break, without a rest, without a vacation. Satan is not omnipresent. He cannot be at two places at one time. If Satan was accusing the believers **“day and night,”** he had little time to focus his attention on other details. Therefore, he needed a force to work with him and he found them in other angels who agreed to rebel with him and do the dirty work that he could not accomplish.

The eternal plan of the LORD was working its way to its conclusion. Therefore, the voice in heaven announced, **“Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come.”** Another step in that process had been completed with the ousting of the accuser. The time clock was ticking. But no one in all of humanity through the years has been immune from Satan’s influence. With his eviction, the LORD spoke to some of his victims.

(9) The Overcomer (12:11-12a)

Rev 12:11 "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 when faced with death. ^{12a} "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them.

The battle between Michael and his forces and Satan and his forces is over. Never again would Satan have a platform to accuse believers in heaven. Never again would the souls under the altar who have died and received their robes of white have to endure the sound of his voice railing against the beloved of the LORD. Those souls **“overcame”** because of the death of the LORD on the cross to be the Savior of those who would believe in Him. The souls under the altar **“overcame”** because of their belief. They **“overcame”** when they were killed by evil men under the control of Satan. Their reward became eternal life with Jesus and for that reason, with the eviction of Satan from heaven, the heavens rejoiced because of the eternal life given to the martyred souls of those believers.

(10) The Devil (12:12b)

^{12b} 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."

The loss of the war will infuriate Satan. He will have lost his ticket to enter heaven at will, he will have lost his place of prominence before the LORD to do his evil accusing of the righteous, and then, he will have landed on earth, enraged. But greater than that, he will finally know the length of time he will have to do his dirty deeds. He will not know the time until he is ousted from heaven. We might say from a heavenly point of view that he has very little time left when we compare the span of eternity. But from a human point of view, this

heavenly war may not come for many days and years. Nevertheless, when it all takes place, Satan's time, even in human terms, will be short.

(11) The Persecution (12:13)

Rev 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *child*.

When Satan arrives on earth he will focus on one group of people, the Nation of Israel. It will be his intent to mistreat Israel with every power he still has available to him. From a heavenly position, he will be limited; from an earthly position, his power will still be great. He will attempt to control the world to destroy the Nation of Israel. No doubt his eyes will be on the land of Israel, the home of the Nation of Israel, at least at first.

(12) The Flight (12:14)

Rev 12:14 But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could 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.

Here we come upon an interesting statement, **“But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place ...”** What **“great eagle”** is John identifying? The only eagle mentioned so far in the Revelation occurred in the sounding of Trumpet Four (8:13). However, it was not called a **“great eagle”** in that passage. Therefore, we do not know if this was the eagle that announced that the remaining three trumpets would be three **“woes”** or was a different eagle? Perhaps it will be a great eagle. John had never seen an airplane in his life; they would not be invented for another 1,800 years. If this was actually an airplane, the Nation of Israel would no doubt board as many as needed to fly away to safety somewhere in the world. Wherever that place is, it has already been prepared for her and she will be there for **“time and times and half a time.”** It is generally agreed among scholars that the Hebraism **“time and times and half a time,”** represents three and a half years with **“time”** meaning one year, **“times”** meaning two years and **“half a time”** meaning half a year. When we add that all together, it equals three and a half years. The same language was used in Daniel's prophecy (Daniel 7:25; 12:7). Once Israel makes her departure, she will be safe from the wiles of Satan.

What has happened in this story line? The LORD has presented to John the **“the great red dragon ... the devil ... Satan,”** and in doing so, He has also presented what this dragon will attempt to do to the beloved Nation of Israel. We do not see it here, but this part of Satan's story in connection with the Nation of Israel, will occur after Israel's conversion and the beginning of the second half of the seven years of tribulation after the deaths of the two witnesses. The witnesses controlled the first three and a half years in Israel and Satan controls the second three and a half years. After her salvation, Israel will be forced to leave her Promised Land and retreat to her wilderness protection. Where will that be? She knows where it is. She has owned it all along since the days of her victory to obtain the Promised Land. It is in the southernmost part of her land, in the wilderness. Take any map of Israel and look to its southernmost border and what do you find? The wilderness! Moses' sister Mariam was buried in that region, so was Aaron his brother. Kadesh Barnea lay in its boundaries; it was the place of the great sin that caused the LORD to send Israel back to Mount Sinai for thirty-eight more years of wilderness journey. The first great battle that the

Nation of Israel fought was in that region, and they won with the LORD doing most of the fighting. The Amalekite king had no real chance of a victory even though he started the fight. Elijah ran to this wilderness when he was so afraid of Jezebel. He was brave enough to stand up to all the prophets of Baal one day, but the next day he was so afraid of the threat of the king's wife that he ran far away to this same region. Abraham had lived there too and so did Isaac. The people of Israel will be able to run far enough in her own wilderness to be away from the dragon that controls her capital, Jerusalem. But that is all getting ahead of the story in the REVELATION and we will cross that path again later.

(13) The Flood (12:15)

Rev 12:15 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.

As Israel gives up her *holy city* to Satan, on her flight out of town, Satan will attempt to overrun her with **“water like a river out of his mouth.”** Once again, we do not want to get too far ahead in the story, but the LORD may have defined His meaning of the word **“water”** in a future verse as follows.

Rev 17:15 And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.

In this passage the LORD is describing the **“waters”** that the **“harlot”** is sitting on as **“peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.”** We would love to see this dragon actually spew water from his mouths in an attempt to drown the nation of Israel as she runs to the south, and no doubt that would make a great movie. But the LORD is extremely consistent in everything He does and the words He uses. It is extremely reasonable to use this same definition with the flood of water that will come from Satan's mouth. It will be a flood of people under the direction of Satan who will attempt to overtake the nation as she leaves. Here we must bring in other *End Times* Scripture to prove this point.

The book of Obadiah in the Old Testament was written after the Edomites deserted their land in the southern portion of the Promised Land and relocated to the Gaza Strip area and began to marry into the Philistinian nation. But the book prophesies that the Edomites will rebuild their homes in the land of Edom and establish their old capital of Teman before the Second Coming of the LORD. It must be in place because the LORD will destroy the Nation of Edom before He destroys the forces gathered at Armageddon. His clothing will be stained with the blood of the Edomites before He reaches the valley of Megiddo. Their sin is explained in Obadiah. Here are some pertinent excerpts.

Ob 1:1 The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom— We have heard a report from the LORD, And an envoy has been sent among the nations *saying*, "Arise and let us go against her for battle"—² "Behold, I will make you small among the nations; You are greatly despised. ...

⁴ "Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," declares the LORD. ...

¹⁰ "Because of violence to your brother Jacob, You will be covered *with* shame, And you will be cut off forever. ¹¹ "On the day that you stood aloof, On the day that strangers carried off his wealth, And foreigners entered his gate And cast lots for Jerusalem— You too were as one of them. ¹² "Do not gloat over your brother's day, The day of his misfortune. And do not rejoice over the sons of Judah in

the day of their destruction; Yes, do not boast in the day of *their* distress. ¹³ "Do not enter the gate of My people In the day of their disaster. Yes, you, do not gloat over their calamity in the day of their disaster. And do not loot their wealth in the day of their disaster ¹⁴ "Do not stand at the fork of the road To cut down their fugitives; And do not imprison their survivors in the day of their distress. ¹⁵ "For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head. ¹⁶ "Because just as you drank on My holy mountain, All the nations will drink continually. They will drink and swallow and become as if they had never existed. ¹⁷ "But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape, And it will be holy. And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions. ¹⁸ "Then the house of Jacob will be a fire and the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau *will be* as stubble. And they will set them on fire and consume them, So that there will be no survivor of the house of Esau," For the LORD has spoken.

This *End Times* prophecy speaks of the final doom of the Edomites because of their participation with Satan's nation to block Israel in her escape from Jerusalem during her time of great distress and tribulation. It mentions not only Edom but also others which will also participate in the affliction on the Nation of Israel – **"peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues"** all moving under the control of Satan to annihilate the LORD's chosen people.

(14) The Help (12:16)

Rev 12:16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.

To understand this verse, we must understand how the earth will help the Nation of Israel escape from this dragon. The text states that **"the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river."** How does that happen? It occurs with an earthquake. We already know about this earthquake. John foretold the quake in 11:13 when the two witnesses rose from the dead and ascended into the clouds. At that point a great earthquake will destroy ten percent of Jerusalem and 7,000 people will die in the quake. Because of the testimony of the two witnesses and the miracle of their resurrection, Israel will finally believe in the Messiah they had long before cast away.

(15) The Children (12:17)

Rev 12:17 So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

When the leaders of the Jews in Jerusalem have left the city and are safe in the wilderness, Satan will change his strategy. He cannot attack those who have escaped, but he can afflict the millions of Jews left behind in the Promised Land and the countries he controls. The Israelites are now believers and they will be keeping to the commandments of God and holding to the testimony of Jesus. The LORD calls them **"the rest of her children."**

But the great red dragon, Satan, will not do all of this alone in the future, he will need help. Here the LORD has introduced the Nation of Israel and this dragon for the first time. The LORD still must identify several more characters who will aid Satan in causing Israel great affliction. The next two participants will have an uncanny resemblance to Satan, the great red dragon himself!