

"THE BOOK OF REVELATION"

CHAPTER TWELVE

"THE WOMAN AND THE WAR"

I. THE WONDERS IN HEAVEN (1-6)

A. Begin with the appearance of a woman (1-2)

1. She is described as clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, wearing a crown with twelve stars, and being in travail of birth.
2. This woman here is no doubt _____ (Gen. 37:9-11). The sun and the moon represent Jacob and Rachel; the twelve stars represent the twelve tribes of Jacob or Israel. The travail represents Israel giving birth to her _____.

B. Continue with the appearance of a great red dragon (3-4)

1. This dragon is described as having seven heads, ten horns, seven crowns and a tail which drew a third part of the stars of heaven. It is also described as standing before the woman to devour her child.
2. According to verse 9 the dragon is the _____. The seven heads with crowns and ten horns represent Satan's united _____ over which Antichrist will rule (Rev. 13:1; 17:3). The third part of the stars cast out of heaven is a reference to the fallen angels who followed Satan when he rebelled against God (Isa. 14:12-15; Job 38:7; Jude 6; II Pet. 2:4).

C. Are followed by historical and prophetic events concerning Israel, Christ and the devil (5-6).

1. The first event is _____ and concerns the woman bringing forth a male child who was to rule the nations with a rod of iron (5).
 - a. This event is referring to the birth of _____ who was made of the seed of David according to the flesh (Rom. 1:3). According to Psa. 2:9; Rev. 19:5, this one is none other than Christ.

- b. The dragon standing before the woman to devour the child (4) refers to Satan the murderer (Jn. 8:44) who tried to kill Christ at His _____ (Matt. 2:16). He tried to prevent Christ's birth also (Jer. 22:24-30).
2. The second event is _____ and concerns the woman's son being caught up to God (5).
- a. This event refers to the _____ of Christ (Acts 1:9-11) after His death and resurrection.
- b. Notice He was caught up not only to God but to His throne. This can only refer to Christ (Heb. 1:3; 10:12).
3. The third event is _____ historical but rather _____ and concerns the woman fleeing into the wilderness and being fed 1260 days (6).
- a. This event refers to Israel who will flee Antichrist's _____ during the last half of the tribulation period.
- b. The time of their flight from persecution will run the whole last 3 1/2 years of the _____ which is designated as 1260 days, 42 months in 11:2 and as "a time, times, and half a time" in 12:14. Note Matt. 24:16-20.
- c. Note the lapse of time between verses 5 & 6 is not unusual in Scripture. We note the same things in Daniel 9:27; Jn. 5:28,29; Rev. 20:4,5.
- d. Note also the events of verses 13-17, which describe Israel's flight from persecution, follow verse 6. In other words, the war in heaven (7-12) precedes Israel's persecution.

II. THE WAR IN HEAVEN (7-12)

- A. Will be between the holy angels and the fallen angels (7)
1. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels.
 2. This event marks the beginning of the great tribulation period and is prophesied in Dan. 12:1. Michael the archangel is God's special angel assigned to _____ (Dan. 10:13,21; 12:1; Jude 9).

B. Will result in the defeat of Satan and his fallen angels (8-9).

1. Notice there was no place anymore in heaven for Satan and his angels. Presently he appears there to accuse God's people (12:10).
2. This event of Satan and his angels being cast out of heaven into the earth is no doubt why the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation period will be so horrible. Satan will enter into the man of _____ (12:3).

C. Will be followed by an announcement of victory for the saints and woe for those upon the earth (10 - 12).

1. The salvation is a reference to the deliverance when Christ comes to establish His _____ (10).
2. The Kingdom here is speaking of Christ's _____ Kingdom which will follow the great tribulation (10).
3. Those saints who overcame Satan is referring to those martyred during the _____ period (11).
4. The woe upon the inhabitants of the earth is the result of Satan being cast out of heaven. When he is cast out in the middle of the tribulation he will be full of _____ because he will know then that his time is short (12); and now he can no longer accuse the saints in heaven, he will persecute them on the earth.

III. THE WOMAN IN HARDSHIP (13-17)

A. Is the persecution of Israel which will occur when _____ is cast out of heaven (13).

B. Is provided for by the Lord (14-17).

1. The woman was given two wings of a great eagle that she might fly into her place in the wilderness (14). This is a figure of speech used of God's _____ for His people (Ex. 19:4; Dt. 32:11-12).
2. This place where she is nourished (14) may refer to the mountain region of _____ with its rock cliffs (Dan. 11:41).
3. The time that she is nourished is once again the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation period (14).

4. When the serpent cast water out of his mouth like a flood the earth opened her mouth and swallowed it (15-16).

a. This flood of water is probably symbolical of _____ persecution against Israel. It will be widespread, overwhelming and no doubt an all out attempt to exterminate the Jews.

b. If the flood is symbolical of Gentile persecution then the earth swallowing it up may well refer to an _____ or the like which will consume many of Israel's persecutors.

5. Notice the devil will be angry when the woman is protected from his flood and he will make _____ against those who are left (17). According to this verse anti-Semitism will be the greatest it has ever been at this time and will surpass Hitler's attempts to exterminate them. According to Zech. 13:8 about 2/3 of Israel will perish.

6. Keep in mind as we close this chapter that it, along with chapters 13 & 14, is parenthetical and gives us a look at the characters of the tribulation. In these chapters we see the following:

a. The woman represents Israel.

b. The dragon represents Satan.

c. The male Child is Christ.

d. Michael is the archangel who stands for Israel.

e. The remnant of the woman's seed represents those Jews who are not killed.

f. The beast out of the sea represents Antichrist, the world dictator.

g. The beast out of the earth represents the false prophet who will be the religious leader of the world.