

THE GREAT RED DRAGON

Revelation Chapter 12

Even as Christians, we must understand that if Satan cannot rob you of eternal life, he will try to destroy your dreams, your relationships, your joy, and your influence for God in this earth. As powerful as Satan is to “steal and destroy”, his power is restrained right now by God like a junkyard dog on a very long chain. He is limited on what he can do, but a day is coming when God will take off that chain and allow Satan to be free to do as he wishes on this earth. The earth will experience evil like it has never experienced before and this will be accomplished through a human puppet we call the AntiChrist as Paul writes about in 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8. In Revelation 12, we see God’s restricting hand removed from Satan, which sets the stage for the great tribulation that will befall on the earth in the last days.

What are signs? A sign is something that points to something else. If on the highways, you see a sign that says “Gas station, six miles”. You don’t stop your car by the sign to fill up. The sign is not the reality, but it points to a future reality. The signs in Revelation work the same way and point to a greater reality.

Revelation 12:1-2

Who is this woman? Her identity has puzzled Bible scholars, but most likely the woman symbolizes Israel. The church is never described in the Bible as a married woman or a woman in labor; she is the Bride of Christ.

What is she fixing to do? She is pictured as a woman about to give birth.

Revelation 12:3-6

Who is this dragon? Drakon, the Greek word for “dragon” occurs twelve times in the book of Revelation, and it always refers to Satan. This image suggests fierce power, aggression, and bloodshed.

Seven heads and ten horns? This description matches Daniel’s vision of the Antichrist in Daniel 7. Most likely, seven heads represent the seven worldwide empires in history and ten horns represent the final form of world government. Many believe this will be a 10-nation confederacy which the Antichrist has power.

Sweeping away 1/3 of the stars? We know Lucifer, God’s chief angel, waged a rebellion against Him and God responded by casting Lucifer and all those rebel angels out of heaven. John may have seen the original fall of Satan as recorded in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28.

What was Satan’s mission on earth? To prevent the first coming of Christ. He tried every way possible to destroy the Israelites as well as the Messianic line. Nothing he could do would stop the coming of the Messiah.

If the woman represents Israel, who did she give birth too? Jesus Christ came from the Israelite nation, as prophesized.

How many years is 1,260 days? 3-1/5 years. Satan will lash out at the nation of Israel and bring intense persecution the last half of tribulation.

Revelation 12:7-10

Where does Satan currently reside? Using Scripture, it appears Satan was thrown out of heaven as his residence, but Satan still has access to God, just as Job 1 paints a scene of Satan talking to God in heaven about Job. Revelation 12:10 tells us Satan has access to God where he accuses believers before our Father day and night and Jesus stands making intercession for us day and night (Hebrews 7:25).

What battle is going on in heaven during the last half of tribulation? Sometimes during tribulation, Satan will rebel against God again. We don't know exactly what happens, but there is a war in heaven and Satan and his demons cannot stand against the Lord of all Creation. They are permanently cast out of any entrance to heaven or God.

Revelation 12:10-12

Who are these martyrs speaking and what was their message? These were probably the tribulation saints telling us how they overcame Satan; the blood of the lamb, the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

Revelation 12:13-17

Where does the dragon (Satan) turn after being cast down to earth? Just as Daniel told us of the Antichrist defiling the temple and breaking the covenant with Israel the last half of Tribulation, Satan will turn his full wrath against the God's people and try to destroy the Jews. The woman (Israel) escapes the dragon with God's help and they flee "into the wilderness/mountains" just as Daniel prophesied as well. Israel will be "nourished" by God and possibly by other nations that join to protect them. Satan will be targeting Jews, including the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, and all those that come to faith in Christ during Tribulation.

TWO THINGS TO TAKE FROM CHAPTER 12:

- **God never forgets his people:** Life nor death can separate us from God's love and even if we cannot escape problems on this earth or even death, all Christians will one day overcome it all and welcomed into heaven.
- **Satan's ultimate defeat is certain:** Satan is currently like a convict on the run, wreaking as much havoc as possible until he's apprehended and dealt with. Satan was defeated at the cross. **He has no more power over your life than you choose to allow him to have!**