

Revelation 12: 1 – 17 (NASB) Notes

“Conflicting Signs in Heaven”

- Outline ... **Where are we in the Apocalypse?**
- The seals & trumpets judgments focused on the sovereignty of God on His throne. This section focuses on the throne, the worship of the dragon, and the battle between God and the “*unholy trinity*.” But God is still sovereign!
- “*Unholy Trinity*”
 - dragon (12:3, 9)
 - beast (13:1-4)
 - false prophet (13:11ff; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10)
- 12:1 – 13:8 has been labeled by many scholars as the heart of the book. It is one of the most important biblical passages for studying the doctrine of demonology.

❖ **Who are the main characters in Revelation 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;

❖ **Who is this woman? ...**

- The nation of Israel (Gen. 37:9-10).
- In O.T., Israel often compared to a woman (Isa. 54:5; 66:7 Jer. 3:6-10 Mic. 4:10; 5:2-3)

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

❖ **Who is this child? ... see v. 5**

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**.

- Cf., 13:1 & 17:3 ... also 17:9, 12

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.

- Cf., Daniel 8:10 & Isaiah 14:12-15
- Pharaoh is called a *dragon* (Ezek. 29:3), as is Nebuchadnezzar (Jer. 51:34)

❖ **Cite instances when Satan has attempted to "devour" you (1 Peter 5:8).**

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.

➤ Rev. 19:15

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**.

➤ Equals 42 months = 3.5 years

⁷ And there was war in heaven, **Michael** and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,

- Michael [“who is like God”] identified with nation of Israel (Dan. 10:10-21; 12:1 Jude 9).
- Why this war? Cf., Wiersbe, p. 125. See Psalm 2; Acts 4:23-30

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.

- “**devil**” [διάβολος] = false accuser, slanderer
- “**Satan**” [Σατανᾶς] = adversary; one who opposes another in purpose and act

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.

❖ How / When does Satan accuse us?

➤ Cf., Job 1:9 Zech. 3:1-2 Luke 22:31

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.

❖ How do we overcome Satan?

- 1 John 1:5 – 2:2
- Romans 8:33 – 39; 16:20
- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- 2 Corinthians 10:3 – 5
- Ephesians 6:13 – 18
- Hebrews 2:14 – 15
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- Satan’s power is limited when God’s people trust the power of the blood of Jesus & the Word: cf., Rev. 1:2, 9; 12:17 also Mk. 8:35

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, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.”

- **“woe”** – see 8:13, then (1) 9:1-12 (2) 9:13-21 (3) 11:14
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- 12:13-17 describe the **“wrath”** of the dragon in 12:12

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*.

- **“persecuted”** – cf., Matt. 24:15-28

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.

- **“wings of an eagle”** – cf., Ex. 19:4 Dt. 32:11-12 Isa. 40:31

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.

- Ps. 124

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.

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.

- **“rest of her children”** – If the Church has been raptured prior to the Tribulation period, then most likely these are people who have responded in faith to God’s repeated overtures of grace, as previously noted in the prior 11 chapters.