

1. Last week I taught Rev 12:3-9 and when time expired we were looking at Satan as an accuser of the brethren.
2. Before continuing, I want to provide “1Jo 1:9 time” as may be necessary.
3. Before we continue the study of Satan as an accuser I want to give you an expanded translation of Rev 12:1-6.

Expanded Translation

Rev 12:1 I then saw an exciting and wondrous scene in heaven; it was obviously a sign: there I could see a woman representing Israel; she was clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head; these things representing the twelve tribes who will ultimately rule.

Rev 12:2 The woman Israel was pregnant; she cried out in pain as she was about to give birth to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev 12:3 Suddenly, there appeared in heaven an enormous red dragon who was obviously Satan; he had seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads; the picture depicts the mechanics of his rise to power as the leader of the Revived Roman Empire's headquarters in the city of Rome.

Rev 12:4 Then there was a flash back into eternity past when Satan and a third of all the angels rebelled against God; in this rebellion both Satan and those angels falling with him decided they could run things better than God. Then I saw the dragon standing in front of Mary the mother of Jesus' humanity who was about to give birth; Satan had indwelt the old fox Herod the Great. Satan planted in his sick mind a plan to devour Mary's child. The pronouncement came in the year c. 4 B.C. when the order to slay all male infants in Judah who were two years of age and under was given; all of this was done in order to avert God's plan of redemption.

Rev 12:5 Mary gave birth to the Godman and named Him Jesus; this is the same Godman who at the Second Advent will rule all the nations of the world with an iron fist. Because of Israel's rejection of our Lord however the Christ was snatched up to God and in His ascension He was caused to sit at the right side of the Father in the place of honor in the Third Heaven.

Rev 12:6 The woman Israel later in the Great Tribulation will flee (in the same manner as Mary and Joseph did when they fled to Egypt) into the waiting arms of various Gentile nations where she will be protected for 1260 days—the first half of the Tribulation.

4. Now let's return to our analysis of Satan as an accuser of Christians.

NIV

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

Rev 12:8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.

Rev 12:9 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.

Rev 12:10 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.

5. As the accuser of the brethren, he is also in open opposition to Christ.

6. The concept that there is a spiritual warfare in the very presence of God in heaven has been resisted by several expositors, preferring to regard this war as being fought in the atmospheric or starry heaven rather than in the very presence of God.

7. The event here prophesied was predicted by Daniel in Dan 12:1, where it is recorded that Michael shall "stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people."

8. This event marks the beginning of the Great Tribulation defined in Dan 12:1. It is undoubtedly the same event as in Revelation chapter 12.

Dan 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

9. Of course it seems strange that Satan should have access to the very throne of God, yet this is precisely the picture of Job in chapters one and two, where Satan along with other angels accuse Job of loving God only because God had blessed him.

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

Job 1:7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Job 1:8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Job 1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

Job 1:10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

Job 1:11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Job 1:12 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

Job 2:2 And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Job 2:3 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

Job 2:4 And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

Job 2:5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Job 2:6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

10. During the Tribulation there clearly is great conflict on earth but rather abruptly we have our attention now directed to a war waged in heaven.

11. Michael and his angels (that is, the elect angels) fight against the dragon (identified in verse 9 as Satan) and his fallen angels; as a result the forces of Satan and his army of demons are cast out of heaven.

12. The description of Satan in verse nine is quite significant as all of his important titles are given. He is described as "the great dragon," a term which also applies to the empire which he dominates during the Tribulation.

13. Thus early in Biblical revelation Satan is seen in the role of the accuser of the brethren, the title given him in Rev 12:10.

Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

14. Beginning at this point in *The Book of The Revelation*, Satan and his hosts are excluded from the third heaven, though their temporary dominion over the earth and the first and second heaven continues.

15. Satan's defeat in heaven, however, is the occasion for him to be cast into the earth and explains the particular virulence of the Great Tribulation.

16. Note that even as Satan accuses the brethren before God day and night prior to his being cast out of heaven, the four living creatures of Rev 4:8 cease not day or night to ascribe holiness to the Lord.

17. The prophetic events here described must therefore be taken at their face value. Satan in the middle of the Tribulation is limited in the sphere of his operation.

18. A major step is taken in his ultimate defeat. The saint of this present dispensation, who is now the object of satanic attack and misrepresentation, can rest assured of the ultimate downfall and the cessation of his ability to accuse the Saints of God.

19. It is now time for an expanded translation of Rev 12:7-9.

Expanded Translation

Rev 12:7 I then saw a horrific war break out in heaven. Michael and all of the elect angels fought a vicious all-out battle against the dragon and his demons.

Rev 12:8 Satan and his forces battled relentlessly but Michael and his great army was just too strong for the forces of evil; Satan and all of his demon minions were driven back until they reached what looked like the far end of heaven; they were forced perilously close to heaven's precipice.

Rev 12:9 the great dragon was hurled down to earth--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who had for years led the whole world astray. This was the great sign so long predicted when Satan with his gang of outlaws would be thrown out of heaven and confined to planet earth.

20. Now let's see what else we can learn from Rev 12:10-12.

KJV

Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Rev 12:12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

NIV

Rev 12:10 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.

Rev 12:11 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.

Rev 12:12 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."

1. As John beholds Satan and his angels being cast from heaven, he hears a loud voice described as saying in heaven, "Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ." The loud voice is not identified and probably cannot be with certainty.

2. Some have ascribed this voice to God Himself, some to angels, some to the twenty-four elders, and some to the martyred Saints in heaven mentioned in Rev 6:10, because they also cry with a loud voice.

NIV

Rev 6:10 The ones who had been slain during the tribulation called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

3. There is certainly support for the latter view (i.e., martyred Saints of the Tribulation) in that in Rev 12:10 the loud voice mentions "the accuser of our brethren."

4. This would seem to eliminate angels and indicate the Saints in heaven. The "loud voice" may very well be the shout of triumph of the tribulation Saints longing for and anticipating their ultimate victory and triumph.

5. The salvation mentioned as now imminent refers not to salvation from the guilt of sin but to salvation in the sense of deliverance and completion of the divine program.

6. The reference to strength (Greek **Dunamis**) implies that now God is going to strengthen His own and manifest His own strength.

7. The declaration that the kingdom of our God is now proximate seems to refer to the millennial kingdom when Christ will reign on the earth.

8. Coupled with this is the power or authority (Greek **Exousia**) of Christ.

8.1 The expression "his Christ," also mentioned in Rev 11:15, parallels "his anointed" in Psa 2:2, against whom the kings of the earth rebel but under whose sway they are certain to come.

Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Psa 2:2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

9. The victory of the Saints in that hour is revealed in verse 11, where it is declared that they overcame Satan by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of their testimony, and by the fact that they loved not their lives unto death.

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

10. The accusations of Satan are nullified by the blood of the Lamb which renders the believer pure and makes possible his spiritual victory.

11. The word of the Saints' testimony opposes the deceiving work of Satan in that the preaching of the gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

12. The Saints' dedication to their task in which many of them die as martyrs is recognized by the statement "They loved not their lives unto the death." The word for "loved" is the word for profound love (Greek **Agapao**).

13. Though they do not foolishly seek a martyr's death, they do not regard their own lives (literally "souls"; Greek **Psuche**) as precious.

14. They follow the instruction given to the church in Smyrna [universal church of 100-300] (Rev 2:10) of being faithful unto death. The universal church represented here by Smyrna suffered great persecutions.

Rev 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

14.1 Historians give us a hint of the persecutions of Christians during the 2nd and 3rd centuries; many such persecutions occurring at Smyrna. From Foxes Book of Martyrs, I have provided certain descriptions:

Under Domitian persecutions abounded:

"Nicodemus, a benevolent Christian of some distinction, suffered at Rome during the rage of Domitian's persecution. Protasius and Gervasius were martyred at Milan. Timothy was the celebrated disciple of St. Paul, and bishop of Ephesus, where he zealously governed the Church until A.D. 97.

"At this period, as the pagans were about to celebrate a feast called Catagogion, Timothy, meeting the procession, severely reproved them for their ridiculous idolatry, which so exasperated the people that they fell upon him with their clubs, and beat him in so dreadful a manner that he expired of the bruises two days after.

"Under Trajan, A.D. 108 there were significant persecutions:

"Pliny the Second, a man learned and famous, seeing the lamentable slaughter of Christians, and moved therewith to pity, wrote to Trajan, certifying him that there were many thousands of them daily put to death ... In this persecution suffered the blessed martyr, Ignatius, who is held in famous reverence among very many... Ignatius ... was given to the wild beasts to be devoured.

"Under Marcus Aurelius, A.D. 170 persecutions became even more severe:

"The cruelties used in this persecution were such that many of the spectators shuddered with horror at the sight, and were astonished at the intrepidity of the sufferers. Some of the martyrs were obliged to pass, with their already wounded feet, over thorns, nails, sharp shells, etc... others were scourged until their sinews and veins lay bare ... Germanicus, a young man, but a true Christian, being delivered to the wild beasts on account of his faith, behaved with such astonishing courage that several pagans became converts to a faith which inspired such fortitude. Polycarp, the venerable bishop of Smyrna ... After fasting Ploycarp desired an hour in prayer, he prayed with such fervency, that his guards repented that they had been instrumental in taking him. He was, however, carried before the proconsul, condemned, and burnt in the market place.

“The proconsul then urged him, saying, "Swear, and I will release thee; reproach Christ." Polycarp answered, "Eighty and six years have I served him, and he never once wronged me; how then shall I blaspheme my King, Who hath saved me?" At the stake, to which he was only tied, but not nailed as usual, as he assured them he should stand immovable in the flames..."

15. In the Tribulation such persecutions will of course intensify but victory and relief are on the way. The voice from heaven continues, exhorting the listeners, especially those in the heavens, to rejoice because of the impending victory. At the same time the voice pronounces a solemn woe upon the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea.

16. The awfulness of the hour ahead is attributed to the fact that the devil has been cast down to the earth and has great wrath because he knows his hour of confinement is near.

17. The word for "wrath" (the Greek is not **Orge**, but **Thumos**) it means a strong passion or emotion and carries less weight than **Orge**.

18. It is an emotional rather than a rational state of mind and stems from Satan's own awareness that his days are numbered.

19. The short time or season (Greek **Kairos**) refers to the time of the great tribulation after which Satan will be bound for the duration of the millennial kingdom.

20. Though many of the judgments of God inflicted on the earth during the great tribulation originate in divine power rather than satanic influence, there will be afflictions of the inhabitants of the earth which will spring largely from the activities of Satan, resulting in the martyrdom of countless Saints and in widespread human suffering of every kind.

21. Before moving forward I want to give you an expanded translation of Rev 12:10-12.

Expanded Translation

Rev 12:10 I then heard a horrendous victorious shout which reverberated throughout the heavens: "Our God has shown His power of deliverance for His Kingdom has come! God's own Chosen One, the Christ, has shown His authority and inherent power. Satan who for ages has accused the brethren has been thrown out of heaven and never more permitted to return."

Rev 12:11 The poor Saints of the Tribulation faced now with a defeated and desperate Satan overcame his last intense though hopeless attacks, they were able to overcome by first a faith alone in Christ alone and then a total reliance on the grace of God as set forth in His Word.

They were divinely selected and given power from above to suffer and ultimately to give up their lives in honor of their King Jesus.

Rev 12:12 The heavens themselves together with those living there rejoiced and lamented "Pity the earth and the sea, because the devil has been thrown out of heaven and he knows his time is short."

22. Now let's continue our study by analyzing Rev 12:13-16.

KJV

Rev 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

Rev 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness away of the flood.

Rev 12:15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried the dragon cast out of his mouth.

Rev 12:16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which , into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

NIV

Rev 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

Rev 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Rev 12:15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

Rev 12:16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

1. The immediate aftermath of Satan's being cast out of heaven is his persecution of the woman who brought forth the man child.

2. Walvoord writes of the casting out of heaven:

"This apparently is the beginning of the Great Tribulation of which Christ warned Israel in Mat 24:15-22."

Mat 24:15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand—

Mat 24:16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Mat 24:17 Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house.

Mat 24:18 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak.

Mat 24:19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!

Mat 24:20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

Mat 24:21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again.

Mat 24:22 If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

3. This had its foreshadowing in Herod's slaughter of the infants following the birth of Christ (Mat 2:16).

4. It seems the great persecution mentioned in Rev 12:15 and 16 is a reference specifically to the Great Tribulation.

4.1 The persecution of Israel is a part of the satanic program to thwart and hinder the work of God.

5. Israel is hated by Satan not because of any of its own characteristics but because she was the chosen people of God and essential for the overall purpose of God both for time and eternity.

6. As terrible as Jewish harassment has been in the past, anti-Semitism will reach its most feverish pitch during the last three and one-half years of the Tribulation.

6.1 The good news for all Gentile Nations: if you take care of Israel you will be blessed.

Gen 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

7. In Revelation 12 we are introduced to the main actors involved in the drama of this awful period of Jewish persecution.

8. The persecution is described as a "torrent of water ... to overtake the woman" in verse fifteen.

Rev 12:15 Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent.

9. Into this scene of Satanic persecution is injected the divine intervention of God. The woman is described as being given two wings of a great eagle in order to enable her to fly into the wilderness into her place.

10. This figure of speech seems to be derived from Exo 19:4 and Deu 32:11-12 and similar passages where God uses the strength of an eagle to illustrate His faithfulness in caring for Israel.

Exo 19:4 You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles wings and brought you to myself.

Deu 32:11 like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions.

Deu 32:12 The LORD alone led him; no foreign god was with him.

11. The same flight is indicated in Matthew 24:16 where Christ exhorts those in Judea to flee to the mountains.

Mat 24:15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand--

Mat 24:16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

11.1 Some have felt that the reference here is to some specific place such as Petra, where at least a portion of Israel might be safe from her persecutors.

12. Verse 14 implies that there is some supernatural care of Israel during this period such as that which Elijah experienced by the brook of Cherith, or that which Israel experienced during the forty years she lived on the manna in the wilderness.

13. Whether natural or supernatural means are used, it is clear that God does preserve a godly remnant, though according to Zechariah 13:8, two-thirds of Israel in the land will perish.

Zec 13:8 In the whole land," declares the LORD, "two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it.

End Lesson Taught 5-10-2017

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