

## Revelation 12

Ch. 11 Heaven declares that the war is won; Christ has won; Kingdom passes to Christ: Rev. 11:15 "The Kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; He will reign forever and ever!" Now=last battles and skirmishes. Satan is a defeated enemy; but a dangerous one! April 1865 civil war ended at Appomatox; General Lee surrendered to Grant; BUT 3 months later...fighting in Brownsville, Texas (Juneteenth). June 23, 1865 last conf. general to lay down arms. \*\*last 3.5yrs Tribulation devil's last days on this earth bears his claws & targets jews/bel

**Revelation 12 (Scene: Heaven and Earth): Interlude; AND BOTH past action & future action**

**\*\*BIG Screen drops down in heaven and plays this past history & future action....riveting**

**\*Chapters 12-14 (pause in the action: describe the battle & nature of evil; devil; antichrist; fals Prop -Action picks back up in Chps. 15-19. \*\*But God wants us (the reader) to understand our enemy!**

1. Our enemy is **real** (not figment of imagin. nor mere philosophy) *Real*, spirit, angelic, *powerful*
2. Our enemy is **God's** enemy first/most! He's our enemy bc he hates God & what belongs to Him
3. Our enemy is committed to our **destruction** (John 10:10); not a game; (sly, charming, beautiful, attractive, & deceitful: SIN is always attractive & promises no consequences & no one hurt) =**LIE!!!** Fishing??? **\*\*\*fishin' lures are designed (shiny) to attract, to tempt, & to kill! \*\*Sin is the bait**

-John sees this vision & describes it; symbolic language (\*symbol points to a reality/true event)

-Vision is a 30K foot view of Redemptive History =main 3 Characters: Israel; Satan; & Jesus

**-This part of the vision points to history of Israel & their promised Messiah -Jesus:**

**Vs. 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; <sup>2</sup> and she was pregnant and she *\*cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.* The woman symbolizes Israel (Jewish people)**

\*[Church=personified as *female =bride* of Christ]; crown of 12 stars = 12 tribes of Israel.

**Jesus was born in the tribe of Judah, from Israel. Jesus is the Jewish Messiah:**

- **Genesis 49:10** — Jacob prophesies that the ruler's scepter will come from Judah.
- **2 Samuel 7:12-16** God promises that the royal line of David (from Judah) will endure forever.
- **Matthew 1:1-3** — Jesus' genealogy traces Him back to Judah through David.
- **Hebrews 7:14** — explicitly states: "It is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah."
- **Revelation 5:5** — calls Jesus the "**Lion of the tribe of Judah.**"

**Vs. 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 crowns. <sup>4</sup> And his tail *\*swept* away a third of the stars [angels] of heaven and hurled 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.**

**-Red Dragon is the Devil** Gen. 3:1 devil called a **serpent** (deception; subtlety; sabotage)

-Vs. 9: **And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old [ancient serpent] who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole [d]world: -devil: accuser/ Satan: adversary**

1. Evil is *not* random; evil is a **person** – a malevolent spirit; and evil is personal! Focus: **destruction**
2. The devil has one playbook: and within it = 2 strategies:

**A. *Serpent*** (lies, deception, twists; half-truths; defames, subtle compromise, sows confusion, doubt, anxiety) so he's either quiet (in the background -philosophies; false religions; "isms") **OR**

**B. *Dragon*** (fear, intimidation, bullying, harassment, coercion, stalking, terrorize, persecution)

-This vision describes both satan's nature, his political power/oversight & His taking 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of ang.

**Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads *were* seven crowns. **7 Heads: 7 world empires** (7 royal crowns): **[Egypt; Assyria; Babylon; Persia; Greece; Rome; and revived Roman Empire** (Europ. Union)**

-10 horns: future reign of the ten-nation federation ruled by the Antichrist (Rev. 13; 17; Dan. 7)

**Vs. 4:** And his tail \*swept away a third of the stars of heaven and hurled them to the earth.

-Jesus proclaims that in eternity past He witnessed the fall of Satan, being cast out, and a host of heaven: -Lk. 10:18 "I saw satan fall from heaven like lightning" -this is past tense; history...

-Is. 14:12-15 "How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! <sup>13</sup>You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the [angels] stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the North <sup>14</sup>I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." <sup>15</sup>But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit. [abyss].

...And the dragon stood before [hovered over] the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her Child. Satan has always known his fate:

-Gen. 3:15 "And I will make enemies Of you and the woman, And of your offspring and her Descendant; you shall bruise Him on the heel and He shall crush your head." Satan doomed... Satan is a defeated enemy; but a dangerous -satan has only lived to try & kill God/God's Cov. peo

\*In Christ's first coming satan was prepared to end Jesus' life through his puppet King Herod who destroyed all baby boys under 2 years old; then he was behind Judas and Christ's betrayal, then crucifixion; *THEN* Now at the dawn of Christ' second coming at the end of the age, Satan thinks he can destroy Jesus again at the battle of Armageddon!!! =devil **delusional** still believes can def. Jes

**Vs. 5:** And she gave birth to a Son, a male, who is going to rule [shepherd] all the gentile/nations with a rod of iron; -still future – Messianic reign; millennial Kingdom: (Ps. 2; Rev. 2; 12; 19)

-and her Child was caught up to God and to His throne. Jesus ascended into heaven after resurec.

\*This is the story of Jesus' incarnation; resurrection; ascension; exaltation; & Coronation

-**Future:** In the very last days (Great Tribulation: last 3.5yrs) =satan has relentlessly pursued in history and JESUS WINS and will reign; but...battles/skirmishes... Israel flees for life/safety...

<sup>6</sup>Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she \*had a place prepared by God, so that there [s]he would be nourished for 1,260 days. Israel in the last 3.5 years will be brutally pursued and persecuted by the devil and the Antichrist (*Jesus*: Mt. 24:15-21); Yet, God will provide safety

-**The Bible describes heavenly war/conflict battles between angels:** Dan. 10 Gabriel v. P.persia

-2 Kings 16 (host of angelic army surrounding King Ahab's army)

-Jude 1:9 (Michael fights with the devil over Moses' body)

-Eph. 6:12 (warfare: Spiritual forces in the heavenly places)

-Col. 2:15 at Jesus' resurrection "He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him." -Angels real; demons real; heav. battles are real

-In the end times, there also appears to be heavenly war waged as a earthly war is waged: **mirror**

**Vs. 7:** And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, <sup>8</sup>and they did not prevail, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup>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. Defeated; =banned from the spiritual realm; earth -**death**

**Vs. 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 brothers *and sisters* has been thrown down, the one who accuses them before our God day and night. **Rev. 11:** 7<sup>th</sup> Angel sounded trumpet: heavenly declaration Kingdom earth *becomes* God/Jesus

-The devil (accuser) has been defeated; he is powerless to accuse; harass; or kill anymore!

**Vs. 11: And they overcame devil 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/at point of death. -**

**Look** at the victory that Jesus gives EVERY believer in this life (& esp. under persecution):

**-Our power, our story, our victory = WE OVERCOME EVIL (bc Jesus overcame evil =resurrection)**

1. Our power is rooted in Christ's **Blood** (His perfect sacrifice) (Col. 1:20; 1 Cor. 15:57; Rev. 1:5)

2. Our story is rooted in our NEW LIFE, New Creation, founded in Jesus very Life (UNION)

3. Our victory is rooted in the reality that this life is **temporary**, & our HOPE is in the next life.

=satan has NO power to tempt, try, or defeat you by the threat of earthly death when our hope is in heaven (NOT in this life; or things of this world). -Lk 9:23 "deny self, take up cross, then follow"

-Luke 10:19-20 "Behold, I have given you authority to walk on snakes and scorpions, and authority over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.<sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, do not <sup>[g]</sup>rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven." Satan cannot touch you; indwell you; possess you -make you do anything **IF in Christ**

**-Our life and our victory are secured in Christ's finished work of salvation: Once for all!**

**\*\*This is the glory of the gospel: Jesus alone died; satisfied the wrath of God; in Him He has made us righteous, holy, a chosen people; a royal priesthood; a holy nation, God's special possession -**"that we may declare His praises He who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Pt. 2:9) \*\*\*\*Have you experienced this grace; this gospel? This peace?

-Are you still trapped in sin; in slavery; in darkness and defeat; satan's possession?

**Vs. 12: For this reason, rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you with great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time." -the last 3.5 years of earth's history is all the time left the devil will have to kill Jews**

**-God's great covenant plan for Israel in the end times: (Mt. 24; Lk 21)**

<sup>13</sup> And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. -Satan has always hated the Jews & has persecuted them throughout every era and century on the earth; Jews MOST hated people on earth (**holocaust**)

<sup>14</sup> **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, times, and half a time, (3.5 years) away from the presence of the serpent. <sup>15</sup> And the serpent hurled water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. <sup>16</sup> <sup>[g]</sup>But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon had hurled out of his mouth. -supernatural protection from flood of persecution

<sup>17</sup> So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her <sup>[g]</sup>children, who keep the commandments of God **and hold to the testimony of Jesus.**

-Satan hates Jews; He hates Jesus; He hates Jesus' Church -the Believers (Messianic Believers)

- 1Peter 5:8-11 "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

<sup>10</sup> And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory **in Christ**, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen." -Remember, you have one job on this planet: Live to glorify God

-Know Who you are (Identity) and WHOSE you are (Security) as you live day by day to love/serve

-Know you have an enemy; not level playing ground (2 Cor. 4:4); *Jesus will always have last word.*

# Community group questions

1. Read Revelation 12:7–9.

What does this passage teach about the reality and scope of spiritual warfare? How does this challenge modern assumptions that life is only “natural” or psychological?

2. Revelation 12:9 describes the dragon being thrown down.

What does it mean that Satan is already defeated, yet still active? How should that shape the way we respond to temptation and fear?

3. Verse 9 calls him “the great dragon,” “the ancient serpent,” and “the devil.”

Why do you think Scripture uses multiple names and images for Satan? What does each one reveal about his tactics?

4. Read Revelation 12:11.

How do believers overcome “by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony”? What does that look like in everyday life—not just theology?

5. Verse 11 also says they “did not love their lives even unto death.”

What does costly faithfulness look like in today’s culture? Where do you feel tension between comfort and obedience?

6. Revelation 12:12 says the devil is filled with fury because “he knows his time is short.”

How does understanding the enemy’s limited time change the way we interpret spiritual opposition or suffering?

7. Revelation 12 shows a paradox: Christ has won, yet the battle continues.

How do we live faithfully in this “already but not yet” reality? Where do you personally struggle to live from Christ’s victory rather than for it?