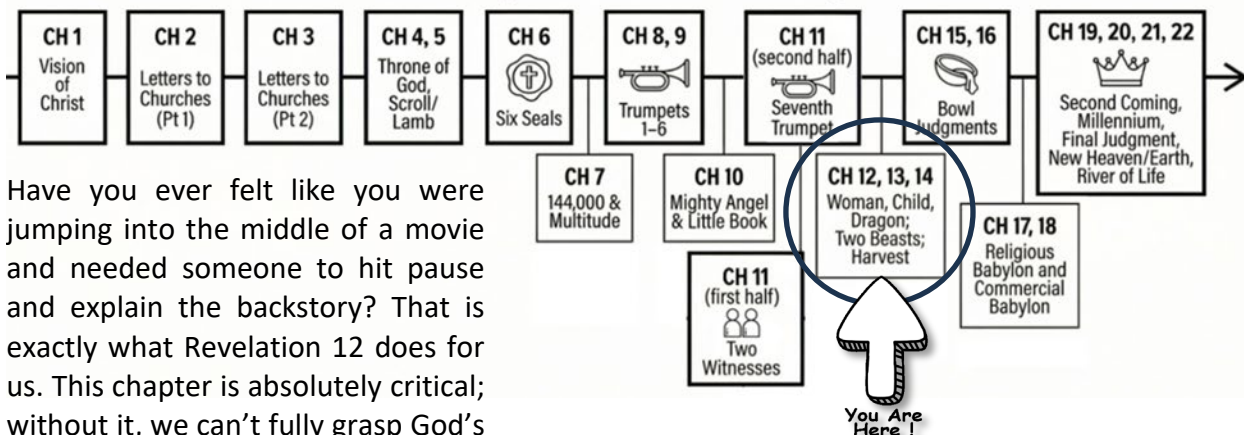




“The Woman, Man-Child & Dragon” Lesson 11: Revelation Chapter 12

THE BOOK OF REVELATION – CHRONOLOGICAL TIMELINE

Parenthetical sections provide detail without advancing the timeline.



Have you ever felt like you were jumping into the middle of a movie and needed someone to hit pause and explain the backstory? That is exactly what Revelation 12 does for us. This chapter is absolutely critical; without it, we can't fully grasp God's entire plan for history. It gives us the **"enigma of Israel"**—a summary of why this specific nation is the bullseye of spiritual warfare. While many churches (approx. 75%) today unfortunately overlook Israel's role, we're going to see that God's promises to them are the key to understanding everything else in the Bible.

The last verse of Chapter 11 sets the stage for this shift:

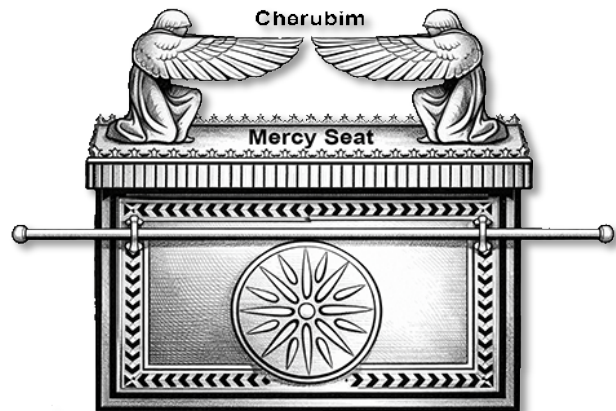


*And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail. **Revelation 11:19***

That scene signals that we are about to see something from heaven's perspective, not just earth's events. **What's happening here?**

- **A View into the Heavenly Temple:** The temple in heaven is opened to reveal the "Ark of His Testament".
- **The Original vs. The Replica:** Don't confuse this heavenly Ark with the wooden Ark of the Covenant that was on earth. The earthly Ark was just a "shadow" or a replica of God's actual throne in heaven (1 Sam 4:4; Isa 6; Ezek 1, 10; Rev 4-5).

- **The Pattern from the Mount:** When Moses was on Mount Sinai, God didn't just give him the Ten Commandments; He gave him **specific blueprints** for the Tabernacle so it would match the **"heavenly things"** (Heb 8:5).
- **The Throne of God:** The "Mercy Seat" (the lid with the golden Cherubim) is actually treated as its own entity in Scripture—it's where God is viewed as being "enthroned" (2 Sam 6:2; Heb 8:5). Inside the earthly replica were Aaron's rod, the gold pot of manna, and the stone tablets.



Inside: Aaron's Staff, Gold Pot, and the Ten Commandments



And David arose and went with all the people who were with him to Baale-Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God which is called by the Name, the very name of the LORD of hosts who is enthroned above the cherubim. 2 Samuel 6:2 (NAS)

The chapter is going to introduce three key figures:

- **A woman**
 - **A child**
 - **A dragon**
- These are not random symbols.** They are central to the entire Bible story. Once you correctly identify them, the rest of Scripture begins to lock into place.



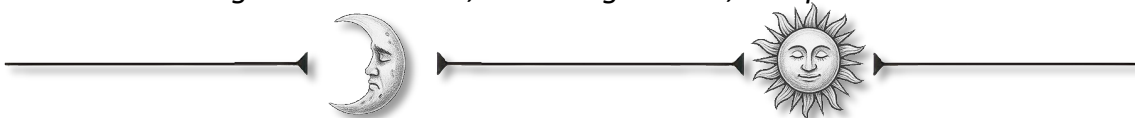
Israel **must be understood in Scripture** as a prophetic instrument, not a political ideal or object of admiration. One of the greatest failures in modern Christianity is the loss of clarity about Israel's role in God's plan. **When Israel is misunderstood, everything else starts to drift:** prophecy, the Church, the Tribulation, and even the Second Coming, and **they cannot be interpreted with clarity.** This confusion did not happen by accident; it developed over centuries as **key doctrines were neglected or replaced.**

The modern reestablishment of Israel aligns with the trajectory of biblical prophecy, serving as a visible marker in God's unfolding timetable. However, this does not elevate the present nation-state to spiritual authority or devotional focus. **Many in the world confuse this.** Christians are not called to revere Israel, imitate it, or equate its political actions as holy. Rather, **Israel functions as a signpost**—affirming that God's covenantal purposes remain active and that history is moving toward its ordained conclusion, while our allegiance remains centered on God alone.

Chapter 12



*Rev. 12:1,2] And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a **woman** clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.*



In these verses, John sees a **woman** who is "**travailing in birth**"—meaning she is in labor and about to give birth. One of the biggest mistakes people make today is trying to guess who she is based on **religious tradition** rather than letting the Bible explain itself. Some think she is the **Virgin Mary**, and others think she is the **Church**, but both guesses run into major scriptural roadblocks. When we look at the symbols through a literal Old Testament lens, it becomes clear that this woman represents the nation of Israel.



The Vision of the Woman: John sees a woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She is pregnant and crying out in the pain of childbirth.

- ❓ **Why it isn't Mary:** While Mary gave birth to Jesus, the Catholic doctrine of "Immaculate Conception" and "Perpetual Virginity" claims she was free from original sin and child-bearing pain, which contradicts the "travailing and pained" description here. Furthermore, Mary had other children besides Jesus, as Jesus had at least four brothers and two or more sisters. (Acts 1:14; Mark 6:3; Gal 1:19; 1 Cor 9:5; John 7:3, 5). They also teach that the description "*clothed with the sun*" depicts her glory fulfilled in her Assumption.
- ❓ **Why it isn't the Church:** The Church is always described in the Bible as a "virgin bride," not a pregnant mother. Additionally, the Church didn't give birth to Christ; Christ "gave birth" to the Church.

The key to identifying her is in the O.T. story of Joseph's Dream. To identify the sun, moon, and stars, we go back to Genesis 37. In Joseph's dream, the sun was his father Jacob, the moon was his mother Rachel, and the eleven stars were his brothers (the heads of the tribes of Israel). With Joseph himself, that makes twelve stars—a perfect match for the twelve tribes of Israel:

- ✚ *And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: **Genesis 37:5, 6***
- ✚ *For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. **Genesis 37:7***
- ✚ *And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. **Genesis 37:8***
- ✚ *And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. **Genesis 37:9***
- ✚ *And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying. **Genesis 37:10, 11***

“Crown of twelve stars” (Rev 12:1)

- The twelve stars represent the twelve tribes, and this locks the identity in place.
- This is national Israel, not a spiritualized version, not the Church.
- Scripture keeps Israel, Gentiles, and the Church distinct categories, and collapsing them leads to confusion everywhere else (1 Cor 10:32).



The Woman is Exalted Above Creation (Rev 12:1)

- She stands above the sun and moon, indicating a position of divine calling and covenant purpose.
- This reflects God’s promises to Israel as a chosen nation through whom His plan unfolds (Isa 54:5; Jer 31:31).

“Being with child... travailing in birth” (Rev 12:2)

- The woman is in labor; this is a familiar Old Testament picture of Israel under pressure, bringing forth something God has promised.
- Israel is repeatedly described this way when moving toward fulfillment of prophecy (Isa 66:7; Mic 4:10; 5:2–3).
- This is not symbolic of comfort; it is intense pressure, suffering, and expectation.

The Child She Brings Forth (Rev 12:2 leading into 12:5)

- This child will “rule all nations with a rod of iron,” a direct reference to the Messiah (Ps 2:9; Rev 12:5).
- That means the woman must be the source of the Messiah, again confirming she is Israel, not the Church.
- The Church does not give birth to Christ; Christ gives birth to the Church.



Think of the sun, moon, and stars like a family crest or a national flag. Just as you see the "Stars and Stripes" and know it's America, any astute student of the Old Testament sees these cosmic symbols and immediately recognizes the "Family of Israel."



Watch how often Israel is redefined or replaced in modern teaching. When Israel is blurred into the Church, prophecy becomes confused, timelines collapse, and God’s covenant promises are weakened. This sets the stage for antisemitism and an attempt to illegitimize the nation of Israel. Revelation 12 corrects that error immediately by clearly identifying Israel as central to God’s end-time plan.



Remember, the farther you drift away from a more literal translation towards an allegorical interpretation, you will also find more conjectural meanings that require leaps of speculation to make them fit. One thing we must do is get a respect for the Bible’s overall design. Everything is there by design, and the Bible is designed to interpret itself. That means we can rely on the Bible to interpret itself without religious tradition.

Instead of looking at commentators' viewpoints, let's let the Bible interpret it for us.



Replacement Theology

Before we proceed, we must address a critical issue that shapes the interpretation of this entire chapter: **Replacement Theology**. If this doctrine is embraced, Revelation 12 becomes difficult to follow; in fact, much of the Old Testament grows obscure, prophetic timelines lose their clarity, and the overall framework of prophecy begins to unravel. If it is set aside, the pieces align, and the narrative holds together. **This is not a peripheral debate**. It reaches into the core of how one understands God's promises, His character, and the unfolding of the prophetic timeline.

What Is Replacement Theology? Replacement Theology claims that when Israel rejected her Messiah, God permanently set Israel aside. According to this view, the Church has taken Israel's place and now inherits all of Israel's promises. This is often called "**spiritual Israel**." This teaching is widespread and has been passed down through many denominational systems.

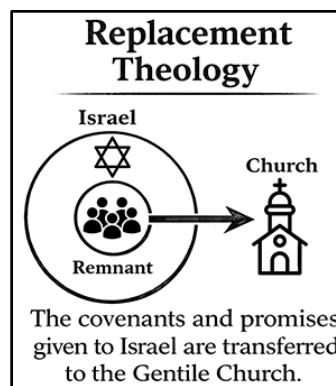
The Bible Keeps Groups Distinct. Scripture clearly separates three groups: Jews, Gentiles, and the Church (1 Cor 10:32). When those distinctions are blurred, interpretation begins to drift into confusion. Revelation 12 depends on keeping those categories intact. The woman is Israel, not the Church.

The Book of Romans Settles the Issue. Romans 9, 10, and 11 make it clear that God is not finished with Israel (Rom 11:1, 25). Israel is currently in partial blindness, not permanent rejection. There is a future restoration built into God's plan.

The Prophetic Timeline Requires Israel. The 70-week prophecy in Daniel is specifically about Israel (Dan 9:24–27). The Church exists in the interval between the 69th and 70th week. In the 70th week, the Tribulation returns, with a focus on Israel. Revelation 12 is happening in that context, not the Church Age.

The Problem of Allegorizing Scripture. Replacement Theology depends on turning literal promises into symbolic ones. Land promises, kingdom promises, and national restoration are redefined into spiritual language. **Once that door is opened, interpretation becomes subjective and unstable.**

How This View Developed (The Brief Version). Early church writers, especially **Origen**, leaned heavily on allegorical interpretation after the apostolic era. Later, **Augustine** expanded this approach and helped form what became Amillennial thinking (more on this when we get to Chap. 20). During the rise of the Roman state church, a literal earthly kingdom of Christ was not a welcome message. So **prophecy was reinterpreted** to avoid conflict with political power. The Reformation corrected many doctrines, especially salvation, **but largely left eschatology untouched**. As a result, these ideas continued into many Protestant systems.



Origen



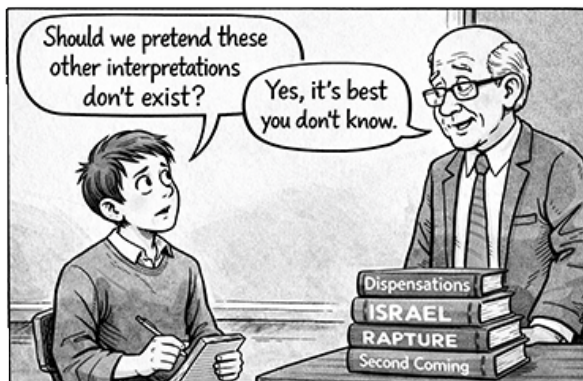
Augustine



Why wasn't I taught this? Most Christians are not taught multiple ways of interpreting Scripture. They are taught the system their church **inherited**. For much of church history, replacement theology was simply **the default**. It wasn't presented as a position—it was presented as **the position**.

Right or wrong, denominations tend to preserve their theological frameworks:

- ✓ **Seminaries** - teach what their tradition holds
- ✓ **Pastors** - teach what they were trained in
- ✓ **Congregations** - (deacons, laypeople) inherit it without re-examining the foundation



So the question “*Why wasn't I taught this?*” often has a simple answer: **Because your teachers were never taught it either.**

And beliefs, once settled, are rarely questioned. They are not just held; they are defended. And often, the defense of a belief becomes more important than the examination of it.



Most people don't choose replacement theology after honestly weighing both systems. And the shift doesn't come from being persuaded by a teacher or a book. It comes from trying to make the things of Scripture fit together—without forcing meanings onto the text. They see a better way, and they cannot unsee it.

The apostles did not teach replacement—they taught progression. Distinctions remain, timelines unfold, and God's plan moves forward without redefining what He has already said (Rom. 11:1–2, 25–29; Acts 1:6–7; Eph. 3:3–6; 1 Cor. 10:32; Acts 3:19–21; Luke 1:32–33).



Watch for teachings that take clear Old Testament promises to Israel and redefine them as symbolic or “**fulfilled in the Church.**” That shift may sound theological, but it quietly rewrites the structure of prophecy and removes Israel from the center of God's end-time plan.



Rev. 12:3] *And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.*



Rev. 12:4] *And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.*

If the Woman is the "hero" of the story (Israel), the Great Red Dragon is the ultimate villain. John identifies another "wonder" in heaven—a terrifying, multi-headed monster. While pop culture gives us a cartoonish version of Satan in a red suit with a pitchfork, the Bible shows us something much more organized and powerful. This dragon isn't just a single being; he represents a massive, satanically inspired empire system that has been trying to destroy God's plan since the very beginning of time to stop the Messiah before He can fulfill His mission.

The great red dragon is not symbolic guesswork, as verse 9 later explicitly names him as the **Devil and Satan**. His color red is associated with death and bloodshed, similar to the red horse of the second seal. This is his nature: he is a murderer and a slanderer. He is not a cartoon figure with a pitchfork. He is a real, intelligent adversary operating with purpose

The Seven Heads and Ten Horns describe both Satan and the system he empowers. The imagery comes directly from Daniel's prophecies about world empires (Dan 7).

- ✓ **The Seven Heads:** These represent seven historical kingdoms that tried to stop the reign of Christ: **Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome (Phases 1 & 2).**
- ✓ **The Ten Horns:** This points to a future confederation of kings (rulers/leaders) that will appear during the Tribulation (Dan 7:7, 24; Rev 13:1).



The Falling Stars: This refers to Satan's original rebellion, when one-third of the angels followed him. These "**stars**" are **fallen angels**, now part of his organized opposition (Isa 14:12–17; Ezek 28:12–17; Rev 12:4). This tells us something important: there is structure and rank in the spiritual realm, both on God's side and Satan's.

The Deadly Ambush: The dragon stands right in front of the Woman, ready to "**devour her child as soon as it was born**". This has been Satan's strategy since **Genesis 3:15**—he knows the "**Seed of the Woman**" is destined to crush his head, so he has spent all of human history trying to wipe out the Messiah's bloodline.

Satan's Strategy Through History: His tactics summarize a pattern that runs from Genesis to the Gospels:

- **God's Plan:**
 - A promised Seed would come through the woman (Israel) and ultimately rule the nations (Gen 3:15; Mic 5:2).
- **Satan's Countermove:**
 - Destroy the line before the Seed arrives.
 - **How He Tried to Do It (A few examples):**
 - Corrupt humanity before the flood (Gen 6)
 - Destroy Israel in Egypt (Ex 1)
 - Wipe out the royal line of David (2 Kings 11:1–3)
 - Use Haman to eliminate the Jews (Est. 3)
 - Kill the infants at Christ's birth through Herod (Matt 2)
 - **Every one of these is the dragon "waiting" at the point of birth.**



God's Role vs Satan's Role

- **God's Role:**
 - Preserving the Messianic line with precision through history (2 Sam 7:12–16; Mic 5:2).
- **Satan's Role:**
 - Relentless opposition, using deception, violence, and political power to stop that line (John 8:44; Rev 12:4).

Satan does not create; he corrupts and destroys. God builds, preserves, and fulfills.



Watch how opposition to Israel is never random. It follows a pattern. Political, cultural, and violent pressures consistently center on that nation because the conflict is not merely geopolitical; it is spiritual, rooted in the same war described here.



Rev. 12:5] *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child **was caught up** unto God, and to his throne.*

In this verse, the **Woman** (Israel) finally gives birth to a "**Man-Child.**" This isn't just any baby; He is the focus of all human history. While the **Dragon** (Satan) stands ready to devour Him the moment He appears, God has a different plan. In one verse, John compresses the birth, mission, and ascension of Christ, and shows that Satan could not stop any of it.



"She brought forth a man child." This is the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The identity is not ambiguous. The description that follows next removes all doubt. The child comes from the woman, Israel, exactly as promised (Isa 9:6; Mic 5:2; Gal 4:4).

"Who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron." This is a direct quotation from Psalm 2. It describes a **literal, authoritative rule** over the nations, **not symbolic, not internal, not spiritualized**. This points to Christ's future reign on earth (Ps 2:9; Rev 19:15; Rev 2:27). The kingdom promised to Israel remains intact and will be fulfilled.

Satan's Attempt Fails as the dragon was waiting to destroy the child at birth. Historically, this connects directly to events like Herod's slaughter of the infants (Matt 2:13–16) and numerous others throughout history. Satan made real attempts, but he could not stop God's plan.

"Her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne." This refers to Christ's ascension after His resurrection (Acts 1:9–11). The phrase **"caught up"** (Greek: *harpazo*) means to seize or snatch away with force. It emphasizes urgency and divine intervention; the child is completely removed from Satan's reach. This same word is used for the Rapture (1 Thess 4:16–17), showing a consistent pattern of God removing His own at the appointed time.

Please Notice This





The 2,000-Year "Comma." We are looking at the white space, or gap, between verse 5 and verse 6, which represents a massive jump in time that explains the age we live in today. Verse 5 covers the **Ascension of Christ**. Verse 6 jumps straight to **the Woman (Israel) fleeing into the wilderness** for 1,260 days during the Tribulation

The Implied Gap: Prophecy often works like looking at a mountain range from a distance. You see two peaks (two events) that look like they are right next to each other, but when you actually get there, you find a massive valley (a gap of time) between them. Verse 5 describes **Jesus ascending to heaven 2,000 years ago**, while verse 6 describes the **middle of the future Tribulation**. This "implied gap" is where the Church (the Church Age) fits into God's timeline.



This isn't the only place God does this. It is found throughout the Bible. Daniel 9:26-27 has a gap between the 69th and 70th "weeks" of years. When Jesus started His ministry in Luke 4, He quoted Isaiah 61:1-2 but stopped at a comma. He didn't read the part about "*the day of vengeance*" because that part hasn't happened yet.

 **Rev. 12:6]** *And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*

 **Rev. 12:7, 8]** *And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.*


Imagine the most intense action movie you've ever seen, but the stakes are the entire universe. While the nation of Israel is forced to flee for her life on earth, a massive "eviction notice" is being served in heaven. Michael the Archangel leads God's forces to permanently kick Satan out of the heavenly places. This isn't a "fair fight" between equals; it is the Creator's top general carrying out orders to clear the courtroom of a defeated accuser.



The Woman's Escape: The Woman (Israel) flees into the wilderness to a "*place prepared of God*". This isn't a coincidence; God has a specific hideout ready where she will be "fed" and sustained. Many scholars believe the "place prepared" in the wilderness is the rock-city of **Petra** in modern-day Jordan, which is naturally fortified and easy to defend.

The 1,260-Day Countdown: This period of protection lasts exactly 1,260 days (which is 42 months, or 3.5 years). This marks the intense second half of the Tribulation.

War in Heaven: A literal war breaks out. It's Michael and his angels vs. the Dragon and his angels, resulting in the **End of Access** for Satan, who, for ages, has had limited access to heaven to "accuse the brethren" (as he did with Job), but now he has "prevailed not". The Bible also says, "neither was their place found any more in heaven." This means the heavenly realms are finally purged of all demonic presence once and for all.

 This is another reason why the world starts spinning out of control during the Tribulation. This is akin to knocking a nest of angry hornets out of the eaves. When Satan is kicked out of heaven, he brings all his "great wrath" down to the earth because he knows his time is running out.

Michael the Archangel: Daniel describes him as a high-ranking leader among the angels (Dan 10:13). He is one of the Chief Princes who holds a unique, singular title of authority (Jude 1:9; 1 Thess 4:16). While some traditions or non-biblical books like the Apocrypha name seven archangels, the Bible highlights Michael's specific authority. He is specifically identified as the spiritual prince who stands for the Jewish people (Dan 10:21). His activity triggers the "time of trouble" (the Tribulation) and Israel's eventual deliverance (Dan 12:1).



It is interesting that he is seen fighting for the body of Moses (Jude 9) and leading the charge in the "**Wars of the Lord**" (Zech 14:3; Num 21:14). Also, it is his voice that is heard when the Lord descends, and the Church is caught up (1 Thess 4:16).



Rev. 12:9] *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which **deceiveth** the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

Here, the "*Great Dragon*" is explicitly identified as the "*old serpent*" from Genesis, the "*Devil*" (meaning "slanderer"), and "*Satan*" (meaning "adversary"). Satan's primary job description is that he "*deceiveth the whole world*". This is his main tool, especially as the world nears the end times.



The Warning: Because deception is his main weapon, both Jesus and Paul gave urgent warnings to believers: "*See to it that no one misleads you*" (Matt 24:4) and "*Let no one in any way deceive you*" (2 Thess 2:3a), specifically regarding the end times.

It wasn't just Satan who was kicked out; "*his angels were cast out with him*". Heaven is now completely purged of the satanic order. For a short time (likely the final 3.5 years of the Tribulation), the entire demonic hierarchy is confined strictly to the earth.

Who is Satan? (A Scriptural Profile)

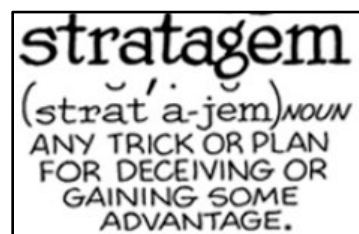
- ✓ **His Origin:** He was created as a high-ranking angelic being (Ezek 28:2-15).
- ✓ **His Rebellion:** He led a revolt in heaven due to pride (Isa 14:12-17).
- ✓ **His Character:** He has been a liar and a murderer from the very beginning (Gen 3:4, 5; John 8:44).
- ✓ **His Enemy:** He is at constant enmity with mankind (Gen 3:14-15).
- ✓ **His Power:** He currently blinds the minds of unbelievers (2 Cor 4:3, 4) and will eventually empower a "Satanic Trinity" (Satan, the Beast, False Prophet) during the Tribulation (Rev 13:1; 17:3; Dan 7).



The prophecies of Daniel dovetail with is going on in Revelation so skillfully:

*And out of one of them came forth **a little horn**, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it **cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground**, and stamped upon them. **Daniel 8:9-10***

A "**stratagem**" is a trick or a scheme used to deceive an enemy and gain an advantage. From the very first pages of the Bible, Satan has had one goal: to destroy the "Seed of the Woman" (Jesus) and the nation of Israel. He knows that if he can wipe out the Messianic line or the Jewish people, he can theoretically prove God's promises false and keep his own power. While he has failed at every turn, his methods are consistent—he uses deceit, murder, and corruption to create doubt about God's Word.



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- ✓ **Family Sabotage:** He inspired Cain to murder Abel to stop the righteous line.
- ✓ **Genetic Corruption:** He attempted to corrupt the entire human race through the Nephilim to prevent a "pure" human Savior from being born (Gen 6).
- ✓ **Targeting the Patriarchs:** He attacked Abraham's seed through Sarah's abduction and later through a global famine (Gen 12, 20, 50).
- ✓ **National Extinction:** He used Pharaoh to try to kill every male Hebrew baby (Ex 1) and later tried to trap the nation at the Red Sea (Ex 14).
- ✓ **Attacking David's Throne:** Once the promise was narrowed to King David, Satan launched direct attacks on that specific bloodline:
 - Jehoram murdered all his own brothers.
 - Arabian invaders killed all of the king's sons except one.
 - Queen Athaliah tried to execute the entire royal family, but one boy, Joash, was hidden away (2 Kings 11:1-3).
- ✓ **The "Blood Curse":** He thought he had a "checkmate" when God placed a blood curse on Jeconiah (Jer 22:30), which would have stopped any legal descendant from taking the throne—this is why the **Virgin Birth** was a brilliant legal necessity.
- ✓ **Genocide:** He used Haman to attempt to wipe out every Jew in the Persian Empire (Esther 3).

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- ✓ **Infanticide:** He inspired Herod to slaughter every baby in Bethlehem to kill the newborn King (Matt 2).
- ✓ **Direct Assassination:** He tried to have a mob throw Jesus off a cliff at Nazareth (Luke 4) and attempted to sink His boat during two supernatural storms (Mark 4; Luke 8).
- ✓ **The Cross:** Satan thought the crucifixion was his ultimate victory, but it actually became his ultimate defeat.

We know from (Deut. 32) and (Dan. 10) that spiritual powers stand behind earthly empires. In Daniel, Persia and Greece are linked to ruling "princes," indicating unseen influence over nations. That raises a sobering question: Is there such a power behind the United States? It would seem likely, especially as we watch a growing descent into humanism/paganism, the steady erosion of the nation's Godly foundation, and the increasing ineffectiveness in leadership.

None of this should surprise us. We must remind ourselves: *Whose world is this?* For now, it remains under Satan's influence, and we are pilgrims passing through.

His primary method is not open force, but deception—sowing doubt about the Word of God (John 8:44).



Watch for deception increasing in scale and intensity. Revelation 12:9 makes it clear that deception is not random or isolated; it is coordinated and global. As the timeline progresses, truth becomes harder to recognize (A.I., social media, etc.), and falsehood becomes more persuasive.



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.*

A loud voice breaks out in heaven, announcing that a **major shift has taken place. Satan, the accuser, has been thrown down.** His access is gone. His accusations are silenced. At the same time, we are told how believers overcome him, not through strength or strategy, but through the **blood of Christ**, the **truth** they stand on, and their willingness to **hold fast** even under death. This is victory language, forged in the midst of intense conflict.



Rev. 12:12] *Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters 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.*

A command is given for the heavens and everyone dwelling in them to "rejoice". The atmosphere of the celestial realm has finally been cleared of the Dragon's presence. At the same time a **stark warning** is issued to the "inhabiters of the earth and of the sea". While heaven is at peace, the earth is about to face the Dragon's concentrated fury.

The Devil has "*great wrath*" specifically because he knows he only has a "**short time**" left. This confirms that once he is cast down, the clock is ticking toward his final judgment. This "short time" is one reason the exact timing of the Rapture must remain a secret. God wants to catch Satan by surprise so that the "trigger" for these events—the Rapture—happens before the Dragon can prepare.



Watch for the rapid increase in mounting pressures worldwide. Even before Satan is cast to the earth, the Body of Christ will be aware of these pressures, beyond normal explanation. After the Rapture, in the Tribulation, this pressure will increase dramatically as Satan becomes a confined adversary working against a fixed deadline.



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.*

As soon as the Dragon sees he is trapped on earth, he begins a relentless persecution of "**the woman**" (Israel) who brought forth the Messiah.


To help her escape, the woman is given "two wings of a great eagle. This is a picture of rapid escape and divine assistance, and the same imagery is used when God delivered Israel from Egypt (Ex 19:4). It emphasizes God's provision rather than Israel's strength.


There is a specific, prepared location. This is not symbolic safety; it is a real place of refuge. Jesus warned Israel to flee when they see the abomination of desolation (Matt 24:15–16).


The Jewish refugees will be sustained in their place of safety for "a time, and times, and half a time." This equals **three and a half years**, the length of the **second half of the tribulation**. God will protect those who trust in Him.

Astute Bible scholars believe this "place in the wilderness" is the ancient city of **Petra** (located in modern-day Jordan) (Dan. 11, Mic. 2, Isa. 63). This is the only location on earth Jesus specifically warned the Jewish people to "flee to the mountains" when they see the "abomination of desolation" in the temple, and Petra's narrow, rocky entrances make it a perfect natural fortress.



 **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.*

 **Rev. 12:17]** *And the dragon was wrath with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

This section shows the "Conflict Between Two Seeds" that began in Genesis 3. The "Seed of the Woman" (Jesus) has already ascended, so the "Seed of the Serpent" (Satanic Trinity) tries to use nature itself to wash away the Jewish people. When God performs a miracle to save the refugees, the Dragon turns his burning rage toward the rest of the family—the "remnant" of Jewish believers who didn't make it to the wilderness hideout.

Since Jesus gave a specific warning to "flee to the mountains" when the "abomination of desolation" appears (Matthew 24:15-16), many believe the "flood" in verse 15 might actually represent a massive pursuit by the Antichrist's military forces that continues on and off throughout the second half of the Tribulation after the midpoint (abomination), which eventually culminates in Armageddon.

- The "Seed of the Serpent."
 - The Red Dragon: Satan
 - The Coming World Leader
 - The False Prophet
 - They are the forces behind world powers today.

The Satanic Trinity



THE DRAGON



THE BEAST



THE FALSE PROPHET

Final note on Rev. 12:17: The **believing remnant in Revelation 12:17** is **primarily Jewish**, but there will be some **Gentile believers during the Tribulation** who escape martyrdom. Scripture keeps these groups distinct even though both come to faith. The phrase “*remnant of her seed*” ties directly back to the woman, Israel, so this here is not a general group; it is a subset of Israel that believes. This shows they are not just ethnic Jews, they are **believing Jews**. This fulfills the repeated Old Testament promise of a preserved remnant (Isa 10:20–22; Mic 5:3).

Next Lesson: Read Revelation Chapter 13. This chapter introduces the Satanic Duet who operate openly on earth during the Tribulation.

- ✓ **The Beast out of the Sea - Antichrist**
- ✓ **The Beast out of the Earth – The False Prophet**

We will be discussing these two characters, especially the Antichrist, in-depth. If you have time and want to read some background passages:

- Origin of Satan (Ezekiel 28, Isaiah 14)
- The Assyrian (Antichrist). From the Roman Empire but not necessarily from Europe (Isaiah 10:24f; Micah 5:5f)
- Physical Descriptor of the Antichrist (Zech. 11:17)

REVELATION CHAPTER TWELVE

P U S H S N C A R D F U N D D Y	ACCUSED	FLOOD
F U L L O F O A L S F O E B E N	ANGELS	FOUGHT
M E R G E S E I U B U S U A R D	ANOTHER	GREAT
P O A T N G H E N S U E S G E M	BIRTH	HEAVEN
R R D W H C N E D C E U L N H O	BLOOD	JESUS
D E O G M G R A C K S W I G H T	CAUSE	KINGDOM
G R A O N P I A R E G A O P A L	CHILD	MICHAEL
C O U D W I M M J A P A N M O E	CHRIST	MIGHT
D T O R Y I K G F A N N E D A H	CLOTHED	MOUTH
H E O I C E R I C L O O T S T N	CROWN	PAINED
D T V H O E S L C L O D T R A H	DEVIL	READY
H E A I A H O W W H D O A H E R	DEVOUR	RED
R E V T L T T H O O R E D A E R	DRAGON	WHOLE
L E D O H I O R O R O I V E E R	EAGLE	WOMAN
R O V E U L I L I N L E S S E R	EARTH	WORLD
B U D G E R B U L B N D O T T Y	FEED	WROTH