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**December 21**

**Revelation 12:1-17**

**The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon**

12 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. <sup>2</sup> Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

<sup>3</sup> And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. <sup>4</sup> His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. <sup>5</sup> She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. <sup>6</sup> Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

**Satan Thrown Out of Heaven**

<sup>7</sup> And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, <sup>8</sup> but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any

longer. <sup>9</sup> So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

<sup>10</sup> Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. <sup>11</sup> And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. <sup>12</sup> Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

### **The Woman Persecuted**

<sup>13</sup> Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*. <sup>14</sup> But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. <sup>15</sup> So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. <sup>16</sup> But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. <sup>17</sup> And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

### **OKAY, HERE'S MY TEACHING COMMENTARY**

Here in Revelation chapter 12 the apostle John records for us the vision of a woman, a child that she gave birth to and a dragon that wanted to kill the child. It doesn't seem to fit into the timeline of all of the events that have already been recorded. This is one of the reasons why the book of Revelation is difficult to interpret because all the visions don't seem to necessarily fit together chronologically. For example, we already have recorded the seven churches in chapters 2 and 3 followed by a progressive revelation of the end time judgments to come upon the earth. Now John seems to switch gears and go into a completely new revelation.

#### **First, let's identify the typology here:**

- a) The Woman = Israel
- b) The Male child = the Son of God, Jesus Christ
- c) The Dragon = Satan, the devil, the serpent who deceived the whole world
- d) The Seed of the woman = Born again believers in Jesus Christ

So this vision is full of typology with spiritual meanings to give us understanding concerning Israel bringing forth the Messiah, the Son of God, Jesus Christ and how Satan was determined to destroy him but Jesus fulfilled his divine destiny of redeeming humanity and then was caught up to God and his throne in heaven. Now, because of the power of the blood of Jesus

Christ all those that repent and believe in Jesus Christ can be saved and spiritually born again into the family of God. Through faith in Jesus believers are delivered from the power and control of Satan.

Colossians 1:13-14 [The Father] has delivered *and* drawn us to Himself out of the control *and* the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, In Whom we have our redemption *through His blood*, [which means] the forgiveness of our sins. (Amplified Bible)

Because of this, the devil is exceedingly angry at Israel for being the instrument that God chose to bring forth his promised Messiah to deliver humanity from sin and his demonic control. Furthermore, this is also the motive of the devil to make war with the spiritual seed of Israel which means the born-again Christians that have received Israel's Messiah and Savior. Satan is exposed as the accuser of all that believe in Jesus. Remember Job? That's what the Bible reveals that Satan was doing before Job went through his sufferings. Satan was coming before God accusing Job of his motive for worshipping and serving God saying that he only did so because God had protected and blessed Job materially. However, Job held onto his faith even though he went through some severe sufferings. In the end, he overcame and proved that his devotion to God was sincere from the heart. God blessed Job with double for all his trouble!

Now, through the blood of Jesus Christ the lamb of God we are victorious over all the accusations of the devil because we have voluntarily chosen to go the way of Jesus Christ and receive his forgiveness, cleansing and salvation which is not available to the Devil, Fallen Angels or Demons! Thanks be to God we now have a mighty spiritual weapon to use in the war with Satan and that is the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and our confession of faith. Notice that it says that believers did not love their lives unto death.

Now this is where it gets really heavy because I believe that spiritual persecution from Satan manifests through earthly rulers and others that are not submitted to Jesus Christ is Lord. So, for multitudes of Christians around the world they confront persecution, go through sufferings and sometimes pay the ultimate price with torture and physical death because they refuse to renounce their faith in Jesus Christ knowing that they will be received into Heaven and are assured of eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

### **WHATS THE BOTTOM LINE?**

- 1) Revelation chapter 12 is a panoramic view of end time events concerning Israel, the Messiah, Satan the dragon and the spiritual seed of Christ which are born-again believers.
- 2) Jesus fulfilled his mission as the Son of God and was caught up to the throne of God.
- 3) The reason why the devil hates Israel is because this is the nation that brought forth the promised Messiah that broke his spiritual control over humanity!

4) We now have a mighty spiritual weapon against the devil and that is the blood of Jesus Christ which cleanses us from all sin and by this we overcome Satan's accusations!

5) The real source of persecution and Christian martyrdom is Satan himself using ungodly men as his servants trying to break believers and cause them to renounce Jesus Christ as Lord.

6) For multitudes of Christians, loving not their lives to the point of death has meant keeping their faith in Jesus despite persecution, torture and death.

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