



***The continuing saga of the beast (antichrist) and his efforts to destroy God's authority on earth.***

***(Chapter 12 is much like Chapter 11...It summarizes God's complete authority over His adversary, Satan).***

***Revelation 12:1-9***, "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. <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."

**The Characters in Revelation 12, Introduction of these characters in the 1<sup>st</sup> nine verses:**

- (1) ***The sun-clothed woman***
- (2) ***The Man Child---Jesus, the Messiah***
- (3) ***The Dragon---Satan, the Accuser***
- (4) ***The Archangel---Michael***

**Sun Clothed Woman---Who?**

- (1) ***Mary?***
- (2) ***The Church?***
- (3) ***Israel***
- (4) ***The Community of God***

***It was from the chosen people that Jesus Christ sprang in his human lineage.***

***Satan is out to destroy Israel, the Christ (Jewish...but giving an open door to the Gentiles, the Church through His suffering)...making Satan out to annihilate the Community of God.***

***Therefore, since there were no details about the earthly Jesus in this passage we can look and see all who have been tormented and persecuted by the Wicked One. We see all of God's children (Israel, Jesus, and the Church) being persecuted.***

***We need to remember here that John is writing about the triumphant and resurrected Jesus...but, not centering in on Jesus' ministry here on earth. John is visualizing and writing down all of the information being fed to him in the vision. Since God's chosen people (Jews), the church (mainly Gentiles), and Jesus, the Messiah, all were persecuted by the enemy Satan, we see the picture of the Community of God being severely punished...even killed. But...God's people will triumph in the end.***

### **Satan---Names used in Chapter 12**

**Note: We've already seen all the names used in Revelation for the Antichrist...Now it is Satan's turn to be introduced with his ungodly description:**

- (1) The "great dragon, serpent" (v.3)***
- (2) "That ancient serpent/devil" (v.9)***
- (3) The "Deceiver of mankind" (v.9)***
- (4) Satan (v.9); means adversary.***
- (5) The "accuser of the brethren (v.10)***

### **Michael, the Archangel**

***War -----Heaven's angels led by Michael; hell's angels led by Satan.***

**Michael---Appears superior to the majority of the angels, but somewhat less in created order than Satan himself.**

**Michael does not seem to cope with Satan himself, but must rely on the Power of God for his defense.**

***However, because of Michael's boldness, protective force and unwavering faithfulness and dedication to God, he triumphs.***

***We are like Michael, in that we are weaker than Satan (if we rely on ourselves only); but, we have the mighty fortress strengthening us to overcome the evil one.***

**Remember----In Christ, we are more than Conquerors.**

**Revelation 12:10-12, "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 Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. <sup>11</sup> They triumphed over 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. <sup>12</sup> 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."*

**Please Note: There are three (3) sources of victory over the devil shown here.**

**They Overcame him:**

**(1) "By the blood of the Lamb." Hallelujah...Hallelujah...Worthy is the Lamb.**

**(2) "By the word of their testimony."**

*It is very important that we have a testimony of our account when we met Jesus. I have consistently told the congregants and Bible Study students that they need to write out their Christian testimony...for the sake of their family after we are gone. There is no greater legacy to be left for the loved ones left on earth after our passing than to read our testimony as to when we met Jesus and how much He meant to us as we lived on planet earth.*

**(3) "Because they loved not their lives unto death."**

**Death has no hold on the blood-bought Christian. We stand boldly waiting for our cross-over from this life to the next.**

**Satan is cast out of heaven-----to earth!**

**Song of Martyrs in Heaven:**

**They are thrilled that their adversary is cast from heaven and will be defeated. They seem to have full confidence that their accuser and persecutor is done, beaten, annihilated, destroyed...and they will not have to be tormented any longer.**

**Revelation 12:13-17,** *"When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. <sup>14</sup> The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach. <sup>15</sup> Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. <sup>16</sup> But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. <sup>17</sup> Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus."*

**Satan knows he has a short time----so, he comes up with a plan.**

**He sees that God's plan has worked.**

**So.....He uses the same plan, but his way, not God's way.**

**Satan's downfall from heaven was because of the sin of pride...and now his final downfall is because of pride; that of wanting to be King and Lord over the earth and heaven's realm.**

**Evil never wins in the end.**

**The Church...the Bride of Christ. You and me, we are going to be pursued by the adversary throughout our days on planet earth.**

**We are going to be carried out of here on Eagles' wing straight to our eternal rest with the triumphant God.**

**However, since we are already raptured out (the Church) during this picture, we believe the Scripture means that the Jews (Israel) who have accepted Jesus in the tribulation period will be protected...carried out on eagles' wings.**

**Old Testament picture, eagles' wings are a picture of the upbearing wings of God.**

*Exodus 19:4, "You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself."*

**This play and scenes depict evil trying to be victorious over everything God has created. However, "good wins over evil" always in the end.**

