

The Apocalypse

Chapter 12, part 1

- I. Introduction
 - a. We have come to an interesting chapter
 - i. This chapter actually introduces us to some of the actors in the Tribulation period
 - 1. The two witnesses were introduced in the previous chapter
 - ii. This chapter also foretells some events that will occur at the middle of the Tribulation period
- II. Commentary
 - a. **Verses 1-2**
 - i. *"Now a great sign appeared in heaven"*
 - 1. We are told up front that this is a sign, or symbolism
 - a. Remember, this book should be taken literally until the Lord informs us it is symbolic of something else
 - ii. A sun clothed woman is seen
 - 1. This is the nation of Israel
 - a. Some try to make this the church
 - i. However, the church has not been spoken of once since the Tribulation prophecy has started
 - 1. Israel has been the theme of this book thusfar
 - b. The church at Rome makes this Mary
 - i. Of course, this is an attempt to deify her
 - c. **Isa. 54:5,6** represents Israel as a woman in the fullest extent
 - i. She is often represented as a woman in the Old Testament
 - 1. She was represented by the wife of Hosea in the book that bears his name
 - 2. She had the moon under her feet
 - a. The sun and moon are light conveying objects
 - i. During the Tribulation, she will be the promoter of the true light
 - 3. The twelve stars on her head represents her twelve tribes
 - a. This proves the national restoration of all Israel
 - 4. She was with child
 - a. This child is the Lord Jesus Christ
 - i. **Rom. 9:5** teaches us that Jesus came from the nation of Israel
 - b. She was in pain during her labor
 - i. This represents both the Roman persecution during the days of Christ's birth as well as her persecution during the Tribulation
 - b. **Verses 3-4**
 - i. We are given another sign in heaven
 - 1. *"a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads"*
 - a. This is Satan (**vs. 9**)
 - b. The seven heads and ten horns are eerily similar to the description of the beast in the next chapter (**13:1**)
 - i. Some have made them different because of the differing numbers of crowns

1. However, this chapter speaks of “*seven diadems on his heads*” while the next chapter speaks of “*ten crowns...on his horns*”
 - ii. The beast of the next chapter (the Antichrist) will be Satan incarnate
 2. He “*drew a third of the stars of heaven*” with his tail and they were thrown down to the earth
 - a. This seems to teach that 1/3 of the angels were non-elect and fell with Satan
 - i. These are eternally doomed with no hope of restoration
 - b. Fallen angels do their work here...now
 3. He “*stood before the women who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born*”
 - a. Herod’s plot (**Mat. 2:13-18**) was none other than Satan’s plot
 - i. This is just one example of Satan trying to destroy the line
 1. He tried by the killing of Abel
 2. He tried in the days before the flood with the intermarrying of fallen angels with men
 3. He thought he had when Christ died on the cross
 4. He tried in the days of Hitler
- c. **Verses 5-6**
- i. The Child she bore “*was to rule all nations with a rod of iron*”
 1. Again, this One is Christ
 2. He has ascended into Heaven is now presently seated at the right hand of God (**Col. 3:1, Heb. 10:12, Heb. 12:2, I Pet. 3:22**)
 - ii. Israel will flee into the wilderness
 1. This is a place specifically prepared by God for her (**Isa. 16:1-5, Isa. 26:20-21, Mat. 24:15-21**)
 - a. Many good expositors believe this a place called Petra
 - i. This is a famous “rock city”
 1. It was once the almost impregnable capital of Edom
 2. Israel will be supernaturally protected during the Tribulation period
 - a. Some believe this is only the 144,000
 - i. This is possible
 - ii. It could be that God protects the majority of the nation
- d. **Verses 7-9**
- i. War broke out in heaven
 1. Most likely, this “*heaven*” is the second heaven where the stars and planets are
 2. Michael may, in fact, start this war
 - a. Remember, Michael is the guardian of the nation of Israel
 - i. He may stand up against them when Satan begins to deal evil to them during the Tribulation
 - ii. This may begin as early as the rapture of the saints
 3. Michael and his angels overpower Satan and his angels
 - a. What comfort we should receive from this knowing that God can give this type of strength to His servants
 - b. This should not be a surprise since “*the battle is the LORD’s*” (**I Sam. 17:47**)
 4. Satan and his angels are cast out of heaven never to return
 5. The names of Satan are listed

- a. *“the great dragon”*
 - i. This suggests bloodshed
 - ii. Satan has been the cause of the evil behind every war that has ever been fought
 - b. *“that serpent of old”*
 - i. This, of course, refers to the garden of Eden and the Fall
 - c. *“the Devil”*
 - i. That is, slanderer or accuser
 - d. *“Satan”*
 - i. That is, adversary
 - 1. He is the enemy of God and His people
6. Satan deceives the whole world
- a. We see the effects of this today
 - b. For those that say the word “world” always means every person, this verse presents problems
 - i. Obviously, this verse is referring to the majority – the world system
7. Satan is cast to the Earth with his angels
- a. This brings us to about the middle of the Tribulation period