



**A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES**  
**Week 62: Earthly and Heavenly Conflicts, Part 2**  
**August 27, 2023**  
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**Review:**

- A. Last week, we began to study **Revelation Ch. 12**, which – as I shared then – is a portion of Scripture which has yielded no end of wild speculation and false prophecies.
1. Chuck Missler claims **Revelation Ch. 12** is one of the most important chapters in all of God’s Word, because it fundamentally presents the truth of the entire Bible. Perhaps this is why so many people have grossly mishandled this portion of Scripture.
  2. **Chapter 12 of Revelation**, as I said, is one of those “clearing moments” within the chronology of this wonderful book.
  3. It is a transition, a parentheses of sorts. It is here in **Ch. 12** that we are permitted a glance at things that are “past, present, and future” from the perspective of John.
  4. This chapter conforms well to the instructions given to John in **Revelation 1:19**; *“Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.”*
  5. In other words, John is told to record things past, present, and future. Here in **Chapter 12**, we have things past and things future, and they are framed in both an earthly conflict, and a heavenly conflict.
  6. Last week we looked at “the woman” in this chapter, and from a full study of what we are told of her, we understand that she is a sign that represents Israel.
  7. As a symbol of Israel, the woman bears a baby boy, which represents Jesus Christ.
  8. The picture then moves into the time of the end, when that woman (Israel) flees into the wilderness where she is protected by God for 1260 days, which is the second half of the Tribulation.
  9. We looked at some of the problems that are raised by the errant idea that this woman represents the church. That is a popular notion among some teachers and pastors today.
  10. There are many problems with that view, not the least of which is the church was NOT the one to produce Jesus Christ.
  11. Last week, we also began to look at the other major symbol in this passage, and that is the great red dragon. The text makes it clear this represents Satan.
  12. We saw that there was the same dynamic here with the Dragon as there was with the woman: there is a past and future perspective.
  13. In the past perspective, we saw that Satan had one third of the angels fall with him back before the creation of the earth. Remember, “stars” = “angels” in a number of Bible passages, and that is also the case here.
  14. Here we know that Satan has one third of the angelic population behind him. This is the Bible passage from which we gain that insight.

**NOTE:** This week, we’ll try to wrap up this section of **Revelation 12:1-6**, by moving from the PAST perspective into the FUTURE one. Then we’ll look at a war that is coming in heaven.

I. **First, the dragon wants to destroy the male child** (This combines some PAST and some FUTURE elements, but let's look at both).

A. It's no stretch of imagination here to see that this is a picture of Satan trying to disrupt God's plan that was first foretold in **Genesis 3:15**

1. As we've learned, **Genesis 3:15** is the seminal passage in Scripture upon which all Bible prophecy depends.
2. It's in **Genesis 3:15** that Satan's eventual destruction is prophesied.
3. It's in this same passage where the promise of a Messiah is given.
4. It's in **Genesis 3:15** where enmity is predicted between the seed of the woman and the seed of Satan.
5. Basically, it's in **Genesis 3:15** where Satan is put on notice that he will be the eventual loser in the great cosmic battle of the ages.

B. In **Revelation 12:4**, the dragon wants to devour or destroy the male child which is representing Jesus Christ. The woman (Israel) will produce this child.

**NOTE:** This is an insight to Satan's efforts to destroy the line of Jesus Christ, and Jesus Himself, through all history from **Genesis 3:15** and since:

1. First, Satan tried to destroy the genome of the human race. If he could do that, then he could prevent the arrival of the Messiah through pure human genetics.
  - a. That is why **Genesis 6:1-4** documents how fallen angels tried to corrupt the human genome by interbreeding with humanity and producing the Nephilim.
  - b. It's why Noah was preserved by God. Noah was "*perfect in his generations*" according to **Genesis 6:9**. God preserved the promise of the Messiah through Noah's line, while He destroyed the rest of the corrupted world in the Great Flood.
2. Satan's next target was the Nation of Israel. When Satan saw that God had selected Abraham to be the father of the Nation of Israel, Satan narrowed his target.
  - a. From that point on, we see how Israel was persecuted.
  - b. We see how Pharaoh tried to destroy the Israelites that had left Egypt, and how the Nephilim were entrenched in the land of Canaan to prevent the Israelites from gaining the Promised Land.
  - c. We see how Haman tried to destroy all the Jews and how God raised up Esther to thwart that plan.
3. When that effort failed, Satan narrowed his focus to the lineage of Jesus Christ.
  - a. Over and over in Scripture we see the promised line of the Messiah being threatened and being brought to the brink of elimination.
  - b. If the chosen line was destroyed, then God's plan would be thwarted. Satan would be victorious, and God's promise to judge Satan through the promised Messiah would not take place.
4. When all that failed, Satan moved to destroy Jesus Christ Himself.

- a. Herod tried to kill all the Jewish babies when he heard that the “King of the Jews” had been born.
  - b. Satan even tried to tempt Jesus and cause Jesus to fail in His mission. If he could get Jesus to worship him, then Jesus’ mission as the Messiah would fail.
  - c. Ultimately, when Peter attempted to get Jesus to bypass the cross in **Matthew 16:22-23**, Jesus rebuked Peter. He stated that Satan was behind such talk.
5. These efforts by Satan to destroy Jesus and to disrupt the plan of God continue all the way up to the very end of time.
- a. It’s why every effort by the Church to survive and complete its calling has been under attack through the ages.
  - b. It’s why Satan has always tried to destroy the Jews. If he can succeed in that, then the conditions for Jesus Christ’s Second Advent will be thwarted.

**Cf. Hosea 5:15 (speaking of the Jews during the end of the Tribulation) – “Then I will return to My place until they admit their guilt and seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.”**

- a. One of the conditions for the return of Jesus Christ at the end of the Tribulation is the corporate repentance of the Jewish nation.
- b. This is why Satan makes every effort during the Tribulation to utterly destroy the Jews. He wants to prevent God’s prophetic plan of his own destruction from coming about.
- c. This brings us full circle back to this insight we gain here in **Revelation 12:4** where Satan wants to devour the male child but what happens?

## II. The male child, representing Jesus Christ, is preserved (Cf. vs. 5)

A. We see here that this male child will “rule all the nations with an iron scepter”

1. This is a phrase that is used several times in Scripture
  - a. It is used to prophesy the nature of the reign of Jesus Christ. **Psalms 2:9** *You will break them with an iron scepter; You will shatter them like pottery.*
  - b. It is stated again in **Revelation 19:15** where the return of Jesus Christ is described; *“And from His mouth proceeds a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and He will rule them with an iron scepter.”*
  - c. This phrase about ruling with an iron scepter speaks of the righteous rule and justice of Jesus Christ.
    - No longer will good be bad or up be down. No longer will right be wrong.
    - Jesus will reign with justice and righteousness, and wickedness will be dashed into pieces.
    - And here, in **Revelation 12:5**, we see that this male child will be that eventual ruler. It is clearly a reference to Jesus Christ and not to the church as some commentators wish to claim.

- B. We also see that this male child is “*snatched up to God.*” (There is some debate on the meaning of this).
1. The Greek term is very similar to “*harpazo*” which means “*caught up by force.*” It’s the term behind the word, “*rapture.*”
  2. My own conclusion is this is an assessment of Jesus Christ, being caught up to heaven, at the conclusion of His earthly ministry.
  3. That event, as we’ve learned, was a type of the Rapture, and so the same term is essentially used here to show that Jesus Christ succeeded in his earthly mission, and following that: he was “*taken up to God.*”
  4. It’s another insight to show Satan’s ambitions to thwart God’s plans were unsuccessful.

**C. The woman (representing Israel) is also preserved – Cf. vs. 6**

**NOTE:** It is here that we transition into the FUTURE perspective. What we’ve studied so far about this passage has essentially been the PAST, but now we move into the future.

1. Remember the lessons we had before about the soon-coming wars and conflicts Israel will face with her surrounding neighbors?

**NOTE:** We see all those events taking shape now, but we learned several things in those lessons:

- a. Israel will have victory over all her foes in these upcoming conflicts, but not without major costs to Israel.
  - b. Israel will gain significant territory as a result.
  - c. One of those areas she will gain territory in is Jordan. I believe the Bible makes the case Israel will gain a great deal of territory in modern-day Jordan.
  - d. This includes the area known as Bozrah or that area in which the ancient city and fortress of Petra now exists.
  - e. I think the Bible makes the case that it is to this region the faithful remnant of Jews will flee when the antichrist, at the halfway point of the Tribulation nullifies the covenant and seeks to exterminate all the Jews instead.
  - f. It is why Jesus instructed faithful Jews of this future time to “*flee to the mountains*” in **Matthew 24:16**. I believe it will be to this region in Jordan, to Petra, that the Jews will flee.
  - g. They will know to do that because it says in **Daniel 11:41**, “*Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand.*”
  - h. These ancient regions define modern-day Jordan, and faithful Jews during the Tribulation will know that the antichrist will be unsuccessful in conquering these territories. So, it’s to these wilderness and mountainous regions they will flee.
  - i. And here in **Revelation 12:6**, we are given another insight on the very same thing.
2. A couple of other observations from **vs. 6**
    - a. She is going to be “*taken care of*” here. **Micah 2:12** describes this situation:

*“I will surely gather all of you, O Jacob; I will collect the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in the midst of its pasture, a noisy throng.”*

- The word used here is *“Bozrah”* which essentially means a “sheep fold”
  - God will take care of this faithful remnant of Israel here in this location (NOTE: Some translations say God will “nourish” or “feed” them there.)
  - The idea is God will sustain them as he did the early nation of Israel when they left Egypt and traveled to the Promised Land. He will supernaturally provide for them.
  - There will be many faithful Jews packed into this location, and this group defines what Paul refers to when he says in **Romans 11:26**, *“all Israel will be saved.”*
  - It amounts to one third of the Jews of that time. Two-thirds will perish. We know that because **Zechariah 13:9** says about the Jews of this FUTURE time:  
*“This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God.’”*
  - Again – this is another insight on that smaller faithful portion of Jews which will repent and call out for their Messiah. This sets up the prophetic conditions for Jesus Christ’s physical return.
  - This is why Satan is going to try so hard to destroy them. He wants to thwart the return of Jesus Christ.
- b. The second thing we learn from **vs. 6** is this remnant of Jews will be preserved and taken care of for 1,260 days.
- This is one-half of the seven-year Tribulation timeframe. It is the second half, also referred to in other places as *“time, times, and half a time,” “42 months,”* or *“three and a half years.”*
  - So, for the entire second half of the Tribulation, that portion known as “The Great Tribulation,” one third of the Jews (the faithful portion who heeded Jesus Christ’s instructions in **Matthew 24:16**), will be supernaturally preserved by Jesus Christ in this wilderness area Israel gained from their conflict with Jordan.
3. Now, let’s collect some further insight on this event by skipping ahead to **vs. 14-17 of Revelation Ch. 12**. Here, we are given a few more details about what will happen:
- a. **Vs. 14** – First, there is the comment about *“wings of a great eagle.”*
- Some scholars interpret this to mean there will be some sort of airlift operation which gets the faithful Jews to this location. The text makes it clear that is not the case.

- In **Exodus 19:4** God uses the same symbolism to describe to Moses how He preserved the nation of Israel during their journey to the Promised Land so again, here is that same supernatural connection from the past). God said, *“You have seen for yourselves what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself.”*
  - Here, the “eagles wings” analogy is also used, but we know it to be a reference to how God miraculously preserved the nation of Israel in ancient times. It will once more be that way in the future.
- b. Second, we know the fleeing faithful Jews will be ground-based in their journey.
- Somehow, Satan will try to destroy the fleeing Jews with a great flood. However, God will open the earth and swallow all that water.
  - NOTE: It says *“the earth helped the woman.”* The earth itself is inanimate; it has no will or action of its own.
  - This event clearly speaks of God’s help manifested through His control of nature. There are many places in Scripture where we see this to be a common aspect of God’s miraculous dealings with his people.
  - Perhaps the most dramatic example of this is the parting of the Red Sea by a supernatural intervention upon nature by God (**Cf. Exodus 14:21**).
  - An easy thing to overlook here is the implication that the fleeing Jews are ground-based. They are not airborne.
  - They are running on foot or using whatever means they have to move across the ground in their escape. God preserves them miraculously in these efforts.
- c. When the dragon is unsuccessful in destroying the fleeing remnant of faithful Jews, he returns his attention to the rest of the Jews (**Cf. vs. 17**)
- d. The *“rest of her offspring”* speaks of all Jews who did not flee to the wilderness, but who are still believing Jews.
- e. We know this to be the case because the phrase is about the offspring *“who keep the commandments of God.”*
- f. This suggests that during the final three and one half years of the Tribulation, unbelieving Jews are not the *primary* object of the dragon’s warfare. For they, like unbelieving Gentiles, will likely take his mark and worship him.
- g. Instead, the Bible seems to suggest that it is *believing Jews* elsewhere around the world that are now his main target. Not his ONLY target as other parts of **Revelation** make clear, but instead his MAIN one.

