

## Revelation 12

**Rev. 12-13: principal characters are introduced for the last ½ of the Tribulation**

- (1) Woman
- (2) Dragon
- (3) Male child
- (4) Michael
- (5) Israel
- (6) Beast out of the Sea – Antichrist
- (7) Beast out of the earth – False Prophet

**Chapter 12 = three sections: Wonders, War in Heaven, War on Earth**

**1. WONDERS (1-6).** Lit. *signs* = 3 symbols that point to something else

**1) A WOMAN clothed with the Sun (read 12:1-2)**

- Genesis 37:9-10
- The woman is ISRAEL  
Israel gave Christ to the world (5)  
Israel will be persecuted severely during the Tribulation (13)

**2) A FIERY RED Dragon (read 3-4)**

- The DRAGON is Satan energizing the Roman Empire (13:1)
- Genesis 3:15 – *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His head.*
- 1/3 of the angels who joined Satan’s rebellion will be cast to earth

**3) A MALE CHILD (read 5-6)**

- This is CHRIST
- *He will rule them with a rod of iron* (Rev. 19:15) (Psm.2:9: *Break them...*)
- The woman (Israel) who brought Christ into the world will be persecuted
- She will flee to a place prepared by God for 1260 days (3 ½ years) – PETRA
- At mid-point of the Tribulation Antichrist will break his covenant w/ Israel
- Matthew 24:16ff – Many Jews will flee for their lives

## 2. WAR IN HEAVEN (read 7-12)

### 1) The war is between Michael & his angels the Dragon & his angels (7)

- **Jude 9** – *Michael the archangel, contended w/ the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses...*
- **Dan. 10:13** – *The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood (Gabriel) 21 days; and behold, Michael one of the chief princes, came to help...for (he) had been left alone w/ the kings of Persia.*
- Spiritual warfare will be moved from the heavens to earth

### 2) The Dragon (Devil) and his angels will be cast out of heaven (8-9)

- **Isa. 14:12-17** – *You are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.” Yet you shall be brought down to sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit – PROPHETIC PAST TENSE*
- **Ezek. 28:17** – *I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you – PROPHETIC PAST TENSE*
  - Satan has access to Heaven today (Job) – He is *the Prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the children of disobedience*
  - He deceives the whole world
  - When Satan is cast out of heaven, he will bring his war to earth

### 3) He is the accuser of the brethren today (10)

- Satan will empower Antichrist to rule over the world

### 4) The Tribulation saints will overcome Satan (11)

- *By the blood of the Lamb*
- *By the word of their testimony*
- *They loved not their lives unto death*

### 5) The result of Satan being cast down will be twofold (12)

- Rejoicing in Heaven
- Woe on earth – the Devil has great wrath because he has a short time

### 3. WAR ON EARTH (13-17)

#### 1) War will be declared against the Woman (Israel) (13)

- The Holocaust will fade in comparison

#### 2) Israel will be protected for 3 ½ years (14)

- She will be given 2 wings like eagles' wings  
Not literal wings, but a graphic description of God's deliverance  
Perhaps the city of Petra

#### 3) Satan will try to destroy Israel (15-16)

- A great army will pursue Israel like a flood  
**Isa 59:19** – *When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.*
- They will be swallowed up (perhaps by one of the earthquakes)

#### 4) There will be added persecution to those who follow Christ (17)

- Multitudes will be saved during the Tribulation
- The Devil will pursue every follower of the Lamb, Jew or Gentile

### CONCLUDE:

1. Antisemitism is escalating around the world.
  - The Holocaust was called Hitler's final solution. It is a forerunner of the persecution to come
  - The next holocaust will more deadly than Hitler's
2. The persecution & martyrdom of Christians is greater today than it was in the Roman Empire.
3. The Tribulation will be a judgment on those who hate God and persecute His people.
4. The Tribulation will be the last invitation for the world to repent before Christ returns in judgment.