

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 5/2 - 3/2022 *Revelation Chapter 12*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER

Revelation Chapter 12 – Prelude to the War - The Woman, The Child and the Dragon – (vs. 1-6); War in Heaven – Satan Thrown Out of Heaven – (vs. 7-12); War on Earth – The Woman Persecuted – (vs. 13-17)

The Woman and the Dragon

Rev 12:1 Now a great sign (wonder, miracle, portent) appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

Rev 12:2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

- ***A great sign – semeion (77X in Bible; 11 X in John) – a wonder; a miracle; a portent, terrifying appearances in the heavens, never before seen, as portents of the last days.***
- ***We see here the narrative making a shift, giving us a panorama. We have looked at the church***

age, the seven churches, the seals, the trumpets. Now we come to the seventh trumpet, which is taking us into the wrath of God, the bowls, which seem to wrap things up rather quickly. God takes a breather, stepping back, giving us this panorama. He is saying this is the cast! Here are the main characters, the main players, giving us everything that is going on behind the scenes from chapter four, verse one, all the way to chapter twenty, wrapping up the end of the age.

- **We are to understand that this is what is behind the scenes, all the way** from the Garden of Eden up to the present time. We need to understand the forces that are at work, behind everything, to understand your present circumstances. The days we are living in are described clearly in Scripture. We can look at what is going on. We can watch the news and get ulcers! We can be bothered, getting a bad attitude. The Lord says, take a deep breath! Step back! Behind the scenes, this is actually what is going on. It drives in the material world what you see and perceive. But everything that is reality is not what you see, taste, touch, smell and hear. There is another reality beyond that.
- **He starts to lay out now in chapters twelve, through fourteen, the characters that are involved,** which take us to the end of the age. There are two signs (wonders) here. This is the first time in the Book of Revelation this word is used. The first *wonder, sign, portent*, mentioned is **the woman!**
- **The woman is the nation of Israel.** There are those who say the woman is the church but not so. In the Book of Genesis, we are told of one of Joseph's dreams that he had. (*Gen 37:9-10*) *Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." [10] So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"* Then Joseph had another dream and this dream even upset his father.
- **He said, I dreamed that the sun and the moon and the twelve stars bowed down to me.** Jacob interpreted that, as his mother, his father, and his brothers. He rebuked Joseph for this second dream. But in the dream of Joseph and the interpretation by Jacob, we get the understanding of the woman because she is identified as the sun and the moon and on her head, the crown of twelve stars. So, the nation of Israel who brought forth Jesus Christ into the world.
- **God had chosen Abraham and had promised him** that He would make him a great nation and that from his seed, all of the world would be blessed. The promise of the Messiah, that would come through Abraham. Later God repeated the promise to David as He is identifying the tribe and the family through which the Messiah would come.
- **Paul tells us, (Rom 3:1-2)** *What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? [2] Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.* "The covenants, the ordinances, the worship, and after them, according to the flesh, came Jesus, who is God, overall blessed forever, Amen. So, the nation of Israel, bringing forth Jesus the Messiah into the world. That is our first identity here.

Rev 12:3 *And another (allos, same) sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon (mega, purros – monster of monsters) having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.*

Rev 12:4 *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.*

- **A little further down in verse nine, we will be getting the identity of the great red dragon,** if you did not already catch on. It is none other than Satan! (*Rev 12:9*) *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.* So, the second wonder in heaven.
- **It would appear that Satan,** and surely the pictures of Satan with the forked tail, the pitch fork and horns and so forth, is a mistake to think of Satan looking like that. In reality, that is the god Pan of the Romans and the Greeks. With the pitch fork and the horns and so forth is actually the Roman and Greek god, Pan.
- **Satan is described in (Ezekiel 28:12b).** *You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.* He is no doubt a gorgeous creature, one of the most beautiful of God's creation. Because of these things, he was lifted up in pride, exercising his will against the will of God, as Isaiah tells us (*Isa 14:12-14*) *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! [13] 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; [14] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Thus, Satan fell from the position that he had in the kingdom of God, actually becoming an adversary to God and ultimately to the people of God.

- **The name Satan literally means adversary.** An adversary of God. Now at this point it should be noted that Satan is not an opposite of God. So many people think of Satan as an opposite of God. There is an opposition to God and his kingdom would be opposite the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is that of light and life. The kingdom of Satan is death and darkness. There are opposites there. But in no way can Satan be thought of as an opposite of God. Because God is eternal, self-existent, all-powerful! Satan is a created being, having only limited powers. He does not even come close to the same category as God! He should never be thought as an opposite of God!
- **As an angel, he was created in one of the highest orders of the angels.** It is thought that he was at one time, and Ezekiel tells us, (*Eze 28:13-15*) "*You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. [14] You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. [15] You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.* Satan was of that class of angels of the cherubs. But he was and is not at all an opposite of God!
- **When he rebelled against God, he had such influence and power in heaven even among the angels that one third of the angels joined him in his rebellion.** That is what is meant here, "*His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.* Angels are often called the stars in heaven, in the Scriptures. We read about, when God laid the foundation of the earth, the morning stars sang together. So, *He 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.*
- **Satan did his best to keep Jesus from the cross.** He did not put Jesus on the cross. He did not want Jesus to go to the cross. He fought against Jesus going to the cross, seeking his best to keep Him from the cross, which was his first attempt to wipe out the Jewish race.
- **We remember the story of Esther, how that when Haman was upset over Mordecai not bowing to him,** he conspired to put to death the whole nation, all of the Jews. That was another of Satan's attempt to stop the Messiah.
- **Here Satan is ready to devour the child as soon as it was born.** We remember how that when the wise men came to Herod asking them where the Messiah, the King of Israel was to be born, he inquired of the Jewish scholars and they said, in Bethlehem, the star led them to Bethlehem. But Herod said, Go and search diligently for the young child and when you have found Him, come and let me know that I might come and worship Him also.
- **When the Lord warned the wise men, and they did not return to Herod** to let him know where the child was, he then ordered all of the infants in Bethlehem two years and under to be slain. The dragon was trying to destroy the male Child when He was born!

Rev 12:5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up* (harpazo, resurrection and ascension) *to God and His throne.

(Psa 2:8-9) Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. [9] You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.

- ***She bore a male Child*** - That is, Israel, and the man child, of course, is Jesus,
- ***And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.*** There are many Scriptures that deal with Jesus being caught up into heaven, His ascension into heaven and is there now at His throne. Jesus promised the church of Thyatira that if they would overcome, they would be granted to sit with Him on His throne, even as He overcame and is sat down with the Father at His throne. Jesus is in heaven, there at the throne of God. Caught up into heaven. The ascension of Jesus. Now in heaven, as an advocate for us. Now Satan is the adversary. But Jesus is our advocate and at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us!

Rev 12:6 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.

- **This is the last three-and-a-half years of the Great Tribulation.** The whole period of time will be seven years, in which God is going to be dealing with the nation of Israel once again. From the ninth chapter of Daniel, we read (*Dan 9:25*) *Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.*
- **That was accomplished. Four hundred and eighty-three years** after the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, Jesus came and presented Himself as the Messiah to the nation of Israel. But that leaves a one seven-year period unfulfilled.
- **In Matthew chapter 24, when Jesus was passing through the temple with His disciples,** and they were going over to the Mount of Olives. As they were going past the temple, the disciples were calling attention to the huge stones that Herod had used in the building of the temple. Jesus made an interesting prediction that not one of those stones would be left standing on another. Then, when they got over to the Mount of Olives, the disciples said, Lord, when will this be, the destruction of the temple? And what will be the signs of Your coming and the end of the age?
- **Jesus took time to explain to them the time of the destruction of the temple,** giving them illustrations of the things that would be going on. Then, He went on to talk about the signs of His coming and the end of the age, speaking about the Great Tribulation that would come upon the earth, a time of trouble such as the world has never seen before or will ever see again.
- **He said, When you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION** that was spoken of by Daniel the prophet standing in the holy place Jesus said, that he who reads let him understand. The Lord is telling us that this is something we ought to understand, that *the abomination of desolation* that was spoken by Daniel the prophet, but it will be a part of the signs of His second coming. That seven years period is in the future. "There were seventy sevens determined upon the nation of Israel," sixty-nine have been fulfilled--it has been in limbo. He said the Messiah would be cut off and not receive the kingdom and the Jews will be dispersed.
- **Then, the Scriptures prophesied that in the last days they would come back into the land again.** There is coming a time, in the future when the clock is going to start on the last seven years. It will be when the church is taken out of the earth and the man of sin is revealed. That will be the beginning of the last seven year dealing of God with the nation of Israel.
- **It is divided into two sections in the middle--three-and-a-half years and three-and-a-half years.** The first three-and-a-half years, the Jews will be deceived by this man of sin, this European leader, who will make a peace pact with the nation. They will be deceived because he gives to them the right of the rebuilding of their temple. They will believe that this man is their Messiah and will hail him as such.
- **After three-and-a-half years, when the temple has been built and they have re-established** the worship and the sacrifices and the prayers, the anti-christ will come to the temple himself, stopping the daily sacrifices and prayers. He will declare to them that he is God, demanding that they worship him as God. He will stand in the holy of holies of the rebuilt temple proclaiming himself to be God!
- **At this point, Jesus tells them to flee to the wilderness.** (*Mar 13:14*) *"So when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not" (let the reader understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.* This blasphemy of this world leader will be the final straw. The cup of God's wrath will overflow at this point! The judgment of God will fall upon the earth. The things that we are reading about now in the Book of Revelation as we have been passing through from chapter, six will be triggered when this man of sin stands in the temple in the holy of holies, demanding to be worshipped as God!
- **For a thousand two hundred and sixty days, the three-and-a-half years, the Jews, Jesus said, flee** to the wilderness. If you are on the rooftop, do not even stop to get a coat. If you are out in the field, do not even run home. But get to the wilderness! We are told that God has prepared a place for them where He will provide for them for the three-and-a-half years, the last three-and-a-half years of the Great Tribulation period.

Satan Thrown Down to Earth

Rev 12:7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael (who is like God?) and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

- **Satan has the angels who did not keep their first estate,** (*Jud 1:6*) *And the angels who did not keep*

their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; but rebelled with him against the authority of God.

- **Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought.** It seems like Michael and Satan are in conflict throughout a long period of time. We read that Michael and Satan were disputing over the body of Moses in (**Jud 1:9**) *Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"*
- **Then when Daniel was in prayer seeking wisdom from God** as to what place God might have him to take in the repatriation from the Babylonian captivity, the angel Gabriel appeared to Daniel, saying, (**Dan 10:12-13**) *Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. [13] But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.* We read that Michael came to the rescue or to the aid of Gabriel to allow him to bring the message to Daniel that Daniel was seeking the answers from God on the issues.
- **Now here again is the war in heaven.** We find that there will be one more war after this with Michael and Satan, which will be the final conflict, the spiritual war. But here is war in heaven. Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon and the dragon fought with his angels.

Rev 12:8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

- **It would seem that Satan does have access to heaven.** In the Book of Job, we read, (**Job 1:6-8**) *Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. [7] And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." [8] Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"* But access for Satan into heaven and it seems like he still has access. God has allowed it.
- **He was there in the Book of Job. What was he doing? He was accusing Job.** When God brought up the subject of Job, sort of bragging on his servant, He said, Have you considered my servant Job? Good man, perfect, upright. He loves good and hates evil. Satan said, Oh yes, I have seen that fellow. But he is a mercenary. Look at the way You have blessed him. Anybody would serve You if You blessed him like You've blessed Job. Let me at him. You put a hedge around him, You will not let me get to him. Let me at him and I will make him curse You to Your face. We know the story, but he was accusing Job, first of being a mercenary. Then, of actually serving God for profit and serving God for what he got from his service to God. **But they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.**

Rev 12:9 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 great dragon was cast out. Satan had long ago been cast out** of his heavenly authority as the anointed cherub (**Eze. 28:14-17**), though he still has access to God as "the accuser of our brethren (**Rev 12:10**). Even that access will end when he is defeated by Michael. From then on, he and his angels will be limited to the earth alone, where he will still desperately try to overthrow God. Jesus saw this prophetically. (**Luk 10:18**) *And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*
- **That serpent of old. Of course, that goes back to the Garden of Eden** when Satan took the form of a serpent in tempting of Eve.
- **Called the Devil, which means deceiver.** He is a great deceiver!
- **And Satan, which is the adversary. Who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.** As has been mentioned before, during the Great Tribulation, all hell is going to break out on the earth. These demonic forces are going to be unleashed upon the world. It is going to be a super spiritual battle extraordinaire! The powers of darkness taking the full control, unrestricted, unrestrained by the church, which has been raptured, taken out of here.
- **There are people who have a lot of negative things to say about the church.** They should be thankful for the presence of the church in the world because if it were not for the presence of the church, the world would be in much more chaos today.
- **Jesus said, (**Mat 5:13**) "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.** That is,

you are a purifying influence. You are to be that which is keeping the earth from becoming putrid. The salt in the days of Christ was used as a preserving agent. Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth." You are the preserving influence in the world today that is keeping back the forces of darkness from taking over completely. The world should be thankful for the presence of the church.

- **Because of the presence of the church, God's judgment has been withheld.** We remember when the Lord has sent the angels to destroy Sodom. As Abraham was interceding, saying, But what if there are fifty righteous? Shouldn't You be fair? Would You destroy the righteous with the wicked? And God said, No, if there are fifty righteous, I will not destroy it. It is the presence of the church that is keeping back the judgment of God and allowing the powers of darkness to take over completely. Thus, when the church is gone, you do not want to be here because you have not seen anything yet, like what is going to happen once the church has been removed!

Rev 12:10 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.

- **Satan is no friend of yours. He may come on as an angel of light,** offering you enticing things. But he is no friend of yours. He is the "accuser of our brethren." He is up there accusing you before God. If it were not for the fact that we had a great Advocate, we would be in big trouble. **But as Satan is the accuser of our brethren. Jesus Christ is our Advocate before the Father!** John said, *(1Jn 2:1) My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.* Thus, He stands for us against the accusations of Satan!
- **We remember Paul asked some rhetorical questions in Romans chapter eight.** He said, *(Rom 8:31) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Who can lay any charge to God's elect? Now that's exactly what Satan is trying to do. He is trying to lay charges against you before God.* But the question is, Who can lay any charge if we are God's elect? For then he answered, *(Rom 8:33) Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.* God is not making charges against you! God has exonerated you from the charges through Jesus Christ our Advocate! We are told in *(Heb 7:25) Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Jesus is there as our intercessor before the Father. He is our Advocate.*
- **But Satan is there as the accuser. Paul went on to say, (Rom 8:34) Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.** Again, the intercessory work of Christ on our behalf!
- **So, who is he that lays charges? Who is he that condemns? It is Satan, the accuser of our brethren.** Not only does he accuse us before God, but he is accusing you to yourself. He is coming around and pointing out every flaw, every failure, every time that you have stumbled. He is there to condemn you. He is there to put you under condemnation. He is there to make you feel that you are not worthy to ask God to forgive you any longer because you have persisted in your sin. He is there to point out your weaknesses and your flaws. And he is very good at that, putting you into condemnation!
- **But the Bible tells us, (Rom 8:1) There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.** Who is he that condemneth? Not Jesus!
- **Jesus said, "I didn't come to condemn the world but (Joh 3:18) "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**
- **Yet why are Christians going around in condemnation?** Because they have been listening to Satan. They have been swallowing his lies that God is angry with you. God is upset with you. God does not love you anymore. Many times, Satan has people believing those things. One of his favorite lines is, You have committed the unpardonable sin. How he likes to torment and torture people with the thought that they have committed the unpardonable sin! There he is, condemning us!
- **Now the purpose of his condemning you to you is to keep you from God.** To make you feel unworthy and undeserving to approach God. It is to drive you away. **The Holy Spirit, on the other hand, is convicting us when we sin!** When I do something that is wrong, the Holy Spirit is there convicting me of that which I have done.

- **How then can I tell if it is the conviction of the Holy Spirit or the condemnation of Satan?** It is very simple. When the Holy Spirit is convicting you of your sin, you cannot wait to get to Jesus to get the thing over with. Get the forgiveness. To get the cleansing and the forgiveness. The Holy Spirit drives you and draws you to Jesus.
- **When Satan is condemning you, the idea is, I might as well just give up. I might as well quit,** there is no hope for me. He is driving you away from Jesus, away from the place of forgiveness, pardon, and cleansing. That is his purpose in condemnation. If feel like, I am not worthy, I might as well give up. There is no use of even trying. That is Satan condemning. Do not listen to him. He is a liar and the father of all lies.
- **But if you feel, Oh Lord, I am so sorry! I need to get on my knees, I need to confess! That is the Holy Spirit.** He is convicting you of your sin, bringing you to the place of the cleansing and the pardon of your sin!
- *For the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.*

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives (more than dying) to the death.

- **And they overcame him. Satan and his power, the brethren** who have been accused by God, we who are in this battle against the world of flesh and the devil.
- **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.** Our victory over the enemy comes through Jesus Christ, who was a victor over Satan. Basically, sin is the exercise of your will against the will of God. That is sin. Anytime I exercise my will over the will of God, I am in sin, rebelling against God's authority. That was the sin of Satan. *(Isa 14:13-14) 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; [14] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.* His exercising of his will against the will of God was the original sin and his rebellion against God.
- **When he came to Adam and Eve in the garden, the original sin of man was disobedience** to the will of God. For God had said, You are not to eat of the tree there in the middle of the garden. That was the command of God. They exercised their will against God's will, and they ate of that tree. Anytime you exercise your will against God's revealed will to us, how He would have us to live, what He would have us to do. Whenever I exercise my will over the will of God, that I will do it my way, I will do what I want. That is rebellion against the authority of God in my life! That is sin!
- **Satan sought to tempt Jesus to rebel against the will of God for His life.** Jesus came to do the will of the Father. He said, "I came not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work. But the will of the Father was that Jesus die on the cross to pay the debt for man's sin, as our substitute, as a sacrifice for our sins! That was the purpose of God's sending Him into the world. *(Joh 18:37) Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.*
- **Satan did his best to keep Jesus from the cross, offering to Him the world without** the cross, *(Mat 4:9) And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."* Satan sought to entice Jesus to try to accomplish His purposes apart from the will of God. But Jesus was obedient to death, even the death on the cross!
- **He prayed, (Luk 22:42) saying, Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.** He submitted and surrendered Himself to the will of the Father and in going to the cross! He defeated Satan's power! He redeemed the world! The power that Satan now exercises is a usurped power, only allowed by God, for the purposes of God, but his days are numbered. And when he is cast out of heaven, he knows that his time is short, he going to do furiously as much damage as he possibly can in the short time that is left for him.
- **So, we overcome, first of all, by the blood of the Lamb. That is the cross.** There Satan was defeated. **We go back to the cross!** We point the cross out to Satan when he comes in his endeavor to destroy us and to tempt us and to bring us into spiritual defeat. We point back to the cross and we say, Satan, Jesus defeated you! And I am in Christ, and He is in me and thus there is no place for you! You were defeated! You are a defeated foe! I claim the victory that Jesus wrought there on the cross--the blood of the Lamb!

- ***And the word of their (and my) testimony. Jesus Christ is my Lord! I have submitted to Him as Lord. I will obey Him. My will and desire is to obey Him and to be obedient unto Him and to the kingdom of God.*** Thus, the testimony of Jesus Christ as Lord of my life.
- ***And they did not love their lives to the death,*** finally overcoming because they love not their lives to the death. They were more interested in living, serving and dying for God than they were living for self, a self-centered life. In those days when the Roman government turned against the church--and it is estimated that as many as six million people were martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ during the years of the great Roman persecution against the church. Whenever a person was suspected of being a Christian, they were told to say that Caesar is Lord. A Christian could not bring himself to say that. In refusing to acknowledge Caesar as Lord, the Christian was then considered a traitor to Rome and was put to death by Rome as a traitor!
- **True martyrs! But the Christians, confessing that only Jesus is Lord,** not loving their lives to the death, willingly martyred themselves for their witness. Millions of them gave their lives for their witness. It is interesting that the Greek word *martus*, which is the word, witness, in Greek is also the root word from which we get our word martyr. They were witnesses. They were in a truest sense, martyrs for Jesus Christ because *they did not love their life to the death.*

***Rev 12:12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens* (only time used in Revelation), *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.*"**

- ***Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them!*** The dual reaction now, verse twelve.
- Yes, we will be up there in heaven, when Michael throws Satan out! We will be just rejoicing, whooping it up! ***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.***" Now this is under the seventh trumpet, and it is all a part of the bringing in of the kingdom and remember, there were three woes that were to come, and this is the woe of the seventh trumpet. *Woe to the inhabitants.*
- **Satan's days are numbered! He knows that!** Thus, he is angry, doing his best in this period of time to just rip the world apart!

Rev 12:13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.

- ***He persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. The woman, or*** the nation of Israel. Satan has persecuted the Jews through the centuries. He has inspired many to set themselves against the Jews and the great persecution that the Jews have experienced, the anti-Semitism, the hatred that people have, is ungodly and it is a supernatural hatred. It is not natural. **It is inspired by Satan.**
- **Hitler was steeped in the occult, being led by the White Masters, the occultists,** which is why his great hatred of the Jews and his attempt to exterminate the Jews. It was all a spiritual thing as these cultic men, controlled Hitler, inspiring the attempt to get rid of the Jews.
- **Unfortunately, the problems are not yet over for the Jews.** When Jesus was brought before Pilate, who sought that Roman justice would prevail, realizing that the charges were empty and there was no cause of death in Jesus, said that he was going to set Him free, but the Jews kept screaming out, Crucify Him, crucify Him.
- **Finally, (Mat 27:24-25) When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." [25] And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."** Pilate said, I'm innocent of this man's blood. I want you to see to that. They retorted, His blood be upon us and upon our children. What a horrible thing!
- **We see the horrible tragedy of the history of the Jews as the different pogroms** and so forth have been instituted against them, the great persecution. But it is not over yet. This period of three-and-a-half years is called in the Old Testament the time of Jacob's trouble. The antiChrist is going to make the Jews one of his major targets when he takes over control, coming back to the temple, desecrating the holy of holies, standing in it, declaring that that he is God! When the Jews then have their eyes open and reject him, then he is going to turn against them in fury and try to destroy them.
- ***Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.*** When the dragon saw he was cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child," the nation of Israel. He remains very angry that God used them to

bring the Messiah into the world.

Rev 12:14 *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.*

(Exo 19:4) 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. (Jer 30:7) Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

- **As Jesus said, (Mat 24:15) Therefore when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,'** spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand). It tells us here, God is going to give her two wings of an eagle, to bear her to the wilderness.
- **There is an interesting prophecy in, (Isa 16:1-4) Send the lamb to the ruler of the land, From Sela (the rock city of Idumea) to the wilderness, To the mount of the daughter of Zion. [2] For it shall be as a wandering bird thrown out of the nest; So shall be the daughters of Moab at the fords of the Arnon. [3] "Take counsel, execute judgment; Make your shadow like the night in the middle of the day; Hide the outcasts, Do not betray him who escapes. [4] Let My outcasts dwell with you, O Moab; Be a shelter to them from the face of the spoiler. For the extortioner is at an end, Devastation ceases, The oppressors are consumed out of the land.** The prophecy is for Edom, today's Jordan, to open up her gates and to receive the castaways! **Somewhere in the wilderness of Moab and some believe that it is actually around the area of the rock city of Petra** that the Jews will flee at this time in escaping from the wrath of the antiChrist and of Satan who has empowered the antiChrist. We will get this more as we get into chapter thirteen.
- **But the women was given the two wings, flying to the wilderness to her place** where she is nourished. It could be that God will send manna from heaven as He did when they were in the wilderness coming out of Egypt where the Lord is nourishing them for the three-and-a-half years.

Rev 12:15 *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.*

- **Like a flood – Possibly a flood of military might. (Isa 59:19) So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.**

Rev 12:16 *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.*

Rev 12:17 *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. Our Help Is in the Name of the Lord*

(Psa 124:1-8) A Song of Ascents. Of David. "If it had not been the LORD who was on our side," Let Israel now say— [2] "If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, When men rose up against us, [3] Then they would have swallowed us alive, When their wrath was kindled against us; [4] Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, The stream would have gone over our soul; [5] Then the swollen waters Would have gone over our soul." [6] Blessed be the LORD, Who has not given us as prey to their teeth. [7] Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; The snare is broken, and we have escaped. [8] Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

- **The dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring. Why is Satan still trying to destroy the faithful in Israel? Didn't Jesus totally defeat him on the cross, two thousand years ago? (Heb 2:14-16) Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, [15] and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. [16] For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.**
- **When he is unable to get to the Jews that have fled to the wilderness, then he will turn against those that did not flee and will seek to exterminate the Jews or Gentiles, who keep the commandments of God, refusing to worship the false image, and bear testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ!** They will go through another heavy time of great persecution.
- **Satan does not want any Jews alive, who will cry out,** as Jesus said, *(Mat 23:39) for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'BLESSED is HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'* When they go through this heavy tribulation yet to come, heavy persecution, they will be

saying, "BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD."

- **But they will overcome him, "by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and even by a victorious martyr's death! (Rev 12:11)**
- **And Jesus shall come, set His foot on the Mount of Olives, which will split in the middle, and He will establish God's kingdom upon the earth!**
- **(Rev 12:12) 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."**
- **So this chapter gives us now little insights. The eleventh chapter took us to the culmination of the seventh trumpet but now we're filling in details that will be taking place during the days of the seventh trumpet when it sounds. These are part of the things that will be happening in the great tribulation period.**

CLOSING SONG:

SING TO THE LORD Hillsong (6:44)

Righteous Ruler of the **heavens** Holy, holy, our God Sovereign Lord of all creation Holy, holy, our God
Every tribe and tongue Lift your voice as one He is greatly to be praised Sing to the Lord, oh my soul
Let the **heavens** shout for joy Great is our God Great is our God

Nations come and bow before Him Holy, holy, our God Angels sing, now and forever Holy, holy, our God
Every tribe and tongue Lift your voice as one He is greatly to be praised Sing to the Lord, oh my soul Let the
heavens shout for joy (sing) Great is our God Great is our God

The **heavens** shall declare The glory of our great God (3x)

Jesus, King, let us adore Him Holy, holy, our God Sing to the Lord, oh my soul Let the **heavens** shout for joy

Great is our God (great is our God) Great is our God Great is our God (You are great) Great is our God Oh-
oh-oh-oh (Sing great) great is our God (You are) great is our God

CLOSING PRAYER:

For next week, read Chapter 13!