

Revelation 12

War In Heaven

Chapter 12 begins after the angel had sounded the 7th trumpet. Remember, seven is the sound of completeness, and Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:52, that at the last trumpet (7th) we will be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. This is the Rapture. The Rapture will take place after the events in chapter 12. This shows again that the Historical Cycle is the proper way to interpret this book.

A great wonder appeared in Heaven. A dragon was waiting to devour a pregnant woman that was giving birth to a male child. The Bible tells us who the dragon is, "that old serpent called the devil and Satan. This dragon is called the old serpent. This is a reference that is taken from Genesis 3. Also, I believe scriptures like Isaiah 27:1 and Ezekiel 29:3.

The woman is about to give birth to a male child. This child is to be a ruler of all nations, Psalm 2: 7-9. Since Satan is trying to kill this child, this must be a righteous child. And, since the child is to be the ruler of all nations, we conclude that the child is Jesus. In the first prophecy, God declared that He would put enmity (hatred, warfare) between the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman. Satan tried to kill Jesus, the righteous seed, when Cain killed Abel, Pharaoh had the boy babies killed, Herod had the boy babies killed, and then had Jesus crucified.

Who is the woman? Since we said that the child is Jesus, it would seem that the woman is Mary. However, the woman represents Israel. Israel was chosen to give birth to the Messiah. Israel was targeted by Satan to stop the Messiah, but since he couldn't stop the Messiah, Satan has now targeted the people of God, the church. The woman is pictured as being clothed with the sun, with the moon at her feet, and twelve stars on her head. In Genesis 37, Joseph dreamed that the sun and moon and eleven stars bowed down to him. The twelve stars represented the twelve sons of Jacob that became the twelve tribes of Israel. Also, the dragon made war against the woman's offspring, those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus, verse 17.

The dragon swept a third (1/3) of the stars of the sky. The stars seem to represent angels, Rev. 1:20. And, these stars seem to represent the angels that followed Satan, Daniel 8:10, Jude 6, 2 Peter 2:4. We believe that the fallen stars became demons.

War in Heaven. If Satan tried to disrupt Heaven, you know he will try to disrupt the church and the individual members of the church. Michael and his angels fought against Satan and his angels. Satan was defeated by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. The name Michael means "who is like God." As Christians, those who are Christ-like or like God, also have defeated Satan by the blood of Jesus and by our testimony.

When Satan was defeated he was cast down to the Earth. Jesus told the disciples that He saw Satan fall like lightning from Heaven (Luke 10:18). The inhabitants of Heaven are told to rejoice because of the fall of Satan. We too can rejoice, Jesus has defeated Satan. But the inhabitants of the Earth are told to watch-out. Woe! Satan has come down to us and he is furious because he knows his time is short.

Revelation 13

The Beast and the False Prophet

Verse 1

- The Dragon...this is Satan (Revelation 12:9)
- Beast
 1. **Anti-Christ** (against or opposes) 1 John 2:18, 22, 4:3, 11 John 7, Matthew 24:15
 2. **Man of Sin**, 11 Thessalonians 2:3, rebuild the Temple, sets himself up to be worshipped (Abomination of Desolation) Daniel 11:31, 12:11, Matthew 24:15
 3. **Son of Perdition** (destruction, ruin) 11 Thessalonians 2:3 Judas was called this, John 17:12
 4. **Wicked/Lawless One**, 11 Thessalonians 2:8
- “coming out of the sea” – Many scholars believe this is a reference to Revelation 17:15, meaning that the sea or waters is symbolic of peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. If that is true, then this is saying that the Beast is a person.

Verse 2

- Leopard, Bear, Lion compare to Daniel 7:3-6
- Reverse order... maybe because you was looking in the future and the other looking in the past

Verse 3

- “One of the heads (head of government) seemed to have had a fatal wound,” ... Some believe this will be someone like John Kennedy.
- “but the wound was healed” ... as if this person came back to life.
- Because the Beast seemed to be dead but then comes back to life, the whole world worshipped him. Compare to the dead and resurrection of Jesus.

Verse 4

- “And they worshipped the dragon
- Satan has always desired to be worshipped, Matthew 4:8-10, 11 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, Isaiah 14:14

Verse 11

- “And I beheld another beast coming out of the earth”
- This second beast is called the False Prophet... his role is similar to that of the Holy Spirit, he pointed to who should be worshipped
- The Dragon, Beast, and the False Prophet are called the Unholy Trinity
- The image of the beast is believed to be the Abomination of Desolation, Daniel 11:31, 12:11, Matthew 24:15

Verse 18

- 666.... 6 is considered to be the number of man, and 3 is considered to be the number for God. Therefore, three 6s (three six(s)) is interpreted as a man trying to be God.