

4/4/04

**Revelation 11:15-12:12**

In chapter ten we saw another parenthetical section between the sixth and seventh trumpet, much like between the sixth and seventh seals, providing details in the first six trumpets, consisting of two visions. Rev. 10-11:14

1. The first of the little book. Rev. 10:1-11
2. The second of the two witnesses. Rev. 11:1-14

Now in chapter eleven, verse fifteen to eighteen, the seventh trumpet is recorded, which takes us to end of the seven year tribulation and the millennium. Rev. 11:15-18

Chapters twelve to fourteen will provide for us greater detail regarding Israel, the Antichrist and those who respond to the gospel.

In chapters twelve and thirteen, we are introduced to seven important persons.

1. The woman Israel. Rev. 12:1
2. The dragon, Satan. Rev. 12:3
3. The man-child, Christ. Rev. 12:5
4. The Archangel Michael. Rev. 12:7
5. The seed or remnant of Israel. Rev. 12:17
6. The beast out of the sea, the Anti-christ. Rev. 13:1

7. The beast our of the earth, the false prophet. Rev. 13:11

**11:15-18 The seventh Trumpet**

**11:15** The Kingdom if fulfilled.

- 1) The seventh angel sounded: this is the seventh trumpet.
  - \* John is in heaven again.
- 2) There were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. Ps. 2
  - \* Kingdoms is singular.
  - a) Satan offered Jesus the kingdom of the world in the wilderness. Matt. 4; Lk 4
  - b) Satan is called the ruler of this world. Jn. 14:31
  - c) Satan is called the god of this world. 2Cor. 4:4
- 3) He shall reign forever and ever!"
  - a) The Millennial Kingdom.
  - b) This has been the prayer of the church, "Your Kingdom Come".

**11:16-18** The worship of the twenty-four elders.

- 1) The twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God. vs. 16-17a-b

- a) These are the same twenty-four elders of chapter four and five, the representatives of the church.
  - b) They are doing the same thing as before worshipping, at the beginning of the Tribulation and now at the end.
  - c) The word worship “proskuneo” means to prostrate oneself to the ground, to kiss the hand and do homage and obeisance, being directly related to the person of God.
  - d) "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the Omnipotent. all sufficient. vs. 17a-b
  - e) The One who is and who was and who is to come, the Eternal One and Omnipresent. vs. 17c
- 2) The praise of the twenty-four elders. vs. 17d
- a) Praise differs from worship in that it is an expression of gratitude and adoration for what a person has done.
  - b) The reason is specific, “Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.”
    - 1)) The seventh trumpet ushers the seven bowls, which users in the second coming of Jesus Christ

- 2)) The seventh trumpet is not the trumpet of Thessalonians. 1Thess. 4:13-18; 1Cor. 15:52
  - 3)) He reigns. 1Cor. 15:24-25
- 3) The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come. vs. 18
- a) Quoting the Psalms. Ps. 2; Acts 4:25-26
  - b) And the time of the dead, that they should be judged,
    - 1)) The believer is judged at the bema seat, at rapture. 1Cor. 3:14-15
    - 2)) The unbeliever is judged at the white throne. Rev. 20:11-15
      - \* Some indicate this is the white throne mentioned.
  - c) And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great.
    - \* Reward your servants the prophets and saints -probably as to the place in the millennium.
  - d) And should destroy those who destroy the earth." Ps. 2; Rev 19:15-16
- 11:19** Temple in heaven.
- 1) Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple.

- a) This verse should be the first verse of chapter twelve, that is a better division.
- b) Again the tabernacle on earth was a model and pattern of things in heaven. Heb. 9-10
  - 1)) The phrase “the ark of Yahweh” is found eighty-two times in the Old Testament, indication personal ownership.
  - 2)) The phrase “the ark of the covenant” occurs thirty times.
  - 3)) The grammar seems more likely to indicate the ark as a personal possession modified by “his”. (World Bib. Com:677)
- 2) And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.
  - \* The awesome holiness and glory of God, as at Sinai, Solomon’s temple, etc.

**12:1-6      The vision of the woman, her child and the Dragon**

\* Chapters twelve to fourteen will provide for us greater detail regarding Israel, the Antichrist and those who respond to the gospel.

**12:1-2**      The woman and her condition.

**12:1**      The woman in heaven.

- 1) It is called a great sign and it appears in heaven.
  - a) The word sign “megas” means something splendid on a grand scale.
  - b) The word is used also for deceptive miracles by the anti-christ. Rev. 13:13, 14; 16:14; 19:20
- 2) A woman appears clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.
  - a) The identity of the woman is related to the Old Testament.
  - b) Joseph interpreted the symbols as the nation of Israel.
    - 1)) “And his brothers said to him, “Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. 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.” 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?" Gen. 37:8-10

2)) Abraham's seed is likened to "the stars of heaven". Gen. 15:5

- 2) Some have tried to identify her as;
- a) The Virgin Mary.
  - b) Mary Baker Eddy.
  - c) The Church
  - d) As we have noted, Jacob clearly identifies the sun, moon and stars as Father, Mother and his brothers.
- 3) A woman often is used for the symbol of religion.
- a) Jezebel. Rev. 2
  - b) Great Harlot Babylon. Rev. 17

**12:2** The woman is pregnant.

- 1) The woman is with Child.
  - a) Having established that the woman is Israel, it isn't difficult to figure out that the child is Christ.
  - b) There are two reasons.
    - 1)) Israel gave birth to Christ not the church.
    - 2)) Verse five confirms it is Christ. Ps. 2
- 2) The woman's difficulty at birth.
  - a) She cried out in her labor. Gen. 3:15;  
Mic. 5:2

b) And in pain to give birth, under harsh Roman rule. Is. 26:17; 66:7-8

**12:3-4** The dragon and his confederacy of rebellion.

**12:3** The dragon in heaven.

- 1) Attention is called to the dragon that also appears in heaven by the word "behold" to look or gaze intently.
- 2) The dragon is called a great "mega", fiery red dragon, the second person.
  - a) The dragon appears thirteen times in Revelation.
  - b) Eight in this chapter, three in the next, once in sixteen and one more in twenty.
  - c) It is a symbol and title of Satan, the serpent. Rev. 12:9; 20:2

\* He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years".

    - 1)) The reference to great "mega" is in reference to his prior position in heaven.
    - 2)) Fiery red, refers to his murder nature and character by the words of Jesus. Jn. 8:44; Rev. 6:4
    - 3)) He has been called already the destroyer, his name in Hebrew is

Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon, again depicting character. Rev. 9:11 c

- 3) He is described as having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.
  - a) The seven heads and ten horns, depict power and authority over the confederacy of nations.
    - 1)) It is the prophecy of Daniel, the modern day Common Market of Europe. Dan. 7:7, 24
    - 2)) The details are given in the next chapter. Rev. 13:1
  - b) The seven diadems on his head speak of royal crowns.
    - 1)) He is called the god of this world. 2Cor 4:4
    - 2)) He is called the prince and power of the air. Eph 2:2
    - 3)) Remember he will conquer through diplomacy, having a bow but no arrows. Rev. 6:2

**12:4** The dragon is the enemy of God and Israel.

- 1) His rebellion against God, his tail drew a third of the stars of heaven.
  - a) He was the leading Cherub over the worship of God in heaven, until sin was found in him. Ezk. 28:12-19

b) He fell and cut down to the ground weakened and destroyed kingdoms, with ultimate threats to dethrone God. Is. 14.12-17

- 2) And threw them to the earth.
  - a) The rebellion cast one third of the angels out of heaven to the realm of the earth to oppose God and the people of God. Dan. 8:10  
\* Others are so vile they are in darkness chained. Jude 6
  - b) They are identified for us.
    - 1)) They are evil, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Eph. 6:12
    - 2)) They were created by God, “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.” Col. 1:16
    - 3)) They were defeated by Jesus, “Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public

- spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.” Col. 2:15
- 3) And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.
- a) This describes Satan’s plot to kill Messiah from the very beginning of the promise. Gen 3:15
- b) The attempts against the nation of Israel and the Messiah.
- 1) Cain killed Abel. Gen. 4
- 2) Esau tried to kill Jacob. Gen.
- 3) Pharaoh attempted to destroy the Jewish nation. Ex. 1-2
- 4) Herod attempted to kill the Messiah born in Bethlehem. Matt. 2:16-18
- 5) In the wilderness Satan attempted to cast Himself off the pinnacle of the temple. Matt. 4:1-11
- 6) In Gethsemane, to give way under the great agony. Lk. 22:44
- 7) Anti-Semitism is from Satan.
- a)) Canute banished the Jews from England.
- b)) Edward drove them out of England.
- c)) France and Germany, blamed them for the black plague and persecuted them.

- d)) The same year Columbus discovered America, Spain drove all Jews from the kingdom.
- e) )The inquisition brought severe cruelties upon them in the name of Christ by the Pope.
- f)) In 1882 great atrocities came against them in Russia.
- g)) In 1894, the Dreyfus Affair was an attempt to make a Jew the scapegoat for the national problems and to give the French anti-Semites and opportunity to oust Jews from the higher ranks in the army.
- h)) In Germany through the hand of Hitler were slaughter as an inferior race.
- i)) Now the chief enemies of Israel are the Arab nations, in particular the radical Muslim, who have declared a “holy Jihad” against the Jew and the U.S.A.
- j)) The worst persecution of the Jew is yet future, under the hand of the Anti-christ.

**12:5-6** The child and woman protection.

**12:5** The child is the Son of God.

- 1) She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron.

- a) The Messiah is first identified by His reign of the earth in the Millennial Kingdom.
- b) He will rule all nations with a rod of iron, meaning absolute sovereignty control. Ps. 2:7-9; Acts 4:27-28; Rev. 2:26
  - 1)) The word rule “poimaino” means to shepherd with the understanding of feeding, tending and keeping the sheep. Rev. 7:17; 12:9
  - 2)) “All nations” appears five times. Rev. 12:5; 14:8; 15:4; 18:3, 23
- 2) And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.
  - a) The Messiah is next identified as the One who rose from the death and ascended to heaven, this is the third person.
    - 1)) The same word appears. 1Thess. 4:17; 2Cor. 12:2, 4
    - 2)) The word means to seize suddenly, a violently remove.
    - 3)) Of the thirteen times it appears in the New Testament it describes a physical translation of a person of thing, from one geographical location to the other.
  - b) The Messiah is said to be on His throne.

- 1)) He is seated at the right hand of God. Ps. 110:1; Acts 4:3; Heb. 1:3, 4-14; 2:8-9; Rev. 5
- 2)) Acts tells us that Stephen as he was being stoned to death saw Jesus on His throne, “But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.” Acts 7:55
- 3)) John tells us that the vision that Isaiah saw was the person of Jesus. Jn. 12:41
- 4)) The entire process of Christ incarnation, humiliation and glorification. Phil. 2:5-11

**12:6** The woman is divinely protected.

- 1) Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God.
  - a) Satan through the Anti-christ will persecute Israel.
  - b) It is believed that this particular place is the city of Petra in modern day Jordan.
    - 1)) “Send the lamb to the ruler of the land, From Sela to the wilderness, To the mount of the daughter of Zion. 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.  
 "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. 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." Is 16:1-4

- 2)) "And I will bring you into the  
 wilderness of the peoples, and  
 there I will plead My case with  
 you face to face. Just as I pleaded  
 My case with your fathers in the  
 wilderness of the land of Egypt, so  
 I will plead My case with you,"  
 says the Lord GOD. I will make  
 you pass under the rod, and I will  
 bring you into the bond of the  
 covenant; I will purge the rebels  
 from among you, and those who  
 transgress against Me; I will bring  
 them out of the country where they  
 dwell, but they shall not enter the  
 land of Israel. Then you will know  
 that I am the LORD." Ezk. 20:35-37

3)) I have been there to the "Red Rose  
 City Of Petra" a gorge wide  
 enough at time only for one horse  
 and it snakes for 4500 feet, to the  
 entry of the city where your first  
 sight is of the temple treasury of  
 the city.

- 2) The woman will be fed there one  
 thousand two hundred and sixty days.  
 a) This is exactly three and a half years.  
 b) This identifies the last half. the Great-  
 Tribulation, when God will nurture  
 Israel.  
 c) The Anti-christ brakes the covenant  
 with Israel. Dan. 9:29b  
 d) Jesus referred to it as the  
 "abomination of desolation" and told  
 the Jews to flee. Matt. 24:15-16  
 e) God has not cast off Israel. Rom. 11:1

**12:7-12      The vision of Satan being cast out of heaven.**

**12:7-8**      The war in heaven.

- 1) And war broke out in heaven. vs. 7  
 a) Michael and his angels fought with the  
 dragon; and the dragon and his angels  
 fought.  
 1)) The angel Michael is the fourth  
 person in this chapter.

- 2)) This is a most important battle to be won and it is launched by Michael, indicated in the Greek.
- b) Michael is the defender of Israel. Dan. 10:13, 21
- c) Michael will fight for Israel in the last days of the Anti-christ. Dan. 12:1-2
- d) Jude called him, an Archangel. Jude 9
- 2) But they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. vs. 8
  - a) The angel Lucifer and his fallen angels were defeated in the war in heaven by Michael and his angels.
    - \* They did not prevail, for they were not strong enough to remain in heaven any longer.
  - 1)) Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number the people. 1Chron. 21:1
  - 2)) Satan has access now, even as he was allowed to test Job. Job 1
  - 3)) Satan accused Joshua the high priest. Zech. 3:1-10
  - 4)) Jesus saw this future date, as He saw Satan falling like lightning. Lk 10:18; Jn. 12:31

**12:9** The war in heaven was won.

- 1) So the great dragon was cast out.

- a) Great Dragon, referring to being powerful and a murderer.
- b) He was cast out, means he no longer has access to heaven, to accuse the brethren.
- 2) That serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world.
  - a) The serpent of old, the subtle and deceptive one. Gen. 3; 2Cor. 11:1-4, 11
  - b) The Devil, the slander and Satan, the adversary. 1Pet. 5:8
    - \* Devil appears five times and Satan eight times in Revelation.
  - c) Who deceives the world. 2Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; 2Tim. 2:26; Rev. 20:3, 8, 10
  - d) We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. 1Jn. 5:19
- 3) He was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.
  - a) He was cast out the first time from his position of being the chief Cherub in heaven, to prince and power of the air.
  - b) Now he is cast out of the air and confined to the earth.
  - c) He will be cast out of the earth and confined in the abyss for one-thousand years.

- d) He will ultimately be taken from the abyss to the Lake of Fire for all eternity.
- \* Satan's down-ward spiral is a good example of the destiny of all who are self-centered and in rebellion towards God!

**12:10** The welcoming of the Kingdom.

- 1) The first proclamation involves the soon arrival of the Kingdom of God, "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".
  - a) Salvation in it's final form of the church and Israel.
  - b) Strength "dunamis" the dynamic power to reign supremely.
  - c) Kingdom of our God, the thousand year reign of Christ on the earth.
  - d) The power of His Christ, the "exousia", the authority of Messiah. Is. 11
- 2) The second proclamation involves the expulsion of Satan from heaven, "For the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down."
  - a) The voice comes from heaven and could possibly be one of the twenty-

four elders, since he says "our brethren".

- b) Of our God modifies all preceding nouns.
- c) The accuser cast down. Rom. 8:31-35
- d) The lawyer for our defense. 1Jn. 2:1

**12:11** The weaponry to defeat Satan and his angels on earth, via the anti-christ.

- 1) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb. Rev. 1:5; 5:9; 6:9; 11:7; 1Pet. 1:19
- 2) They overcame him by the word of their testimony. Rev. 1:20; 1Pet. 4:19
- 3) They overcame him by not loving their lives to the death. Matt. 10:39

**12:12** The woe to the earth.

- 1) The proclamation to heaven is wonderful joy, "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them!"
- 2) The proclamation to the earth is a woeful warning, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea!" Is. 49:13; Ps. 96:11

\* "Woe", "alas", appears fourteen times in Revelation, it is the same word.
- 3) The proclamation of warning is qualified.
  - a) "For the devil has come down to you", the earth.
  - b) "Having great wrath".

- c) The reason is clear, “Because he knows that he has a short time.”
- d) The first two woes were plagues poured out on unbelievers, this is the third woe, the hostility of Satan on believers. Rev. 8:13; 9:12; 11:14