



The Book Of Revelation

Chapter 12

Introduction:**Divine Outline: Revelation 1:19****Revelation 12 can be called the "Great" Chapter**

Chapter twelve of The Book of Revelation can be defined as a "great" (Megas) chapter. We will see four "greats" throughout the chapter. There is a great sign, (**Revelation 12:1**) a great dragon, (**Revelation 12:3**) great wrath, (**Revelation 12:12**) and finally a great eagle. (**Revelation 12:14**)

Three Key Characters

As we move into chapters twelve and thirteen, three key characters are introduced in the drama of Daniel's seventieth week. (**Daniel 9:24-27**) In chapter twelve we see the activity of Satan as he is removed from heaven and his corresponding response on earth. In chapter thirteen, we see the rise of Antichrist (**Vs 1-10**) and unveiling of the false prophet (**Vs 11-18**). These characters together create a satanic trinity, who attempt to replace the holy trinity and turn the world's worship toward Satan.

Second half of Tribulation begins

We will also see the events of the second half of Daniel's seventieth week begin to unfold. This begins a time that Jesus called the days of "great tribulation." (**Matthew 24:21**)

This unprecedented time of tribulation will be caused by several different factors:**1. Satan is kicked out of Heaven and banished to earth.**

Satan's anger will cause him to unleash the fullness of his wrath on the earth. (**Revelation 12:12**)

2. Antichrist empowered by Satan.

Satan's banishment from Heaven will also signify the time in which the Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel and set himself up in the temple, empowered by Satan himself, to be worshipped as God. (**Revelation 13:4-5, Matthew 24:15, 2 Thessalonians 2:4**)

3. Unprecedented demonic activity.

During this time there will be unprecedented demonic activity. (**Revelation 9**)

4. Judgment of bowls filled with the wrath of God.

During second half of tribulation bowl judgments of God's wrath are poured out. (**Revelation 16**)

All these events occurring simultaneously will create the perfect storm of tribulation on this planet.

Revelation 12:1(NKJV)

1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

This great sign is the first in a series of signs and miracles we will see as we move forward in the Book of Revelation. (**Revelation 12:1, 12:3, 13:13, 13:14, 15:1, 16:14, 19:20**)

Sign

Sēmeion (Strong's G4592)

I. a sign, mark, token

A. that by which a person or a thing is distinguished from others and is known

B. a sign, prodigy, portent, i.e. an unusual occurrence, transcending the common course of nature

i. of signs portending remarkable events soon to happen

ii. of miracles and wonders by which God authenticates the men sent by him, or by which men prove that the cause they are pleading is God's

This sign is a symbol of what God is getting ready to do and what is getting ready to happen on earth. The sign is seen in heaven.

Heaven

Ouranos (Strong's G3772)

I. the vaulted expanse of the sky with all things visible in it

A. the universe, the world

B. the aerial heavens or sky, the region where the clouds and the tempests gather, and where thunder and lightning are produced

C. the sidereal or starry heavens

II. the region above the sidereal heavens, the seat of order of things eternal and consummately perfect where God dwells and other heavenly beings

For some, the place in which this event takes place is unclear. The definition of the word can mean the sky and stars, or it can mean the dwelling place of God. We seem to find a clue by the usage of this word in Revelation Chapter 11. **(Revelation 11:19)** When the temple of God was opened in "heaven," we see this word. This seems to indicate the usage of the word as being the place where God dwells.

a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

As to the identity of the woman, there are many ideas:

1. Some believe the woman is the Virgin Mary.

However, we understand that Mary was not in heaven when she was crying out in pain.

2. Others believe the woman is the church.

However, we understand that it is not the church that gave birth to the Messiah. Instead, it was because of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, that the church was born.

So, who is this woman?

As is often the case, the identity of the woman seems to have been given to us in scripture. **(Genesis 37:9-11)** In Joseph's dream, the sun, moon, and stars were identified as the family of Jacob. Thus, the identity of this woman must be the nation of Israel. Although, as noted, the woman is not Mary, it was through Israel that the Messiah was brought into the world.

Israel has often been compared to a woman in scripture. She was pictured as a barren woman, **(Isaiah 54:1)** a divorced woman, **(Isaiah 50:1)** A widow, **(Isaiah 47:7-9)** and an adulterous woman. **(Jeremiah 3:1-25, Hosea 2:1-23)**

and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

Garland

Stephanos (Strong's G4735)

I. a crown

A. a mark of royal or (in general) exalted rank

i. the wreath or garland which was given as a prize to victors in public games

B. metaph. the eternal blessedness which will be given as a prize to the genuine servants of God and Christ: the crown (wreath) which is the reward of the righteousness

C. that which is an ornament and honor to one

The garland is a victor's crown. Although Israel has gone through great persecution and tribulation, there will be a day when she is completely victorious because of the child born from her.

Revelation 12:2(NKJV)

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

The child the woman is with is Jesus. He is Messiah come from God's chosen people Israel. **(Romans 1:1-4, Romans 9:1-5)** As we progress through chapter twelve, we will see further evidence that proves the identity of the child. **(Revelation 12:4-5)** See notes on verse 5

Scripturally, Israel has been compared to a woman ready to give birth. **(Isaiah 54:1-3, 66:7, Micah 4:10, Micah 5:2-3)**

she cried out in labor and in pain

The crying out seems to refer to the persecution of the people of Israel as they were on the path to bringing forth the Messiah. Satan has been on a constant mission to stop the plan of God. His strategy has been to try and take out the Jewish people in order to stop the Messianic line. (**Genesis 3:15, Exodus 1:16-20, Matthew 2:16-18**) At one point the royal line was down to just one person. (**2 Kings 11:1-3**) However, for all his attempts to stop the birth of the Messiah, Jesus still came.

Revelation 12:3(NKJV)

3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

In verse 3 another sign appears in heaven which will manifest in the events of the earth.

A great, fiery red dragon

This dragon is none other than Satan. (**Revelation 12:9**) The fiery red color of the dragon represents his rage and murderous intention to shed the blood of the child (**Revelation 12:4, See also Revelation 6:4**) and the saints of God. (**Revelation 12:13-17**) Satan is a murderous individual who wishes to destroy all he can. (**John 8:44, John 10:10**)

Dragon

Drakōn (Strong's G1404)

a dragon, a great serpent, a name for Satan

It is interesting to note that in our English translations, this word is only used in The Book of Revelation. (**Revelation 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17, 13:2, 4, 11, 16:13, 20:2**) However, in the Septuagint, which is a Greek translation of the Jewish scriptures from the 3rd and 2nd century B.C. this word is translated in some interesting places.

Job 41:1(Sep)

"And will you catch a dragon with a fish hook and put a halter around its nose?"

Ezekiel 29:3(Sep)

3 and say, Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I am against Pharaoh, the great dragon that lies in the midst of his rivers, that says, The rivers are mine, and I made them.

It is interesting that Pharaoh had a head piece that depicted a serpent. Some of the head pieces also, as in the case of King Tut-Ankh-Amen, depicted a vulture, which represented a flying serpent. In scripture, the Pharaoh's became a type of the Antichrist who is to come. As we will see in Chapter 13, the Antichrist will also have the same characteristics as the great red dragon.

Jeremiah 51:34(Sep)

34 He has devoured me, he has torn me asunder, airy darkness has come upon me; Nabuchodonosor king of Babylon has swallowed me up, as a dragon has he filled his belly with my delicacies.

As is the case with Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar is also a symbolic type of the Antichrist who is to come. The prophecies against Babylon in Jeremiah 51:34-40 did not occur with the fall of Babylon to the Persians. Instead, they look ahead to the ultimate fall of Babylon and the Antichrist.

Isaiah 27:1(Sep)

1 In that day God shall bring holy and great and strong sword upon the dragon, even the serpent that flees, upon the dragon, the crooked serpent: he shall destroy the dragon.

It is interesting to note that in Ugaritic (Canaanite) literature there is a dragon named "Lotan." Lotan is a writhing slithering dragon that is sometimes depicted with seven heads. This dragon is sometimes known and depicted as the "mighty one with seven heads." Lotan is the "sea dragon of chaos" that Baal must defeat to bring order to chaos and establish himself as the charioteer of the clouds.

Isaiah 27:1 speaks of the day when God will finally destroy the great dragon who in reality is Satan.

having seven heads and ten horns

Daniel also saw this ten-horned beast. **(Daniel 7:7-8, 23-25)** These ten horns represent ten kingdoms that are going to fall under the control of Satan by means of the beast of Revelation thirteen.

(Revelation 13:1-10, Daniel 7:7-8, 23-25) The beast along with the evil political powers that follow him will bring great persecution on the earth to persecute Israel and those who follow Christ.

(Revelation 12:11-17)

We learn from Revelation seventeen that the seven heads represent seven mountains. **(Revelation 17:9)** Some take this to be symbolic of Rome, which is a city that sits on seven mountains. Therefore, it is thought, this beast then represents the city of Rome. This could be the case, but it is important that we notice that the seven mountains represent seven kingdoms and not necessarily literal mountains.

(Revelation 17:10)

These seven heads represent seven prophetic empires that have ruled the world. These seven empires are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and the seventh kingdom which must last for a short time. **(Revelation 17:10)** This seventh kingdom will give way to the ten-horned beast kingdom *and seven diadems on his heads.*

The seven headed beast is wearing seven diadems.

Diadems

Diadēma (Strong's G1238)

I. a diadem

- A. a blue band marked with white which Persian kings used to bind on the turban or tiara*
- B. the kingly ornament for the head, the crown*

These diadems are kingly crowns. This contrasts with the crown that is worn by the woman of verse one.

(Revelation 12:1)

Garland (Crown)

Stephanos (Strong's G4735)

I. a crown

- A. a mark of royal or (in general) exalted rank*
 - i. the wreath or garland which was given as a prize to victors in public games*
- B. metaph. the eternal blessedness which will be given as a prize to the genuine servants of God and Christ: the crown (wreath) which is the reward of the righteousness*
- C. that which is an ornament and honor to one*

These kings of temporary kingdoms wear their kingly diadems, but the true overcomers and victors wear the Stephanos.

Revelation 12:4(NKJV)

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.

In verses four and five we see three things taking place: a revelation, a realization, a foundation

1. Revelation: *The battle over the child.*

These stars represent the fallen angels that followed Satan in his rebellion against God. Stars in scripture are often depicted as angels or other beings. **(Numbers 24:17, Job 38:7, Isaiah 14:12, Revelation 1:20, Revelation 9:1, Revelation 12:1, 12:4)**

It seems that at the same time Satan is removed from Heaven and thrown to earth, his rebellious angels are cast to the earth with him. Though they will not be seen, their work will be in line with the work of Satan in attempting to influence the world's rebellion against God. Thus, Satan will attempt to increase his influence over the political and spiritual realm.

And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

Satan stood before the woman to devour the child. This refers to Satan's plan to kill the infant Jesus to stop the Messiah and Savior from being born. **(Matthew 2:16-18)**

Satan's desire to stop the Messianic line that would bring salvation to the world and his ultimate defeat is clear in both the Old and New Testament's of scripture. **(Genesis 3:15)** Satan used Pharaoh to try and stop the Messianic line by destroying the male children of Israel. **(Exodus 1)** Satan used Haman to attempt to destroy all The Jews. **(Esther 3:8-15, Haman=Magnificent)** Likewise, Satan used Athaliah to try and destroy the royal line of the Messiah. **(2 Kings 11:1-3)** In this attempt by Satan, the royal line was cut down to just one individual, Joash. When Christ was born, Satan used King Herod to try and destroy the Messiah. **(Matthew 2:1-8, 16-18)** Satan also tried to use Judas to destroy Jesus by betraying him to be crucified on a criminal's cross. **(Matthew 26:47-50)** However, this attempt to take the life of the Messiah ended up being Satan's greatest defeat.

Realization: *The appearance of great defeat may be the set up for the greatest victory. Those who overcome will reign.*

Revelation 12:5(NKJV)

5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

This male child referenced here is Jesus. **(Psalm 2:9, Isaiah 9:6-7, Revelation 19:15)** The overcomers who believe in Jesus will also be a part of ruling the nations. **(2 Timothy 2:12, Revelation 2:26-28, Revelation 20:4)**

Foundation: *The Ruler Is The Good Shepherd*

Rule

poimainō (Strong's G4165)

- I. to feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep*
 - A. to rule, govern*
 - i. of rulers*
 - ii. to furnish pasture for food*
 - iii. to nourish*
 - iv. to cherish one's body, to serve the body*
 - v. to supply the requisites for the soul's need*

To rule has the connotation of a shepherd ruling lovingly over his sheep. **(Matthew 2:6)** Jesus earned his position as the shepherding ruler by laying his life down for his sheep. **(John 10:11-18)**

Rule all nations with a rod of iron

We consider a rod of iron to be the instrument of a dictator; however, the rod is really a rod of correction to bring the obstinate into submission which leads to blessing.

And her Child was caught up to God

Caught up

Harpazō (Strong's G726)

- I. to seize, carry off by force*
- II. to seize on, claim for one's self eagerly*
- III. to snatch out or away*

It is interesting that this phrase "caught up" is the same phrase used regarding:

1. Philip as he was "caught away" from the Ethiopian eunuch. **(Acts 8:39)**
2. Paul's description of the man who was caught up into the third heaven. **(2 Corinthians 12:2-4)**
3. The "catching away" or the "rapture" of the church. **(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)**

Some believe the use of this phrase is an indication that the rapture of the church will take place at the mid-point of Daniel's seventieth week. However, the child being caught up is not a description of the rapture, but instead is a description of Jesus ascension into heaven. **(Mark 16:19, Luke 24:50-53,**

Acts 1:9-11) However, we do know that if Jesus was caught up, we will be caught up to be with him. **(John 14:1-3)**

and His throne.

When Jesus takes his place on his throne, it signals the beginning of Satan's final defeat. **(Ephesians 1:19-23, 1 Peter 3:22, Colossians 1:15-20)** It is only a matter of time until Satan will be kicked out of Heaven once and for all. **(Revelation 12:7-9)**

Revelation 12:6(NKJV)

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.

In verse six there is a shift from the past to the future. Verses six and beyond are verses that will take place near the mid-point of Daniel's seventieth week until the end of the tribulation period. **(Matthew 24:15-20, Mark 13:14-20)**

The woman (Jewish remnant) will flee into the desert to a place pre-determined by God for protection. Although it will appear things are out of control on earth, everything is still operating according to His pre-determined course.

When the Antichrist turns full force against Israel, which coincides with Satan's expulsion from heaven, **(Revelation 12:7-9)** the Jewish remnant is going to flee much like the believers in Christ did when Israel was destroyed in 70 A.D. Many Bible teachers believe they will flee to Petra which is a city in the south of modern day Jordan.

Although Scripture does not say for sure where exactly the place of flight will be, there are some clues that may point us to a place like Petra in Jordan.

1. Daniel prophesied that Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon would escape from the hand of the Antichrist. (Daniel 11:41) Edom, Moab and Ammon are all areas located in Modern day Jordan. The fact that these lands will, seemingly, be left alone by The Antichrist gives the belief that it will be a safe place to run. Map

2. Revelation tells us that Israel will be given "two wings of a great eagle" that will fly her into the wilderness and protect her for the last three and a half years (Time and times and half a time) of the tribulation. The entry into the city of Petra is a narrow corridor with high rock cliffs to each side. Inside, the city is surrounded by large rock formations which make a natural place of protection from danger. Near the entrance to the city is a large rock carving of an eagle that some believe may be a sign that this is the place of safety. **(See Revelation 12:14)**

However, not all the Jews are going to make it to God's place of protection. In the book of Zechariah, we are told that 2/3 of the Jewish people will be killed through the persecution of the antichrist. **(Zechariah 13:8-9)**

that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Although the "they" in this verse is not specifically identified there seem to be two ideas as to their identity.

1. Angels

One line of thinking is these individuals are angels who have been dispatched by God to feed the Jewish remnant. In the past, God has sent an angel to feed certain individuals. **(1 Kings 19:5-8, Matthew 4:11)** (Note: "minister" in Matthew 4:11: To supply food and necessities of life.)

2. Members of the Gentile nations

Another line of thinking is those who take care of the Jewish remnant are members of the Gentile nations that do not support the Antichrist's agenda. These would be the nations referenced by Matthew. **(Matthew 25:31-46)**

Revelation 12:7(NKJV)

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

Although scholarly speculation and extra-biblical texts identify several archangels by name, Michael is the only angel in scripture to be named as an archangel. **(Jude 1:9)**

Archangel

*Archaggelos (Strong's G743)
archangel, or chief of the angels*

Daniel indicates that there are more "chief princes." **(Daniel 10:13)**

Gabriel is thought, by many, to be an archangel as well because his name means the "mighty man of God." However, he is not identified in scripture as an archangel.

It is also thought that Lucifer was originally a chief angel as well. **(Ezekiel 28:14)**

In the non-canonical books of Tobit and Enoch there are other chief angels mentioned. **(Tobit 12:15, 1 Enoch 20:1-7; 9:1; 40:9)** This could be the case, but it is essential to remember these books are not considered to be inspired scripture.

Michael has a distinctive position among the angels of Heaven. It appears that outside of the Godhead, Michael is the most powerful angelic being.

It is also apparent from scripture that Michael is closely identified with Israel. **(Daniel 10:10-21, Daniel 12:1, Jude 9)**

It was Michael who contended with Satan for the body of Moses. **(Jude 1:9)** At the time of Moses' death, Satan had claim over Moses body possibly due to his murder of the Egyptian or his sin at Meribah. **(Exodus 2:11-12, Numbers 20:12)** It could be that Satan's argument was connected to the idea that Moses would be raised from the dead bodily. At this point in time, Satan had power over death. If Moses were raised would be an affront to his authority. However, God stepped in through Michael to claim his body. Now that Jesus has died and has arisen, he again uses Michael to complete His victory over sin and death by casting the accuser **(Revelation 12:10)** out of Heaven once and for all.

It is interesting to note that in each dispensation in scripture, there is an indication of a foreshadowing of the eternal resurrection that God is working toward.

- Patriarchal Period: Enoch **(Genesis 5:24)**
- Mosaic Law: Moses **(Jude 1:9, Matthew 17:3)**
- The Prophets: Elijah **(2 Kings 2:11, Matthew 17:3)**
- Church Age: Jesus Christ **(1 Corinthians 15:21-28)**

It was a chief angel who led a rebellion of angels against the rule of God, and it will be a chief angel, Michael, and the obedient angels of God who will kick Satan out of Heaven once and for all which will usher in the Kingdom of Christ on this earth.

Who Is Like God?

Satan is the one who proclaimed that he would become like God. **(Isaiah 14:12-17)** However, God responds by sending Michael whose name means "who is like God" to remind Satan that there is no one like the Most High God!

Michael

Michaēl (Strong's G3413)

I. Michael = "who is like God"

A. the first of the chief princes or archangels who is supposed to be the guardian angel of the Israelites

Some may wonder why Satan has access to Heaven. **(Job 1:6-12, Job 2:1-7, Zechariah 3:1-2)** Judicially, Satan was defeated by Christ through His death and resurrection. However, Satan still has

access to heaven as the “accuser of the brethren.” (**Revelation 12:10**) However, at this point in Daniel’s seventieth week, He will be cast out once and for all. (**Revelation 12:8-9**)

Revelation 12:8(NKJV)

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

Not only did Satan not prevail, but even his place of standing was taken away once and for all.

In the scriptures we see five stages of Satan’s complete downfall:

1. He lost his place of honor and excellence in heaven. (**Isaiah 14:12, Ezekiel 28:11-19**)
2. He lost his power as the accuser at the cross. (**Romans 8:31-39**) Satan’s accusations actually bring glory to God
3. He will be cast out of Heaven for the final time. (**Revelation 12:9**)
4. He will be bound for 1000 years during Millennium. (**Revelation 20:1-3**)
5. He will be thrown into the Lake of Fire forever. (**Revelation 20:7-10**)

Revelation 12:9(NKJV)

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.

Satan (The Dragon) is cast out for the final time. (**Luke 10:18**) Satan’s loss of power as accuser is magnified through the ministry of the disciples. Satan falls more each time someone comes into the Kingdom. (**2 Above**)

Cast out

ballō (Strong’s G906)

to throw or let go of a thing without caring where it falls

Jesus added some information about what this casting out looks like. (**John 12:31**)

In John 12:31

Cast Out

Eksballō (Strong’s G1544)

I. to cast out, drive out, to send out

A. with notion of violence

i. to drive out (cast out)

ii. to cast out

a. of the world, i.e. be deprived of the power and influence he exercises in the world

b. a thing: excrement from the belly into the sink (Matthew 15:16-17)

The allusion to the serpent leads us back to the serpent in the Garden of Eden. (**Genesis 3:1-7**)

Devil

Diabolos (Strong’s G1228)

I. prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely

A. a calumniator, false accuser, slanderer,

Satan

Satanas (Strong’s G4567)

adversary (one who opposes another in purpose or act), the name given to

An interesting observation is that Diabolos is a Greek word exclusively used in the New Testament. Satan, though, is a word that traces back to the Hebrew word:

Satan

satan (Strong’s H7854)

I. adversary, one who withstands

A. adversary (in general - personal or national)

II. superhuman adversary

A. Satan (as noun pr)

This description of Satan as accuser also relates to one who accuses in court.

Interestingly this Hebrew word is translated both as "adversary" (**Numbers 22:22, 1 Samuel 29:4, 1 Kings 5:4, 11:14, 11:23, 11:25**) and as the name of Satan. This gives us an insight into the fact that Satan is not just the name of our enemy, it is the character of who he is.

Some scholars believe that the two-fold designation both in Greek and Hebrew gives an indication as to who it is that Satan is slandering and opposing, both believing Jews and Greeks (Gentiles). Satan stands as an accuser who withstands humanity before the throne of God. (**Job 1:6-11, Job 2:1-5, Zechariah 3:1-5**) The good news for the believer, however, is that while Satan stands as the accuser, we have an advocate before the Father. (**1 John 2:1-2**) **See 2 Above**

who deceives the whole world

As adversary and accuser, Satan's strategy is deception. (**Genesis 3:1-7**) He is a liar and is the father of lies. (**John 8:44**) He desires to deceive God's people and he also desires to deceive the world against God's people. This deception is what causes the world to turn against God's people and ultimately God himself. (**Psalms 2, Matthew 5:10-12, Matthew 10:16-26, Matthew 24:9-14, John 16:2-4, Acts 4:23-30, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12**)

he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Though Satan wars against Michael and the angels of heaven, he is unsuccessful and will ultimately be cast out of heaven for the final time. He will be cast to the earth with the angels who rebelled and fought against God with him. (**Revelation 12:4**)

Revelation 12:10(NKJV)

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.

Now

arti (Strong's G737)

I. just now, this moment

II. now at this time, at this very time, this moment

When Satan is cast out of heaven, there begins the fulfillment of the righteous rule of God's kingdom.

Salvation

sōtēria (Strong's G4991)

I. deliverance, preservation, safety, salvation

A. deliverance from the molestation of enemies

B. In an ethical sense, that which concludes to the soul's safety or salvation
i. of Messianic salvation

II. salvation as the present possession of all true Christians

III. future salvation, the sum of benefits and blessings which the Christians, redeemed from all earthly ills, will enjoy after the visible return of Christ from heaven in the consummated and eternal kingdom of God.

In Greek, verse 10 says "the" salvation. This speaks to the culmination of God's salvation plan. (1 Corinthians 15:20-28, Hebrews 9:28) This is a declaration that God's people will not only be experiencing salvation in terms of our present situation, but the fullness of our salvation as the Kingdom of God is being set up on the earth.

Whereas the promise of salvation was spoken of as future in Luke's gospel (**Luke 3:6**) now the kingdom is in full view. (**Hebrews 9:28**)

Strength*Dynamis (Strong's G1411)**I. strength power, ability*

- A. inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth*
- B. power for performing miracles*
- C. moral power and excellence of soul*
- D. the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth*
- E. power and resources arising from numbers*
- F. power consisting in or resting upon armies, forces, hosts*

Dunamis is the word we often associate with power. **(Acts 1:8)**

Power*Exousia (Strong's G1849)**the power of authority (influence) and of right (privilege)*

God has the authority to reign and the power to back up that authority. **(Revelation 12:5)** Christ's authority comes from his death and resurrection.

The knowledge of Christ's soon coming rule should motivate our worship. **(Revelation 7:10, 19:1)**

for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

Satan has had access to stand before God as the accuser, **(Job 1:6-11, Zechariah 3:1)** but now he is cast out for the final time. We should endeavor to live a life that hinders accusation.

Revelation 12:11(NKJV)

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 to the death.

As the accuser is kicked out of Heaven, he then turns his attention to the faithful who are living on earth. They are able to overcome Satan.

Who are they? They are the ones who have stood accused and persecuted by Satan. When the enemy stands to accuse you and sends persecution your way, know that it will put you in the company of those who will overcome if you trust the Word and Christ's path. Satan's greatest weapons and temptations provide the greatest opportunity for you to become an overcomer.

Overcame*Nikaō (Strong's G3528)**I. to conquer*

- A. to carry off the victory, come off victorious*
 - i. of Christ, victorious over all His foes*
 - ii. of Christians, that hold fast their faith even unto death against the power of their foes, and temptations and persecutions*
 - iii. when one is arraigned or goes to law, to win the case, maintain one's cause*

As believers we are privileged to participate in the same victory over sin and Satan that Jesus accomplished. **(John 16:33-17:5)** Context of John 16:33-17:5: The Spirit is coming, and Jesus is about to accomplish His death and resurrection. He tells the disciples the world will hate them but that He is telling them this in advance so they would not fear. He then makes a prophetic statement, "I have overcome the world." He knew that He would overcome and we need to walk with the same assurance that we will also overcome.

1. By the blood of the lamb

It is by means or because of the blood of Christ that we overcome. The same blood which gave Christ the authority to kick Satan out of heaven, has the same authority here on earth. The strategy of Satan is to destroy you through accusation and deception and cause you to fall from your faith. When the accuser comes to your life, plead the blood of Christ over your sin and failure. **(Romans 3:20-26)**

Romans 3:23**Have Sinned (Past Tense)***hamartanō (Strong's G264)**I. to be without a share in**II. to miss the mark**III. to err, be mistaken**IV. to miss or wander from the path of uprightness/honor, to do or go wrong**V. to wander from the law of God, violate God's law, sin***Fall Short (Present Tense)***Hystereō (Strong's G5302)**I. behind**A. to come late or too tardily**i. to be left behind in the race and so fail to reach the goal, to fall short of the end***Romans 3:24****Justified (Present Tense)***dikaioō (Strong's G1344)**I. to render righteous or such he ought to be**II. to show, exhibit, evince, one to be righteous, such as he is and wishes himself to be considered**III. to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be*

In other words to Be made right and to show yourself right.

(See also Romans 8:31-39)**More than conquerors***hypernikaō (Strong's G5245)**to be more than a conqueror, to gain a surpassing victory**Hyper means over, beyond, more than***(Romans 16:20, See also Genesis 3:15, Ephesians 1:7, Revelation 20:1-6)****2. The word of their testimony**

These believers are not saved because of their testimony. Their testimony is an outward reflection of faith in the inward change that has come because of the blood of Christ. **(Romans 3:20-26, Faith response to Blood of Christ's power)** These believers are so assured of their salvation that they refuse to give up their testimony. Whereas Christ's greatest victory was in the seeming defeat of death, so shall the death of these believers be their greatest victory as well. **(Revelation 15:2, Revelation 20:4: Witness=martyria)**

Testimony*martyria (Strong's G3141)**I. a testifying**A. the office committed to the prophets of testifying concerning future events**II. what one testifies, testimony, i.e. before a judge*

Comes From "Martus" which means those who have proved the strength and genuineness of their faith in Christ by undergoing a violent death.

Additionally, the testimony of believers in holding on to the truth of Christ's salvation will become a means by which God will bring others into salvation as well, striking a double blow against the enemy.

I believe this is why Paul was so zealous to pour out his life for the gospel. He knew the ultimate victory that would come even if it meant suffering in this life. **(Acts 20:17-24, diamartyroma: Dia=For this cause/Purpose: John 12:27, martyreō=bear witness)**

To the seven churches that Revelation was being written to and to us today, the understanding that Satan is defeated by Christ's blood and a faithful testimony would be, and is today, a great encouragement.

and they did not love their lives to the death.

The believer's belief in the blood of Christ and in the testimony of their salvation is so strong that they willingly face death instead of compromising. The reward for their trust and faithfulness will be the presence of God. **(Matthew 16:24-26, John 12:23-27, Revelation 13:10)**

While Satan will lose all access to Heaven, those who trust in the blood of Christ and are faithful in their testimony will never lose theirs. **(Revelation 15:2)**

Revelation 12:12(NKJV)

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."

I believe there are two main reasons for rejoicing in the heavens. First, there is a realization that, though there have been great trial for the overcomers, Satan has not succeeded in defeating them. The believers have overcome everything Satan has thrown at them, and they have triumphed. Secondly, there is rejoicing in heaven because Satan has no further access.

Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath

In contrast to the rejoicing that takes place in heaven, there is great "woe" for those one earth.

The phrase "the inhabitants of the earth" or who "dwell on earth" is repeated twelve times in Revelation. **(Revelation 3:10 We are kept from, 6:10, 8:13, 11:10 twice, 12:12, 13:8, 13:12, 13:14, 14:6, 17:1, 17:8)** This refers to those who are unbelievers on the earth. I believe this verse refers not just to people who are living on the earth, but those who are living "for" the earth. **(1 John 2:15-17) (See Also Matthew 6:19-24, Proverbs 28:22)**

All those who "dwell on the earth" will eventually be those who worship the beast. **(Revelation 13:8)** If you are a person living "for" the world, what will be your reaction when you are told to take a mark in order to get the things of the world? You will gladly submit. In this way, for many, the mark will not be a terrifying thing but an act of convenience to gain more from this world.

Why does verse 12 say "the earth and the sea?" In scripture the sea is often a representation of the gentile nations. Similarly, the earth is sometimes seen as representing Israel. This may be an indication that it doesn't matter whether Jew or Gentile, Satan's wrath will be unleashed.

Satan can no longer accuse in heaven so he will bring unprecedented temptation and persecution in order to try and destroy as many people as he is able.

Because he knows that he has a short time.

Time

Kairos (Strong's G2540)

I. due measure

II. a measure of time, a larger or smaller portion of time, hence:

- A. a fixed and definite time, the time when things are brought to crisis, the decisive epoch waited for*
- B. opportune or seasonable time*
- C. the right time*
- D. a limited period of time*
- E. to what time brings, the state of the times, the things and events of time*

"Kairos" time is a definite and set period of time in contrast to time in general. Satan, in other words, knows his season to destroy is very short. In fact, it is 1260 days, the final 3 ½ years of this age. **(42 months, 3 ½ years, Time, Times, and a half a time)** Although it may seem like Satan is winning during this time, we are reminded that it is God who is in control of all things. **(Matthew 24:21-22)**

Revelation 12:13(NKJV)

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.

Verse 12 picks up the narrative interrupted in verse 6. **(Revelation 12:6)** The persecution is the result of the activities of verses 7-12.

Satan's wrath is first aimed at Israel (The woman) Satan has a special hatred for Israel, as it is through the Jewish people that the plan of salvation has been accomplished on earth. **(John 4:22)** Satan will stir up a wave of anti-Semitism like the world has not experienced before. However, Satan's wrath will not only be aimed at Israel, but at the righteous remnant of believers. **(Revelation 12:17, 13:15)**

Revelation 12:14(NKJV)

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.

The woman, Israel, is given "two wings" of a great eagle. This is symbolic of God's protection over his people. **(Exodus 19:4, Deuteronomy 32:11-12, Isaiah 40:30-31, 63:9)**

This is the flight to safety Jesus spoke of. **(Matthew 24:15-16, Mark 13:14)**

Some see the wings of the eagle as some world power that will come to the aid of Israel. This is based on the fact that some nations who have controlled or protected Israel in the past have been identified with an eagle. **(Ezekiel 17:3 Babylon, Ezekiel 17:7 Egypt)** The Roman standard was emblazoned with the picture of an eagle. In the early days of Christianity, Rome was extremely hostile against the followers of Christ. However, in 313 A.D. Constantine signed the edict of Milan which stopped the persecution of Christians.

There are also those who believe it is The United States with its symbol of an eagle who will be the country to rescue the woman. This is possible but unlikely as The United States is essentially unseen in Biblical prophecy.

Although it is possible that God will use some world power to help Israel, it is imperative to understand it is God working out the circumstances, in which at least a remnant of Israel will find protection for the final 3 ½ years of the tribulation period. **(Isaiah 26:20-27:1)**

The wings of the eagle also represent the speed of the flight into the wilderness. Through God's plan, the Jews will be quickly and safely moved to the place of protection. Some people believe the place to which the Jews will flee is Petra. **(See Verse 6)**

Revelation 12:15(NKJV)

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.

Some believe there will be a literal flood unleashed by Satan to destroy the Jewish people. This is possible. However, it is more likely this flood represents the armies of the antichrist and the anti-Semitism and hatred they espouse.

Water is used in scripture as a symbol of people groups. **(Isaiah 17:12, Revelation 17:15)**

Additionally, water is used as symbolic of armies. **(Isaiah 8:7-8, Jeremiah 47:2-3)**

Revelation 12:16(NKJV)

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.

Just like God used the Red Sea crossing to swallow up the armies of Egypt. **(Exodus 14:23-34, Exodus 15:12)**

That the earth would open and swallow the enemies of God also reminds us of the story of Korah, Dathan and Abiram who rebelled against Moses. **(Numbers 16:23-34, Psalm 106:17)**

There is a striking parallel between these verses and the words of David. **(Psalm 124)**

Revelation 12:17(NKJV)

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.

When Satan is not able to overcome those protected by God, he will continue his war against the people of God who did not escape with the protected ones.

Although God preserves a remnant of the Jewish people during this time, Zechariah tells us that 2/3 will be killed. **(Zechariah 13:8-9)**

These will be the believers, Jews, and Gentiles, who are saved during the tribulation period. **(Isaiah 1:9, 10:22-23, Micah 2:12, 5:7-8, Zechariah 13:8-9) (See also Romans 11:26-27)**