

## Revelation 12

### I. Second Half of Revelation

- A. Chapter 12 begins the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the book of Revelation
- B. The first half concentrated on the physical struggle with Rome
- C. The second half shows what is going on behind the scenes

### II. The Woman and Dragon

- A. Who is this woman?
  - 1. Other passages
    - a. Isa 66:7-8 - Reference to the city
    - b. Gal 4:26 - The Jerusalem above our "mother"
  - 2. v.1 - The woman is spectacular
    - a. Sun and moon = glorious
    - b. 12 Stars = 12 is the number for the people of God
    - c. v.5 - Gave birth to Jesus
  - 3. The woman represents the people of God in general
    - a. Probably not literally physical Israel
      - 1) They were not the persecuted but persecutor of Christians
      - 2) God no longer gives physical Israel preferential treatment after the ascension
        - a) Rom 2:28-29; 10:12
        - b) Gal 3:26-29
    - b. These refer to the faithful people of God, who at the time would be Christians

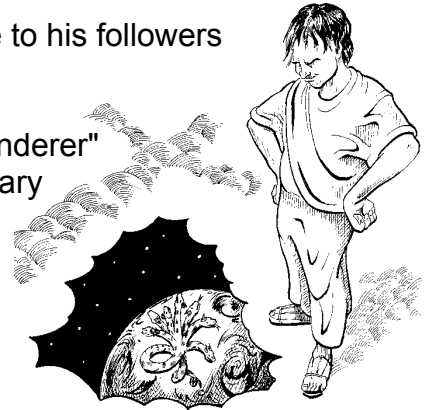


- B. The Dragon
  - 1. v.9 - Satan
  - 2. 7 Crowns
    - a. These crowns are not the victory wreath, but a diadem
    - b. This signifies that the Dragon rules over something
  - 3. 7 Heads - He is crafty
  - 4. 10 Horns
    - a. Horns represent strength, signifying the dragon is strong
    - b. 7 is more than 10 in apocalyptic, and the lamb of chapter 5 has 7 horns rather than 10
  - 5. He is huge
  - 6. Satan is powerful
    - a. Sweeps away a third of the stars
      - 1) Stars were seen as representations of a heavenly

army

2) Probably a symbolic reference to his followers

- b. Dragon, serpent
  - c. Has his "angels"
  - d. Called the "Devil," which means "slanderer"
  - e. Called "Satan," which means adversary
  - f. Deceives the whole world
7. Satan is not all powerful
- a. Could not devour Jesus
  - b. Lost the war with God's angels
  - c. Lost his place in Heaven
  - d. He was hurled to the earth
  - e. His "authority" was diminished, he "lost his place"
8. Other information about Satan
- a. Mat 12:22-29 - Jesus plunders his house
  - b. Jn 12:31 - Ruler of this world will be cast out
  - c. Jn 14:30 - Once again is called, "Ruler of this world"
  - d. Jn 16:11 - Ruler of this world has been judged



### C. Other elements of the vision

1. Taken care of 1,260 days (3 ½ Years)
  - a. 3 ½ represents unfinished time with a looking forward to completion
  - b. People of God are receiving hardship in the desert, but it is temporary
2. Michael the archangel (v.7)
  - a. Name means, "Who is like God?"
  - b. He is the only Arch Angel mentions in the New Testament
  - c. Dan 10:13, 21; 12:1 - He is the defender of God's people
3. Pictures the struggle behind the scenes at the crucifixion (v.7)
  - a. Gen 3:15 - It was foretold
  - b. Heb 2:14 - Rendered Satan powerless
  - c. Col 2:15 - Made public display of rulers and authorities
4. Satan loses the power to accuse (v.10-11)
  - a. Overcame him by the blood
  - b. (Rom 8:33-34) -
5. Satan's continued activity
  - a. v.12 - Rejoice you heavens or "heavenly places"
    - 1) Same word used in Eph 2:5-6
    - 2) Talking about the unseen realms
    - 3) Satan apparently has no power in the heavenlies
  - b. Earth and sea is Satan's dominion
  - c. Satan is mad and furious, like a wounded animal
    - 1) He knows his time is short
    - 2) He has no authority in the heavenlies
    - 3) Cannot destroy God's people



- a) God's people given "wings" to help
  - (1) Ex 19:4 -God helps Israel with wings
  - (2) Is 40:31 - Mount up with wings
- b) In the desert parallels:
  - (1) Israel tested in the wilderness (Dt 8)
  - (2) Jesus tested in the wilderness (Mt 4)
- c) Taken care of - Israel received manna
- d) Earth helps the woman and swallows up the flood
- d. Satan is still fighting
  - 1) Makes war with the woman
  - 2) Makes war with the rest of the woman's offspring
    - a) "Rest of her offspring" may refer to individual members
    - b) Satan cannot defeat the church as a whole, so he goes after people one at a time

### III. This vision shows that we fight a defeated enemy, yet there is still a struggle

#### A. Struggle passages:

1. Mt 10:28
2. 1 Tim 6:12
3. 2 Tim 2:3
4. Eph 6:12

#### B. What to do?

1. Eph 6:10-18
2. 1 Jn 5:4-5
3. Rom 8
4. Heb 6:11-12
5. Heb 10:23-25