

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Revelation 12:6-17 | Session 17 | The Hatred of God's People

In the book of Revelation, there are seven pairs of visions given to John. The first pair of visions pertains to events that are taking place in Heaven, and the second part of the pair concerns events taking place on Earth.

- 1.1 | The First Vision in Heaven (4:1-5:14).
- 1.2 | The First Vision on Earth (6:1-7:8).
- 2.1 | The Second Vision in Heaven (7:9-8:6).
- 2.2 | The Second Vision on Earth (8:7-11:14).
- 3.1 | The Third Vision in Heaven (11:15-18).
- 3.2 | The Third Vision on Earth (11:19).
- 4.1 | The Fourth Vision in Heaven (12:1-12)
- 4.2 | The Fourth Vision on Earth (12:13-13:8)

4.1 | THE FOURTH VISION IN HEAVEN (12:1-12)

THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE FITS RIGHT HERE, BETWEEN VERSES 5 AND 6.

Verse 6—

This is the second half of the tribulation. The Jews will have to flee from Jerusalem to a place in the wilderness (some have suggested Petra, located in Jordan), where for 1,260, this remnant of Jews will be nourished.

Wherever it is they flee to, it is **a place prepared of God**. We don't know who **they** are that **feed her**.

Jesus spoke of this fleeing to the wilderness in his Olivet discourse in Matthew 24:15,16. Similar to the desert wandering of the Jews after their escape from Egypt, this is how the nation of Israel survives the Tribulation.

Verse 7—

And there was war in heaven. We don't think of war when we think of Heaven, yet this is what we read here. **Michael and his angels going forth fought against the dragon.** Michael will take the initiative to fight, not the **Dragon**. Satan, who has up until this time had access to the heavens, is cast down. In our Daniel study, Michael was described as *one of the chief princes* (Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1). In the book of Jude, he is called *the archangel* (vs. 9). Michael is the one who makes war against the Dragon. Likewise, it is not the Dragon who makes war against the *man-child* (Messiah). Rather his war, after he is cast down to the earth, is against the woman (Israel) which brought forth the man-child (12:13). The Dragon's dominion covers all the powers and governments of the world. This dominion is about to become the sovereignty of our Lord and of His Christ! (See 11:15).

Verse 8—

And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. In other words, Michael wins this war, and the purpose of removing Satan is accomplished.

Verse 9—

If we didn't figure it out by now, verse 9 is explicit about who it is that is cast down: **The great dragon...that old serpent...the Devil...Satan.** And it is he who is the *deceiver of the whole world.*

Verses 10-12—

Here we have a proclamation of victory. It is likely not a song since John could have used the word *to sing* (Revelation 15:3). While it is a singular **voice**, it is made up of **our brethren**, which would indicate to me that this is being recited by those who will have been caught up to heaven out of the *great tribulation*.

The result of Satan being cast down is **Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea.** But, when Satan is cast down, he has **but a short time.**

To put this in perspective, the Beast (Antichrist) will be reigning on the earth during the first half of the Tribulation, but in his mortal human form, now in the middle of the *70th week*, the *third woe comes; Satan is cast out.* This last half is truly the *great and terrible day of the Lord.* It brings us to the next, the Fourth Vision on Earth.

4.2 THE FOURTH VISION, ON EARTH (12:13-13:8)

Verse 13,14—

The word *child* is inserted. The Greek word is *arsen* which just means a male. **Two wings of a great eagle** need not be taken literally since it is used in Exodus 19:4 to indicate God's protection for the nation of Israel. The fact that **she** (Israel) **might fly into the wilderness** indicates how quickly she had to escape being savagely attacked by the wrath of Satan.

Verse 15,16—

As a flood after the woman that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood, I see no reason why this could not be a literal flood. Fleeing to the desert, there are many flash floods; in fact, Carol and I saw one forming over a cliff when we were in the Judean desert in 2015. And, just like the Israelites were delivered from the Red Sea, there is no reason why the ground could not open during this flood and save Israel here.

Verse 17—

Failing in his attempt to destroy this fleeing remnant, **the dragon was wrath with the woman.** He turns his forces against the remnant of her seed. This remnant would be those Jews scattered upon the face of the earth, including those whom we read about in the Seven Churches—they were instructed by the Lord to overcome.