The Why and the What "Two Great Signs" Revelation 12:1-6

FBC Canton, Sunday AM, March 21, 2021 – Bro. Mike Roberson

Introduction: Great signs demand great wonder.

We have seen Heaven open in 11:19

The Ark

Lightning, thundering, earthquake and hail

Why all these sights and sounds...to put our hearts in a place of wonder.

Unfortunately, many are not impressed.

Our digital age has introduced us to the skepticism of Photoshop. No one looks at a picture anymore with trust and awe.

Why do we lose our sense of wonder?

In a culture full of distractions, sensory overload, insecurities, stress, and dependence on monetary gain, a sense of "wonder", and creativity loses its importance.

Why is it important to wonder?

Wonder helps to put our place in the world into perspective. It not only allows us to see beauty in a crabapple; it reminds us that we are finite and that we are a part of something much greater than our ability to comprehend it.

So, when we come to the scriptures with vivid word pictures, we are dulled by our skepticism and left without the awesome wonder that should fill our hearts.

But we should see these great signs and be filled with wonder and awe of God!

Ch. 12 will introduce us to 2 powerful signs;

They are meant to change us.

They are meant to instruct us.

They are meant to inspire us.

More than all that they are meant to fill our hearts with faith!

Let's stand and pray for the Lord to fill us with wonder thus leading us to give our lives to Him!

I. The First Great Sign: The Woman is Israel. v. 1-2, 5-6 Genesis 37

- a. Israel is the chosen nation, and they always will be. Romans 9, 10, 11
 - i. Jesus is a Jew, and he is the King of Kings. Psalm 2 The Woman: Chuck Missler

• Israel is described as a woman in travail in OT (Isa 54:5; 66:7; Jer 3:6f; Micah 4:10; 5:2-3);

• She gives birth to the man-child (Rev 12:5; Ps 2:9; Rev 2:27; Rev 19:15).

- This is Israel, not the Church (Micah 4:9; 5:2).
- "Unto us a child is born..." (Isa 9:6).
- "Seed of woman" (Gal 3:16; Jer 31:31).

- The Messianic Line begins (Gen 3:15).

• The King of Kings: And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS (Rev 19:15-16). 5] And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and *to* his throne. *Harpazo* to seize, carry off by force; to seize on, claim for one's self eagerly; to snatch out or away. G.H. Pember was among the first to suggest that this verse may actually refer to the *"Body of Christ"* rather than the Ascension. [One of 24 similar "gaps" occur between verse 5 & 6...]

b. He either keeps all His promises or we are lost. Il Corinthians 1:20-22

i. For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. ²¹ Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, ²² who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

II. The Second Great Sign: The Dragon is Satan. v. 3-4

a. He is full of death. John 8:44, 10:10

- i. Red is the color of death.
 - 1. His one aim is to kill God.
 - The Son of God and all who follow him face his rage.
 a. He tried many times while Jesus was on the earth.
 - 3. The Son of God is caught up to Heaven, raptured.
 - 4. The woman flees for 1260 days. All those who are Israel will flee.

The Stratagems of Satan: Chuck Missler

- Cain's murder of Abel. Gen 4
- Corruption of Adam's line. Gen 6
- Abraham's seed. Gen 12, 20
- Famine. Gen 50
- Destruction of male line. Ex 1
- Pharaoh's pursuit. Ex 14
- The populating of. Canaan Gen 12:6
- Against David's line. 2 Sam 7

Satan attempts to thwart the Plan of God by destroying the nation and the Messianic line:

Attacks on David's Line

- Jehoram kills his brothers. 2 Chr 21:16
- Arabians slew all (but Ahazariah).
- Athaliah kills all (but Joash). 2 Kgs 11:1-3; 2 Chr. 22
- Hezekiah assaulted, etc. Isa 36, 38
- Blood curse on Jeconiah. Jer 22:30

- thus, the Virgin Birth

• Haman's attempts. Est 3

New Testament Stratagems

- Joseph's fears. Mt 1
- Herod's attempts. Mt 2
- At Nazareth. Lk 4
- 2 storms on the Sea. Mk 4; Lk 8
- The Cross
- Summary: Rev 12
- ...and he's not through: Rev 13
- ...in your life and mine! Eph 6:10-18

b. He is full of fury. I Peter 5:7

- i. A dragon is an uncontrollable evil beast. Red Dragon: Satan: Chuck Missler
 - Origin. Ezekiel 28:2-15
 - Rebellion in Heaven. Isa 14:12-17
 - Ancient = beginning. Gen 3
 - Stars = angels. Jude 1:13
 - Deceives the whole world. 2 Cor 4:3,4
 - Liar from the beginning. Gen 3:4, 5; Jn 8:44
 - Enmity with Man. Gen 3:14-15
 - Seven heads, 10 horns. Rev 13:1; 17:3; cf. Dan 7, et al.

And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. Daniel 8:9, 10

c. He is full of power. Revelation 13, 17, 18

- i. 7 heads and 10 horns, 7 diadems are from Daniel 7.
- ii. He has 1/3 of the angels with him.
 - 1. He deceived them, and he is still deceiving.
- iii. That means we have 2/3 of the angels with us!
 - 1. Not that it matters, because we have the Son of God in us! I John 4:4

Conclusion: Bless Israel, reject Satan and receive the Son!

The Book of Revelation: Chuck Missler Session 17: The Woman, Man Child & Dragon Revelation Chapter 12

And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail. Revelation 11:19 The end of the last chapter, Rev 11:19, really introduces Chapter 12.

The Woman and the Dragon

This is one of the most important chapters in the Bible: an overview of the enigma of Israel, without which the Bible cannot be fully understood.

Pattern for the Ark

Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

Hebrews 8:5

The Mercy Seat

And David arose and went with all the people who were with him to Baale-Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God which is called by the Name, the very name of the LORD of hosts who is enthroned above the cherubim. 2 Samuel 6:2 (NAS)

1] And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

2] And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

Four Women of Revelation

- 1) Jezebel Rev 2:20
- 2) The Harlot Rev 17, 18
- 3) (This one) Rev 12, Jer 3:20
- 4) The Bride Rev 19:7; 21:2, 9
- Espoused Virgin 2 Cor 11:2

Women = religion... 2 good; 2 evil. If this woman is the bride, she is in a lot of trouble—she's pregnant! Jer 3:20,22 – "Israel as wife of YHWH" 1 Cor 10:32: Jews, Gentiles, Church are distinct. Her identity is interpreted for us by Jacob in Gen 37:5-11:

And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. And his brethren said to him. Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying. Genesis 37:5-11

The Woman

• Israel is described as a woman in travail in OT (Isa 54:5; 66:7; Jer 3:6f; Micah 4:10; 5:2-3);

• She gives birth to the man-child (Rev 12:5; Ps 2:9; Rev 2:27; Rev 19:15).

- This is Israel, not the Church (Micah 4:9; 5:2).
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- "Seed of woman" (Gal 3:16; Jer 31:31).
- The Messianic Line begins (Gen 3:15).

"Replacement Theology"

There is a widely held view that:

A) When Israel rejected her messiah she forfeited the promises to her;

B) These promises devolve upon the Church, thus, becoming "spiritual Israel."

Israel appears 75 times in the New Testament; *each time it refers to national Israel—i*ncluding the solitary ostensible exception in Gal 6:16: the *kai* grammatically sets apart the "Israel of God" from the church, and prevents any synonymy [Lindsey; Johnson; Fruchtenbaum; et al.] **Major Problems**

• The promises involved were unconditional.

• The Book of Romans stresses that God is *not* finished with Israel (Rom 9, 10, 11).

• The 70 Week Prophecy outlines the prophetic role of Israel after the "interval" of the Church period.

• Only during the interval *between* the 69th and 70th week is the period of the Church on the earth (Dan 9:26).

• Jesus has yet to fulfill the promise given to Mary to take *David's* Throne (Luke 1:21).

From Augustine to Auschwitz to Armageddon

- Origen's allegorical interpretations
- Augustine's Amillennial Eschatology
- Medieval church's quest for power
- Reformation's failure to address eschatological issues
- The Holocaust in Germany
- The Great Tribulation

We will address these issues when we get to Revelation 20.

3] And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

"Red" only used 2X: Here, and Red horse (Rev 6:5)! Associated with death (6:4).

4] And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered,

for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12:9

"Devil" = slanderer, in Greek; "Satan" = adversary, in Hebrew.

5] And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and *to* his throne.

"Rule with a Rod of Iron"

• **Messianic Destiny:** Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel (Ps 2:9).

• Letter to Church in Thyatira: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father (Rev 2:27).

• Adversary of the Woman: And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and *to* his throne (Rev 12:5).

• **The King of Kings:** And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name

written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS (Rev 19:15-16).

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6] And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days.

7] And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8] And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

"And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven":

Lk 10:18; Jn 16:11; 12:31.

Michael

- One of chief princes Dan 10:13
- The Archangel Jude 1:9; 1 Thess 4:16
- Daniel's prince Dan 10:21
- Warrior for Israel Dan 12:1
- Fights for the body of Moses Jude 9
- Fought in "Wars of the Lord" Zech 14:3; Num 21:14

9] And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan,

which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Red Dragon: Satan

- Origin Ezek 28:2-15
- Rebellion in heaven Isa 14:12-17
- [Gap?] Gen 1:2 vs. Isa 45:18
- Ancient = beginning Gen 3
- Stars = angels Jude 1:13
- Deceives the whole world 2 Cor 4:3,4
- Liar from the beginning Gen 3:4, 5; Jn 8:44
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Spiritual Warfare

• Background: 2 Cor 2:11; Rev 9, cf. Amos 7:1 (LXX);

Eph 6:10-13; Isa 59:17

- Elisha's servant 2 Kgs 6:16
- Powers behind Dan 10:12-20

major empires

- Satan's Methods: Gen 3; 2
- Deceit Cor 4:3-4; Jn 8:44
- Ultimate lie 2 Thess 2:11
- The ultimate victory 1 Jn 4:4; 2 Kgs 6:16; Rom 8:25-38
- Satan already defeated 1 Jn 3:8; Heb 2:14; Jas 4:7; Eph 1:20-21;
- Heb 10:12, 13; Phil 2:9f; Ps 110:1; Rev

12:10

The Stratagems of Satan

- Cain's murder of Abel Gen 4
- Corruption of Adam's line Gen 6
- Abraham's seed Gen 12, 20
- Famine Gen 50
- Destruction of male line Ex 1
- Pharaoh's pursuit Ex 14
- The populating of Canaan Gen 12:6
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- ...and he's not through: Rev 13

...in your life and mine! Eph 6:10-18

10] And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.
11] And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

How Did They Overcome?

- His Blood Heb 9:12
- Word of testimony Mt 4:4,7,10; Eph 6:10-18; Isa 59:17
- Book of Life Ex 32:32; Dan 12:1
- Loved not their lives Rom 6:11-13; 2 Tim 1:12; Acts 20:24;
- cf. 2 witnesses of Ch 11

And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

Exodus 32:31-33

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. Daniel 12:1

12] Therefore rejoice, *ye* heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

The Third woe? Cf. 11:14ff.

13] And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man *child*.

14] And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and

half a time, from the face of the serpent. Focus: on Israel, particularly the faithful (Jer 30:7; Mt 24:15-22). Israel's Respite

- Eagle: Ex 19:4; Deut 2:9-11
- Eagles' wings from Egypt Ex 19:4
- wilderness Deut 32:11-12
- return from Babylon Isa 40:31
- Wilderness: Mt 24:16
- Edom, Moab, Ammon Dan 11:41; Isa 11:16;
- escape Antichrist Ezek 20:35-38
- Door of hope Hos 2:14, 15; Ex 15; Zeph 2:3
- Earth swallows enemies of God Num 16:31,33; Micah 7:15

15] And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

16] And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

17] And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

[Cf. Psalm 124]

The Conflict Between Two Seeds

- The "Seed of the Woman."
- The "Seed of the Serpent" (Satanic Trinity):
- The Red Dragon: Satan.
- The Coming World Leader.
- The False Prophet.
- Forces behind world powers today.

Next Session

- Read Revelation chapter 13, which introduces the Satanic Duet:
- The Beast out of the Sea.
- The Beast out of the Earth.
- Background Passages:
- Origin of Satan Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28
- The Assyrian Isaiah 10:24f, Micah 5:5f
- Physical Description Zechariah 11:17

THE WOMAN, THE CHILD, AND THE DRAGON

A. The woman.

1. (Rev 12:1) The woman is described in celestial images.

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.

a. **Now a great sign appeared**: This is the first of seven signs that John relates, and is described as a **great sign** (*mega semeion*). In Revelation chapters 12, 13, and 14 the main figures of the Great Tribulation are described, and this **great sign** introduces the first of the seven:

- The woman, representing Israel
- The dragon, representing Satan
- The man-child, referring to Jesus
- · The angel Michael, head of the angelic host
- The offspring of the woman, representing Gentiles who come to faith in the Tribulation
- The beast out of the sea, representing the antichrist
- The beast out of the earth, representing the false prophet who promotes the antichrist

b. **A woman clothed with the sun**: Because John plainly said this is a **sign**, we don't expect this woman to appear literally on the earth. God will use this sign to communicate something to John and to us. Women often represent religious systems in Revelation.

· Jezebel is associated with a religious system promoting false teaching (Revelation 2:20)

- The Great Harlot is associated with false religion (Revelation 17:2)
- The Bride is associated with the church (Revelation 19:7-8)

c. **A woman clothed with the sun**: This woman has been associated with many different religious ideas. Roman Catholics claim this woman is Mary, pictured as the "Queen of Heaven." Mary Baker Eddy (the founder of Christian Science) said she was this woman.

i. It is common in Roman Catholic art to represent Mary as standing on a crescent moon with **twelve stars** around her head.

d. A woman clothed with the sun: Scripturally, this woman clothed with the sun should be identified with Israel, according to Joseph's dream (Genesis 37:9-11). In that dream, the sun represented Jacob, the moon represented Joseph's mother Rachel, and the eleven stars were the sons of Israel which bowed down to Joseph. In this sign with twelve stars, Joseph is now among the other tribes of Israel.

i. In other Old Testament passages, Israel (or Zion or Jerusalem) is often represented as a woman (Isaiah 54:1-6, Jeremiah 3:20, Ezekiel 16:8-14, and Hosea 2:19-20).

2. (Rev 12:2) The woman gives birth.

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

a. **Being with child**: Later in the chapter, it is clear that this child born of Israel is Jesus (*She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron*, Revelation 12:5).

b. She cried out in labor and in pain to give birth: The pain described refers to the travail of Israel at the time of Jesus' birth (under Roman occupation and oppression).

B. The dragon.

1. (Rev 12:3) A fearful, powerful dragon appears.

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

a. **Another sign appeared in heaven**: Again, we are reminded that this is a **sign**. The creature here was not literally a **great**, **fiery red dragon**, but the dragon represented his nature and character.

i. His description "symbolically suggests his fierce power and murderous nature... a picture of the fullness of evil in all its hideous strength." (Johnson)

b. **Seven diadems on his heads**: This dragon had great power (**seven heads and ten horns**) and claimed royal authority (**seven diadems**). The crowns represent his presumptive claims of royal authority against the true King. *He* wants to be considered a king.

i. "From the similar description given in Rev 13:1 and the parallel references in Daniel 7:7-8, 2, it is clear that the revived Roman Empire is in view... The seven heads and ten horns refer to the original ten kingdoms of which three were subdued by the little horn of Daniel 7:8, who is to be identified with the world ruler of the great tribulation who reigns over the revived Roman Empire." (Walvoord)

2. (Rev 12:4) The dragon looks to the earth.

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.

a. **His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven**: Many believe this describes one-third of the angelic host in league with Satan (*his angels* of Revelation 12:9). This army of angelic beings in league with Satan makes up the world of demonic spirits.

i. "God never made an evil being; but He made angels, principalities, and powers capacitated for mighty joys and distinctions in His glorious domain, yet with free will, implied in the very creation of moral beings, which they could exercise for their everlasting weal or woe. Many have remained steadfast, to wit, 'Michael and his angels.' But some abode not in the truth, but revolted against the rule of Heaven, and became unchanging enemies of God and His Kingdom." (Seiss)

b. **To devour her Child as soon as it was born**: The attempt to **devour her Child** was initially fulfilled by Herod's attempts to kill Jesus as a child (Matthew 2:16-18). It was also fulfilled throughout Jesus' life as Satan attacked Him (John 8:58 and Mark 4:35-41).

C. The child.

1. (Rev 12:5) Jesus' ministry is described by its earthly beginning and end.

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.

a. **A male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron**: Clearly, this refers to Jesus Christ, the Messiah. He rules the world with a **rod of iron** (Psalm 2 and Revelation 19:15).

b. **She bore a male Child**: This refers to Jesus' birth. **Rule all nations with a rod of iron** refers to the triumphant return of Jesus. By stating the starting point and ending point of Jesus' earthly work, John alluded to all that stood in between.

i. "After a conflict with the Prince of this world, who came and tried Him, but found nothing in Him, the Son of the woman was taken up to heaven and sat on the right hand of God. Words can hardly be plainer than these." (Alford)

c. **A male Child**: This is obviously Jesus. This means that the *woman* of Revelation 12:1 cannot be the church, because Jesus "gives birth" to the church, not the other way around. The *woman* must therefore either be Mary or Israel, the only two "women" who could have "given birth" to Jesus. The rest of Revelation 12 will demonstrate that this woman is Israel, not Mary.

2. (Rev 12:6) The woman in the wilderness.

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.

a. **Then the woman fled into the wilderness**: Persecuted by the dragon, the woman is protected by God in a **prepared** place for **one thousand two hundred and sixty days**

i. This helps us to understand with certainty that the *woman* is Israel and not Mary. How could Mary possibly flee into the wilderness in this way?

b. **One thousand two hundred and sixty days**: This reference to a three and one-half year period connects these events with the final seven years of the Daniel 9 prophecy. Since Revelation 12:5 describes the ascension of Jesus, and Revelation 12:6 describes yet-to-occur events in the 70th week of Daniel, between these two verses lies hundreds of years (our current period). This obvious "near-far" break in time is typical of prophecy. Daniel's seventy week prophecy has such a break (Daniel 9:24-27).

c. Into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God: Some believe this place in the wilderness is the rock city of Petra, south of the Dead Sea. Reportedly, Christian businessmen have stocked the place with food and evangelistic tracts written in Hebrew.

d. **Prepared in the wilderness**: **Prepared** uses the same ancient Greek word Jesus used in *I go to prepare a place for you* (John 14:2-3). This demonstrates that God's careful planning works on earth as well as in heaven.

D. Conflict in heaven.

1. (Rev 12:7-8) War between Michael and the dragon.

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

a. **War broke out in heaven**: At the mid-point of the great tribulation, God will turn the tide against Satan – first in heaven, then on earth. A battle will take place that will deny Satan access to heaven.

b. **Michael and his angels**: Some individuals and groups (such as the Seventh Day Adventists and Jehovah's Witnesses) insist on saying that **Michael** is actually Jesus. This is wrong on every count.

i. Some say Michael must be Jesus, because he has **his angels**. But if Satan – a fallen angelic being – has **his angels** (Revelation 12:7), can't Michael – an unfallen angelic being – have **his angels**?

ii. Some say Michael must be Jesus, because his name means *One like God*. But if this were a title of Jesus, it could argue *against* His deity, not for it – because it would say that Jesus is *like* God, but *not* God. "There is also an unquestionable Godlikeness in all holy beings, which must be very exalted in those preeminent among the ministers of the throne." (Seiss)

iii. Some say Michael must be Jesus, because he is called *the archangel* (Jude 9), which means leader or prince among the angels, and they say that only Jesus is the leader of the angels. But we know from Daniel 10:13, 10:20 and 10:21 that Michael is one angelic *prince* among others. Also, Paul refers to *an archangel* in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 in a way that presupposes other archangels.

iv. Some say that Michael must be Jesus, because Paul says that at the rapture, the Lord will call His people with *the voice of an archangel* (1 Thessalonians 4:16). But Jesus can use an angel to call out for His people without being that angel, just as much as God can use a trumpet to sound out a call without being the trumpet.

v. Jude 9 says that Michael would not rebuke or accuse Satan on His own authority, but only say "The Lord rebuke you." This shows that Michael isn't Jesus, because Jesus often rebuked Satan and demons in His own authority (Matthew 17:18, Mark 1:25, 9:25, Luke 4:8, 4:35).

vi. "Michael is not to be identified with Christ, any more than any other of the great angels in this Book. Such identification here would confuse hopelessly the actors in this heavenly scene." (Alford)

c. **Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought**: This is a dramatic scene of battle between good angels and bad angels.; faithful angels and fallen angels.

i. *Who* fights in this battle? This is truly a battle between equals. The **dragon** represents Satan (Revelation 12:9), and Satan is not the counterpart of God – God has no counterpart. If anyone, Satan is the counterpart of Michael, who seems to be the chief angel opposite this chief of fallen angels.

ii. *Why* is the battle fought? In a previous scene of conflict between Michael and Satan (Jude 9), Satan wanted to prevent the resurrection and glorification of Moses, because he knew God had plans for the resurrected and glorified Moses (Luke 9:30-31). Here is another occasion where Satan wants to get in the way of God's plan for the end-times.

iii. When is this battle fought? This battle occurs at the mid-point of the seven-year period, as described by Daniel. At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered. (Daniel 12:1)

iv. *How* is this battle fought? We know this is a real fight; but is it a material or a spiritual battle? Our battle with Satan and his demons is *spiritual*, fought on the battleground of truth and deception, of fear and faith (Ephesians 6:12). In regard to material attacks against the believer, Satan and his demons were disarmed at the cross (Colossians 2:15). Among angels, it is possible that there is a *material* battle to be fought in a way we can only imagine. In his classic work *Paradise Lost*, the great poet Milton imagined this battle:

Michael bid sound

Th' archangel trumpet: through the vast of heaven It sounded, and the faithful armies run Hosanna to the Highest: nor stood at gaze The adverse legions, nor less hideous joined The horrid shock: now storming fury rose, And clamour such as heard in heaven till now Was never; arms on armour clashing brayed Horrible discord, and the madding wheels Of brazen chariots raged; dire was the noise Of conflict; overhead the dismal hiss Of fiery darts in flaming volleys flew, And flying vaulted either host with fire: So under fiery cope together rushed Both battles main, with ruinous assault And inextinguishable rage; all heaven Resounded, and had earth been then, all earth Had to her centre shook.

d. **Nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer**: This shows us that up until this happens (at the mid-point of Daniel's 70th week), Satan *does* have access to heaven, where he accuses God's people before the throne (Job 1:6-12, Revelation 12:10).

i. It troubles some to think that Satan has access to heaven, because of the mistaken teaching that God can allow nothing unholy in His presence. But the Bible clearly says that while Satan appears on earth (Luke 4:1-13), and describes him as *the prince of the power of the air* (Ephesians 2:2), it also says that Satan has access to heaven, where he accuses God's people before the throne (Job 1:6-12).

2. (Rev 12:9) Satan and his angels are cast out of heaven.

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.

a. So the great dragon was cast out: This single verse uses many different titles for our spiritual enemy, including Dragon, serpent of old, the Devil, Satan, and he who deceives the whole world. These titles describe Satan as vicious, an accuser, an adversary, and a deceiver.

i. Walvoord on **the Devil**: "The title 'Devil' is from the Greek *diabolos*, from the verb *diaballo*, which has the meaning of 'defaming' or 'slandering.' He is the master accuser of the brethren."

b. **He was cast to the earth**: The Bible describes four different falls of Satan. Revelation 12:9 describes the second of these four falls.

- From glorified to profane (Ezekiel 28:14-16)
- From having access to heaven (Job 1:12, 1 Kings 22:21, Zechariah 3:1) to restriction to the earth (Revelation 12)
- From the earth to bondage in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Revelation 20)

· From the pit to the lake of fire (Revelation 20)

i. In Luke 10:18, Jesus said "*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven*." This refers either to the first fall of Satan (from glorified to profane), or it is a prophetic look ahead to the second fall at the midpoint of the seven year tribulation period.

c. **His angels were cast out with him**: This indicates that demonic spirits are indeed fallen angels, those who joined with Satan in His rebellion against God. These are "**his angels**."

i. These **angels** are also the same as the *third of the stars of heaven* described in Revelation 12:4. Since Satan only drew a *third of the stars of heaven*, it means that two-thirds of the angels remained faithful to God. It's comforting to know that faithful angels outnumber fallen angels two to one.

3. (Rev 12:10-12) A joyful declaration in heaven.

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. 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. 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."

a. I heard a loud voice saying: Whoever is behind this loud voice, it is some representative of redeemed humanity – not an angel or God – because the voice speaks of the accuser of *our* brethren.

b. The accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down: Satan's work of accusing only ends here, when he is cast out from his access to heaven. Today, we have (and *need*) an intercessor and advocate (Hebrews 7:25, and 1 John 2:1).

c. 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: This tells us three keys to the saint's victory over Satan.

d. **They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb**: The **blood** overcomes Satan's *accusations*. Those accusations mean nothing against us because Jesus has already paid the penalty our sins deserved. We may be even *worse* than Satan's accusations, but we are still made righteous by the work of Jesus on the cross (Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14, and Hebrews 9:14).

i. Although, it is important to say that we should not regard the blood of Jesus in a superstitious manner. It is not a magical potion, nor is it the literal blood of Jesus, literally applied that saves or

cleanses us. If that were so, then His Roman executioners, splattered with His blood, would have been automatically saved, and the actual number of molecules of Jesus' literal blood would limit the number of people who could be saved. The **blood** speaks to us of the real, physical death of Jesus Christ in our place, on our behalf, before God. *That literal death in our place, and the literal judgment He bore on our behalf, is what saves us*.

ii. **By the blood** emphasizes the *death* of Jesus. He did not only suffer, He *died*. **Of the Lamb** emphasizes the *substitutionary work* of His death, because the Passover **Lamb** died as a *substitute* for others.

iii. The blood of Jesus heals our troubled conscience, because we know that by His death our sin is atoned for (Hebrews 9:14). But to *only* use the blood of Jesus in that way is selfish. We should be like "these saints used the doctrine of atonement not as a pillow to rest their weariness, but as a weapon to subdue their sin." (Spurgeon)

iv. How does **the blood of the Lamb** conquer Satan in the life of the believer? How does the death of Jesus on the cross as our substitute bring us victory?

v. It works first because *His victory is our victory*. "First, you are to regard Satan this day as being already literally and truly overcome through the death of the Lord Jesus. Satan is already a vanquished enemy. By faith grasp your Lord's victory as your own, since he triumphed in your nature and on your behalf... Come, my soul, thou hast conquered Satan by thy Lord's victory. Wilt thou not be brave enough to fight a vanquished foe, and trample down the enemy whom thy Lord has already thrust down? Thou needest not be afraid, but say, 'Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.' " (Spurgeon)

vi. It works because the work of Jesus on the cross for us is the ultimate demonstration of God's love (Romans 5:8), and a constant remembrance of **the blood of the Lamb** assures us that every fear Satan whispers into our mind is a lie.

vii. It works because the death of Jesus on the cross as our substitute reveals the true nature of sin, and this makes us want to avoid sin. "Satan makes sin seem pleasurable, but the cross reveals its bitterness. If Jesus died because of sin, men begin to see that sin must be a murderous thing." (Spurgeon)

viii. It works because the death of Jesus on the cross as our substitute purchases us as God's personal property, and this makes us want to live unto God. "If anything can make a man holy it is a firm faith in the atoning sacrifice. When a man knows that Jesus died for him, he feels that he is not

his own, but bought with a price, and therefore he must live unto him that died for him and rose again." (Spurgeon)

ix. Therefore, we use the blood of the Lamb in spiritual warfare – not as a Christian "abracadabra," as if chanting "The blood of Jesus, the blood of Jesus" could keep Satan away like garlic is said to keep away vampires. Rather, our *understanding*, our *apprehension*, our *focus* – may I say our *obsession* with the death of Jesus on the cross as our substitute wins the battle.

x. "The precious blood of Jesus is not meant for us merely to admire and exhibit. We must not be content to talk about it, and extol it, and do nothing with it; but we are to use it in the great crusade against unholiness and unrighteousness, till it is said of us, 'They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb.' This precious blood is to be used for overcoming, and consequently for holy warfare. We dishonor it if we do not use it to that end... The dog of hell knows the dread name which makes him lie down: we must confront him with the authority, and specially with the atonement of the Lamb of God." (Spurgeon)

e. **They overcame him... by the word of their testimony**: The **word of their testimony** overcomes Satan's *deception*. Knowing and remembering the work of God *in their life* protects them against Satan's deceptions. As faithful witnesses, they have a testimony to bear – and because they know what they have seen and heard and experienced from God, they cannot be deceived by Satan's lies telling them it isn't true (as the testimony of the man born blind in John 9:25).

f. **They overcame him... they did not love their lives to the death**: Loving not **their lives** overcomes Satan's *violence*. If they do not cling to their own earthly lives, then there really is no threat Satan can bring against them. If they believe *to live is Christ, and to die is gain* (Philippians 1:21), then how can Satan's violence against them be effective?

i. The ancient Greek word for **love** here is *agape*, which speaks of a self-sacrificing, decision-based love. It is up to each one of us to *choose*: Will we **love** our **lives to the death**? Will our physical lives be the most precious thing to us, or will we find our life by losing it for Jesus? (Mark 8:35)

g. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Heaven rejoices at the eviction of Satan. But heaven's gain is the earth's loss: Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and sea!

h. **He knows that he has a short time**: Satan's power is real and terrifying, but not because he is triumphant, but because he knows he is beaten and has a **short time** left. He is like a wounded, cornered animal that fights ferociously.

i. Satan might give up his fight against God and humanity made in God's image, except for the fact that he is utterly depraved, and probably insane in some way; Satan may have deceived even himself

into thinking that he has a chance. Our rebellion against God makes even less sense than Satan's rebellion does.

E. Conflict on the earth.

1. (Rev 12:13-16) Satan attacks the woman, and God protects her.

Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*. 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. 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. 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.

a. **He persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child**: Some teach that the woman is a symbol representing all the people of God, including faithful Israel and the church. They use this to advance the idea that the church is here during the tribulation period. But if the woman represents *all* the people of God (the church and faithful Israel), then who are *the rest of her offspring* described in Revelation 12:17? It is better to see her as Israel in general or Messianic Jews in particular.

i. *Why* does Satan attack the Jewish people? This is a question for all history, not only for the Great Tribulation. The reason is because from the time of Abraham, Israel holds a critical role in God's plan of redemption. First, it was in bringing forth the Messiah and Redeemer. Then, it was in the fulfillment of His plan, because Jesus promised that the Jewish people would exist and welcome Him when He returns in glory to this world (Matthew 23:39). If Satan succeeds in destroying the Jewish people, then God's eternal plan is in some way thwarted.

ii. "The persecution of Israel is part of the satanic program to thwart and hinder the work of God... Israel is hated by Satan not because of any of its own characteristics but because she is the chosen of God and essential to the overall purpose of God for time and eternity." (Walvoord)

b. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place: *Eagle's Wings* are an emblem from the Exodus deliverance (Exodus 19:4), another way of connecting these people with Israel.

i. Some have wondered if the reference to the **two wings of a great eagle** do not in fact describe a great military transport plane used to evacuate people in an emergency situation.

c. Where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time: This is another reference to a three and one-half year period, indicating that these events – this dramatic persecution of Israel – takes place during the 70th week of Daniel 9.

d. So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman: The fury poured out against Israel after the abomination of desolation (marking the half-way point of the 70th week of Daniel) was spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 24:15-22, and spoken of in distinctly *Jewish* terms (*housetop... pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath*). This passage in Revelation describes the fury that Jesus told them to flee.

e. The earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth: This passage also describes God's ultimate protection of Israel from the fury of Satan and his antichrist in the great tribulation.

i. As it says in Isaiah 59:19, When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.

2. (Rev 12:17) The wrath of the dragon is focused against God's people.

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.

a. **The dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring**: This may refers to Israel (**the woman**) and Gentiles who come to faith in Jesus during the Great Tribulation (**the rest of her offspring**). These two groups are particular targets of Satan and his antichrist's persecution in the last days.

b. **He went to make war with the rest of her offspring**: This either begins or continues the fierce persecution of all those who would not submit to and worship this great Satanic dictator. The martyrs of this period were shown in Revelation 6:9-11 and Revelation 7:9-17.

i. "It is precisely when Satan has lost the battle for the souls of saints in heaven that he begins the fruitless persecution of their bodies." (Farrer)

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Chapter 12 Chuck Smith

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head [the sun and the moon under her feet, and on her head] a crown of twelve stars (Rev 12:1):

The identity of the woman is found in Genesis as we read of the dream of Joseph, how the sun and the moon and the eleven stars bowed down to him and so the same figure here. We have the identity of the woman as the nation of Israel, those twelve tribes that came out of Jacob.

And she being great with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered (Rev 12:2).

So she was ready to give birth to the child.

You see the purposes of God for the nation of Israel was that they were to bring the Messiah into the world. He was to be of the seed of Abraham and of the seed of David. And so God was working with this nation preparing them as the instrument, the nation, by which His Son would come into the world. God had to choose some nation, so He chose the nation of Israel. And that is why they are the chosen people. Chosen for what? Chosen to be the instrument, the people, through which God would bring His Son into the world.

Now, the tragic thing is that when God used them for this purpose, then they rejected His Son that He sent. But they had rejected the prophets before they had rejected His Son. In fact, Jesus got them quite angry one time with a parable that he gave of a certain man who went away to a far country and left his fields in the charge of his servants. And he sent back a servant that he might collect the fruit from the field, but they beat the servant, mistreated him. So he sent other servants. They beat them and mistreated them. He said, "I will send my own son. Surely they will respect him." And when they saw his son coming, they said, "Here is the heir. Let's kill him." He said, "What will the master do when he comes?" They said, "He will utterly wipe them out." The Lord said, "That is right." But it was a parable really against the Jews who had persecuted the prophets. "Which of the prophets have you not slain? Have you not persecuted?" Stephen said (Acts 7:52).

And so God chose this nation to bring forth the Messiah.

And [the nation] being with child, travailing in birth, and paining to be delivered. And there appeared [a second wonder in heaven] another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon [Satan], having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, to devour her child as soon as it was born (Rev 12:2-4).

So, the two wonders, the woman Israel ready to bring forth the Messiah, the Christ, and Satan ready to destroy it as soon as it was born.

You remember Herod, when the wisemen came to him and inquired where the king was to be born. Herod inquired of the Bible teachers. They said "Bethlehem". So Herod directed them to Bethlehem, but he said, "When you have found the child, come back and tell me about it, so I can come and worship him also." Herod was paranoid. He was fearful that someone was going to take his throne. He killed his wife. He killed his sons. In fact, they used to say it was safer to be Herod's pig than it is to be his son. He's paranoid. He felt people were plotting, trying to take his throne.

So when he heard that the king had been born, he was threatened. So he asked the wisemen to come back and tell me, but he intended to go and kill the child. And when the wisemen didn't come back, he then ordered that all the baby boys in Bethlehem area be killed that were two years and under. The dragon was ready to devour the child as soon as it was born.

Now, here an interesting thing with Satan. The stars of heaven, angels are often referred to as stars and this would indicate that when Satan rebelled, a third of the angels rebelled with him. That is why that I believe that there were probably three angels created in the highest order of angelic being, called the archangel. They were of the cherubim class of angels, but three special, and that was Gabriel, Lucifer and Michael. And that they each probably had under their authority a third of the angelic host. And those that were under Lucifer's authority, when he rebelled against God, joined in his rebellion. With his tail he drew a third part of the stars of heaven.

Now when this happened, we don't know. Where in prehistory this took place, we don't know. Before the world existed, no doubt, this rebellion took place of these angels. Prior to his rebellion, Satan was a perfect model. Ezekiel says he was perfect in wisdom, perfect in beauty, perfect in all of his ways, until the day that iniquity was found in him (Ezekiel 28:17).

Isaiah fourteen tells us that pride filled his heart. He said, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of heaven. I will sit in the congregation of the sides of the north. I will ascend above the clouds. I will be like the most High. I will be like God. And yet, art thou cast down"(Isaiah 14:14). There will come a time that you will see Satan one day, and you will be amazed. You'll say, "Is that the critter that caused us so much trouble?" Isaiah fourteen tells us that.

So, there appeared this other wonder in heaven, this red dragon with seven heads, ten horns and seven crowns upon his head. We are reminded of the description of the antichrist who is the embodiment of Satan. His tail drawing a third part of the stars.

And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron (Rev 12:5):

When Jesus comes to establish His reign and kingdom, He will rule the world with a rod of iron.

and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne (Rev 12:5).

And that is where He is right now. Jesus has been caught up into heaven. He ascended into heaven. Luke records it in his gospel, as do other gospels. And He is there now sitting on His throne waiting for the Father to put all things in subjection unto Him. So the woman brought forth the child, he was caught up to God and to His throne.

So we move into the future.

And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and [sixty days] (Rev 12:6).

They asked Jesus what will be the sign of His coming, the end of the world. And Jesus began to give them the signs of His coming and of the end of the world. And He said, "Now when you see the abomination that was spoken of by Daniel the prophet, the abomination of desolation, then flee to the wilderness. If you are on your housetop, don't even bother to get your coat going through. Get out of there as quick as you can. If you're out in the field, don't even go home. Split. Get down to the wilderness" (Matthew 24:15).

The abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet; what is it? When the temple is rebuilt and the worship reestablished, after three and a half years, or three and a half years into the sevenyear cycle, or in the midst of the seven-year cycle. Not three and a half years after the temple has been built and worship reestablished. That will happen. It may be just a very short time after worship is established. It could take them three years to rebuild it. The antichrist will come to Jerusalem and he will go into the Holy of Holies of this rebuilt temple and there he will proclaim that he is god and he will demand that they worship him as god. This is the abomination of desolation that Daniel speaks about.

Now Jesus said, "When you see this abomination of Desolation spoken about by Daniel the prophet standing in the holy place, let him who reads understand." That is what it is all about. The antichrist coming to the temple, stopping the worship, standing in the Holy of Holies proclaiming himself to be god, at that point Jesus said to flee and don't stop for anything. Get out of there.

So, the woman flees to the wilderness that she should be taken care of, the place prepared of God, that they should feed her for a thousand, two hundred and sixty days or through the last three and a half years of the seven-year cycle.

Now this wilderness place is probably the Rock City of Petra, south and east of Dead Sea. For Isaiah in the sixteenth chapter, God says to Moab, which is present day Jordan, "Open up your borders and receive My people. Shelter them in Petra until the tribulation is complete." So, until the indignation be

over passed; "indignation" is the Old Testament word for the Great Tribulation. So they will flee to the Rock City of Petra where God will take care of them for three and a half years.

Now, how could God take care of them there? Well, He took care of them for forty years in the wilderness before. He fed them manna. He could feed them manna again. God has no problem feeding people. He fed Elijah with ravens. Ravens brought his food. So, God will take care of them for three and a half years.

Now there was then war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels (Rev 12:7),

So, you see the dragon also has angels. The third part, so he has a great force of angels.

And they prevailed not [the dragon and his angels]; neither was their place found any more in heaven (Rev 12:8).

Now at the present time, Satan does have access to heaven. And he goes up there just to harass us before God. "Look at that fellow down there. He is supposed to be your servant. Did you see what he did last week?" No good. Accusing you before God. What a rascal.

We have a picture of it in the book of Job. The sons of God were presenting themselves to God and Satan also came with them and God said to Satan, "Where have you been?"

"I have been going up and down throughout the earth, to and fro through it."

"Hey, have you seen my servant Job? Have you considered my servant Job? He is a good man. He loves Me and hates evil."

"I seen that character. And I have also seen how you have blessed him. You have given that guy everything anybody could want. Who wouldn't serve you when you are blessed like that, you'd be a fool not to serve You. Let me take away those things that you have given him and he will curse You to Your face."

He accused Job of being a mercenary, serving God for the profit.

God said, "All right, go ahead, but don't touch him. Strip him if you want."

So, Satan began to strip Job until he wiped him out completely. Financially he was totally wiped out. And Job fell on his face and worshiped God and said, "I came into the world naked, looks like I am going out that way. The Lord has given, and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." In all these things Job did not curse God or charge God foolishly. So, the sons of God again were presenting themselves to God, and Satan came with them and God said, "Where have you been?" And he said, "Going around the earth, up and down, to and fro through it".

"Hey, have you considered My servant Job? He is a good man. In spite of all that you did, he maintained his integrity."

"Oh yeah, but You wouldn't let me touch him. Let me touch him? Skin for skin, all a man has will he give for his life."

God said, "All right you can afflict him, but don't kill him."

The limitation that God placed upon him. Job was afflicted with boils. He was covered and had to lie in the ashes. His wife saw his miserable condition and said, "Honey, why don't you just curse God and die?" Horrible. His friends came and they couldn't understand his plight. They began to accuse him falsely of all kinds of secret sins.

But Satan was accusing the brethren. That is what he is doing up there. He does have access into heaven, but here shortly he is going to get kicked out. Michael and his angels are going to fight against him and going to prevail against him and he is going to be cast out.

that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world (Rev 12:9):

And what a deceiver he is.

Now because man does not want the truth, God allows man to be deceived. God allows deception. You don't want to believe the truth, then don't. God will allow you to believe some crazy hair brain tale if you want too. If you don't want to believe that God created the earth. You don't want to believe that God created you. You don't want to believe that God designed your eyes in such a glorious way, the optic nerves and the whole system of sight. You don't want to believe that that is creation. Then all right, believe in wild yarn. That a worm coming out of the ooze got burned on the forehead with the sun-wasn't really the forehead then, just the upper part of the anatomy-and it formed a freckle, mutations, and over the process of millions of years this freckle formed into an eye with all the intricate aspects of an eye. The nerves transmitting the message of the vibrations into the brain able to interpret it, the movement and so forth. Marvelous. Yarn story that deluded men, called scientists believe. You tell that to your kids they won't believe it. So, if a person doesn't believe the truth, God let's them believe a lie as preposterous as the lie may be.

"Because they served the creature rather than the creator who is blessed forever more, God gave them over to reprobate minds" (Romans 1:25,28). They believe the lie rather than the truth. You don't

want to retain God in your mind; God will give you over to a reprobate mind. You don't want to believe the truth; God will let you believe a lie. We read that the antichrist is going to bring a strong delusion on the people that those who did not want to believe the truth, and they will believe the great lie of the antichrist.

Jesus said, "I came in My Father's name and you didn't receive Me. Another is going to come in his own name, him you will receive" (John 5:43). You don't want to receive the truth, then you will receive the lie of the deceiver who has deceived the world. Make sure you haven't been deceived by Satan. Make sure that Satan hasn't deceived you in turning you away from God and the truth and the love of God that He has for you in Christ.

he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him [and heaven now being rid of this creature]. I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night (Rev 12:9-10).

He is continually accusing us.

And they overcame him [the brethren being accused] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death (Rev 12:11).

So, we have victory over Satan through the blood of Jesus Christ. The fact that we have been redeemed, purchased. "I am a debtor," Paul said, "not to live any longer after the flesh, not to the flesh to live after it, but to the Spirit." "Know ye not that you are a temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you. You have been bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body and Spirit which are His. You are not your own. You have been bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19). The old nature, the old life was worthless. It is dead. We count it dead. We reckon it to be dead that we might live this new life after Christ in the Spirit. Our testimony is that of redemption through the blood of Jesus, the new life, the new nature that we have in Him. So, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, the testimony of that redemption, we overcome Satan.

Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. [Satan has been cast out.] Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea. for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knows he has but a short time (Rev 12:12).

In just about three and a half years he is going to get chained and placed in the abusso, so he is angry and upset. He has been defeated and he is going to take it out upon those that live upon the earth at that time.

Now, when the dragon saw that he was cast onto the earth, he persecuted the woman or Israel. So, Israel again is going to be facing a time of persecution. These people who have gone through historically such tremendous persecution, the inquisition in Spain, the slaughter by Hitler and now the persecution in Russia, these people have had such a tremendous share of persecution. There are people who hate them that don't even know why they hate them. Anti-Semitism is an evil, wicked thing, but it is so prevalent. The tragedy is that they have yet more persecution to go through. Satan is going to seek to persecute the woman which brought forth the man child.

And to the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time (Rev 12:13-14),

Time is a year. Times-two years, and half a time would be, of course, a half-year, so three and a half years; one thousand, two hundred and sixty-two days from the face of the serpent.

And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood (that is an army) after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth (Rev 12:15-16).

So the army that pursues after Israel will be destroyed as the earth opens up.

During the time of Moses when Korah came and said that you have taken too much on yourself making your brother the one who offers sacrifices, we are Levites and have just as much right as does Aaron, and Moses took the rods and set them before the Lord. And then the next day after Aaron's rod had budded said; "Okay, Korah, you and your buddies stand out there. If God is in this thing let the earth open up and swallow you guys whole right down into the pit." And the earth opened up and Korah and his buddies went on down. So, here again the earth will open up.

Actually this great rift of which they call the Jordan Valley, of which the Dead Sea is a part, and of course the city of Petra on the other side, this great rift they believe was caused by a tremendous earthquake, seismic movement and all, and of course it is the greatest rift in the world. The Dead Sea is thirteen hundred feet below sea level and it is called the Great African Rift. It goes from Syria down into Africa. So, it is a place of historic, cataclysmic earthquakes and fire and brimstone that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. So again, even as Mount St. Helen's laid dormant for one hundred and thirty-seven years and then suddenly popped, this area is just going to open up and close up again, and the army that is pursuing Israel will be swallowed.

And the dragon was angry with the woman, and he went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Rev 12:17).

So, chapter twelve deals with these interesting little vignettes into aspects of the past and future.

As we get into chapter thirteen next week, we get into the antichrist and we will get some historic background on him, as we take a look at this man, who I believe to be alive in the world today. And I believe that he is about ready to take over, but the only thing that is keeping him from taking over is the presence of the church. But I believe the earth is ready for him and ready to receive him and that he is ready to establish his kingdom, his reign over the earth. And that he probably is already involved in world politics. I don't know who he is. I am not even going to guess who he is. But I do believe that we are at that time, that he does exist and probably is actively involved in world politics and will be taking over as soon as the church is gone.

We'll be dealing with that next week as we get into chapter thirteen.

May the Lord be with you and give you a beautiful week. May you enjoy His presence and His fellowship as you walk with Him. May the Spirit of God give you strength and power in your inner man. May He help you to begin to comprehend how much God does love you, how much God cares for each one of you. May you come to a new rich love relationship with Jesus Christ where your heart burns with passion for Him and for the things of the spirit. May you be enriched in His fullness. May the Lord watch over and keep you in Jesus' name.

HEALTH POLITICS U.S. WIRE

Rand Paul urges vaccinated people to ignore 'government scolds' and 'live free'

By Kipp Jones, The Western Journal

Published March 9, 2021 at 6:33pm

Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky on Tuesday urged fully vaccinated people to ignore new public health directives and to "live free" from virus mitigation measures.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued new guidelines for vaccinated people on Monday. Those guidelines curiously advise people who are immune to the coronavirus to continue wearing masks in some situations.

Paul, who is a doctor with a practice in Bowling Green, Kentucky, shared a CNN article about the CDC guidelines on Twitter. "Rather than listening to government scolds, look to the science of immunology: and once you're 2 weeks out from the vaccine, or have recovered from the actual infection, trash your mask and live free again," tweeted Paul.

TRENDING: Trump: Joe Biden is allowing America to be 'destroyed'

Paul was one of the first lawmakers to contract the coronavirus last year when he tested positive in March. After a quick recovery, he volunteered at a Kentucky hospital and has made headlines since on several occasions for refusing to wear a mask. "I have immunity. I've already had the virus, so I can't get it again and I can't give it to anybody," Paul told reporters in Washington last May, NBC News reported. "I can't get it again, nor can I transmit. So of all the people you'll meet here, I'm about the only safe person in Washington."

Paul a week later challenged Dr. Anthony Fauci at a Senate committee hearing on re-opening the economy in which he appeared without a mask.

"I think we ought to have a little bit of humility in our belief that we know what's best for the economy. And as much as I respect you, Dr. Fauci, I don't think you're the end-all. I don't think you're the one person that gets to make a decision," Paul said.

Paul has since been critical of public health mandates over their potential to erode individual liberties. He has found himself targeted numerous times since he recovered over not wearing a mask in public.

Despite conventional wisdom surrounding vaccines and illnesses, the CDC is not advising people who are fully vaccinated to return to their normal lives.

In directives released this week, which Paul was referring to, the agency advised vaccinated people to wear a mask and social distance when around unvaccinated people who are considered at risk. Those who are fully vaccinated are also asked to refrain from traveling and to wear masks when shopping or engaging in other activities while in congregant settings.

"Until more is known and vaccination coverage increases, some prevention measures will continue to be necessary for all people, regardless of vaccination status," the CDC stated. "However, the benefits of reducing social isolation and relaxing some measures such as quarantine requirements may outweigh the residual risk of fully vaccinated people becoming ill with COVID-19 or transmitting SARS-CoV-2 to others."

The agency does state that small groups of fully vaccinated people can gather without masks.

People are considered to be fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose.

Stanford doc: Lockdowns 'biggest public health mistake' ever

'Catastrophic' harms will be felt for a generation



Published March 9, 2021 at 8:52pm

Once-thriving businesses at CityPlace in West Palm Beach, Florida, are boarded up and deserted amid the coronavirus pandemic on Jan. 30, 2021. (Photo by Joe Kovacs)

As a growing number of states ease their COVID-19 restrictions, a prominent Stanford medical professor and health economist is doubling down on his contention that the lockdowns are the "biggest public health mistake we've ever made."

Dr. Jay Bhattacharya of the Stanford Medical School made the remark in an interview with the Daily Clout last month and <u>confirmed it to</u> <u>Newsweek in a story posted Monday</u>.



Dr. Jay Bhattacharya (Courtesy Stanford Medical School)

TRENDING: Trump: Joe Biden is allowing America to be 'destroyed'

"I stand behind my comment that the lockdowns are the single worst public health mistake in the last 100 years," he said. "We will be counting the catastrophic health and psychological harms, imposed on nearly every poor person on the face of the earth, for a generation."

Bhattacharya, a <u>co-author of the Great Barrington Declaration</u>, a petition calling for the end of COVID-19 lockdowns, argued the measures "have not served to control the epidemic in the places where they have been most vigorously imposed."

"In the U.S., they have – at best – protected the 'non-essential' class from COVID, while exposing the essential working class to the disease," said Bhattacharya, an associate professor of medicine at Stanford and a health economist with the Freeman Spogli Institute's Center for Health Policy.

He called the lockdowns "trickle down epidemiology."

Are lockdowns a mistake?



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<u>The Great Barrington Declaration</u> has received signatures from more 13,000 medical and public health scientists, more than 41,000 medical practitioners and at least 754,399 "concerned citizens."

The declaration is based on the fact that older people with multiple comorbidities have a much higher risk of dying of COVID-19 than others.

At a Senate hearing in December, as <u>WND reported</u>, Bhattacharya explained the declaration's

"For older people, COVID-19 is a deadly disease that should be met with overwhelming resources aimed at protecting them wherever they are, whether in nursing homes, at their own home, in the workplace, or multigenerational homes," he said. "They should be prioritized for vaccines, and we should be actively seeking widely available and effective treatments."

But for "the non-vulnerable, who face far greater harm from the lockdowns than they do from COVID-19 infection risk, the lockdowns should be lifted and – for those who so decide – normal life resumed."

Last September, <u>Bhattacharya participated in a roundtable with</u> <u>Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis</u> in which he said the widescale lockdowns actually increase the risk to the vulnerable, slowing down the building of herd immunity for the population.

Governors lifting lockdowns

On Tuesday, Maryland's Larry Hogan became the latest governor to announced a lifting of many coronavirus restrictions, although he will leave in place the state's mask mandate.

Hogan said that "with the pace of vaccinations rapidly rising and our health metrics steadily improving, the lifting of these restrictions is a prudent, positive step in the right direction and an important part of our economic recovery."

On Monday, Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon announced he will lift the statewide mask mandate on March 16 along with other restrictions on businesses.

One week ago, <u>Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announced his state will open</u> <u>"100%"</u> and end the statewide mask mandate, arguing cases and hospitalizations have dropped precipitously, vaccines are being distributed and "too many Texans have been sidelined from employment opportunities" and "too many small business owners have struggled to pay their bills."

Later March 2, <u>Mississippi Republican Gov. Tate Reeves announced he is</u> <u>replacing all current executive orders</u> regarding coronavirus mitigation with "recommendations."

By the end of the week, at least six other states followed with significant moves.

<u>On Thursday, Alabama Republican Gov. Kay Ivey extended</u> her state's mask order for another month but said it will end for good April 9.

<u>Connecticut Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont</u> said Thursday he will lift on March 19 all capacity limits on restaurants, retail stores, libraries, personal services, indoor recreation, gyms, museums, offices and houses of worship.

<u>Arizona Republican Gov. Doug Ducey on Friday announced</u> all businesses will reopen at 100% capacity.

<u>West Virginia Republican Gov. Jim Justice said</u> bars, restaurants, small businesses, retail stores, gyms and museums can open to 100% capacity.

<u>California will allow Major League Baseball and theme parks</u> such as Disneyland to host live shows at reduced capacity on April 1.

<u>Axios reported</u> the Centers for Disease Control is allowing shelters handling child migrants to expand to 100% capacity, abandoning a COVID-19 requirement to stay at 50%.

'Neanderthal thinking'

After Abbott's announcement, <u>President Biden charged Republican</u> <u>governors removing COVID-19 restrictions, including mask mandates,</u> <u>reflect a "Neanderthal thinking"</u> that ignores science.

"I hope everybody realizes by now, these masks make a difference. We are on the cusp of being able to fundamentally change the nature of this disease because of the way in which we're able to get vaccines in people's arms," Biden said while occasionally tugging at his mask.

"The last thing, the last thing we need is Neanderthal thinking that in the meantime everything is fine, take off your mask, forget it," he said.

However, as <u>WND reported</u>, the first large, randomized controlled trial of its kind showed no statistically significant difference in COVID-19 cases between people who wore masks and those who did not.

Further, a <u>peer-reviewed study published in the European Journal of</u> <u>Clinical Investigation</u> on Jan. 5 comparing cases in 10 countries, including the U.S., found lockdowns and other mitigation measures to be ineffective.

The researchers found "no clear, significant beneficial effect of [more restrictive measures] on case growth in any country."

"We do not question the role of all public health interventions, or of coordinated communications about the epidemic, but we fail to find an additional benefit of stay-at-home orders and business closures," the researchers said.

<u>WND reported in February</u> the 11 U.S. states that did not impose comprehensive lockdowns over the fall and winter in response to the coronavirus fared better than states that did, according to an analysis of public data. In January 2021, <u>WND reported</u> a Canadian infectious-disease specialist who initially supported the lockdowns changed his mind, concluding in his peer-reviewed study that the harm is 10 times worse than the benefits.

One year ago, a top coronavirus adviser for Joe Biden was in agreement.

Michael T. Osterholm, a professor and director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, formerly advocated the "focused protection" strategy now promoted by epidemiologists at Stanford and Oxford advising Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis: With a 99% survival rate for most, according to the Centers for Disease Control, let the healthy go about their business while protecting the vulnerable, the people over 70 with multiple life-threatening diseases.

<u>Osterholm warned in a March 21, 2020, op-ed for the Washington Post</u> of the high economic and social costs of "the near-draconian lockdowns" in effect at the time in China and Italy, which ultimately don't reduce the number of cases. In November 2020, however, he <u>advocated a national</u> <u>lockdown of four to six weeks</u>.

The CDC estimates a 99.997% survival rate for those from birth to age 19 who contract COVID-19. It's 99.98% for ages 20-49, 99.5% for 50-69 and 94.6% for those over 70. Significantly, those who died of coronavirus, according to the CDC, had an average of 2.6 comorbidities, meaning more than two chronic diseases along with COVID-19. Overall, the CDC says, just 6% of the people counted as COVID-19 deaths died of COVID-19 alone.

COVID-19 pill effective in preliminary testing may be 'holy grail' of pandemic, doctor says

By Angelica Stabile **Published** 14 hours ago <u>FOX News</u>

NEW YORK - A new possible medication to treat coronavirus-positive patients could be enough to turn the pandemic on its head, Fox News medical contributor **<u>Dr. Marc</u> <u>Siegel</u>** revealed Sunday on "**<u>Fox & Friends Weekend</u>**."

First-stage testing of the experimental <u>COVID-19</u> pill called Molnupiravir, by Merck and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, showed promising signs of effectiveness in reducing the virus in patients.

"It may be the holy grail on this because it was just studied in phase two trials and it literally stopped the virus in its tracks," he explained. "And there wasn't any virus found in the patients that were studied."

The drug would function as an at-home, five-day treatment, similar to Tamiflu, to stop the virus from reproducing before causing major damage. Siegel said the therapeutic could come to market in as little as four to five months.

The doctor said even though only 182 patients were studied during testing so far, the pill could still be "very promising" for thousands of people.

"This might be the future once the vaccine really gets control over the pandemic and we just start seeing isolated cases," he said. "By then, this drug might be ready and this might be the drug for over the next several months." Siegel predicted the U.S. will be free of the coronavirus pandemic by the summer, making the Molnupiravir treatment "very helpful" for managing isolated cases.

"This is the very first pill that we have that's something that we might be able to use in our armamentarium against COVID as a therapeutic," he said.

Fauci's controversial '60 Minutes' interview about mask wearing was one year ago

Fauci has been a major advocate of mask-wearing since the interview



By Edmund DeMarche | Fox News

Former HHS official blasts Fauci over 'shifting goalposts' on COVID

Dr. Paul Elias Alexander tells 'The Ingraham Angle' top doc is ignoring solutions, other public health problems

Critics of <u>Dr. Anthony Fauci</u> took to social media to mark the one-year anniversary of the "60 Minutes" interview where the country's top disease expert seemed to downplay the use of masks for the general public to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Fauci, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has since been a fierce advocate for masks wearing to prevent the spread. But former President Trump and his advocates seized on the interview as an example of an early misstep.

Fauci told "60 Minutes" at the time that there was "no reason to be walking around with a mask."

"When you're in the middle of an outbreak, wearing a mask might make people feel a little bit better and it might even block a droplet, but it's not providing the perfect protection that people think that it is. And, often, there are unintended consequences—people keep fiddling with the mask and they keep touching their face," he said at the time.

Dr. Jon LaPook, the correspondent for "60 Minutes" who interviewed Fauci, <u>pointed out</u> that shortly after the interview additional information emerged about the virus and its transmission and health officials—including Fauci—changed their minds on masks for the general public. The Centers of

Disease Control and Prevent updated its guidance on April 3, and recommended that people start wearing face coverings.

Fauci told CBS' "Face the Nation" on April 5 that he would recommend following the CDC's mask guidance. He called mask use an additional way to help prevent the spread of the disease.

Fauci told CNN last month that whether Americans wear masks into 2022 "depends on the level of dynamics of the virus that's in the community... If you see the level coming down really, really very low, I want it to keep going down to a baseline that's so low, that there's virtually no threat – or not no. It'll never be zero, but a minimal, minimal threat that you will be exposed to someone who is infected."

Fox News Tyler Olsen contributed to this report

Edmund DeMarche is a senior news editor for FoxNews.com. Follow him on Twitter @EDeMarche.

BETWEEN THE LINES

Pope goes back to Babylon

Exclusive: Joseph Farah highlights the great civilizational story Francis neglected to mention





Abraham was called by God out of Babylon and idol worship from the region of a 4,000-year-old Sumerian temple and the palaces known as the Great Ziggurat of Ur of the Chaldees.

"Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed," God said in Genesis 12:1-3.

It was one of the seminal moments for all people who worship the One True God.

It led directly to the Hebrew family and eventually a nation and the Messiah Yeshua, Jesus.

Pope Francis went back to Babylon last weekend.

Oddly, he didn't say any of that.

Much more could be said about Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Jacob, Judah and the line that led to Jesus to made the all-important connection, yet, for some reason, he didn't even *start* the story.

Instead, he told a story of unity – when in reality, the human race is a story of a chosen remnant of people who are triumphant, victorious and blessed like Abraham, who chose to reject his pagan roots and follow God.

The pope chose to hold an interreligious meeting where people would all sing kumbaya, forgive ISIS and talk about rebuilding Babylon.

Once the land of Iraq had a teaming population of Christians and Jews. The Jews were left to travel across the desert with only the clothes on their backs when Israel was founded. In 2003, Iraq boasted 1.5 million Christians, but today there are less than 150,000. Neither Jews nor Christians have any designs about returning there – much less rebuilding.

The pope knows what was done in this land when it was the so-called "caliphate" and witnessed unimaginable and unspeakable horrors, including beheadings and mass killings.

"Forgiveness is necessary to remain in love, to remain Christian," he said.

Here's something else the pope didn't mention about Abraham. When he was 99 years old, God made a covenant with him.

It comes in Genesis 17:1-10.

"And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised."

Something important same out of Babylon. Abraham did. There are even historical records of Abraham when he was there – in the Ur of the Chaldees. There's no doubt about his existence.

But the most important thing about him was his faith in God. His faith was so great that he was willing to sacrifice his own son at His command. But God stopped short of that, having tested and proven His servant. Later God would sacrifice His own Son, because He so loved the world.

And yet we didn't hear any of that story told by the pope – in Babylon.

Government data shows masks had no impact on COVID spread

Cases rose and fell while mask-wearing remained constant



Published March 7, 2021 at 2:05pm



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris take a walk through the White House grounds. (Official White House photo)

A graph that overlays data from surveys on mask usage with the number of coronavirus cases confirms studies that indicate the face coverings have no significant impact on the spread of the coronavirus.

Using data culled from YouGov.com and the <u>Covid Tracking Project</u> from March 20, 2020, to March 3, 2021, economist Brian Westbury created the chart and posted it on Twitter.

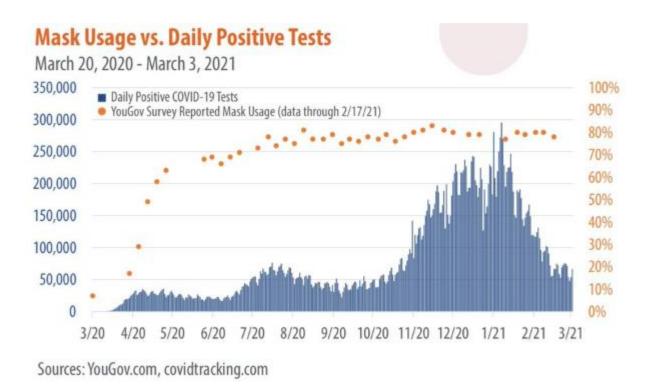
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Surveys showed mask usage reached about 80% by midsummer last year and has remained consistent since then. During that period, however, the number of daily positive cases rose and fell precipitously.

Many epidemiologists have noted the coronavirus, in a second major wave, is following the bell-shaped pattern of epidemics predicted by Farr's Law in 1840, regardless of mitigation efforts.

TRENDING: <u>'Situation is completely unstable:' Crenshaw tours border,</u> <u>exposes how bad it really is</u>

See the chart:



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Another chart, from a Financial Times analysis of the Covid Tracking Project, shows very little difference in the number cases between North Dakota and South Dakota. That's despite the fact that North Dakota has had a mask mandate, while South Dakota has not.

Are masks effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19?

° _{Yes} ° _{No} <u>S</u>ubmit

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On Tuesday, <u>Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announced his state will open</u>

"100%" next Wednesday and end the statewide mask mandate, arguing cases and hospitalizations have dropped precipitously, vaccines are being distributed and "too many Texans have been sidelined from employment opportunities" and "too many small business owners have struggled to pay their bills."

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<u>California will allow Major League Baseball and theme parks</u> such as Disneyland to host live shows at reduced capacity on April 1.

<u>Axios reported</u> the Centers for Disease Contdrol is allowing shelters handling child migrants to expand to 100% capacity, abandoning a COVID-19 requirement to stay at 50%.

No statistically significant difference

Former White House coronavirus adviser Dr. Scott Atlas explained in a recent interview why widespread use of masks is ineffective as a public policy.

See his remarks:

In November, as <u>WND reported</u>, the first large, randomized controlled trial of its kind showed no statistically significant difference in COVID-19 cases between people who wore masks and those who did not.

In October, <u>an analysis of a dozen graphs charting the number of COVID-</u><u>19 cases in countries and U.S. states</u> confirmed the conclusions of recent studies that mask mandates had no effect on the spread of the disease.

A study by the Centers for Disease Control in October indicated that <u>Americans were adhering to mask mandates</u>, <u>but they didn't appear</u> <u>to have slowed or stopped the spread of the coronavirus</u>. And further, it found, mask-wearing has negative effects.

In March 2020, <u>White House coronavirus adviser Dr. Anthony Fauci</u> <u>said</u> in a "60 Minutes" interview that in general, "people should not be walking around with masks."

"Right now in the United States, people should not be walking around with masks.

"You're sure of it? Because people are listening really closely to this," he was asked.

"There's no reason to be walking around with a mask. When you're in the middle of an outbreak, wearing a mask might make people feel a little bit better and it might even block a droplet, but it's not providing the perfect protection that people think that it is. And, often, there are unintended consequences – people keep fiddling with the mask and they keep touching their face."

A change in 'the consensus'

<u>The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons has compiled a</u> <u>page of "Mask Facts"</u> that explains the basic science behind mask-wearing and summarizes a variety of studies.

It shows that the consensus prior to the coronavirus pandemic was that the effectiveness of mask-wearing by the general public in slowing the spread of a virus is unproven, and there's evidence it does more harm than good. On April 6, 2020, the World Health Organization said the "wide use of masks by healthy people in the community setting is not supported by current evidence and carries uncertainties and critical risks." Just two months, later, however, as the pandemic surged, the WHO changed its stance without providing any evidence with randomized controlled trials.

On March 5, the Centers for Disease Control said masks "are usually not recommended in "non-health care settings."

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But on Aug. 7, the CDC said it "recommends that people wear masks in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain."

ERICKSON: American Evangelicalism's Critical Theory Problem

By Erick Erickson

Mar 6, 2021 DailyWire.com

Critical theory is a Marxist idea developed in postmodernity in which absolutes, objectivity and absolute truth are no longer accepted. Critical theory purports to explain the world in terms of power, and its proponents believe those with the least power have the most moral authority to speak. Power is, therefore, mapped through intersectionality — race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, etc. The white male heterosexual Christian has the most power and therefore has the least moral authority to speak in society.

Critical theorists also believe reality is constructed by language. Change the language and reality changes. Power is exerted through language — including the power to shape reality through "dominant discourses." The way to reshape reality is to reshape language. So, critical theorists oppose free speech, free enterprise, academic freedom, etc. The freedom of the privileged to engage in dominant discourses must be reduced for the nonprivileged and oppressed to rise.

Undoubtedly, some critical theorists will take issue with my descriptions, but therein lies part of the problem. The proponents of critical theory are hard to pin down on language and definitions because those shape power, and who am I, a white man, to tell them about their theory? It is, in their minds, no more appropriate for a critical theory critic to describe critical theory than it is for a capitalist to describe Marxism.

Though critical theorists deny it, the bottom line about critical theory is that it makes reconciliation between races and other groups impossible, as power is always shifting. The oppressed becomes the oppressor. The dominant discourse changes from the language of the white man to the language of whichever group feels most oppressed. There can be no forgiveness.

Critical theory - a postmodern Marxist theory that believes there are oppressors and oppressed and that reality is constructed through language, not objective reality - has invaded the church. It is trying to speak into and explain the world and theology to people who worship absolute, objective truth.

Critical theorists cannot truly understand, interpret, or follow the God of all Creation because that God calls Himself the way, the truth, and life. He is objective reality. Critical theorists will deny it, but a theory that cannot acknowledge absolute, objective truth is a theory that cannot explain or orbit around Christ.

I have friends who think critical theory can be used in church settings, and it is not just that I disagree with them; I think they are fundamentally wrong and playing with a fire that is about to burn through the church. But many of them are so disgusted by what they see as modern American evangelicalism's turn to Trumpism that they're actually OK with striking the match and letting God sort it all out in the flames.

But there is a flip side to all of this.

The American church, particularly in the South, often turned a blind eye to or collaborated in injustice against Black Americans. It is something that, to this day, many churches do not want to talk about.

Some in the church scream loudly that any conversation about racism in the church is somehow bringing critical theory into the conversation. In fact, a lot of well-meaning, reasonable, and grounded theologians think the church needs to account for the individual and corporate sin around issues of race. But those who simply refuse scream about critical theory and Marxism as if anyone who brings up the issue has bought into critical theory.

Churches in America need an honest conversation about race. Christians who scream about critical theory to avoid that conversation need to repent. But critical theory itself needs to be more widely denounced from pulpits and seminaries. Its embrace within American Christendom will do far, far more damage than an evangelical embrace of former President Donald Trump ever did. It will fully separate Christians from the truth of the gospel and drag them into a religion without grace, which makes any sort of racial reconciliation impossible.

The American church needs to deal with the sin of racism. The American church needs to reject critical theory as a means of interpreting Scripture or of administering justice.

The views expressed in this piece are the author's own and do not necessarily represent those of The Daily Wire.

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When lies matter more than facts

Ben Shapiro unveils the awful truth about the Smith College race hoax



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This week, the New York Times ran a long piece re-reporting a supposed race scandal from Smith College. The scandal, originally reported in midsummer 2018, featured a black student, Oumou Kanoute, who claimed that she was racially profiled while eating in a dormitory lounge. She suggested in a Facebook post that she was confronted by a campus police officer, who might have been carrying a "lethal weapon," and a janitor, adding: "All I did was be Black. It's outrageous that some people question my being at Smith College, and my existence overall as a woman of color."

The janitor was placed on paid leave. The college president issued a campuswide statement explaining, "This painful incident reminds us of the ongoing legacy of racism and bias in which people of color are targeted while simply going about the business of their ordinary lives."

The incident was reported by establishment media outlets far and wide.

There was only one problem: It was a lie.

A full investigation by an outside law firm found no evidence of bias. Kanoute was eating in a closed dormitory, and the janitor was doing his job. The campus police officer had no weapon.

TRENDING: Nancy Pelosi's election-rigging H.R. 1

So, did The Times apologize for its original coverage? Of course not. It turned the story into an investigation of supposed structural biases based on race and class. In one of the more astonishing sentences ever written in a major newspaper, The Times reported, "The story highlights the tensions between a student's deeply felt sense of personal truth and facts that are at odds with it."

For those who speak English, this sentence translates thusly: The story highlights the tensions between lies and the truth. But for those who speak the wokeabulary, this sentence actually makes equivalence between lies told on behalf of a self-serving victim narrative and factual truth. The two must be balanced against each other, not one dismissed for its patent falsehood.

This is the society we now inhabit: a society in which a "deeply felt sense of personal truth" must be weighed against "the facts." And typically, our society dismisses "the facts." That's because it has been infused with the spirit of deconstructionism, which sees all facts as merely a manifestation of how our social structures "define" truth based on cultural context.

"Facts" are merely a reflection of how your society sees truth. But there's no reason your society's definition of truth must be the only one. In fact, a more tolerant society would make room for the expressive self-definition of "your truth" and redefine truth along individual lines; an accepting, kind society would allow a "deeply felt sense of personal truth" to flourish by requiring others to accept it as *fact*.

What of those harmed by that "deeply felt sense of personal truth"? This is where structural arguments about power come in. We can choose which sense of personal truth ought to triumph with reference to societal structures: Those who are deemed more victimized ought to be given more credibility. Thus, Nikole Hannah-Jones, de facto editor of the New York Times, declared that the janitor put on leave might have been the truly privileged one in the story: After all, "What is the social class of the Black student that this entire piece centers on? What is the actual power dynamic at play here?"

This is how we arrive at the insanity of a transgender agenda that calls for banning books that demonstrate the unmalleability of sex: A "deeply felt sense of personal truth" is at odds with the biological facts, and the biological facts must lose.

In the end, perhaps the deconstructionists were right; perhaps a society's emphasis on facts, data and actual truth reflects the values of that society. Such a society values the individual, since facts are accessible to individuals and aren't the select preserve of a priestly caste. Such a society allows the possibility of consensus by appeal to verifiable facts. If facts don't matter, there can be no common polis -- or there can only be a polis as dictated by those in power. And perhaps that's precisely the point.

Chapter 6

Where Did the Idea of "Millions of Years" Come From?

by Dr. Terry Mortenson on April 22, 2010; last featured March 3, 2021 Featured in *The New Answers Book 2* Also available in Deutsch

This chapter, adapted from the book *War of the Worldviews*, was graciously provided at no charge to Answers in Genesis by Master Books, a division of New Leaf Press (Green Forest, Arkansas). Today, most people in the world, including most people in the Church, take for granted that the earth and universe are millions and millions (even billions) of years old. Our public schools, from kindergarten on up, teach these vast ages, and one is scoffed at if he questions them. But it has not always been that way, and it is important to understand how this change took place and why.

Geology's Early Beginnings

Many believed that the fossils were the remains of former living things turned to stone, and many early Christians

... attributed them to Noah's Flood.

Geology, as a separate field of science with systematic field studies, collection and classification of rocks and fossils, and development of theoretical reconstructions of the historical events that formed those rock layers and fossils, is only about 200 years old. Prior to this, back to ancient Greek times, people had noticed fossils in the rocks. Many believed that the fossils were the remains of former living things turned to stone, and many early Christians (including Tertullian, Chrysostom, and Augustine) attributed them to Noah's Flood. But others rejected these ideas

and regarded fossils as either jokes of nature, the products of rocks endowed with life in some sense, the creative works of God, or perhaps even the deceptions of Satan. The debate was finally settled when Robert Hooke (1635–1703) confirmed by microscopic analysis of fossil wood that fossils were the mineralized remains of former living creatures.

Prior to 1750, one of the most important geological thinkers was Niels Steensen (1638–1686), or Steno, a Danish anatomist and geologist. He established the principle of *superposition*, namely that sedimentary rock layers are deposited in a successive, essentially horizontal fashion, so that a lower stratum was deposited before the one above it. In his book *Forerunner* (1669), he expressed belief in a roughly 6,000-year-old earth and that fossil-bearing rock strata were deposited by Noah's flood. Over the next century, several authors, including the English geologist John Woodward (1665–1722) and the German geologist Johann Lehmann (1719–1767), wrote books essentially reinforcing that view.

In the latter decades of the 18th century, some French and Italian geologists rejected the biblical account of the Flood and attributed the rock record to natural processes occurring over a long period of time. Several prominent Frenchmen also contributed to the idea of millions of years. The widely respected scientist Comte de Buffon (1707–1788) imagined in his book *Epochs of Nature* (1779) that the earth was once like a hot molten ball that had cooled to reach its present state over about 75,000 years (though his unpublished manuscript says about 3,000,000 years). The astronomer Pierre Laplace (1749–1827) proposed the *nebular hypothesis* in his *Exposition of the System of the Universe* (1796). This theory said that the solar system was once a hot, spinning gas cloud, that over long ages gradually cooled and condensed to form the planets. Jean Lamarck, a specialist in shell creatures, advocated a theory of biological evolution over long ages in his *Philosophy of Zoology* (1809).

Abraham Werner (1749–1817) was a popular mineralogy professor in Germany. He believed that most of the crust of the earth had been precipitated chemically or mechanically by a slowly receding global ocean over the course of about a million years. It was an elegantly simple theory, but Werner failed to take into account the fossils in the rocks. This was a serious mistake, since the fossils tell much about when and how quickly the sediments were

deposited and transformed into stone. Many of the greatest geologists of the 19th century were Werner's students, who were impacted by his idea of a very long history for the earth.

In Scotland, James Hutton (1726–1797) was developing a different theory of earth history. He studied medicine at the university. After his studies, he took over the family farm for a while. But he soon discovered his real love: the study of the earth. In 1788 he published a journal article and in 1795 a book, both by the title *Theory of the Earth*. He proposed that the continents were being slowly eroded into the oceans. Those sediments were gradually hardened by the internal heat of the earth and then raised by convulsions to become new landmasses that would later be eroded into the oceans, hardened, and elevated. So in his view, earth history was cyclical, and he stated that he could find no evidence of a beginning in the rock record, making earth history indefinitely long.

Catastrophist—Uniformitarian Debate



Georges Cuvier (1768-1832)

Neither Werner nor Hutton paid much attention to the fossils. However, in the early 1800s, Georges Cuvier (1768–1832), the famous French comparative anatomist and vertebrate paleontologist, developed his *catastrophist* theory of earth history. It was expressed most clearly in his *Discourse on the Revolutions of the Surface of the Globe* (1812). Cuvier believed that over the course of long, untold ages of earth history, many catastrophic floods of regional or nearly global extent had destroyed and buried creatures in sediments. All but one of these catastrophes occurred before the creation of man.

William Smith (1769–1839) was a drainage engineer and surveyor who in the course of his work around Great Britain became fascinated with the strata and fossils. Like Cuvier, he had an old-earth catastrophist view of earth history. In three works published from 1815 to 1817, he presented the first geological map of England and Wales and explained an order and relative chronology of the rock formations as defined by certain characteristic (index) fossils. He became known as the "Father of English Stratigraphy" because he developed the method of giving relative dates to the rock layers on the basis of the fossils found in them.



Charles Lyell (1797-1875)

A massive blow to catastrophism came during the years 1830 to 1833, when Charles Lyell (1797–1875), a lawyer and former student of Buckland, published his influential three-volume work *Principles of Geology*. Reviving and augmenting the ideas of Hutton, Lyell's *Principles* set forth the principles by which he thought geological interpretations should be made. His theory was a radical *uniformitarianism* in which he insisted that only present-day processes of geological change at *present-day rates of intensity and magnitude* should be used to interpret the rock record of past geological activity. In other words, geological processes of change have been uniform throughout earth history. No continental or global catastrophic floods have ever occurred, insisted Lyell.

Lyell is often given too much credit (or blame) for destroying faith in the Genesis Flood and the biblical time scale. But we must realize that many Christians (geologists and theologians) contributed to this undermining of biblical teaching before Lyell's book appeared. Although the catastrophist theory had greatly reduced the geological significance of Noah's flood and expanded earth history well beyond the traditional biblical view, Lyell's work was the final blow for belief in the Flood. By explaining the whole rock record by slow, gradual processes, he thereby reduced the Flood to a geological nonevent. Catastrophism did not die out immediately, although by the late 1830s only a few catastrophists remained, and they believed Noah's flood was geologically insignificant.

By the end of the 19th century, the age of the earth was considered by all geologists to be in the hundreds of millions of years. Radiometric dating methods began to be developed in 1903, and over the course of the 20th century that age of the earth expanded to 4.5 billion years.

Christian Responses to Old-Earth Geology

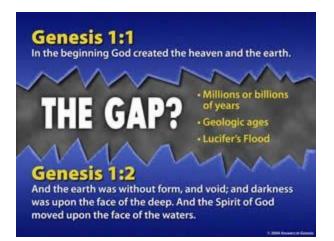
During the first half of the 19th century, the Church responded in various ways to these old-earth theories of the catastrophists and uniformitarians. A number of writers in Great Britain (and a few in America), who became known as "scriptural geologists," raised biblical, geological, and philosophical arguments against the old-earth theories. Some of them were scientists and some were clergy. Some were both ordained and scientifically well informed, as was common in those days. Many of them were very geologically competent by the standards of their day, both by reading and by their own careful observations of rocks and fossils. They believed that the biblical account of creation and Noah's flood explained the rock record far better than the old-earth theories.



Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847)

Other Christians in the early 1800s quickly accepted the idea of millions of years and tried to fit all this time into Genesis, even though the uniformitarians and catastrophists were still debating and geology was in its infancy as a science. In 1804, Thomas Chalmers (1780–1847), a young Presbyterian pastor, began to preach that Christians should accept the millions of years; and in an 1814 review of Cuvier's book, he proposed that all the time could fit between *Genesis 1:1 and 1:2*. By that time, Chalmers was becoming a highly influential evangelical leader and, consequently, this *gap theory* became very popular. In 1823, the respected Anglican theologian George Stanley Faber (1773–1854) began to advocate the *day-age view*, namely that the days of creation were not literal but figurative for long ages.

To accept these geological ages, Christians also had to reinterpret the Flood. In the 1820s, John Fleming (1785– 1857), a Presbyterian minister, contended that Noah's Flood was so peaceful that it left no lasting geological evidence. John Pye Smith (1774–1851), a Congregational theologian, preferred to see it as a localized inundation in the Mesopotamian valley (modern-day Iraq).



Liberal theology, which by the early 1800s was dominating the Church in Europe, was beginning to make inroads into Britain and North America in the 1820s. The liberals considered Genesis 1–11 to be as historically unreliable and unscientific as the creation and flood myths of the ancient Babylonians, Sumerians, and Egyptians.

In spite of the efforts of the scriptural geologists, these various old-earth reinterpretations of Genesis prevailed, so that by 1845 all the commentaries on Genesis had abandoned the biblical chronology and the global flood; and by the time of Darwin's *Origin of Species* (1859), the young-earth view had essentially disappeared within the Church. From that time onward, most Christian leaders and scholars of the Church accepted the millions of years and insisted that the age of the earth was not important. Many godly men soon accepted evolution as well. Space allows only mention of a few examples. The Baptist "prince of preachers" Charles Spurgeon (1834–1892) uncritically accepted the old-earth geological theory (though he never explained how to fit the long ages into the Bible). In an 1855 sermon he said:

Can any man tell me when the beginning was? Years ago we thought the beginning of this world was when Adam came upon it; but we have discovered that thousands of years before that God was preparing chaotic matter to make it a fit abode for man, putting races of creatures upon it, who might die and leave behind the marks of his handiwork and marvelous skill, before he tried his hand on man.2

The great Presbyterian theologian at Princeton Seminary, Charles Hodge (1797–1878), insisted that the age of the earth was not important. He favored the gap theory initially and switched to the day-age view later in life. His compromise contributed to the eventual victory of liberal theology at Princeton about 50 years after his death.3



C. I. Scofield put the gap theory in notes on *Genesis 1:2* in his Scofield Reference Bible, which was used by millions of Christians around the world. More recently, a respected Old Testament scholar reasoned: From a superficial reading of Genesis 1, the impression would seem to be that the entire creative process took place in six twenty-four-hour days. If this was the true intent of the Hebrew author . . . this seems to run counter to modern scientific research, which indicates that the planet Earth was created several billion years ago. . . .4

Numerous similar statements from Christian scholars and leaders in the last few decades could be quoted to show that their interpretation of Genesis is controlled by the fact that they assume that geologists have proven millions of years. As a result, most seminaries and Christian colleges around the world are compromised.

Compromise Unnecessary

The sad irony of all this compromise is that in the last half-century, the truth of Genesis 1–11 has been increasingly vindicated, often unintentionally, by the work of evolutionists. Lyell's uniformitarian *Principles* dominated geology until about the 1970s, when Derek Ager (1923–1993), a prominent British geologist, and others increasingly challenged Lyell's assumptions and argued that much of the rock record shows evidence of rapid catastrophic erosion or sedimentation, drastically reducing the time involved in the formation of many geological deposits. Ager, an atheist to his death (as far as one can tell from his writings), explained the influence of Lyell on geology this way:

My excuse for this lengthy and amateur digression into history is that I have been trying to show how I think geology got into the hands of the theoreticians [uniformitarians] who were conditioned by the social and political history of their day more than by observations in the field. . . . In other words, we have allowed ourselves to be brain-washed into avoiding any interpretation of the past that involves extreme and what might be termed "catastrophic" processes.5

These "neocatastrophist" reinterpretations of the rocks have developed contemporaneously with a resurgence of "Flood geology," a view of earth history very similar to that of the 19th-century scriptural geologists and a key ingredient of young-earth creationism, which was essentially launched into the world by the publication of *The Genesis Flood* (1961) by Drs. John Whitcomb and Henry Morris. This movement is now worldwide in scope, and the scientific sophistication of the scientific model is rapidly increasing with time.

Many Christians today are arguing that we need to contend against Darwinism with "intelligent design" arguments and leave Genesis out of the public discussion. But this strategy was tried in the early 19th century with many writings on natural theology, culminating in the famous eight volumes of the 1830s that collectively became known as the *Bridgewater Treatises*. These books were "preaching to the choir" and did nothing to retard the slide in the culture toward atheism and deism. In fact, by compromising on the age of the earth and ignoring Scripture in their defense of Christianity, they actually contributed to the weakening of the Church. The same is happening today.

The renowned atheist evolutionist and Harvard University biologist Ernst Mayr said this:

The [Darwinian] revolution began when it became obvious that the earth was very ancient rather than having been created only 6,000 years ago. This finding was the snowball that started the whole avalanche.6

Mayr was right about the age of the earth (not Darwin's theory) being the beginning of the avalanche of unbelief. He was wrong that the idea of millions of years was a "finding" of scientific research. Rather, it was the fruit of antibiblical philosophical assumptions used to interpret the rocks and fossils. Historical research has shown that Laplace was an open atheist, that Buffon, Lamarck, Werner, and Hutton were deists or atheists, and that Cuvier, William Smith, and Lyell were deists or vague theists. These men (who influenced the thinking of compromised Christians) were NOT unbiased, objective pursuers of truth.

Typical of what Lyell, Buffon, and others wrote is Hutton's statement. He insisted, "The past history of our globe must be explained by what can be seen to be happening now. . . . No powers are to be employed that are not natural to the globe, no action to be admitted except those of which we know the principle."7 By insisting that geologists must reason only from known, present-day natural processes, he ruled out supernatural creation and the unique global Flood, as described in Genesis, before he ever looked at the rocks.

It is no wonder that Hutton could not see the overwhelming geological evidence confirming the biblical teaching about creation, the Flood, and the age of the earth. And no wonder all the geology students who have been brainwashed with the same presuppositions for the last 200 years haven't been able to see it either. We should not be surprised that most Christian leaders and scholars are ignorant of the evidence. They, too, have been brainwashed, as many young-earth creationists once were also.

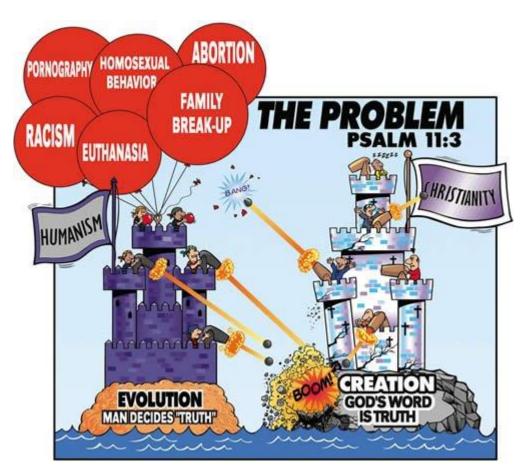
Disastrous Consequences of Compromise

The scriptural geologists of the early 19th century opposed old-earth geological theories not only because the theories reflected erroneous scientific reasoning and were contrary to Scripture, but also because they believed that Christian compromise with such theories would eventually have a catastrophic effect on the health of the Church and her witness to a lost world. Henry Cole, an Anglican minister, wrote:

Many reverend geologists, however, would evince their reverence for the divine Revelation by making a distinction between its *historical* and its *moral* portions; and maintaining, that the latter only is inspired and absolute Truth; but that the former is not so; and therefore is open to any latitude of philosophic and scientific interpretation, modification or denial! According to these impious and infidel modifiers and separators, there is not one third of the Word of God that *is* inspired; for not more, nor perhaps so much, of that Word, is occupied in abstract moral revelation, instruction, and precept. The other two thirds, therefore, are open to any scientific modification and interpretation; or, (if scientifically required), to a total denial! It may however be safely asserted, that whoever professedly, before men, disbelieves the inspiration of any part of Revelation, disbelieves, in the sight of God, its inspiration altogether. . . . What the consequences of such things must be to a revelation-possessing land, time will rapidly and awfully unfold in its opening pages of national skepticism, infidelity, and apostasy, and of God's righteous vengeance on the same!8

Cole and other opponents of the old-earth theories rightly understood that the historical portions of the Bible (including Genesis 1–11) are foundational to the theological and moral teachings of Scripture. Destroy the credibility of the former, and sooner or later you will see rejection of the latter, both inside and outside the Church. If the scriptural geologists were alive today and saw the castle diagram shown below, they would say, "That picture's exactly what we were concerned about!" The history of the once- Christian nations in Europe and North America has confirmed the scriptural geologists' worst fears about the Church and society.

It is time for the Church, especially her leaders and scholars, to stop ignoring the age of the earth and the scientific evidence that increasingly vindicates the Word of God. Christians must repent of their compromise with millions of years and once again believe and preach the literal truth of Genesis 1–11. It is time to take our culture back.



Previous Chapter Next Chapter

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Footnotes

- See T. Mortenson, *The Great Turning Point: The Church's Catastrophic Mistake on Geology—Before Darwin* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2004) for a full discussion of these men and the battle they fought against these developing old-earth theories and Christian compromises.
- 2. C.H. Spurgeon, "Election," The New Park Street Pulpit 1 (1990): 318.

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- 5. D. Ager, *The Nature of the Stratigraphical Record* (New York: Wiley, 1981), p. 46–47.
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John Brown: Revelation 11:19 - 12:17

References for Rev 12:1 — 1 2 3

Revelation 11:19; 12:1-17

A riot is a spontaneous outburst. A war is subject to advance planning. --Richard M. Nixon

The grim fact is that we prepare for war like precocious giants, and for peace like retarded pygmies. --Lester Bowles Pearson

I. INTRODUCTION

A. This morning we will continue our study in the book of Revelation starting with chapter 12.

Actually, the chapter break is unfortunate, since the chapter should begin with verse 19 of chapter
 11.

2. It is there that the thought, the text, and the "context" changes!

- B. This chapter is a chapter of "wonders" as stated in verses 1 and 3.
- 1. The King James uses the word "wonder", but other translations simple call it a "sign".
- a) Meaning that much of it is "symbolic" in nature!

C. Chapter 12 is also a chapter of "great" things. There is a high level of drama and intensity as we see phrases like "a great wonder" in verse 1, and "a great red dragon" in verse 3, "great wrath" in verse 12, and "two wings of a great eagle" in verse 14!

1. So, let's take a look at this "great" chapter!

II. TEXT

A. The last verse in chapter 11 gives us a hint as to the interpretation of the following chapter!

1. *Revelation 11:19* Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail. (NKJV)

2. The temple of God and the ark of the convenant are Jewish in origin!

a) We know that for the resurrected church there will be no temple for we will worship the Lord in Spirit and Truth!

(1) *Revelation 21:22-23* But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. (NKJV)

b) We also know there will be no need for the ark of the covenant because Jesus will be the fulfillment of all the Old Testament "types".

(1) Therefore verse 19 in chapter 11 speak of God's covenant with the nation of Israel!

(2) Which better helps us understand the what follows!

B. The first "sign" we see in chapter 12 is "a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars"

1. Revelation 12:1-2 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. 2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. (NKJV)

a) There are 4 "women" represented in the book of Revelation.

(1) They are Jezebel (2:20), who represents paganism.

(2) Israel (12:6)

(3) The "scarlet woman" (17:1), who represents the apostate, or backslidden church.

(4) And the Lamb's Wife (19:7), which is the true church!

(a) Which one is this?

b) This is not the virgin Mary as the Catholic church teaches it to be!

(1) There is not a shred of scriptural evidence that the body of Mary ever ascended into Heaven, and yet this woman is in John's vision of Heaven!

c) This is not the Church as some Protestant churches teach today!

(1) You see, the Church did not give birth to Christ. Christ gave birth to the Church!!

d) Mary Baker Eddie claimed that this woman was herself and that the "manchild" she brought forth was Christian Science!

(1) Dr. Henry Ironsides was quoted as saying about this theory, "I need not take up the time of sane people."

(2) We, likewise will spend no more time on Mary Baker Eddie's theory!

e) If you will remember Joseph's dream in Genesis 37:9, he interpreted the sun, moon, and 12 stars to be his father, mother and 12 brothers who would one day bow down to him.

(1) Jacob, Joseph's father, was the only one to accept this at the time and he understood it to mean his entire family, symbolically the nation of Israel!

(2) We must not limit it to practical Israel though. This woman is "spiritual Israel" as well. The lineage goes backward in time to the seed of Eve, and forward in time to the seed of Mary and the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!

(a) This "woman" represents the age-old struggle and battle of all Christianity against Satan and his desire to destroy the "man child" that would bring salvation!

(b) It was indeed from the chosen nation of Israel that the child Jesus was born!

C. The next "sign" we see is in verse 3 and 4 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 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. (NKJV)

1. We shouldn't have much of a problem identifying this guy!

2. Revelation 12:9 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. (NKJV)

a) Seven speaks of completeness, the heads, horns, and crowns speak of authority and power!

b) *Ephesians 6:12* gives us a wonderful summary and interpretation of this verse: 12 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. (NKJV)

c) The "stars" speak of the fallen angels under the influence and authority of Satan to "control" these earthy powers and dominions!

(1) Scripture gives strong indication that there is a least one powerful demon in charge of the destruction of every nation!

d) The "seed of the serpent" has been at war with the "seed of woman", "Israel's" child since the divine pronouncement in Gen. 3:15.

(1) He has been trying to destroy the Christian witness since his proud heart rebelled against the plans of God!

(2) Every attempt he has made against the "manchild" and HIS mission has failed!!

D. Revelation 12:5-6 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. 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. (NKJV)

1. The time frame here is 3 1/2 years into the tribulation! Verse 6 tells us that the Lord will provide a special place, and preserve the nation of Israel <u>through</u> the tribulation!

E. Revelation 12:7-9 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 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. (NKJV)

1. These events will take place during the final half of the tribulation!

a) They begin with the blowing of the 7th trumpet and continue through chapter 19 of Revelation.

b) They are the last 3 1/2 years of Daniel's 70th week!

2. The events in verse 7 do not begin until the Church is in the presence of the Lord.

3. In fact, some commentators believe that this "war" spoken of in verse 7 actually started as a result of the church being raptured. That means it has been going on for 3 1/2 years!

a) You see Michael is a warrior, not a messenger!

b) And Yet 1 Thessalonians 4:16 tells us that ...the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the <u>voice of an archangel</u>, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. (NKJV)

c) Michael is usually involved when he is in battle with Satan over the welfare of the saints!

(1) As he did over the body of Moses according to Jude!

(2) As Christians we must remember that Satan is not in hell!!!! He has never been in hell!

(3) It is a place prepared for him and his angels but, his present home is the "air" or stellar heavens!

(a) *Ephesians* 2:2-3 *in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (NKJV)*

(4) He has access to heaven and stands before the Lord accusing the brethren!!

(5) It is this domain the Lord recaptures first! Satan looses this battle!

(6) This time cast to earth and only earth!

F. Revelation 12:10-12 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. 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. 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." (NKJV)

1. All of heaven rejoice over the victory of Michael and the angels as Satan is kicked out of the heavens! He will <u>never</u> be allowed to stand before the Lord again to accuse the brethren!!!

2. Notice how they (the Christians) overcame Satan!

a) 2Corinthians 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, (NKJV)

b) They, (WE) overcame with 3 simple weapons: the blood of the lamb (the cross), the word of our testimony (the only true Word), and our desire and ability to live for Christ and His purposes instead of our own!!

c) While heaven is rejoicing, earth is definitely not!

(1) satan is ticked! He only has a short time to do all the damage he can!!

III. CONCLUSION

A. Revelation 12:13-17 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.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. 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. 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. 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. (NKJV)

1. Satan steps up his persecution of the remaining Jewish 144,000.

2. The Lord provides some sort of divine "airlift" that John symbolically describes as "two wings of a great eagle"!

a) John doesn't tell us specifically what it is but we know that the Lord divinely protects her for the remainder of the tribulation!

b) With all this evidence, why would any one want to be on the loosing side of this war?

COMMENTARY FRONT PAGE

Why Dr. Seuss had to go

Ben Shapiro warns the purges have only just begun



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This week, Dr. Seuss Enterprises announced it would stop the sale and distribution of six classic volumes from the great children's author. Those volumes, said the company, violate its commitment to "messages of hope, inspiration, inclusion, and friendship." The books include portrayals of people "in ways that are hurtful and wrong."

Society has long held that activity that damages others ought to be curbed. John Stuart Mill posited the so-called harm principle – the belief that activity that harms someone ought to be condemned or even barred – in the mid-19th century. But Mill refused to conflate harm and offense: Being offended wasn't cause for sanction of another.

Broadly speaking, society agreed with this formulation. But in the past few years, this formulation has been completely turned on its head. Now offense is not only considered a harm; it is considered the *chief* harm in our society. Physical injury, after all, is merely physical. But mental or emotional injury – that threatens our very sense of identity.

Because we find our identity in our own sense of self-creation, any societal denial of that sense threatens our identity. As Carl Trueman writes in "The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self": "The era of psychological man therefore requires changes in the culture and its institutions, practice, and beliefs that affect everyone. They all need to adapt to reflect a therapeutic mentality that focuses on the psychological well-being of the individual."

When individual self-creation becomes the chief goal of a society, institutions must be torn down – institutions, after all, foster a set of rules that may not be conducive to individual self-creation. Informational flow must be dammed – after all, information may allow others to take a different, objectively based opinion about you than you take subjectively about yourself. Books must be burned – after all, books carry with them implicit messages that may threaten your sense of yourself.

Iconoclasm becomes the order of the day.

Our societal turn from actual, measurable harm toward subjective, psychological harm places us on the road to complete devastation of our culture and our rights. Now anyone who offends – or even has the potential to offend – can be, and indeed ought to be, fired. Now any book – no matter how old or how inoffensive – can be, and indeed ought to be, banned. Now any kernel of information – no matter how true – can be discarded.

This formulation puts all power in the hands of those who are most easily offended – or at least those who claim to be. *The offense itself is the weapon*. Legal torts require damages; societal torts merely require a claim of damages, without evidence. No one can explain just how a drawing in "If I Ran the Zoo" has contributed to actual racism; there are no recorded incidents of a single white supremacist citing "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street" as a formative source in his racist worldview. But any academic with a computer and a degree in postmodern nonsense can take those books off the shelves simply by claiming that offense is *possible*.

In the end, the only literature allowed will be the literature that adheres to the values of our postmodern world – a world in which we are not expected to conform to societal rules but society is expected to conform to our own acts of self-definition. That means your child reading "I Am Jazz" but never – never, Gaia forbid! – the Bible. It means goodbye to cultural icons, large and small – goodbye to all vestiges of the past, replete with their "bigoted" value systems.

It means that the purges have only just begun.