



Part 3: “Trumpets, Testings and Testimonies”

Sunday, November 29th, 2020

Revelation 8:7 – 12:18

Revelation 12:

1. Three Symbols (vs. 1-6)

Symbol #1. The Woman - _____ (vs. 1-2)

The only other place in Scripture these three symbols are used together is Genesis 37.

Jacob gave this interpretation:

Sun: Jacob (Israel)

Moon: Rachel (Jacob's wife)

12 Stars: Their 12 children (the 12 tribes of Israel)

KEY: The woman here represents Israel at its beginning.

References for Israel pictured as a woman (and in some cases “pregnant”): Jeremiah 3:1
3:6-10, 20; Ezek. 16:32-35; Hosea 2:2; Isaiah 54:5; 66:7; Micah 4:10; 5:2-3.

Symbol #2. The Dragon - _____ (vs. 3-4)

Description:

Seven Heads: _____

Symbolizes the 7 Gentile world governments that Satan has led since the beginning of creation:

1.) Egypt

5.) Greece

2.) Assyria

6.) Roman

3.) Babylon

7.) Antichrist's future empire (Rev. 17:9-10)

4.) Medo-Persia

Ten Horns: _____

These will reign with the Antichrist during the tribulation (Rev. 17:12)

Seven Crowns: Seven divisions of Antichrist's last world government or the shift in power from the seven consecutive world empires to the ten kings under the final Antichrist.

What/who are the “stars”? _____

Satan's original rebellion against God resulted in one-third of the angelic host joining his insurrection and becoming demons (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-17).

Symbol #3. The Child – _____ (vs. 4-5)

The imagery here is taken from Psalm 2.

Satan has tried to destroy Christ or foil his mission of dying on the cross on many occasions:

- 1.) Through King Herod at Jesus' birth (Matt. 2)
- 2.) By tempting Him with the kingdoms of the world (Matt. 4)
- 3.) In the garden before his arrest and crucifixion (Luke 22)

KEY: During the last half of the tribulation (1,260 days), the Antichrist will defile the temple in Jerusalem with an image of himself. Jesus taught in Matt. 24:16 that when the Jews see this they should run into the mountains because the Antichrist will be pursuing them. God will preserve a remnant of the Jewish people as promised here in this verse, thus frustrating Satan's final attempt to destroy Israel (Matt. 24:15-21).

2. War in Heaven (vs. 7-12)

Though Satan has already fallen we can draw the conclusion that up to the last days in the tribulation Satan will continue to have access to heaven (Job 1). This section describes Satan's ultimate expulsion from heaven altogether.

KEY: Michael and Satan have known each other since they were created, and this battle will not be the first time they have opposed one another (Dan. 10:13; 12:1).

Description of Satan (vs. 9):

"Ancient serpent":	He is subtle and treacherous
"Devil":	Slanderer or false accuser
"Satan":	Adversary
"One who deceives the whole world":	Satan's habitual, continual activity

Defeating Satan in Three Steps (vs. 11):

- 1.) Remind him of _____
- 2.) Remind others of _____
- 3.) Remind yourself of _____

3. Satan's Wrath on Earth (vs. 13-18)

Exodus 19:4 "You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself."

KEY: "Wings" symbolize strength, speed, and protection.

(Isaiah 40:31; 2 Samuel 22:11; Psalms 18:10; 104:3; Deut. 32:9-11).

Satan will seek to annihilate believing Israel but God will destroy those Satan will be using.

Summary

As the last half of the tribulation winds down, Satan will step up his efforts to destroy everyone who follows Christ. Yet all of Satan's efforts to prevent Christ's kingdom from being established are doomed. The Lord Jesus Christ will triumph! The great question this chapter leaves us with is, How are you doing in your personal battle with Satan? Are you overcoming or he is winning the spiritual battle in your life?

For Next Sunday:

Read and study Revelation chapters 13 – 16:9 using the study notes found in the *40 Days Through Revelation* book. Don't have one? You can purchase one in Fellowship Café for a donation of \$10.

For Further Study – In the Tower at the Welcome Center

Understanding the Times Newsletter: The Top Ten Bible Prophecy Stories of 2020

Article: What is the Mark of the Beast?

90 Descriptions of Jesus in Revelation

Glossary of End-Times-related Terms (from raptureready.com)

Abomination of Desolation:

When the Antichrist sits down in the rebuilt Jewish Temple and declares himself to be God, the great tribulation of 42 months will then begin. At the occurrence of this event, the Jews living in Israel are commanded to flee into the wilderness. All tribulation saints will know, from that day on, they must now wait 1260 days before the Lord returns.

([Dan 9:27](#)), ([Mat 24:15-19](#))

Antichrist:

Often described as the most evil man that will ever live. He will arrive on the world scene and appear to be the world's savior, but everyone on earth will soon learn his real mission will be one of destruction. Also called the man of lawlessness (or sin), Gog, the son of destruction (or perdition)

([1 John 2:18](#)) , ([Rev 13:1-8](#))

Apostasy, The:

In the end times, the Bible predicts a great falling away or departure from the faith. Because we have experienced a number of generations where people have rebelled against God, the one that occurs leading up to the tribulation will likely surpass prior apostasies. The Greek word apostasy was originally used to describe a revolt staged by a military commander. ([2 Thes 2:3](#)), ([Mat 24:11-13](#))

Armageddon:

Armageddon comes from the Hebrew word meaning "the Mount of Megiddo." This ancient fortress is located in northern Israel, across the Plain of Esdraelon from Nazareth. Armageddon will be the gathering place for the final great battle, which bears its name. ([Rev 16:16](#))

Church Age:

The "Church Age" began on the day of Pentecost and will end at with rapture of the church before the beginning of the tribulation. Many dispensationalists believe the Church is the reason why there is a gap between Daniel's 69th and 70th week. ([Dan 9:24-27](#))

Dragon:

The dragon is the symbolic name given to representative the devil. Satan is also described as "that old serpent." ([Rev 20:2](#))

Eastern Gate:

The Eastern Gate has a very important prophet role to play. It is the only gate that is currently blocked. The book of Ezekiel foretold that it would be shut and the only one who will open it will be the "Prince" Jesus ([Ezek 44:1-3](#))

Eschatology:

The study of things that relate to the end times. That which relates to the final events in the history of mankind, which is a big word to impress your friends.

False Church:

During the first part of the tribulation, the Antichrist's rise to power will be aided by a religious system, which will include most, if not all, of the world's major religions. During the second half of the tribulation the Antichrist will destroy this false church. The book of Revelation describes the false churches as the great whore. ([Rev 17:1-5](#))

False Prophet:

He will administrate the workings of the one-world church. The False Prophet's primary mission will be to cause the world to worship the Antichrist. ([Rev 13:11-14](#))

Gog And Magog:

Most prophetic scholars agree that Gog and Magog were the people that lived in the lands, which are now modern Russia. Someday Russia and a horde of Middle East countries will launch a surprise attack against Israel. All but one sixth of the Gog army will be destroyed upon the mountains of Israel. ([Ezek 38 and 39](#))

Judgment, Great White Throne:

This judgment is predominately for the unsaved. It is also believed to be a more stern judgment than the Judgment seat of Christ. It is here where all those that are not found written in the book of life are cast into the lake of fire. ([Rev 20:11-15](#))

Judgment Seat Of Christ:

Immediately after the rapture, the church will receive rewards according to what they have done on earth, whether it be good or bad. The Judgment seat of Christ is for believers only. ([2 Cor 5:10](#)), ([Rom 14:10-12](#)), ([Rev 11:15-18](#))

Kings of the East:

And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. I believe the kings of the east will likely be or will largely include the nation of China. ([Rev 16:12](#))

Lake of Fire:

The lake of fire is the final abode for all the lost, the Devil and all of his co-workers. Everyone that's condemned to this fiery inferno will suffer unrelenting eternal torment. ([Rev 20:15](#))

Little Horn:

Daniel the prophet described seeing a little horn rising out from among ten other horns. The little horn is clearly another representation of the antichrist, because Daniel's accounting aligns with the apostle John's Revelation 13 description of the Antichrist. ([Dan 7:7-8](#)), ([Dan 7:19-25](#))

Mark of The Beast:

"He causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." The Mark of the Beast will likely be a microchip implant that operates like an ATM or credit card. Remember, everyone who receives the Mark of the Beast will be cast into hell, so don't take the mark! ([Rev 13:16-18](#))

Millennium:

After the tribulation, Jesus Christ will set up an earthly Kingdom where he will rule for 1000 years. ([Rev 20:3-4](#))

Preterism:

The belief that nearly all prophetic events have already occurred. The year 70 AD is a popular date where Preterists claim that the book of Revelation was fulfilled. Under preterism you are basically left to just waiting for Jesus to return.

Rapture:

At an unknown hour and day the Lord Jesus will descend from heaven, while remaining in the air, he will snatch his Bride, the Church, out from among this sinful world. Christ then takes the Church to heaven for the 7 year wedding feast. The earthly reason for the removal of the Church is to make way for the rise of Antichrist and to fulfill Daniel's final 70th week. ([Mat 25:13](#)), ([1 Thes 4:16-18](#)), ([1 Cor 15:51-54](#))

Red Heifer:

The Bible predicts that the Jewish Temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem. Ever since the 70 AD destruction, one major roadblock barring the reconstruction of the Temple is the fact that the Temple Mount area has been defiled by warfare. In order to cleanse the tribulation Temple Mount for worship, the Jews will need the ashes of a pure red heifer. Numbers chapter 19 describes how King Solomon cleansed the first Temple with the ashes of a specially prepared red heifer. ([Num 19:2-9](#))

Restraint, The:

The presence of the Holy Spirit on earth currently is what restrains the forces of evil. The Holy Spirit resides in the lives of all believers, which is why Christians are called the "salt of the earth." When the Church is removed at the rapture, most of the restraining power of the Holy Spirit will be removed as well. ([2 Thes 2:7](#)), ([Mat 5:13](#))

Rosh Hashanah:

The Jewish festival of the civil New Year celebrated on the first and second days of the month Tishri. During this holiday trumpets are blown as a call for repentance. Many Christians look towards Rosh Hashanah as a possible time for the rapture. ([Num 10:1-10](#))

Second Coming:

This is the time when Jesus Christ will return, defeat the Antichrist, and set up his 1000 year kingdom on earth. The second coming is not the rapture. The rapture takes place approximately 7 years prior to the second coming. Another important difference between the two is that the rapture will occur at an unknown time while the second coming will take place 42 months after the Antichrist declares himself to be God. ([Rev 13:5](#)), ([Mat 25:13](#))

Tribulation:

A period of time lasting 7 years, the first 3 1/2 years will be relatively peaceful as the antichrist rises to power. The second 3 1/2 years will bring the greatest suffering in human history as the wrath of God and the Antichrist is poured out on earth. ([Dan 9:27](#)) , ([Mat 24:21](#))

Witnesses, Two:

During the tribulation, two men will prophesy in the streets of Jerusalem. These two witnesses of God will have the power to prevent it from raining on the earth, to call fire down from heaven, to turn bodies of water into blood, and to command a number of other plagues. After they preach for 42 months, the Antichrist will be allowed to kill them. Three and 1/2 days later they will be resurrected and raptured up to heaven. Some scholars say the two men could be Elijah and Enoch or Moses and Elijah. ([Rev 11:3-13](#)), ([Mal 4:5-6](#))

Wrath of God, The:

The Wrath of God is poured out on man at the midpoint of the tribulation. The people of earth will come under God's wrath because they refuse to turn from their wicked ways. Those that receive the Antichrist Mark will not only come under God's wrath, but will be lost forever. ([1 Thes 1:10](#)), ([1 Thes 5:9](#)) , ([Rev 14:9-11](#))

10 Nation Confederation – Toes; Horns; Kings:

Out of the area that once was the Roman Empire, ten leaders will arise. The only purpose these 10 leaders will have is to give their power to the Antichrist. ([Dan 2:41-44](#)), ([Dan 7:20](#)), ([Rev 17:12](#)), ([Rev 17:17](#))

70th Week:

The final seven years of Gentile domination of the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem; the last week of the seventy weeks of years (490 years) of Daniel's prophecy which will begin after the long interval. ([Dan 9:27](#))

144,000 Jewish Saints:

Before the Antichrist administers his mark, God will send an angel to mark the foreheads of 144,000 Jews – 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes. The 144,000 sealed Jews will apparently be commissioned to be a witness to the Gentiles during the tribulation. ([Rev 7:2-8](#))

Growth Groups Study Guide

Getting Started

Group Discussion: When you were growing up who were the 1 or 2 most important women in your life? Why?

Digging Deeper

Revelation chapter 12 is chock full of information about the tribulation and end time events. There is also quite a bit of these details that are difficult to interpret. Let's try to study this chapter further to gain as much insight as possible. Before we do, stop and pray, asking the Holy Spirit to bring instruction and assistance to you.

1. Read Rev. 12:1-2. What evidence is there that the first symbol is Israel?
2. Read Rev. 12:3. Who does the description of the second symbol, Satan, tell us about him?
3. Read Rev. 12:4. How many followers does Satan have and when did they pledge him their allegiance? (Read Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-17).
4. Who is the child and how did the dragon try to devour it? What's the big picture here in verse 4?
5. Read Rev. 12:5. What does it mean that the child was "caught up to God and to His throne"? (For a cross-reference read Acts 1:9-11).
6. Read Rev. 12:6. Where does the woman flee? Who is this and how does God take care of her? (See Matt. 24:15-21).
7. Read Rev. 12:7. How can there be war in heaven?
8. Read Rev. 12:9. What does this tell us about the dragon and the result of the war?
9. Read Rev. 12:10. What has Satan done for ages that he will no longer do to believers? How do you think Satan has done this? Has he ever done this to you?
10. Read Rev. 12:11. How do believers overcome Satan? Read 1 John 4:4.
11. Read Rev. 12:12. What two things does Satan have in his remaining time on earth? (See Rev. 20:1-3)
12. Read Rev. 12:14. What do the eagle's wings symbolize and where is the woman taken?
13. Read Rev. 12:15-16. What does the water coming after the woman symbolize? Read Jeremiah 47:2-3. How does God help the woman?
14. Read Rev. 12:17. What is the dragon's reaction to the earthquake?

Wrapping Up

What have you learned about Satan in this lesson and how can you apply it to your life? Take some time before you dismiss to continue praying for our Easter Outreach services coming up soon.