



Revelation 12

Randy Duke 09/08/24

The Woman, the Child

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& the Dragon

Class notes, info & Directory posted to www.SJCalvaryBerean.com or scan the QR code



- i. **WYAM Kona Missionary:** Ciara Wingert (808) 365-2072 ciaramuzykaa@gmail.com
www.equipnet.org/missionaries/cwingert
- ii. **YWAM Ships (Kona) – Joe & Jill Novelo:** jnovelo@mac.com or (954) 937-0270
- iii. **Tuesday's (9/10/2024) Board meeting to be held at the Franklin McKinley School District's Board Room (645 Wool Creek Drive, San Jose, CA 95112) at 8 p.m.**
- iv. **Understanding The Times:** Jan Markell interviews Ken Mikle (Olive Tree Views), Jack Hibbs (Calvary Chapel Chino Hills), and Brandon Holthaus (Rock Harbor Church) to ask "Have we crossed a line in the end-time countdown?". Jack Hibbs & Brandon Holthaus feel we have as there is a new standard when it comes to calling evil good. It may be time for pastors and people to rock the boat.
 - a. **OliveTreeViews:** <https://bit.ly/31WMM0s> YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/4v5d57u6>
- v. **Curtis Bowers: Agenda Weekly**
 - a. 8/30/24: <https://tinyurl.com/2rwdt823>
 - b. 9/06/24: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8we94c>
- vi. **Amir Tsarfati Newsletter**
 - a. 08/29/24 - <https://tinyurl.com/2ze8zpy7>
 - b. 09/05/24 - <https://tinyurl.com/4yehn2f4>
- vii. **US has no operational aircraft carriers in the Pacific:** <https://tinyurl.com/4uz22adx>
- viii. **Future wars will be fought on different fronts:** <https://tinyurl.com/bdpncvcm>
- ix. **God continues to move among collegiates:** <https://tinyurl.com/4t4ybdit>

II. Revelation 12: The Woman, the Child, & the Dragon

- a. **Verse 1 - The Woman: described in Celestial Images**
 - i. **"Now a great sign appeared in heaven":** This is the first of seven signs that John relates, and is described as a **great sign** (*mega semeion*). In Revelation chapters 12, 13, & 14 the main figures of the Great Tribulation are described, and this **great sign** introduces the first of the seven symbols:
 - 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.
 - ii. **"A woman clothed with the sun":** John plainly said this is a **sign**; This is not a literal woman on the earth.
Women represent religious systems in Revelation.
 - Jezebel represents a religious system promoting false teaching ([Rev 2:20](#)).
 - The *Great Harlot* also is associated with false religion ([Rev 17:2](#)).
 - The *Bride* is associated with the church ([Rev 19:7-8](#)).
 - iii. **"A woman clothed with the sun":** This woman has been associated with many different religious ideas. Incorrectly Roman Catholics claim this woman is Mary, pictured as the "Queen of Heaven." Also falsely, Mary Baker Eddy (the founder of Christian Science) said she was this woman.
 - iv. It is common in Roman Catholic art to represent Mary as standing on a crescent moon with **twelve stars** around her head.
 - v. Scripturally, **this woman** should be identified with Israel, according to Joseph's dream ([Gen 37:9-11](#)). In that dream, the sun represented Jacob, the moon Joseph's mother Rachel, and the eleven stars the sons of Israel which bowed down to Joseph. In this sign with **twelve stars** though, Joseph is now among **the other tribes of Israel**.
 - vi. In other OT passages, Israel (or 'Zion' or Jerusalem) is often symbolized as a woman ([Isaiah 54:1-6](#), [Jeremiah 3:20](#), [Ezekiel 16:8-14](#), and [Hosea 2:19-20](#)).
- b. **Verse 2: The Woman gives Birth**
 - i. **"... being with child":** It's clear that this child born of Israel is Jesus
 - ii. A few verses down (verse 5) we are told **"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."**

- iii. Notice "Child" is capitalized (Further note: there is no Greek indication to capitalization, however the context of the verse all points to Jesus)
- iv. ... **"she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth"**: The **pain** refers to the travail of Israel at the time of Jesus' birth (under Roman occupation & oppression).
- c. Verse 3: A Fearful, Powerful Dragon Appears
 - i. **"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 ... **that of Satan**.
 - ii. **...Seven diadems on his heads**: This dragon had great power (**seven heads and ten horns**) and claimed royal authority (**seven diadems**). The crowns (diadems) represent his **presumptive claims** of royal authority against the true King. *He* wants to be considered a king.
 - iii. "From the similar description given in 13:1 & the references in [Daniel 7:7-8](#), 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)
- d. Verse 4: The Dragon Looks to the Earth
 - i. **"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 entire world of demonic spirits.
 - ii. "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." (Joseph A. Seiss, **"The Apocalypse: Exposition of the Book of Revelation"**)
 - iii. **"... 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 8:58-59](#) and [Mark 4:35-41](#)).
- e. Verse 5: Jesus' ministry is described by its Earthly beginning & end
 - i. **"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 2:9](#) and [Revelation 19:15](#)).
 - ii. **"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 & ending point of Jesus' earthly work, John alludes to all that is between.
 - iii. **"... 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 can only be Mary or Israel, the only two "women" who could have "given birth" to Jesus. [Revelation 12](#) will demonstrate that this woman is Israel, not Mary.
- f. Verses 7-8: A Conflict in Heaven; War between Michael & the Dragon
 - i. **"And 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.
 - ii. **"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.
 - iii. Some say Michael must be Jesus, because he has **his angels**. But if Satan - a fallen angelic being - has **his angels** ([Revelation 12:7](#)), why can't Michael - an unfallen angelic being - have **his angels**?
 - iv. Some commentaries say that Michael must in fact 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 and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought"**: Sorry for stating the obvious, but this is a dramatic scene of battle between good angels & bad angels.; faithful angels & fallen angels.
 - vii. **Who fights in this battle? Theology indicates this is a battle between equals.** The **dragon** is 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.
 - viii. **Why is the battle fought?** In a previous conflict between Michael & Satan (Jude 9), Satan wanted to prevent the resurrection & glorification of Moses, because he knew God had plans for the resurrected and glorified Moses ([Luke 9:30-31](#)). **Here is yet another occasion where Satan wants to get in the way of God's plan for the end-times.**
 - ix. **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](#))
 - x. **How is this battle fought?** We know this is a real fight; but is it a physical or a spiritual battle? Our battle with Satan and his demons is *spiritual*, fought on the battleground of truth & deception, of fear & 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's possible there's a *material* battle to be fought in a way we can only imagine (*Paradise Lost*)
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- 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:
- xiii. "... 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 in fact** have access to heaven, where he accuses God's people before the throne ([Job 1:6-12](#), [Revelation 12:10](#)).
 - xiv. This biblical truth troubles some to think that Satan has access to heaven, because they've been taught that God can allow nothing unholy in His presence. But the Bible clearly says that **Satan confronted Jesus** ([Luke 4:1-13](#)), it says he's "**the prince of the power of the air**" ([Eph 2:2](#)), it also says Satan has access to heaven, where he accuses God's people before God's throne ([Job 1:6-12](#)).
- g. Verse 9: Satan & his angels are cast out of heaven
- i. "**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.
 - ii. John 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."
 - iii. John 8:44 tells us "**He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.**"
 - iv. "**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](#), [Zech 3:1](#)) **to restriction to the earth** ([Rev 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](#)).
 - v. 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 mid-point of the seven year tribulation period.
 - vi. "... **and 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.**"
 - vii. 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.
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- h. Verses 10-11: A Joyful Declaration in Heaven
- i. "**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**".
 - ii. "**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](#)).
 - iii. "**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.
 - iv. "**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](#)).
 - v. 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.*
- i. Verse 11: The Power of the Blood
- i. "**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.
 - ii. 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)
 - iii. 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?
- j. Verses 11-12: How does the Blood of Christ DEFEAT Satan & brings us VICTORY
- i. 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.**" (Spurgeon)
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. 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)
 - iv. 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. "**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)

- v. "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" (Spurgeon)
- vi. **"They overcame him... by the word of their testimony"**: Knowing and remembering the work of God *in their life* protects the believer against Satan's deceptions.
- vii. **"They overcame him... they did not love their lives to the death"**: If they do not cling to their own earthly lives, then there really is no threat Satan can bring against them. If we truly believe to *"live is Christ, and to die is gain"* ([Phil 1:21](#)), then how can Satan's violence against us be effective?
- viii. The Greek word for **love** here is *agape*, which speaks of a self-sacrificing, decision-based love. It's 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](#))
- ix. **"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!"**
- x. **"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 & has just a **short time** left. He's like a wounded, cornered animal fighting ferociously.
- xi. I've often wondered why Satan continues the fight. He might give up his fight against God & humanity, except for the fact that he's utterly depraved, & probably insane in some way; Satan may have deceived even himself into thinking that he has a chance. **Our own rebellion (sinning) against God makes even less sense than Satan's rebellion does!**
- k. Verses 13-16: Conflict on the Earth; Satan attacks the Woman & God protects her
 - i. **"He persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child"**: Does the woman represent all the people of God, including faithful Israel and the church? **Calvary's understanding is that the Church is not here during the tribulation period.** If the woman represents **all** the people of God (the church and faithful Israel), then who are *the rest of her offspring* described in 12:17? It's better to see her as Israel in general, or Messianic Jews in particular.
 - ii. **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:
 - iii. it brought forth Jesus as the Messiah & Redeemer.
 - iv. Jesus promised that the Jewish people would exist & welcome Him when He returns in glory to this world ([Matthew 23:39](#)).
 - v. "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." (John Walvoord)
 - vi. **"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.
 - vii. Some commentaries wonder if the reference to the **"two wings of a great eagle"** describe a great military transport plane used to evacuate people in emergency situations.
 - viii. **"Where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time"**: another reference to a 3 ½ year period, indicating that these events takes place during the 70th week of [Daniel 9](#).
 - ix. **"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.
 - x. **The earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth**: God protects Israel from the fury of Satan and his antichrist in the great tribulation.
- l. Verse 17: The wrath of the Dragon is focused against God's people
 - 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.**
 - ii. **"The dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring"**: This may refer to Israel (**the woman**) & Gentiles who come to faith in Jesus during the Great Tribulation (**the rest of her offspring**). These 2 groups are targets of Satan & his antichrist's persecution in the last days.
 - iii. **"He went to make war with the rest of her offspring"**: This begins or continues the persecution of those who won't submit to & worship this great Satanic dictator. The martyrs of this period are in [Rev 6:9-11](#) & [Rev 7:9-17](#).
 - iv. "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." (Austin Farrer)

