



## REVELATION 12.1-18 VICTORY IN JESUS

- Third great interlude, from Chapter 12 through Chapter 15
  - The seven bowl judgments must happen immediately upon the blowing of the seventh trumpet (11:15).
  - These seven staccato bowl judgments will occur in a matter of days or possibly even hours consummated by the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. They are like the great finale of a fire works display. However, as far as we readers of Revelation are concerned, we will be given a great deal more information before we actually read about those events here in the book.
- Chapters 12-13 introduce 7 different personages in the Tribulation:
  - (1) a woman clothed with the sun, representing Israel (12:1-2);
  - (2) the red dragon with seven heads and 10 horns, representing Satan (12:3-4);
  - (3) the male Child, representing Christ (12:5-6);
  - (4) the archangel Michael, casting Satan out of heaven (12:7-12);
  - (5) the offspring of the woman, persecuted by the dragon (12:13-17);
  - (6) the beast out of the sea, the future world dictator (13:2-10);
  - (7) the beast out of the earth, the false prophet (13:11-18). 1

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<sup>1</sup>Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

## 1st Great Person: The Woman (Israel)



1 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.

- This was the first of a series of events called "signs" or "miracles" (12:3; 13:13-14; 15:1; 16:14; 19:20). 2
- Joseph had a dream about sun, moon, and stars:

**Genesis 37:9-10** Then Joseph dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, **the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars** bowed down to me." 10 So he told *it* to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What *is* this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

- These are the same three elements that Joseph saw in his dream. Joseph saw "**the sun, the moon, and eleven stars**" bowing down before Joseph.
  - It wasn't clear to Joseph's family at once that the "**sun**" represented Jacob, the "**moon**" his wife Rachel, and the "**eleven stars**" were Joseph's eleven other brothers.
  - Jacob and his family would find themselves bowing before Joseph eventually in Egypt.
  - These three elements of symbolism represent Israel.
- The ancient battle between Lucifer and Israel was part of the original curse:

**Genesis 3:14-15** So the LORD God said **to the serpent**:  
"Because you have done this,  
You are cursed more than all cattle,  
And more than every beast of the field;  
On your belly you shall go,

2Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

And you shall eat dust  
All the days of your life.

**15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman,**  
And between your seed (*the beast*) and her Seed (*Jesus Christ*);  
He shall bruise your head,  
And you shall bruise His heel.”

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Person: The Red Dragon (Satan)

3 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 great, fiery Dragon – 7 heads, 10 horns, 7 crowns!
- Like the Gorgon of Greek mythology – a multi-headed fearsome creature.
- Same Dragon as in Verse 9
  - **Daniel 7:24** **The ten horns** are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings.
- We will cover the 10 kings of the end times in Chapter 17.
  - 10 Kingdoms all united under the rule of the Red Dragon.

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.

**Isa 14:12-15** “How thou art fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!”

**Eze 28:16-17** “I will destroy thee, O covering cherub . . . I will cast thee to the ground.”

- Satan apparently has control over 1/3 of the angels ever created.
  - Did these angels then become our demons today?

**Eph 6:12** “ the rulers of the darkness of this world.”

**Colossians 2:14-15** having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

**15** Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

- How many times has the devil attempted to destroy God's chosen people?

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Person: The Child (Jesus)

**5** 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.

#### **Psalm 2:7-9**

**7** "I will declare the decree:

The LORD has said to Me,

'You are My Son,

Today I have begotten You.

**8** Ask of Me, and I will give You

The nations for Your inheritance,

And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

**9** You shall break them with a rod of iron;

You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'

**6** Then the woman (Israel) 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**.

- 1260 days? – 3 ½ years!
- Where is this "wilderness?"
- Many have said: "PETRA"
  - Some suggest that it might be Petra, fortress capital of the Nabateans in Edom, south of the Dead Sea.
  - This city has a narrow access which could easily be blocked but which opens up into a large canyon capable of caring for many thousands of people.
  - Though Scripture is not specific, some believe the 144,000 of chapter 7 are to be preserved here. The Scriptures themselves speak of God's seal of protection on them. 3

**Isaiah 16:1-5** Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from **Sela** (Petra) to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion.

**2** For it shall be, *that*, as a wandering bird cast out of the nest, so the daughters of Moab shall be at the fords of Arnon.

**3** Take counsel, execute judgment; make thy shadow as the night in the midst of the noonday; hide the outcasts; bewray not him that wandereth.

**4** Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler: for the extortioner is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth,

3Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

the oppressors are consumed out of the land.

**5** And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness.

**Isaiah 26:20-21** Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

**21** For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Great Person: The Archangel Michael – War in Heaven



**7** 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.

**10** 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."

- This explains how Satan and his angels were thrown out of heaven for good.

**Ephesians 6:12** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

- **What great weapons we have!**
  1. **The blood of the Lamb**
  2. **The Word of our testimony**
  3. **No love for this world, willing to die for Christ.**

- **The Blood:**

- This is the last reference in the Bible to the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ; here it is the overcoming blood, enabling believers to withstand the deceptions and accusations of Satan. **There are at least 43 references to the blood of Christ in the New Testament**, all testifying to its great importance in the salvation and daily life of the believer. Judas the betrayer spoke of it as **“innocent blood** (Matthew 27:4) and Peter called it **“the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot”** ( 1 Peter 1:9 ). It is **the cleansing blood** in 1 John 1:7 and **the washing blood** in Rev. 1:5 , stressing that it removes the guilt of our sins. Paul calls it **the purchasing blood** in Acts 20:28 and **the redeeming blood** twice ( Eph. 1:7 ); Col. 1:14 , see also 1 Peter 1:18–19 , Rev. 5:9 ), thus declaring the shedding of His blood to be the very price of our salvation. Therefore, it is also **the justifying blood** (Rom. 5:9 ) and **the peacemaking blood** (Col. 1:20 ). Its efficacy does not end with our salvation, however, for it is also **the sanctifying blood** (Heb. 13:12 ). There is infinite and eternal power in the blood of Christ, for it is **“the blood of the everlasting covenant”** (Heb. 13:20 ). The first reference in the New Testament to His blood stresses this aspect. Jesus said, at the last supper: **“This is my blood of the new testament (same as ‘covenant’) which is shed for many for the remission of sins”** ( Matthew 26:28 ). Let no one, therefore, even count the “blood of the covenant. . an unholy thing” (Heb. 10:29 ), for the blood of Christ is forever innocent, infinitely precious, perfectly justifying, always cleansing and fully sanctifying. <sup>4</sup>

### **The Sufficient Blood**

His blood is so sufficient  
He tells us in His word  
On the mercy seat in heaven  
It was put there by our Lord.

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<sup>4</sup>10,000 sermon illustrations. 2000 (electronic ed.). Biblical Studies Press: Dallas

It stops the accuser of the brethren  
As he walks before the throne  
Our God just points to the blood  
And Satan knows He cares for His own.  
It's sufficient for any situation  
To nourish, to cleanse, and keep.  
Oh, magnify your name my Lord  
My soul with rapture leaps.  
Can my sins though oh so many  
Make this blood of no avail  
Once I've named the name of Jesus  
In my heart, I cannot fail.  
His word has proclaimed it  
The work begun in me  
Will someday be completed  
When His dear face I see.  
And when I dwell in heaven  
As the ages roll along  
Oh, that precious blood of Jesus  
Will be my victory song. <sup>5</sup>

• **Key elements in any Christian's testimony:**

- Be organized in your approach to telling your testimony.
- **No one wants to hear your entire life history** – it isn't pertinent to the subject of Christ.
- Remember – keep Jesus the main focus – not you!
- Follow a **three point outline**:
  1. Your life **before** knowing Christ.
  2. **How** you came to know Christ (be specific)
  3. Life **after** you received Christ (changes He has made – what He means to you now)
- Emphasize point three (3) more than the other points. Don't get stuck with all the gory details of your life before Christ.
- Use Scripture – but have it memorized (with chapter and verse) or be able to immediately turn in your Bible to the chapter and verse so they can read along with you. Don't ever say: "Well, it says somewhere in the Bible . . ." If you don't know the "address" then don't go there.
- **KEEP THE TESTIMONY TO THREE TO FIVE MINUTES! NEVER MORE!!!!**
- Don't:

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<sup>5</sup>10,000 sermon illustrations. 2000 (electronic ed.). Biblical Studies Press: Dallas

- Use Christian jargon – words such as “saved”, “convicted”, “justification”, “converted”, or “born again.” Though these words are precious to us they are so often misunderstood and consequently ridiculed by non-Christians.
- Be too wordy, beat around the bush, or emphasize how bad you once were.
- Speak in glittering generalities. Avoid words like “wonderful”, “glorious”, etc.
- Mention church denominations – it’s not about them, it’s about Jesus.
- Speak negatively or critically about any other group, church, denomination, Pastor, Bible study, or ministry.
- Give the impression that the Christian life is just a “bed of roses.”
- Get into arguments about minor doctrines or cult churches.
- Preach at people!

- **To “love not your life even to the death”**

**God Counted Crosses**

I counted dollars while God counted crosses,  
 I counted gains while He counted losses,  
 I counted my worth by the things gained in store  
 But He sized me up by the scars that I bore.  
 I coveted honors and sought for degrees,  
 He wept as He counted the hours on my knees;  
 I never knew until one day by the grave  
 How vain are the things that we spend life to save;  
 I did not yet know until my loved one went above  
 That richest is he who is rich in God’s love.

—*The Brethren Evangelist* <sup>6</sup>

**5th Great Person: The Offspring of Woman**

**13** 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.

<sup>6</sup>Tan, P. L. 1996, c1979. *Encyclopedia of 7700 illustrations : [a treasury of illustrations, anecdotes, facts and quotations for pastors, teachers and Christian workers]*. Bible Communications: Garland TX

**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.

- In some way God assists the Israelites so that they are not completely destroyed, though Zechariah 13:8 indicates that “two-thirds will be struck down and perish.”
- Though only one-third of Israel in the land is thus preserved (of which the 144,000 of Rev. 7 are a portion), Satan the dragon continues to war against the rest. 7

**1** And a great sign appeared in heaven:  
a woman clothed with the sun and with the moon under her feet,  
and on her head a crown of twelve stars,  
**2** and who was pregnant  
and was crying out because she was having birth pains,  
and was in torment to give birth.  
**3** And another sign appeared in heaven,  
and behold,  
a great fiery red dragon,  
having seven heads  
and ten horns,  
and on his heads were seven royal headbands.  
**4** And his tail swept away a third of the stars from heaven  
and threw them to the earth.  
And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth,  
in order that whenever she gave birth to her child he could devour it.  
**5** And she gave birth to a son,  
a male child,  
who is going to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod,  
and her child was snatched away to God and to his throne.  
**6** And the woman fled into the wilderness,

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7Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

where she had a place prepared there by God,  
so that they could feed her there for **one thousand two hundred sixty days.**

**7** And there was war in heaven;  
Michael and his angels fought against the dragon,  
and the dragon and his angels fought back.

**8** And they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them any longer in heaven.

**9** And the great dragon was thrown down,  
the ancient serpent,  
who is called the devil and Satan,  
who deceives the whole world.  
He was thrown down to the earth,  
and his angels were thrown down with him.

**10** And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying,  
“Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God  
and the authority of his Christ have come,  
because the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down,  
**the one who accuses them before our God day and night.**

**11** And they conquered him by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony,  
and they did not love their lives until death.

**12** Because of this, rejoice, you heavens, and those who live in them!  
Woe to the earth and to the sea, because the devil has come down to you,  
having great anger, because he knows that he has little time!”

**13** And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth,  
he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

**14** And the two wings of a great eagle were given to the woman,  
in order that she could fly into the wilderness,  
to her place where she is fed there for **a time, and times, and half a time,**  
from the presence of the serpent.

**15** And from his mouth the serpent spouted water like a river after the woman,  
in order that he could make her swept away by a river.

**16** And the earth came to the aid of the woman,

and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river that the dragon had spouted out of his mouth.

**17** And the dragon was angry at the woman, and went away to fight against the rest of her children, those who keep the commandments of God and who hold to the testimony about Jesus.

**18** And he stood on the sand of the sea.