

10272024 Revelation 12 As we study Revelation we must remember that John the apostle is writing from the location of Heaven...**And from this location ...John sees everything different ...and as he looks around different things regarding the future establishing of the Kingdom of God on earth are being revealed...from the perspective and timing of heaven...like Peter writes...**

NLT 2 Peter 3:8 But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day.

- **Time is different in heaven... it seems to be panoramic or all-inclusive ...meaning to look behind or ahead on the timeline line of earth...a thousand years of earth time... the timeline on earth is apparently easy to travel upon...**

This was brought home to Peter at the transfiguration of Jesus as recorded in Luke 9

NLT Luke 9:28 About eight days later Jesus took Peter, John, and James up on a mountain to pray. ²⁹ And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly, two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared and began talking with Jesus. ³¹ They were glorious to see. And they were speaking about his exodus from this world, which was about to be fulfilled in Jerusalem.

- **Moses died 1500 years or so before Jesus was born...Elijah taken to heaven 800 years before Jesus was born**
- **Yet both appeared and were recognizable by the three apostles with Jesus ...and they spoke with Jesus about his upcoming trial and death.**

In chapter 12 of Revelation...we see this panoramic view of earthly and heavenly events John watches a narrative played out in signs...

- Verse one reveals the first of seven signs that John relates, and is described as a great sign (*mega semeion*).
- This great sign introduces the first of seven which we will be revealed in the next three chapters
- some dealing with the past and some the future... what will be taking place just prior to the Lords return and events ... the first two signs takes him back in history...lets jump in..

ESV Rev 12:1 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ² She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.

The first sign one is a woman, described in cosmic images... clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

- Scripturally, this woman clothed with the sun should be identified with Israel, according to Joseph's dream. Jacob his father and his 11 brothers the future tribes of Isareal...
- 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.

ESV Gen 37: 9 Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to

me.”¹⁰ But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?”

- In other Old Testament passages, Israel (or Zion or Jerusalem) is often represented as a woman

NLT Isa 54: “Sing, O childless woman, you who have never given birth! Break into loud and joyful song, O Jerusalem, you who have never been in labor. For the desolate woman now has more children than the woman who lives with her husband,” says the Lord., ([Jeremiah 3:20](#), [Ezekiel 16:8-14](#), and [Hosea 2:19-20](#)).

- **She is pregnant, cries out in labor and in pain to give birth... while birthing her child...**

******The second sign is revealed... A fearful, powerful dragon appears.**

ESV Rev 12: ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴ His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. . ⁵ She gave birth to a male child

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

- **This dragon had great power (seven heads and ten horns) and claimed royal authority Seven diadems (crowns) on his seven heads.**
- **The crowns represent his presumptive claims of royal authority against the true King. *He* wants to be considered a king.**
- **“From the similar description given in 13:1 and we will dive into much more there**

The dragon looks to the earth. this describes one-third of the angelic host gone bad are in league with Satan and make up the world of demonic spirits to devour her Child as soon as it was born. Revelation 12:9)

- **they are the unchanging enemies of God and His Kingdom.”**
- **Their intent To devour her Child as soon as he was born:**
The attempt to devour her Child was initially fulfilled by Herod’s attempts to kill Jesus as a child, It was also fulfilled throughout Jesus’ life as Satan attacked Him..

The dragon wants to devour The child at birth...picturing Herod.. *ESV Rev 12:5 She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne,*

- **This means that the *woman* cannot be the church, because Jesus “gives birth” to the church, not the other way around.**
- **Gave birth to a male child... Jesus’ ministry is described by its earthly beginning and end ...caught up to heaven or Jesus ascension...**
- **And that’s where he is for the time being....**

This was a Huge mistake by the enemy...thought he was thwarting God's plan...but actually was fulfilling God's plan...

***NLT 1 Cor 2:** ⁷ No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God^{cl}—his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began. ⁸ But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord. ⁹ That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”¹⁰ But^{el} it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets.*

- **They cannot figure it out...for they must have the Spirit of God to shown the things of God even when we cant we can trust the word of God...which the enemy has neither**

But he is destined to rule the rebel nations with an iron rod...

As John then sees when christ comes back, the Messiah in his millennial reign **...A male Child who will rule all nations with a rod of iron:** future tense... as described in psalm 2 and as we will see in Rev 19

***NLT Psalm 2:** ¹ Why are the nations so angry? Why do they waste their time with futile plans? ² The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the LORD and against his anointed one. ³ “Let us break their chains,” they cry, “and free ourselves from slavery to God.”⁴ But the one who rules in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them. ⁵ Then in anger he rebukes them, terrifying them with his fierce fury. ⁶ For the Lord declares, “I have placed my chosen king on the throne in Jerusalem, on my*

holy mountain.”⁷ The king proclaims the LORD’s decree: “The LORD said to me, ‘You are my son. Today I have become your Father.’⁸ Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, the whole earth as your possession.⁹ You will break^l them with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots.’”

Revelation 12:5 describes the ascension of Jesus and millennial after his return

Then John directs the attention back to the Mother

Rev 12:6 and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a **place prepared** by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

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.

- 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).
- **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.
- **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**
- This helps us to understand with certainty that the *woman* is Israel

- **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.**
- **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.

ESV Rev 12:7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

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

The Bible describes four different falls of Satan. Revelation 12:9 describes the second of these four falls.

· **First from anointed guardian cherub to utterly corrupted**
(Ezekiel 28:14-16).

· **Second having access to heaven** (Job 1:12, 1 Kings
22:21, Zechariah 3:1)

ESV Zech 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan^[a] standing at his right hand to accuse him. *And eph 6*

to restriction to the earth (Revelation 12:9).

Third from the earth to bondage in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Revelation 20).

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

ESV REV 12: 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, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. 11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. 12 Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them!.....

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.

They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb:

The **blood** overcomes Satan's *accusations*

- **The blood speaks to us of the real, physical death of Jesus Christ in our place, on our behalf, before God. **the Lamb** emphasizes the *substitutionary work* of His death, because the Passover **Lamb** died as a *substitute* for others.**

1. *That literal death in our place, and the literal judgment He bore on our behalf, is what saves us.*

2. *We may be even worse than Satan's accusations, but we are still made righteous by the work of Jesus on the cross*

NLT Eph 1:7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

NLT Col 1:13 For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, 14 who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

- **the blood of the Lamb** assures us that every fear Satan whispers into our mind is a lie.

They overcame him... by the word of their testimony:

The word of their testimony overcomes Satan's *deception*.

Testimony of the work of God *in their life* protects them against Satan's deceptions. As faithful witnesses, they have a testimony to bear—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:** If one does not cling to their own earthly lives as the most important thing..., 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?
- 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](#))

NLT Mark 8: 34 Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. 35 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.