

The REVELATION of JESUS CHRIST

Chapter 12

“WAR!”

- OBSERVE FOUR BATTLES:

> Battle #1 - SATAN VS. THE WOMAN WITH CHILD! (v1-6)

(v1-2) The great sign: A woman clothed with the sun with moon under, a garland of twelve stars – Symbolism from the past - Genesis 37:9-11 - *Then he 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." 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?" And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.* This Joseph's dream regarding the Hebrews future in Egypt. The "sun" represents Jacob (that is Israel), the "moon" represents Rachael, and the "eleven stars" Joseph's brothers (which is the twelve tribes of Israel). The "woman" in Revelation 12:1 is representative of Israel and the child born is the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. **Jeremiah declared in Jeremiah 4:31** - *"For I have heard a voice as of a woman in labor, the anguish as of her who brings forth her first child, the voice of the daughter of Zion bewailing herself; she spreads her hands, saying, 'Woe is me now, for my soul is weary because of murderers!'"*

(v3-4) Another sign is: the red dragon—seven heads—ten horns—drew a third of the stars of heaven to the earth, poised and ready to devour the woman's Child: (1) **Red dragon** (Satan); (2) **Seven** (rep. -complete) **heads** (authority) – world dominion; (3) **Ten horns** (power) – rulers (ten federations) (ref. Daniel 7:7); (4) **Seven diadems** (crowns) – reigning world empires – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greece, Rome, and Antichrist's future empire (Rev. 17:9-10); (5) **A third of the stars of heaven** – These stars in heaven are reference to angels who followed Satan in a rebellion against God (ref. Is. 14:12; Ezekiel 28:11; Rev. 12:7, 9; 9:1; Job 38:70).

(v5) The male Child is born and is supposedly devoured at the cross, but He rises from the grave and is now at the right hand of God. (Rom 8:34-36 - *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*) This male Child will come again and rule the nations with a rod of iron (Psalm 2); this is at the second coming of Christ.

(v6) The woman (Israel) flees into the wilderness for protection by God in the midst of “The Great Tribulation” period; she stays there for 1260 days (three and a half years). (Matthew 24:15-22 - *"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.)* God will protect Israel from Satan by hiding her in the wilderness, most Bible scholars believe this area of protection will be in the region of Moab, Ammon, and Edom (Daniel 11:41), very likely the rock city of Petra.

> Battle #2 – SATAN'S ARMY VS. MICHAEL'S ARMY! (v7-9)

(v7-9) War in heaven! – Michael and the good angels vs. Satan the evil angels.

> Let's observe Satan's profile, he's known as: the Great Dragon (he's powerful); the Serpent (cunning); the Devil (slanderer, accuser); Satan (adversary); the Deceiver (counterfeit, to lead astray). C.I. Scofield writes, "Satan is to be dreaded as a lion, more to be

dreaded as a serpent, and most to be dreaded as an angel.” (ref. - **2 Cor 4:3-6** - *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.* **Eph 2:1-3** - *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 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, 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.* **1 Tim 4:1-3** - *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,*
> Reference to war in heaven is prophesied in Daniel 12:1 - *"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, every one who is found written in the book.*

> Battle #3 - SATAN VS. THE OVERCOMERS! (v10-12)

(v10-12) Satan is “cast down” and is “full of great wrath” – Here we find the keys to overcoming the devil: (1) by the BLOOD of the lamb (Rev 1:5-6 - *To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father — to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.*); (2) by the word of their TESTIMONY (1 Tim 2:3-7 - *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle — I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying — a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.*); (3) these believers did not LOVE their lives to the point of death. (Matthew 16:24-27 - *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.*)

> Battle #4 - SATAN VS. OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST! (v13-17)

(v13-14) The woman is carried away by eagles wings – This kind of protection also took place in Israel’s past according to **Exodus 19:3-6** - *And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."*

(v15-16) Satan’s flood is a great army sent to kill the Jewish people, but God opens the earth via an earthquake and consumes this army.

(v17) Satan makes war against the tribulation saints, notice these tribulation saints keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ! (Persecution and Christians today - **Matthew 5:10-12** - *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Also in Romans we are told - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:35-39)*