

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Revelation Chapter 12

Bible Study Notes on The Woman and the Male-Child and the Dragon

Revelation Chapter 12

What is the nature of Chapter 12?

- Chapter 12 is a parenthetical chapter – a break from the narrative of the tribulation
 - It is an overview- not just of the tribulation period, but it is a summary of Israel's role and destiny throughout all of history
- Following the seventh trumpet as recorded in chapter 11 verses 15 to 19 there then follow 3 largely parenthetical chapters
 - Chapter 12 The Woman and the Male-Child and the Dragon
 - Chapter 13 The Two Beasts
 - Chapter 14: 1-5 The Sealed Servants with The Lamb on Mount Zion
 - Chapter 14: 6-20 The Angel's Proclamations and Two Reaping.
- Chapter 12 is key to understanding not just the book of Revelation and the end times but also the whole purposes of God throughout history and the place of Israel in those purposes
 - One of the great tragedies of the Christian church today is that many churches have no understanding of the role of Israel in God's plan – Israelology* ...the missing element of systematic theology – yet it constitutes over 80% of the entire Bible
 - * see Arnold Fruchtenbaum's book '*Israelology: The Missing Link In Systematic Theology*'
 - Without an understanding of Israel's role in God's plans and purposes, both historically and in the end times, it is impossible to properly understand the Bible

Ch 12 Vs 1-6

Signs in Heaven - The Woman and the Male-Child and the Dragon

John sees 'signs' - what does that mean?

Verses 1 and 3

- Signs ('wonders' in KJV) are a symbolic representation of a real thing – person or event
- The sign of a woman and her child represent real people(s) – and the sign of a dragon who draws a third of the stars to the earth is a representation of a real character and an event
- These signs (vs. 1 and 3) are the first two of seven signs mentioned in the last half of Revelation: *Revelation 12: 1 and 3; 13: 13 and 14; 15: 1; 16: 14; 19: 20*
- Yeshua used signs when He spoke in parables – and through the parables was revealed understanding, depth and meaning of spiritual realities

What is the Identity of the Woman?

Verse 1

- Many commentators say that the ‘woman’ is the ‘church’ – but if so, she is in big trouble...because she is pregnant – which is contrary to scripture’s depiction of the church as the virgin bride of Christ
- There are four women in the Book of Revelation
 - Jezebel *Revelation 2: 20*
 - The Woman (and her Male-Child) *Revelation Ch. 12*
 - The Harlot *Revelation Chs. 17 & 18*
 - The Bride *Revelation 19: 7 and 21: 2 and 9*
- The best way to interpret the Bible... is by the Bible itself
 - The sign of the woman can be understood from scripture: Joseph’s dreams (*Genesis 37: 5-11*)
 - In this passage we see a depiction of the sun, moon and 12 stars (the sun and moon are Jacob and Rachel; and the 12 stars - eleven brothers and Joseph)
 - Jacob rebukes Joseph (*v.10*) but implicit in his rebuttal is his understanding of the dream, namely that:
 - Jacob & Rachel are the sun & moon
 - Jacob was renamed Israel by God (*Genesis 32: 22-32*)
 - The 12 stars are his sons (the tribes of Israel)
 - The Hebrew equivalent of what we call the Zodiac is the Mazzaroth
 - The twelve constellations relate to the twelve tribes of Israel ...and tell the story of God’s redemptive purposes

See Supplementary Note 47: ‘The Mazzaroth – God’s Design in the Heavens’

- Nonetheless, though Joseph’s brothers envied him, his father ‘observed the saying’ (took notice of it)
 - The woman is Israel in the sense that she began in *Genesis 3: 15* – here the Messianic line and confrontation with evil begin
- Israel is described all throughout the Old Testament as a woman in travail – see *Isaiah 26: 17-18, 54: 1 & 6, 66: 7-12; Hosea 13: 13; Micah 4: 10, 5: 2-3*
- The woman is thus not a person but a represents a people group – Israel
- The woman in Revelation 12 gives birth to a child

What is the Identity of the Woman’s Child?

Verse 2

- Who this child is the unfolding of Revelation 12 reveals
 - The child is male (*verse 13*)
 - The child is the Messiah – one of Yeshua’s titles is ‘the seed’ or ‘seed of the woman’ (see *Genesis 3: 15, 22: 18; Jeremiah 31: 36; Galatians 3: 16*)
 - The church does not give birth to the Messiah, but rather the Messiah is a son of David – which confirms that the woman is thus Israel (*Micah 4: 9, 5: 2*)
 - Here is the error of Replacement Theology laid bare
 - The dragon seeks to devour the child as soon as He is born (see *Matthew 2: 13*)

- ‘Unto us a child is born’ (*Isaiah 9: 6*) is in particular true of Israel – Isaiah is prophesying in a Jewish context - note also:
 - ‘a child is born’ Christ’s humanity
 - ‘a son is given’ Christ’s deity
 - The child will rule the nations with a rod of iron – and will be caught up to God and His throne – see section below on verse 5

What is Replacement Theology and Why is it such a Serious Misunderstanding? Verses 1- 2

- Replacement Theology
 - There is a widely held view that:
 - When Israel rejected the Messiah, she forfeited the promises God had made to her – and that these promise now devolve upon the Church, thus becoming ‘spiritual Israel’ (Replacement Theology)
 - All the Covenantal Promises are transferred to the Church
 - There are no Unfulfilled Prophecies for the Jewish People
 - The Church has replaced Israel in God’s purposes and standing
 - This viewpoint is widely taught in the churches – Roman Catholic and many of the major denominations which sprang out of the reformation including the Church of England, modern day Methodism, the Baptist church and many of the evangelical and charismatic churches today
 - It is a viewpoint taught in many theological colleges and seminaries
- The Danger of Replacement Theology
 - This view is dangerous, not only because it is biblically incorrect, but especially because it makes God a liar – it impugns the character of God
 - Throughout scripture God makes repeated promises to Israel and to hold this Replacement Theology view is to imply that they are not going to be fulfilled
 - Israel appears 75 times in the New Testament (in 73 verses) - each time it refers to national Israel (including *Galatians 6: 16*)
 - Major problem with the Replacement Theology view is that the promises to Israel which are involved were unconditional; for instance:
 - The Abrahamic Covenant: *Genesis 12: 1-3, 7; 13: 14-18; 15: 4-7; 18-21; 17: 1-8*
 - The New Covenant: *Jeremiah 31: 31-34*
 - Gentiles are grafted in: *Galatians 3: 29, 13-14; Luke 1: 68-79*
 - Davidic Covenant: *1 Chronicles 17: 11-15; Ezekiel 37: 24-28; Psalm 105; Isaiah 2: 1-4; 11: 1-10; Numbers 24: 15-24*
 - Paul stresses that God is not finished with Israel; in *Romans chapters 9 – 11*
 - Daniel’s 70 Week Prophecy outlines the prophetic role of Israel in history (*Daniel 9: 24 – note ‘your people’*)
 - Israel before the birth of Jesus (*Daniel 9: 25*)
 - Interval between the 60th and 70th week - the period of the Church on the earth (*Daniel 9: 26*)
 - Israel in the end times (*Daniel 9: 27*)
 - Jesus has yet to fulfil the promise given to Mary to take David’s throne – it is a millennial event (*Luke 1: 21*)
 - Replacement Theology necessarily involves abandoning literal interpretation of scripture in favour of allegorical interpretation – in a way not justified by the text – in order to determine that the Church has replaced Israel

- Replacement Theology sees no place for the modern Jewish State of Israel
- Replacement Theology is a root of anti-Semitism both within the church and in society
- How did we get from Augustine to Auschwitz to Armageddon?
 - Origen's allegorical interpretations (wrong hermeneutics)
 - Augustine's Amillennial eschatology (wrong view of the Church and of Israel) ...born of a desire to separate from Christianity's Jewish roots
 - The Medieval church's quest for power...Roman Catholicism's desire for earthly dominance
 - Reformation's failure to address eschatological issues – the reformation did not go far enough ...it did not reconnect with its Jewish roots
 - Hence...the silent pulpits during The Holocaust (note: the Nazis link to Martin Luther's anti-Semitic writings)
 - The Apostate Church will go through The Great Tribulation – a end-time holocaust but with a revived church triumphant – the Tribulation Saints, though they suffer, they are victorious and glorified (see *Revelation 15: 2-4*)

Who is the Great, Fiery Red Dragon?

Verses 3-4

- Another sign or wonder, in heaven
- The identity of the great red dragon is declared in *verse 9*, he is:
 - That serpent of old – a reference to *Genesis 3*
 - Called the Devil (Greek: *diabolos*) – a word from a Greek root meaning slanderer or false accuser
 - Called Satan (Greek: *Satanas*) – a word from a Hebrew root meaning adversary
 - His primary mode of operation is through deception – he is the deceiver of the whole world
 - Some are deceived that he does not exist
 - Some are deceived that he does exist and is to be feared
 - Some are deceived that he resides in and rules over hell – this is untrue; hell is where he will be imprisoned
 - Scripture has two places for the unrighteous dead:
 - Hades (Greek: *hadēs*) – called, in the OT, Sheol (Hebrew: *she'ól*) both are often called 'hell'...translated as that in the KJV – this is a temporary place of imprisonment until the final judgement
 - ❖ Note that some commentators see Hades and Sheol as places for both righteous and unrighteous
 - The Lake of Fire – a place of eternal punishment and torment... both Death and Hades are cast into the Lake of Fire – it is a place identified as the 'second death' (*Revelation 20: 13-15*)

What are we told about the Dragon and his activities?

Verses 3-4

- Description: He is described as having seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads
 - These are descriptors which link back to Daniel 7 and the fourth beast
 - The Fourth Beast – which is Rome

- Hezekiah attacked *Isaiah 36, 38*
- Blood curse on Jeconiah *Jeremiah 22: 30*
- Haman's Plot *Esther 3*
- Joseph's fears *Matthew 1: 18-25*
- Herod's pogrom *Matthew 2: 3-16*
- Unable to prevent the virgin birth of Christ, Satan tried to kill the child in a general massacre of male children commanded by Herod
 - At Yeshua's birth Herod attempts to kill the new born baby 'King of the Jews' – *Revelation 12: 4* reveals that this was a satanic initiative
 - Satan attacks Yeshua's life
 - The Jews at Nazareth *Luke 4: 28-30*
 - Two Storms at Sea *Mark 4: 35-41 ; Luke 8: 22-25*
 - The Cross
- Revelation 12 is a summary of Satan's strategy
 - He is not yet finished *Revelation 13*
 - Nor finished in our lives *Ephesians 6: 10-18*
- Satan now seeks to thwart the second coming of Jesus Christ, Satan is attacking the Jewish people
 - Prerequisite to the second coming of Jesus Christ
 - Until they acknowledge their offense *Hosea 5: 15*
 - *Baruch ha'ba b'shem Adonai* *Matthew 23: 39*
 - Hence the persecution of the Jews throughout history – the Diaspora, numerous pogroms, the Holocaust and rampant anti-Semitism today
 - Hence the attacks on Israel, Jerusalem and Jewish people – seeking to destroy the nation and the Jewish people and take over the holy city

What are we told of the destiny of the Male-Child?

Verse 5

- The identity of the man-child is clear from the description in *verse 5*
 - He will rule the nations with a rod of iron (so not 'the church')
 - A messianic prophecy *Psalms 2: 8-9*
 - To be fulfilled on Yeshua's return *Revelation 19: 11-15*
- He was 'caught up' to God (Greek: *harpazō*) – meaning to be 'caught up'...here, speaking of Christ's ascension to the right hand of His Father in heaven
 - The 'bride of Christ' (the church) will also be 'caught up' in the rapture – to God and to heaven – but in Revelation Ch.13 this is speaking of the Male-Child...the Son of God
 - Caught up to 'God' and 'His (God's) throne'
 - As John saw in *Revelation 5: 6*
 - As Stephen also saw in *Acts 7: 55-56*

What are we told of the Escape of the Woman?

Verse 6

- The woman escapes by fleeing to the wilderness – to a place prepared
 - God has prepared a place for believing Jewish people to flee in the tribulation – those who recognise that Yeshua's warning in *Matthew 24: 15-22* is true
 - In *Matthew 24* the Jews are told to flee to the mountains
 - In *Revelation 12* the woman flees to the wilderness
 - There is a place (of safety) prepared by God for the Jewish people

- Sadly, many Jewish people will be deceived by the coming world leader (the antichrist) and will not flee, and will either be killed by ‘the Beast from the Sea’ in the battle or go into captivity (*Zechariah 14: 2*)
- The woman (Israel) flees for 1,260 days...verse 6 is speaking of the second half of the tribulation
 - Note there is a time interval between verse 5 and verse 6 – this is an overview of God’s plan, not a contiguous narrative – verse 5 describes Yeshua’s first coming and speaks of his destiny (to rule the nations)
 - Similar to the time interval in the messianic prophecy in *Isaiah 61: 1-2* quoted by Yeshua in *Luke 4: 18-19* where He stops at a comma!
 - There are 24 such ‘intervals’ in the scriptures, which speak of the ‘interval’ of the church age (e.g. *Daniel 9: 26*)
 - Fleeing to the wilderness
 - Yeshua, in His prophetic words about the end-times, urges those in Judea to flee to the mountains when they see the ‘abomination of desolation’
 - This happens at the mid-point of the tribulation as recorded in ‘Daniel’s 70 Weeks’ (*Daniel 9: 27*) and spoken of by Yeshua (*Matthew 24: 15-22*)
 - Most likely He was speaking of mountains in present day Jordan – the mountains of Old Testament Ammon, Moab and Edom
 - To a place prepared by God
 - Many scholars identify this place as ‘Bozrah’, from *Micah 2: 12*, the name means ‘sheep-fold’
 - It is the area in which the ancient city of Petra is located
 - A place of refuge from Satan’s attacks – see *Isaiah 34: 6, 63: 1; Jeremiah 48: 24, 49: 13, 22; Micah 2: 12*
 - Petra is in the region of Edom – the areas of Ammon, Moab and Edom, east of Palestine will, interestingly, be specifically spared from the antichrist's attack against the Holy Land (see *Daniel 11: 41*)

See Supplementary Note 48: ‘Israel’s Place of Refuge’

- She will be fed for 1,260 days (3½ years)
 - This is during the second half of the tribulation
 - Who ‘they’ are...those who do the feeding... is not clear – possibly tribulation saints, or the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, or maybe angels
 - The Lord will return to save His people – and it seems this begins with Yeshua entering into battle with the forces of the coming world leader at Bozrah – see *Isaiah 34: 1-7, 63: 1-6; Micah 2: 12-13*

Ch 12 Vs 7-9

War in Heaven

Who are the Protagonists in the War?

Verse 7

- The Protagonists – there are two – Michael (and his angels) - and the Dragon (and his angels)
 - Michael & his angels v the dragon & his angels

- The tumultuous events on earth during the Tribulation find their counterpart in heaven
 - A state of war has existed since the fall of Satan
 - Satan can see...as God's Tribulation judgements occur...that his time is short – so this war is, it seems, a last desperate attempt to overthrow the Lord...foolish in the extreme!
- Michael – the only angel identified as an archangel in scripture (*Jude 1: 9*)
 - It is Michael, not Christ, who fights against Satan
 - Satan is not Christ's equal – Satan is a created being
 - Michael is 'one of the chief princes' (*Daniel 10: 13*)
 - Michael is Israel's prince, and Daniel's (*Daniel 10: 21*)
 - Michael is a Warrior for Israel – always pictured as a military commander (*Daniel 12: 1*)
 - He fights for the body of Moses (*Jude 1: 9*)
 - It is implied, therefore, that he fought in the 'Wars of the Lord' (*Numbers 21: 14; Zechariah 14: 3*)
 - He is most probably 'voice' at the rapture of the church (*1 Thessalonians 4: 16*)
- Satan and his angels
 - Satan's tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the ground (*verse 4*)
 - It is from *verse 4* we understand that one third of the angels of heaven rebelled with Satan...and will be cast out with Satan (*verse 9*)

Who Wins – and what Happens to the Losers? Verses 8 – 9

- Satan and his angels are defeated
 - Satan (a created being) has never been God's equal
 - It is a delusion with which Satan seeks to deceive man (*Genesis 3: 5*)
- No place is found for Satan, and his angels, in heaven any longer
 - Satan has, up to this point, been the 'accuser of the brethren' before the throne of God (*Revelation 12: 10*)
 - Satan and his demons were cast out of heaven at the time of their original rebellion, but still had access to it (see *Job 1: 6, 2: 1*) – but that access will then be denied, and they will be forever barred from heaven
- Satan and his angels are 'cast to the earth'
 - No more access to heaven
 - The domain of Satan and his angels has not been heaven (the third heaven – the place of God's throne (see *1 Corinthians 12: 2*))
 - Satan's domain has been the second heaven (a spiritual realm) and the first heaven (the physical heavens in with the earth is located)
 - But now...Satan is restricted to the earth – where he been a ruler ('prince') since the fall (see *Luke 4: 5-6; John 14: 30; Ephesians 2: 2*)
 - Satan, now restricted to the earth, will wreak havoc as never before!
 - This is the reason that the 'woman' fled (*verse 6*)

- This would seem to occur at the mid-point of the 7 year tribulation period, hence the last 3½ years are named by Yeshua as the ‘Great Tribulation’

What do we know about Satan from Scripture?

- Satan: The Red Dragon
 - Origin & Rebellion (*Ezekiel 28: 2-19; Isaiah 14: 12-20*)
 - Ancient – the serpent of old – there in the Garden (*Genesis 3*)
 - It seems that Satan regards Adam & Eve as his rivals, for they were to inherit what Satan lost
 - A star fallen from heaven (*Revelation 9: 1*) – angels often pictured as stars
 - Deceives the whole world (*Revelation 12: 9*)
 - Blinds men to the gospel (*2 Corinthians 4: 3-4*)
 - Liar from the beginning (*Genesis 3: 4-5; John 8: 44*)
 - Enmity with Man (*Genesis 3: 14-15*)
 - Seven heads and ten horns (*Revelation 13: 1, 17: 3; Daniel 7*)
 - Bound for 1,000 years – during the Millennium (*Revelation 20: 1-3*)
 - Cast into the Lake of Fire after the Millennium (*Revelation 20: 7-10*)

Ch 12 Vs 10-12 The Proclamation from Heaven

What does John then hear – and what is its Significance? Verse 10

- The Proclamation from Heaven
 - John hears a loud voice (Greek: *megas phōnē* ... again!) in heaven
 - There are loud voices proclaiming at the seventh trumpet ... similarities in these joyful proclamations (*Revelation 11: 15*)
 - Whose voice this is we are not told – probably an angel
- Heaven rejoices because Satan has been cast out – a cry of triumph
 - The accuser of our brethren has been cast down
 - Note – ‘our’... it is the raptured church – speaking of their ‘brethren’ ...the tribulation saints (Jewish and Gentile)
 - No longer will the dragon (Satan) have access to heaven to accuse the saints before God’s throne
- Heaven is Proclaiming
 - Salvation - completion of Yeshua’s work – is still ongoing even in the dark days of the ‘Great Tribulation’ – as huge numbers of tribulation saints are saved (see *verse 11*)
 - Strength – the revelation of God’s power in the judgements
 - The Kingdom of God – His rule is in the process of being established
 - The Power of His Christ – the power of Yeshua, the ‘anointed one’ – His victory over sin and death, and His kingly rule

Who are the Overcomers?

Verse 11

- Overcomers – speaking of the tribulation saints
 - Note – this is true also of saints today

- Overcame Who?...Satan and his hosts
- Overcame how?
 - By the Blood of the Lamb *Hebrews 9: 12*
 - By Word of Their Testimony *Isaiah 59: 17; Matthew. 4: 4, 10;*
Romans 10: 9; Ephesians 6: 10-18
 - Loved Not Their Lives *Matthew 16: 24-27; Acts 20: 24;*
Romans 6: 11-13; 2 Timothy 1: 12
 - Example of Moses *Exodus 32: 31-33*
 - Example of the Two Witnesses *Revelation 11: 1-10*
 - ‘Unto Death’ – their names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life
Exodus 32: 32; Daniel 12: 1; Luke 10: 20; Revelation 3: 5

What is the Reaction of Heaven...and On Earth?

Verse 12

- Heaven Rejoices
 - Rejoicing for those whose home is heaven
 - Note – this includes those tribulation saints still on the earth – for their home is in heaven
Philippians 3: 20
- But ...Woe to the Earth
 - Woe to Earth Dwellers – for Satan is cast to the earth
 - And Woe those who inhabit the Sea!
 - This is recorded in between the First Two ‘Woes’ (the fifth and sixth trumpet) which occur in the second half of the tribulation ... and the Third ‘Woe’ (the seventh trumpet) at the end of the tribulation period
See Study Notes on the Seven Trumpets
- The time of ‘Great Tribulation’ (Matthew 24: 15-22) in the second half of the 7 year Tribulation period
 - Satan’s great wrath – he knows that his time is now very short
 - Satan knows the scriptures – so he knows that after the rapture Yeshua will soon come in judgement...and he will be bound for 1000 years (*Revelation 20: 1-3*), prior to his eternal destruction (*Revelation 20: 10*)
 - The rapture of the church is the trigger for all this...its timing is unknown...a nasty surprise for Satan!
 - The rise of the Coming World Leader, and his confirmation of a covenant, will signal the beginning of the tribulation (Daniel’s 70th week) – see *Daniel 9: 27*
 - Israel’s national salvation will follow *Romans 11: 25*
 - So Satan seeks to attack the ‘woman’ (*verses 13-17*) – because he knows the Lord is coming to rescue and to save God’s chosen people
 - When the ‘woman’ flees and is sheltered by the Lord, Satan goes after the saints of the tribulation period (*verse 17 and Revelation 13: 7*)
- Timing – it seems clear that Satan is cast to the earth at the mid-point of the tribulation
 - What follows is the 3½ years of the ‘great tribulation’
 - It is an intensification of what is happening now

- Satan is certainly attacking Israel today because he wants to prevent her calling on her Messiah – a trigger for Yeshua’s second coming (see *Matthew 23: 39*)
- The increasing apostasy in the church and the increasing lawlessness on the earth – these are ‘the beginning of sorrows’ (*Matthew 24: 4-8*)

Ch 12 Vs 13-17 Persecution of the Woman (Israel)

What is the reaction of Satan on being ‘Cast to the Earth?’

Verse 13

- Satan, now cast to the earth, focuses his ‘great wrath’ on the woman (Israel) who bore the man-child (Yeshua)...why?
 - Yeshua is now in Heaven – resurrected and glorified
 - The church is now in heaven (with the exception of the tribulation saints)
 - But Israel – God’s chosen people are still on the earth
- Satan’s Objectives
 - To prevent Israel calling on her Messiah – in order to...
 - Prevent the return of Yeshua – for when He comes ... He comes as Judge (of all unrighteousness...including Satan himself) and as King to rule and reign on the earth for 1,000 years)
- The Time of Jacob’s Trouble (*Jeremiah 30: 4-7*)
 - Some scholars see this period as the time of Jacob’s trouble
 - This may be that period – but it may be a period greater than that

See Supplementary Note 49: ‘The Time of Jacob’s Trouble’

How is the Woman rescued from the dragon’s persecution?

Verse 14

- Israel’s Respite – associated with:
 - Eagles
 - Eagle’s wings from Egypt *Exodus 19: 4*
 - In the Wilderness *Deuteronomy 32: 11-12*
 - Return from Babylon *Isaiah 40: 31*
 - Note often the Lord in judgement is pictured as an eagle – *Hosea 8: 1*
 - Wilderness see *Matthew 24: 16*
 - Edom, Moab and Ammon escape the anti-Christ
Daniel 11: 41; Isaiah 11: 12-14; Ezekiel 20: 35-38
 - Bozrah (*sheep-fold*) is in Edom – around Petra (*Isaiah 63: 1*)
 - Door of Hope *Hosea 2: 14-15; Exodus 15*
 - A Place of Restoration *1 Kings 19*
- Nourished for a time, times and half a time (3½ years)
 - Three and a half years, or 1,260 days – the time of the 2nd half of the tribulation period (the ‘time of ‘great tribulation’)
 - From the presence of the dragon – safe from his attempts to persecute her
 - Israel finds sanctuary in Bozrah, in Moab which – by the Lord’s divine hand – neither the dragon, nor the Coming World Leader, can get entry to – see *Daniel 11: 41*

- It is a place prepared by the Lord for ‘the woman’ – *verse 6*

What was the dragon’s next ploy – and what does it signify?

Verses 15 – 16

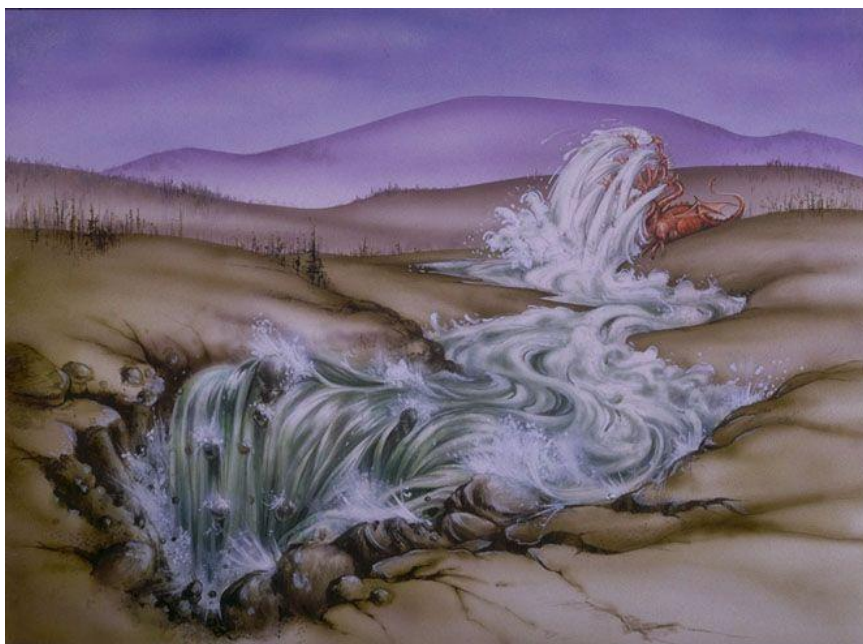
- The flood from the serpents mouth
 - Flood (Greek: *hydor hos potamos*) meaning ‘water as a river’
 - To cause Israel to be swept away
 - Some think this is possibly the Diaspora
 - Some think it is an event in the end-times – which fits the context
 - A flood is a torrent that is impossible to resist – so it could be, under the auspices of the Coming World Leader and the False Apostle, persecution through laws, through restrictions on freedom, through financial oppression, through encouraging antisemitism, or through military action – attacks from every quarter – a tidal wave of oppression and persecution
 - Military actions are often describe as a flood – see *Jeremiah 46: 7-9, 47: 2-3*
 - The aim is to carry the woman away with the flood
- The earth helps the woman – swallows the flood
 - As in the Exodus – crossing the Red Sea (see *Exodus 14: 26-29*)
 - As in the days of Korah (see *Numbers 16: 28-33*)
 - In the end time battle (Armageddon) the Lord defeats the nations (see *Revelation 19: 11-15*) but here it is specific... it is the earth itself helps the woman (Israel)
 - It may be some cataclysmic earth event – since the verse speaks of the earth ‘opened its mouth and swallowed the flood’, it may be an earthquake causing a great rift in the earth’s surface
 - Earthquakes are recorded on several occasions in Revelation – see *Revelation 6: 12, 8: 5; 11: 13, 11: 19; 16: 18*
 - The Lord prophesied of end-time earthquakes – *Matthew 24: 7*

What does the frustrated dragon then do?

Verse 17

- The dragon – filled with wrath at his inability to destroy the woman (Israel), then makes war with ‘the remnant of her seed’ (KJV) – that is, the tribulation saints
 - The Conflict between Two Seeds (*Genesis 3: 15*) – throughout history
 - The Seed of the Woman – specifically meaning Yeshua, but in general terms referring to the Jewish people – or in spiritual terms to believers in Yeshua (Jew and Gentile)
 - The Seed of the Serpent (Satanic trinity):
 - The Red Dragon – Satan) forces
 - The Coming World Leader) behind
 - The False Prophet) world powers
- The remnant of her offspring (the woman’s offspring)
 - The Principal offspring of the woman is the male-child, Yeshua
 - The ‘remnant’ are Jewish and Gentile Tribulation Saints
 - Gentile Believers are grafted in to the Olive Tree of Israel (*Romans 11: 16-18*)
 - The Christian faith is not Hellenistic... it is Jewish
 - The New Covenant is Jewish (see *Jeremiah 31: 31-34*)

- Characteristics of the Remnant
 - Keep the commandments of God
 - Have the testimony of Jesus Christ
 - The revealed truth from God and Christ contained in Scripture
 - Obedience to God's Word always marks a genuine believer
 - Witness to non believers is the calling of all disciples (*Acts 1 8*)
 - Identity of the Remnant
 - They are Tribulation Saints
 - Gentiles who come to faith in the tribulation
 - Possibly also Jewish believers – although they may have escaped to the place prepared in the wilderness
 - In desperation it seems at being unable to attack the woman (Israel), Satan goes after every trace of true faith in Jesus Christ / Yeshua HaMashiach
- Amir Tsarfati comments *“When we look at the sorrow and grief the devil causes today while he still has access to heaven, imagine what it will be like when he is locked out and knows that his days are numbered. His fury will know no limits.”*
- Hence the intensity of demonic activity at the fifth and sixth trumpets (the first two woes – and in the bowl judgements



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. Revelation 12: 16