

REVELATION 12

SATAN PERSECUTES ISRAEL

OUTLINE OF CHAPTER

SNAPSHOT #1: THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WOMAN (1-2)

SNAPSHOT #2: THE DRAGON ATTEMPTS TO KILL THE CHILD AT HIS BIRTH (3-4)

SNAPSHOT # 3: THE CHILD (5)

SNAPSHOT #4: THE WAR IN HEAVEN (7-8)

SNAPSHOT #5: SATAN CAST DOWN TO EARTH (9-12)

SNAPSHOT #6: THE CAST DOWN DRAGON PERSECUTES THE WOMAN (6, 13-17)

In this chapter John does not appear to be going in chronological order. It seems like he is taking snapshots of these characters and events and placing them on a board without any particular rhythm or reason.

SNAPSHOT #1: THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WOMAN (1-2)

“Clothed with the sun.”

This is Israel who reflects the glory of her position due to the fact that she is God’s chosen people.

“Moon under her feet.”

A further explanation of Israel’s prestigious status.

“A crown of twelve stars upon her head.”

This is a reference to the twelve tribes of Israel.

“Being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.”

The nation of Israel gave birth to the Christ-child. She went through much pain due to the persecution by Satan.

SNAPSHOT #2: THE DRAGON ATTEMPTS TO KILL THE CHILD AT HIS BIRTH (3-4)

“Seven heads and seven crowns upon his heads.” Crowns upon the head represent rulership while the number seven stands for completeness. This most likely means at some point Satan will have complete power over the earth. The power will not supersede God’s power.

“Ten horns.” Horns represent power—this is possible an allusion to the ten nation confederation ruled by the Antichrist.

“And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven and did cast them to the earth.” John gives us a brief history lesson on the fall Satan and its consequences. When he was ousted from Heaven he took one-third of the angelic beings with him. Even though he was cast out of Heaven, it seems like he still has some access to God (see Job 1, 2 and Rev. 12:10).

“The dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.” When Christ was born, Satan was there waiting to destroy him. This is a reference to Herod killing all the children under two years old in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:16-18) in an attempt to take away the threat to his throne—the Messiah, King Jesus.

SNAPSHOT #3: THE CHILD (5)

In this verse John gives a prophecy concerning the Messiah. Jesus Christ is the man child that was brought forth from the woman to rule the nations. Many believe the fact that it says he “was caught up unto God, and to his throne” refers to Christ’s resurrection and ascension.

SNAPSHOT #4: THE WAR IN HEAVEN (7-8)

A great battle is listed between Michael and his angels the dragon and his angels. At the end of it, Michael and his angels stand victoriously.

SNAPSHOT #5: SATAN CAST DOWN TO EARTH (9-12)

The fall of Satan described in verse four is probably a reference to his initial fall from Heaven (Isa. 12; Ezek. 28). Since Satan still has some access into the presence of God, the fall spoken of in these verses probably refers to his final banishment from entering into God’s domain.

Satan Is Identified by Six Names in these Verses:

- Dragon “Ability to terrify.”
- Old Serpent “The one who deceived Eve.”
- Devil “Slanderer.”
- Satan “Adversary.”
- Deceiver “One who can trick others into doing wickedness.”
- Accuser of the Brethren “One who points a finger at the righteous when they fall.”

The Formula for Overcoming Satan

- **The Blood of the Lamb**
When the accuser comes before God to hurl accusations against them, there is no charge laid against them because they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb.
- **The Word of the Testimony**
The testimony of these individuals is that they were committed to Christ. In the midst of persecution by Satan, they did not waver but remained faithful to their testimony.
- **Not Loving Life**
When Satan persecuted these individuals he thought that he defeated them. However, they overcame him, even though some of them died, because they loved not their life even to the point of death.

The Reason for Rejoicing and Woe.

The reason for rejoicing is the same reason for woe—the fall of Satan. He no longer has access to Heaven—that is reason for rejoicing; now he is on the earth wreaking all kinds of havoc because he knows his time is short.

In these verses we see a battle against “a man child who was to rule all nations” (5). John begins by saying there appeared a great wonder in heaven. He then goes on to describe the main characters in this chapter.

SNAPSHOT #6: THE CAST DOWN DRAGON PERSECUTES THE WOMAN (13-17)

The Dragon Persecutes the Woman (13)

The devil, realizing he has been cast down to this earth, begins to unleash his wrath upon Israel. He will do this by working through one of his agents—the Antichrist.

The Woman Fleeing into the Wilderness (14)

At the beginning of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will make a peace covenant with Israel, allowing them to worship freely in the land. Half way through the Tribulation, he will break this agreement and begin to persecute them (Dan. 9:24-27). When this persecution begins, the Jewish people will flee into the wilderness. They were given to eagle’s wings—this represented swiftness and protection (wings stand for protection throughout the Bible). God will nourish them in the wilderness for a time (one year), a times (two years) and half a time (half of a year).

The Dragon Continues to try to Destroy the Woman (15)

The serpent (Antichrist) will cast water out of his mouth to destroy the Jews hiding in the wilderness. This most likely refers to the flood of invading armies that he will stir up to go after them.

God Uses the Earth to Thwart the Dragon's Attempt to Destroy the Woman (16)

God will miraculously use the earth to destroy these armies. The earth will open up its jaws and swallow up the enemy.

The Dragon Makes War with the Seed Who Obey God (17)

Frustrated and angry the Antichrist will unleash his wrath against all those who name the name of Jesus Christ.