

The Book Of Revelation Study 59

Revelation 12:1-6 (NKJV)

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.*

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.*

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.*

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.*

⁶ *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.*

As we have looked at this portion of Scripture, we have already discussed the Woman as Israel, and the Dragon as Lucifer, the Serpent, and now we want to look at the child spoken of here.

THE MALE CHILD

Revelation 12:5-6 (NKJV)

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.*

⁶ *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.*

In spite of all of Satan's relentless efforts to prevent it, the woman (Israel) **gave birth to a son**. The incarnation of the **male child**, the Lord Jesus Christ" Listen to Paul here as he introduces himself to the Roman church.

Romans 1:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ *Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God*

² *which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,*

³ *concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,*

And again;

Romans 9:5 (NKJV)

⁵ *of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.*

A son who was the fulfillment of prophecy

Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)

⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Micah 5:2 (NKJV)

² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

Israel brought forth the Messiah.

The bible emphasizes that Jesus was of Jewish Lineage.

He was the son of Abraham (Matt 1:1), a member of the tribe of Judah (Gen 49:10; Mic 5:2; Rev 5:5) and a descendant of David:

Satan could not stop the birth of this Son of God and he cannot stop His Coronation;

He will **rule all the nations with a rod of iron** during his earthly millennial kingdom

Psalms 2:7-9 (NKJV)

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.' "

These verses indicate that this rule is a shattering work of judgment.

In fact the verb *piomaino* (**rule**) carries the connotation of "destroy," as it does in chapter 2:27

Revelation 2:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'-- as I also have received from My Father;

The Messiah will come and destroy **all the nations**;

Revelation 19:11-12 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

And in His Kingdom have dominion over the nations that enter to populate that kingdom.
An iron rod is also one that cannot be broken.

Just as Satan's past efforts to hinder Christ have failed, so also will his future efforts fail;

Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

The phrase **rod of iron** speaks of the resoluteness of Christ's rule: He will swiftly and immediately judge all sin and put down any rebellion.

Let's note that between Christ's incarnation and His coronation came His exaltation, when He **was caught up to God and to His throne** at His ascension.

Christ's exaltation signifies the Father's acceptance of His work of redemption;

Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV)

³ *who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

Satan could not stop Christ from accomplishing redemption and therefore being exalted to the right hand of the Father as a perfect Savior.

In his sermon on the Day of Pentecost, Peter declared,

Acts 2:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ *whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.*

But though he is a defeated foe, Satan will not give up. Unable to stop Christ's birth, ascension, or rule, Satan still assaults His people.

He has already instigated the genocidal massacre of Jews in Europe, as well as the death of countless thousands throughout history.

During the Tribulation, Satan will increase his efforts to destroy the Jewish people, so that the nation cannot be saved as the Bible promises;

Zechariah 12:10-14 (NKJV)

¹⁰ *"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.*

¹¹ *In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.*

¹² *And the land shall mourn, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves;*

¹³ *the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves;*

¹⁴ *all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.*

Zechariah 13:1 (NKJV)

¹ *"In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.*

Romans 11:25-27 (NKJV)

²⁵ *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.*

²⁶ *And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn*

away ungodliness from Jacob;

²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

Satan will seek to kill believing Jews so that there will be none left alive to enter the millennial kingdom.

As always, Israel will be his prime target.

In a brief glimpse of what will be described more fully in verses *13-17*, John noted that **the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days (v14)**

God will frustrate Satan's attempt to destroy Israel during the Tribulation by hiding His people, just as the Lord Jesus Christ predicted:

Matthew 24:15-21 (NKJV)

¹⁵ "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

¹⁷ Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.

¹⁸ And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

¹⁹ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

²⁰ And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

²¹ 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.

Antichrist's desecration of the temple will send the Jewish people fleeing **into the wilderness**.

The exact location where God will hide them is not revealed, but it is probably somewhere east of the Jordan River and south of the Dead Sea, in the territory formerly occupied by Moab, Ammon, and Edom;

Daniel 11:40-41 (NKJV)

⁴⁰ "At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through.

⁴¹ He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon.

Wherever their hiding place will be, they will be **nourished** and defended by God;

Revelation 12:14-16 (NKJV)

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.

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.

Just as their ancestors were during the forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

Israel's length of stay in hiding, **one thousand two hundred and sixty days** (three and ½ years). This corresponds to the last half of the Tribulation period that Jesus called the "**Great Tribulation**" in Matt 24:21.

Those Jews who remain behind in Jerusalem will come under the influence of the two witnesses and their preaching, and many in that city will be redeemed;

Revelation 11:13 (NKJV)

¹³ In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Eventually, in spite of Satan's efforts, "all Israel will be saved" (Rom 11:26)

The great cosmic war of the ages between God and Satan that began with Satan's rebellion is set to reach its climax.

In this passage John provided important background information on that war and introduced its key figures.

Then his vision turned to a description of the war, both in its heavenly and earthly phases, and its inevitable outcome.

THE WAR OF THE AGES PART 2: WAR IN HEAVEN REVELATION 12:7-12

Revelation 12:7-12 (NKJV)

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."

In his classic book *The Screwtape Letters*, C.S. Lewis wrote;

"There are two equal and opposite errors, into which our race can fall, about the devils.

One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe and to feel and excessive and unhealthy interest in them.

They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight" ([New York: Macmillan, 1961], 9).

The same is true of the leader of the demons, Satan. He is pleased when people hold any unbiblical view of him, whether they deny his existence or worship him.

The devil always seeks to create confusion about his true nature and purposes.

The Bible exposes Satan's devious and deceitful nature as the "father of lies" (John 8:44) cautioning that he "***disguises himself as an angel of light (2Cor 11:14; 2 Cor 11:3)*** so that he can more easily deceive people.

The Apostle Paul expressed his concern;

2 Corinthians 2:9-11 (NKJV)

⁹ *For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.*

¹⁰ *Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ,*

¹¹ *lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

Ephesians 6:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

One of the most pervasive and persistent popular myths about Satan pictures him (complete with pitchfork, horns, and pointed tail) as being in charge of hell.

In reality, Satan is not in hell; in fact, he has never been there. He will not be sentenced to the lake of fire until after his final rebellion is crushed at the end of the Millennium

Revelation 20:7-10 (NKJV)

⁷ *Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison*

⁸ *and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.*

⁹ *They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.*

¹⁰ *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

And when he does enter hell, Satan will not be in charge; he will be the lowest inmate there, the one undergoing the most horrible punishment ever inflicted on any created being.

Far from being in Hell, Satan is currently dividing his time between roaming the earth, “*seeking someone to devour,*” (1Pet 5:8) and being in heaven, where he also engages in his doomed attempt to overthrow God’s Person, purposes, plans, and people.

One way he seeks to do that is to constantly accuse believers before God’s throne;

Revelation 12:10 (NKJV)

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.*

Satan ceaselessly harangues God about the unworthiness of believers, hypocritically appealing to God’s righteousness to further his own unrighteous aims.

The unachievable goal of his accusations is to shatter the unbreakable bonds that inseparably link believers to the Lord Jesus or the Father

John 10:28-29 (NKJV)

²⁸ *And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*

²⁹ *My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.*

Still Satan works on earth to turn God’s children against Him and in heaven to turn God against His children.

But as John proves, saving faith and eternal life are unbreakable realities.

As a part of their war against God, Satan and his demon hosts also battle the holy angels. Scripture describes the devil as “the prince of the power of the air (Eph 2:2) as well as the ruler of this world (John 12:31)

Satan’s battle plan for the earthly phase of the war of the ages is brutally simple: to eliminate all those who serve God. If he could, he would kill them all.

If not that, he would destroy their faith, if that were possible.

Satan’s evil plans will not succeed, however, for Scripture reveals that he is already a defeated foe.

Satan was defeated at the cross, but his sentence has not yet been fully carried out.

John 12:31 (NKJV)

³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

Romans 16:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Hebrews 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

Thus the war of the ages will continue until Satan is incarcerated temporarily in the abyss:

Revelation 20:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

And them permanently in Hell:

Revelation 20:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

The epochal, long, supernatural war of Satan against God reaches its climax in this profound passage.

Having introduced the combatants in 12:1-6, John describes the first phase of Satan’s final assault on God before Christ’s return,

This war in heaven, may be divided into three sections:

The Battle

The Victory

The Celebration