

Revelation 12

I. Intro

A. Ever sort out a fight & someone gives us huge history?

1. *Gives every detail* - this chapter sort of does that

a) Big reminder - God's saving plan is what it's all about

II. Great Signs Explained

A. The Woman

1. (v. 1-2: *A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ² She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.*)

a) Chapters 12-14 - 7 "signs" appear

(1) Not literal, *one of few things called sign in Rev.*

(2) Mixes past context with future tribulation events

b) Who is this woman - best fit is with Israel

(1) *Some say church, but always described as bride*

(2) *Some say Mary, doesn't fit rest of chapter*

(a) Why Israel? *Genesis 37 - Joseph dream*

i) Women often showing systems (Jezebel, etc.)

B. The Dragon

1. (v. 3-4: *Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. ⁴ Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born.*)

- a) Next sign - *dragon v. 9* - “serpent called devil”
 - (a) Seems to reference Satan’s fall (before creation)
- b) Satan’s goal - to destroy God’s redemptive work
 - (1) *Isaiah 14:13-14* “You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. ¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.””
 - (a) If Satan can’t overthrow God, he’ll stop Him

C. The Male Child

- 1. (v. 5-6: She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. ⁶ The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.)
 - a) 3rd sign - a male child | points to Jesus
 - (1) *Psalms 2:9* describing Messiah - “You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”
 - (a) Snatched up to God - ascension
 - b) During tribulation, special protection will be granted
 - (1) 1260 days, 3.5 years, times/half time - all same

III. God’s Impending Victory

A. The Framing War

- 1. (v. 7-9: Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong

enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.)

a) Likely refers to cycles - *Old divide, renewed battle*

(a) Satan - the accuser; just hurls accusations

b) *In Christianity, this is the big story*

(1) *Not about us and our day, but God's kingdom*

(2) *Col. 1:13 "he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,"*

(a) *He's the king and we are not*

B. Triumph Through Belief

1. *(v. 10-11: Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. 11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.)*

a) Result of this war - God offers triumph

(1) "Now have come" - about to be finalized

(a) Saved from what? *Sin/Satan's tempting ability*

b) How we get it? Blood of the lamb - Jesus dies

(1) *Never won by our good works*

c) Word of testimony - believing that truth

(1) *Fight an accusation with a new truth*

C. A Limited Enemy

1. (v. 12: *Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.*")

a) Here on earth, we feel Satan's power

(1) Filled with fury - has rage for God's people

(2) Short time - not going to win forever

(a) *Problem of pain - won't last forever*

IV. God's Future Protection

A. Future Protection

1. (v. 13-17: *When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach. ¹⁵ Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷ Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.*)

a) Tribulation - Satan's hate for Israel will heighten

(1) *In a dramatic way, God will protect Israel*

(2) Shows judgments are all in God's control

V. Conclusion

A. Today, we are on God's side

1. Joshua 5 - prep for Jericho, meets Commander

a) *Joshua 5:13-14 "Are you for us or for our enemies?"
14 "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the
army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua
fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked
him, "What message does my Lord have for his
servant?"*

2. God wants us on His side. Do you see yourself that way?