

# John's Christmas Narrative and Satan Cast Down

Revelation 12  
January 15, 2023

## I. Introduction

- A. Anti-Semitism's founder and president is Satan:
  - 1. Pharaoh, Haman, Caesars, Hitler, Stalin
- B. Israel's worst persecution will be at the hands of the anti-Christ
- C. The first prophecy of the Bible (Genesis 3:15) serves as the ultimate backdrop of this struggle
- D. Verses 1-5 are past. Verse 6 is expanded in 13-17 and take place in the last half of the Tribulation, as do verses 7-12

## II. The Major Players in the Great Tribulation Period: The Woman, The Red Dragon, The Child, and The Angel

- A. The Woman – vs. 1, 2 (Israel)
  - 1. A great sign appears in heaven (miraculous signpost)
    - a. Sign: a person or event that looks beyond itself to some greater significance. *Nelson's Bible Commentary*
    - b. No signs in Chapters 1-11
    - c. Three signs in heaven – Revelation 12:1, 3; 15:1
    - d. Four signs on earth – Revelation 13:13, 14; 16:14; 19:20
  - 2. She is wearing celestial clothing
    - a. Clothed with the sun
    - b. The moon under her feet
    - c. A crown of 12 stars on her head (twelve tribes, 21:12)
    - d. See: Genesis 37:9, 10; Isa. 26:17; 54:5; 60:1-3, 20; 66:7
    - e. She is about to give birth
  - 3. Her identity
    - a. The Church
    - b. Believing Jews
    - c. Israel
- B. The Red Dragon (Satan) – vs. 3, 4
  - 1. Red refers to his murderous, blood thirsty character (John 8:44; Revelation 6:4)
  - 2. A second sign in heaven

- 3. Seven heads (with diadems or crowns) and ten horns.
  - a. Daniel 7:7, 8, 24; Revelation 13:1
  - b. His brilliance, power, and glory as the god of this age.
- 4. He swept away one third of the stars (Revelation 9:1; Job 38:7)
  - a. This may refer to Satan's original rebellion against the Lord.
- 5. Israel is the woman, but here Mary is alluded to (Matthew 2:16-19)
- 6. Other enemies of Israel are referred to as dragons
  - a. Pharaoh: Ezekiel 29:3; Nebuchadnezzar: Jeremiah 51:34
- 7. Egyptians believed that dragons (crocodile/leviathan) were the source of all evil.
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- C. The Male Child (Jesus) – vs. 5, 6
  - 1. He will rule all the nations with a rod of iron.
    - a. Psalm 2:9; Revelation 19:15
  - 2. He was caught up to the throne of God.
    - a. Acts 1:9-11
  - 3. The woman fled to the wilderness for 1,260 days.
    - a. This will most likely be at the beginning of the Great Tribulation period.
      - i. Matthew 24:15-28; Mark 13:14-23; Jer. 30:7
- D. The Angel (Michael) and the Dragon – vs. 7-12
  - 1. A war in heaven between Michael and his angels and the dragon and his angels – v. 7
  - 2. Michael - "who is like God?"
    - a. Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9; Revelation 12:17
  - 3. The dragon and his angels were cast down to earth – v. 8 (Satan's defeat is in stages):
    - a. The basis for it is Calvary and the resurrection (John 12:31; I John 3:8)
    - b. He is cast out of heaven at the beginning of the Great Tribulation period – Revelation 12:8, 9

- c. He is bound during the millennial reign (20:1-3)
  - d. He is cast into the lake of fire – Revelation 20:10
  - 4. The Dragon is referred to as: – v. 9
    - a. The great Dragon: fierce nature
    - b. The serpent of old: crafty character (II Corinthians 11:14)
    - c. The Devil: accuser-slanderer (verse 10 accuser of the brethren).
      - i. See Romans 8:33, 34
    - d. Satan: adversary (I Peter 5:8)
  - 5. Victory – vs. 10, 11
    - a. Through the blood of the Lamb (Hebrews 2:14); not just deliverance from sin's penalty.
    - b. Through the word of their testimony-witnessing (Romans 1:16)
    - c. Through their lack of attachment to his life (Acts 20:24; Revelation 2:10)
      - i. "He is no fool who gives that which he cannot gain to keep that which he cannot lose." Jim Elliot
      - ii. *"A Mighty Fortress is our God" – verse 3*  
*And tho this world, with devils filled,*  
*Should threaten to undo us,*  
*We will not fear, for God hath willed*  
*His truth to triumph thru us.*  
*The prince of darkness grim, We tremble not for*  
*him –*  
*His rage we can endure, For lo, his doom is sure:*  
*One little word shall fell him.*
  - 6. Joy and Caution – v. 12
    - a. Heaven rejoices because Satan has been cast down
      - i. "ebleth" = bounced; used 6 times in verse 4 and verse 9; and 3 times: verse 10 and verse 12
    - b. The earth and the sea are warned of his coming wrath
    - c. We can do this.
      - i. Luke 10:1, 2, 17-20
- E. The Dragon and the Woman – vs. 13-17 (a further explanation of verse 6)
1. The Dragon (Satan) persecutes the woman (Israel) – v. 13
  2. The woman flees to the wilderness – v. 14
    - a. *"wings of the great eagle"* (Exodus 19:4; Deuteronomy 32:10-12; Isaiah 40:31)
    - b. *"the wilderness"*: this may be "Petra" in Edom south of the Dead Sea
    - c. She is there for a time (1 year) times (2 years) and a half time (1/2 year). 3½ years, or 1,260 days – v. 6
    - d. Maybe as many as 2/3 of this group will die (Zechariah 13:8, 9)
  3. The serpent seeks to destroy the woman with water – v. 15
    - a. Isaiah 43:2; Psalm 18:4
  4. The earth comes to the aid of the woman – v. 16
    - a. Numbers 16:31-35
  5. The angry dragon makes war with the woman's offspring, who:
    - a. Keep the commandments of God – v. 17
    - b. Hold fast the testimony of Jesus
      - i. Philippians 2:16
  6. D. J. P. 156