

Revelation, Part 14

Last session we left off with Revelation 11:15 and the Seventh Angel sounding his trumpet.

Rev 11:15 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 His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

This verse and the following verses seem to be a look forward into the last half of the Tribulation. In verse 15 we are seeing the final results, the setting up of God’s Kingdom (Millennium) — “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” It then appears as if we are working backward from that point.

Rev 11:16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying:

“We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty,
The One who is and who was and who is to come,
Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

We have seen these twenty-four elders previously in Revelation and have established they represent the resurrected (Raptured) and evaluated Church. They seem to be giving thanks for the end of the Tribulation and the establishment of the Kingdom.

There are two interesting words in Rev 11:17 where it says, “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. “Almighty” is a Greek word *pantokratōr*, which means all-powerful or omnipotent in the sense of authority. “Power” is from the Greek word *dunamis*, which means power in the sense of strength. The English word “dynamite” comes from this Greek word. Implied in the passage is that Christ has both the authority to rule and the power to exercise His authority.

Rev 11:18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come,

And the time of the dead, that they should be judged,
And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the
saints,
And those who fear Your name, small and great,
And should destroy those who destroy the earth.

There is a play on words here in the Greek not seen in the translation. The same Greek word *ogré* is being used for both the “anger” of the nations and “wrath,” referring to the righteous judgment of God. The anger of the nations is seen as impotent, and God’s anger is seen as omnipotent.

Things get a little confusing here. It appears we are stepping a bit further back in time from the revealing of the Kingdom seen in verses 15-17. The “nations were angry” speaks of the Tribulation. That is followed by, “And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints....” I think this statement captures several groups of people. The statement “time of the dead” seems to refer to the resurrection of the *righteous* dead of the OT and the Tribulation martyrs at the Second Advent. (The unrighteous dead do not have their resurrection until the end of the Millennium.) I think the statement “that they should be judged” refers to some sort of evaluation of those OT saints and tribulation martyrs.

The passage “And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth” is referring to survivors of the Tribulation. The two “ands” in this passage identify two different groups. “Those who fear Your name” are surviving believers. “Those who destroy the earth” refers to the followers of the antichrist and Satan. They are judged, and the believers will enter the Kingdom in their physical bodies. “And should destroy those who destroy the earth.” is the utter destruction of those who oppose God in the context of the Tribulation and have brought so much destruction upon mankind.

What Do We Have?

We have moved backward from the establishment of the Kingdom, back to the Tribulation ending and the judgment of the survivors at the Second Advent.

To sum up this confusing passage (more details on this later):

1. The passage begins with the 24 elders giving thanks for the Kingdom (Rev 11:16-17).
2. We then have a picture of the end of the Tribulation and the beginning of the Kingdom (Rev 11:18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come...).
3. OT saints and tribulation martyrs are resurrected and rewarded (Rev 11:18 ...And the time of the dead, that they should be judged...).
4. Surviving believers will enter the Millennium (Kingdom) (Rev 11:18 You should reward Your ... saints)
5. Unbelievers who survive the Tribulation will be terminated. (Rev 11:18 ... And should destroy those who destroy the earth.)

Believers who are alive at the end of the Tribulation, the “remnant,” will enter the Kingdom. The unsaved who are alive at the end will be terminated and cast into Hell.

Rev 11:19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

The chapter closes with another dramatic incident. John wrote, “Then the temple of God was opened in heaven.” John was able to look into the temple where he saw the “Ark of His covenant”. This refers to the heavenly temple rather than to a temple on earth. The corresponding results on the earth, however, included lightning, thunder, an earthquake, and a great hailstorm. Verse 19 is a very brief jump back into the chronology of the Tribulation and a dramatic introduction to the events relating to the Seventh Trumpet which concludes here but will be resumed in chapter 15.

Conflict in Heaven and Earth

With chapter 12, we shift back to our parenthetical insert. This is possibly the most important chapter in the book. It contains necessary information concerning Christ, Israel, and Satan, involving past, present, and future events. You can't understand Revelation without an understanding of the twelfth chapter. It is a key not only to the correct interpretation of Revelation but also an aid to understanding the entire Bible. Chapter 12 reveals the conflict of the ages that involves Christ, Satan, and Israel. Some expositors have titled chapter 12 with one word, “War.” It involves war on Earth, Heaven, and then Earth again.

Rev 12:1 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.

Satan Thrown Out of Heaven

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."

The Woman Persecuted

13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. 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. 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring,

who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Again as we begin chapter 12, we continue with the parenthetical insert that doesn't end until we get over to Revelation 15. In Revelation 12 the first of the great actors of the Tribulation are introduced. There are seven in number:

1. The woman we will see here at the beginning of chapter 12
2. The dragon, representing Satan
3. The man-child, referring to Christ
4. Michael, representing the angels
5. Israel, the remnant of the seed of the woman
6. The beast out of the sea, the world dictator
7. The beast out of the earth, the false prophet and religious leader of the world

Rev 12:1 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.

We begin with a great “sign” in heaven. Some Bibles translate this as “wonder,” but this is not the Greek word for “wonder” which is *teras*. This is the Greek *semeion*, a sign or a portend of an unusual occurrence. This is a sign of something very important and here is to be revealed by God. Though the sign is seen in Heaven, it apparently portrays a reality on Earth because subsequently, we will see this woman pictured as persecuted by Satan in the Great Tribulation. Further, she is with child and waiting for the imminent birth of her son.

As you can imagine, there is much disagreement as to who the woman is. The Roman Church sees her as Mary, “the mother of God”. Mary is not the “mother of God” because all Three Persons of the Trinity, including Christ, existed in eternity past long before Mary did. She is the mother of the *humanity* of Christ. The passage has been used to teach the bodily assumption of Mary into Heaven. Google “Mary +twelve stars” and you will find numerous depictions of Mary as this woman in Rev 12:1 complete with sun, stars, moon, clouds, and the crushed head of Satan. This woman in Revelation 12:1 isn't Mary.

Some have proposed that the sun-clad woman is the Church and still others have identified themselves as this woman. Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy was conceited enough to claim she was this woman. She claimed the “man-child” that she brought forth is Christian Science and the dragon is the “mortal mind” (whatever that is) attempting to destroy her religion. Dr. Harry A. Ironsides reply to this was, “I need not take up the time of sane people.”

Dr. Ironsides had some interesting observations about this woman and the importance of identifying her correctly. He said after reading several hundred commentaries on this subject, “I have learned to look upon this twelfth chapter as the crucial test in regard to the correct prophetic outline. If the interpreters are wrong as to the woman and the man-child, it necessarily follows that they will be wrong on many things connected with them.”

Well, who is the woman?

This description is an allusion to Genesis 37:9-11

Gen 37:9 Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, “Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.”
10 So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?” 11 And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

This is from a dream Joseph had, and when you add him to the 11 stars, which were interpreted as his brothers, you have the 12 tribes of Israel. The sun and the moon are Jacob and Rachel, Joseph’s parents. From this, we conclude that the woman is Israel, and it was Israel that brought forth the man-child. Let’s look at more of the symbolism found there:

- The sun is the source of light and represents the light of God’s truth
- The moon is a reflector of that light and Israel stands on that moon, bathed in the light as God’s light-bearer to mankind.
- God intended for Israel to take that light to the world and represent Him in it, but she failed and came under condemnation.

- Israel is seen in Scripture as the wife of God that became unfaithful through idolatry, and the light was taken from her and given to the Church, as we saw in Revelation chapters 2-3 (Seven Churches).
- Israel will once more become God's lampstand in the Tribulation when the 144,000 Jewish evangelists evangelize all over the world.
- The image is one of splendor; she is crowned in great glory, representing her ultimate triumph over her enemies.
- Israel is the nation to whom the Christ was given

Rev 12:2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

Identifying the child as Christ makes the woman represent either the Virgin Mary or Israel. But the woman cannot possibly be the Virgin Mary because verses 13 and 14 show this woman as persecuted during the Tribulation. Mary will not be on earth then, but national Israel will be. Israel gave birth to Christ, otherwise, it could not be said, "salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22).

That the woman must be Israel is seen in the tense of the verbs. The words "being," "travailing" (cried out), and "in pain" in verse 2 are all in the present tense in Greek, emphasizing continuing action. Thus, Israel is seen as being continuous with child and in birth pains.

The nation Israel is also seen as a woman in the OT: the "wife of God" (Isa 54:5), and God calls Himself her husband (Jer 31:32). Because of her backsliding God "put her away" and gave her a "bill of divorce" (Jer 3:8), but God will take her back. He is "married" to her (Jer 3:14). This reference to Israel as a woman is seen in many other passages in Scripture.

Historically Israel has already given birth to the child. This passage may be looking back in time to the First Advent and giving us the background for the Tribulation events to be described in subsequent passages, or it could also be viewed figuratively and very broadly and historically as encompassing all of Israel's history and what she has gone through to deliver her redeemer. Verses 3 and 4 tend to support this view.

The woman is Israel. She is seen in verse 6 as persecuted by the dragon and must flee to a place God has prepared for her for one thousand two

hundred and sixty days (3.5 years). (More on this when we get to verse 6.)
And she brings forth a child.

Think of it in this context: Because she rejected her King 2000 years ago, for Israel the effect of the birth of Christ is *not yet realized* but will be fully realized at the Second Advent. In that sense, Israel is still in birth pains, and the worst pains are associated with the Tribulation.

The Fiery Red Dragon

Rev 12:3 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.

We have “another sign.” I think the passage is viewing this person in two ways. First, as a person personified in an earthly entity — Antichrist, and secondly, the “fiery red dragon” is Satan. The red symbolizes his blood lust. “With his tail, he drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to earth.” These can be heavenly bodies and this represents some sort of meteor shower on earth, but more likely it is a reference to the 1/3 of the angels who followed him in his initial rebellion.

Then we have this phrase, “a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads...” The heads, horns, and crowns all signify political authority. Note Satan’s famous “I will” statement in Isaiah.

Isa 14:13 For you have said in your heart:

‘I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.’

Satan has a lust for power, which is demonstrated in his rebellion and his desire to usurp the power of God. It is seen in the symbolism of Revelation 12:3 and what will ultimately be seen as the manifest control of certain

humans and an attempt to exercise complete control of the world. The seven heads may represent the nations used by Satan throughout history in seeking to dominate and destroy Israel: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, Rome (first century), and Rome (revived under the antichrist).

Satan stands before the woman ready to devour the Child as soon as He is born. This “standing before the woman to destroy the child” all begins in Genesis with the temptation and fall of Adam and Eve.

- God told Adam He would “put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring” (Gen 3:15). The “seed” of Satan is his followers in general and those of the Antichrist in particular. At the fall, Satan was put on notice that a “seed of the woman” was coming that would “brush his head” which is understood as a fatal blow. In a sense, this was the beginning of the birth pains for the “woman” Israel.
- Satan had to stand before the woman for centuries because he had no way of knowing when the Lord Jesus would be born. He watched for the birth of every male child in the line. The first was Abel, so Satan had him killed. But Eve had another son, Seth through which the line was extended.
- Satan’s attempt to corrupt the human race with angelic DNA (Gen 6:1-4) and God destroyed that with the flood and preserved the pure line through Noah and his family.
- The Tower of Babel was another attempt to defy God and corrupt the line. God countered by confounding the one language into many.
- Abraham was called of God and Satan attempted to get Abraham to distrust God at critical times (Gen 12:10-20)
- God delivered the Israelites from bondage in Egypt despite Satan’s attempts to prevent that (Ex 4:1-13).
- Satan attempted to destroy the line through David and prevent the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant by moving Saul to kill him.
- Athaliah tried to destroy the royal seed but God preserved Joash (2 Kings 11:1-3).
- The Book of Ester records how Haman wanted to destroy the Israelites (Ester 3:8-9) but God defeated Satan.
- Herod’s decree to kill all the male children at the time of the birth of Christ. God preserved the Babe by sending the family to Egypt.
- Later Satan tempted the Lord for 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness but failed to cause Him to sin.

- Satan incited the crowd to riot and throw Jesus over a precipice (Luke 4:28-30) but Jesus escaped, as He miraculously “passed through the midst of them and went His way”.
- The Roman Empire at the time of Christ was dominated by Satan.

This is only a partial list of Satan’s attempts to prevent God’s Kingdom from ever coming into being and His mission to redeem what was lost in the Garden. This warfare is still ongoing. It didn’t stop 2000 years ago but continues to this day and will continue into the Tribulation, as Satan stands “before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.” Yes, the Child was born 2000 years ago, but the fullest manifestation of that birth will not be until the Second Advent. The spiritual war being waged around us and what goes on during the Tribulation are Satan’s attempts to prevent that final victory that will seal his fate. We see this “great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads” in a slightly different form mentioned again in Revelation 13.

Rev 13:1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

I believe here we are seeing Satan indwelling antichrist. We will develop this character when we get there.

The Male Child

Rev 12:5 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.

The male child is obviously the Christ, and we see this “rod of iron” as a description of the very rigid but righteous rule of Christ in the future Kingdom. This “rod of iron,” or “iron scepter” in some translations, is seen elsewhere in Scripture.

Psalms 2:1 Why do the nations rage,
 And the people plot a vain thing?
 2 The kings of the earth set themselves,
 And the rulers take counsel together,
 Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,

- 3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us.”
- 4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The Lord shall hold them in derision.
- 5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:
- 6 “Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion.”
- 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.” ’

Rev 19:11 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. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a **rod of iron**.

The “rod of iron” characterizes the rulership of Christ.

Rev 12:5 ... And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

Who was caught up to Heaven and to His throne? This is a very clear reference to Jesus as the child of the woman who is Israel.

Rev 12:6 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.

One thousand two hundred and sixty days is how long? Three and a half years. The woman must flee to the wilderness, where God has a place prepared for her. Where do we see a reference resembling this?

Matt 24:3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

4 And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. 9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

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. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.

Daniel 11:40 At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into

countries and shall overflow and pass through. ⁴¹ He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall, **but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites.** ⁴² He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. ⁴³ He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt, and the Libyans and the Cushites shall follow in his train. ⁴⁴ But news from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction. ⁴⁵ And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him.

This appears to be the actions of the Antichrist as the King of the West during his invasion of Israel in response to an attack by the Kings of the North. He conquers the whole area during this period except Edom, Moab, and Ammon, which is where the remnant of Israel are told to flee. There they will find divine protection “where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days,” 3.5 years, the second half of the Tribulation also called the “Great Tribulation”.

When is Israel called to flee? “When you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (Matt 24:13).

Dan 9:27 “And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on **the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate**, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”

This “abomination of desolation” is a reference to the antichrist setting up some kind of “image” of himself in the Temple, stopping all Jewish worship, and demanding worship of himself instead of God.

Rev 12:14 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.

The serpent is of course Satan or his human vehicle, the antichrist. The woman flees on the “wings of eagles”. Some try to insert the United States in here coming to their rescue and loading everyone on C-130 cargo planes and helicopters and moving them to Edom, Moab, and Ammon. Nah! America seems strangely absent in Revelation. If the Tribulation is near, and I believe it is, then during the Tribulation America is likely little more than a nation either fully destroyed by nuclear war and the confusing aftermath of the Rapture or occupied with an internal civil war and a massive financial depression. “Wings of Eagles” is a metaphoric picture of speed and safety and is seen as from God in this Exodus passage.

Exodus 19:4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.

Taking all these passages together it appears there is a remnant out of Israel who is spared during the Tribulation. At the mid-point, when the “image” goes up in the Temple, those believers in Israel are to drop everything and flee to the wilderness. Jesus in Matthew warned of the need for speed. FLEE! Don’t even go into your house; don’t even retrieve your clothing! Just go! The urgency suggests the window of opportunity is very narrow and implied is those who miss this opportunity will suffer terribly, while those who make it out enjoy some level of protection by God for the 3.5 years of the Great Tribulation.

From the Daniel 11 passage above, the wilderness is described as the land of the Edomites, Moabites, and Ammonites. Edom, Moab and Ammon are wilderness-like areas east of the Dead Sea in modern-day Jordan. This area of Jordan on the eastern side of the Dead Sea is pockmarked with caves. Jordan is also the location of the ancient city of Petra which is slightly east of due south of the Dead Sea. To the east of this area is nothing but desert wilderness. Look on a Google map and you will see very few roads. The purpose of this is to preserve the remnant but it is also a process to purge the unbelievers from their midsts.

Ezekiel 20:33 “As I live,” says the Lord God, “surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you. 34 I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out. 35 And I will bring you into

the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. 36 Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you,” says the Lord God.

37 “I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; 38 I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord.

This remnant that flees at the mid-point of the Tribulation when the abomination goes up in the Temple is protected there for 3.5 years — 1260 days according to Rev 12:6. “A time, times, and half a time” according to Rev 12:14. These people who flee and are protected by our Lord are believers who form the core of those who will enter the Millennium.

With this introduction to chapter 12, we are getting a picture of the hatred that Satan has for Israel and that Israel will become the object of his attacks on mankind, especially as his plans to create his own Garden of Eden-like environment on earth unravel. Satan would have you love him because you like him and what he does for you. And he would have you love him, like him or not. And if not, he will attempt to destroy you, either physically or spiritually here on earth, or by bringing charges against you before the throne of God.

Mat 24:9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

As Pastor Bil Gephardt says, “Relax! I have read the end of the book. We win!”