



Revelation 12
Sunday, May 16, 2021

The world would want you to doubt the existence of Satan; however, there is a real enemy. He has come to steal, kill, and destroy. (John 10:10) He is cunning and deliberate. We see evidence of his work is all over the place. There are destroyed lives, broken families, addiction, hurt, bitterness, and pain. Amidst that, there is hope. God's plan is for His children to be overcomers, even amid intense warfare.

Setting the Scene:

As well as being the start of a new major section, Revelation 12 stands as the theological heart of the book because it shows why the church faces spiritual hostility in this world and how God provides the victory. Revelation 12:1–14:20 forms a grand interlude detailing the cosmic conflict between God and the forces of evil, as well as God's vindication of his people and judgment of the unrighteous. In 12:1–13:18 we hear about the battle between the false trinity (Satan, sea beast, and earth beast) and the Triune God and his people.¹

- The Anti-Christ will be a future world leader who will promise to solve world problems. The False prophet will be the person who spreads his propaganda. For a time, it will look as if this evil is prevailing; however, we see Christ is victorious.
- This is a story of warfare and a defeated foe. He (Satan) knows his time is short.

We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is **under the control of the evil one**. 1 John 5:19

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 an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight. -C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters

We are not meant to be "carried to heaven on flow'ry beds of ease"; we are given the fighting chance, and it is a glorious fight. Jesus Christ came to fit men to fight; He came to make the lame, the halt, the paralysed ... into terrors to the prince of this world.... No man is a match for that warfare unless he is saved by God's grace.² Oswald Chambers

Three Figures to be aware of in the end times.

A Woman - This is Israel or God's people. (vs. 1-2)

- It was through Israel that Jesus Christ came into this world. In the Old Testament, Israel is often compared to a woman. (Is. 54:5, 66:7) In Revelation, the fallen world (apostate) to a harlot. (Revelation 17:1)

³The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life, he was born into King David's family line, Romans 1:3

⁹Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. "Listen, I have had another dream," he said. "The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!"¹⁰ This time he told the dream to his father as well as to his brothers, but his father scolded him. "What kind of dream is that?" he asked. "Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow to the ground before you?" Genesis 37:9-10

A Child – Jesus Christ, the Messiah (vs. 5-6)

- He is the Lion of Judah, our redeemer. This text symbolizes his birth and ascension into Heaven.
- Wilderness (6) is place of protection. It is reminder God takes care of his people through difficulty.

A Dragon - Satan (vs. 3-4, 7-9)

¹Duvall, J. S. (2014). [Revelation](#). (M. L. Strauss & J. H. Walton, Eds.) (p. 160). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

²Duvall, J. S. (2014). [Revelation](#). (M. L. Strauss & J. H. Walton, Eds.) (p. 165). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

- The color red is associated with death (Revelation 6:4) Also, seven heads symbolize completeness (whole world) and 10 crowns, perhaps 10 kings (Revelation 17:12-14)
- The dragon is cast out of Heaven (Vs. 9) and took with him a third of all the angels. (Stars)

¹² "How you are fallen from Heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world. ¹³ For you said to yourself, 'I will ascend to Heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. ¹⁴ I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.' ¹⁵ Instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead, down to its lowest depths. Isaiah 14:12-15

- He tries to prevent the Messiah from being born. (King Herod, Matthew 2)

1. **Know Your Enemy.** (Revelation 12:7-8)

Satan means adversary; devil means accuser.

- Satan Deceives - Hold on to the truth.
- Satan Accuses - Proclaim the Gospel.
- Satan Threatens – Worship God almighty.
- Strategic in his attack
 - He **blinds** the minds of unbelievers. (2 Corinthians 4:4)
 - He **steals** God's words from you. (Matthew 13:9)
 - He **traps** you in order to ensnare you. (2 Timothy 2:26)

¹⁴ But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:14

He **fighters** to stop you (1 Thessalonians 2:18)

He **plans** to destroy you. (1 Peter 5:8)

2. **How Do You Overcome the Enemy?** (Revelation 12:10-18)

The same serpent who accuses the saints in heaven also deceives ... the nations into thinking that the people of God are dangerous, deluded, even destructive.... God's people in every age must expect the world's opposition, but the church can always defeat the enemy by being faithful to Jesus Christ. Warren Wiersbe

• **The Blood of the Lamb (vs. 11)**

¹⁹ For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in Heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. Colossians 1:19-20

- ✓ Our power is found in the cross of Christ.
- ✓ He cleanses us, forgives and releases us from shame.
- **The Word of our testimony (vs 11).** Something happens when we speak truth and declare who Jesus is.

⁹ If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. Romans 10:9-10

God loves it when we fight for him. But God loves it even more when we let him fight for us. – Dave Deselm

One Last Thought: A casual walk with the Lord will never sustain when we are under fire. Tough times demand a tough faith and deep confidence in God.