

Revelation 12:1-9—The Basis of Antisemitism—Part 1

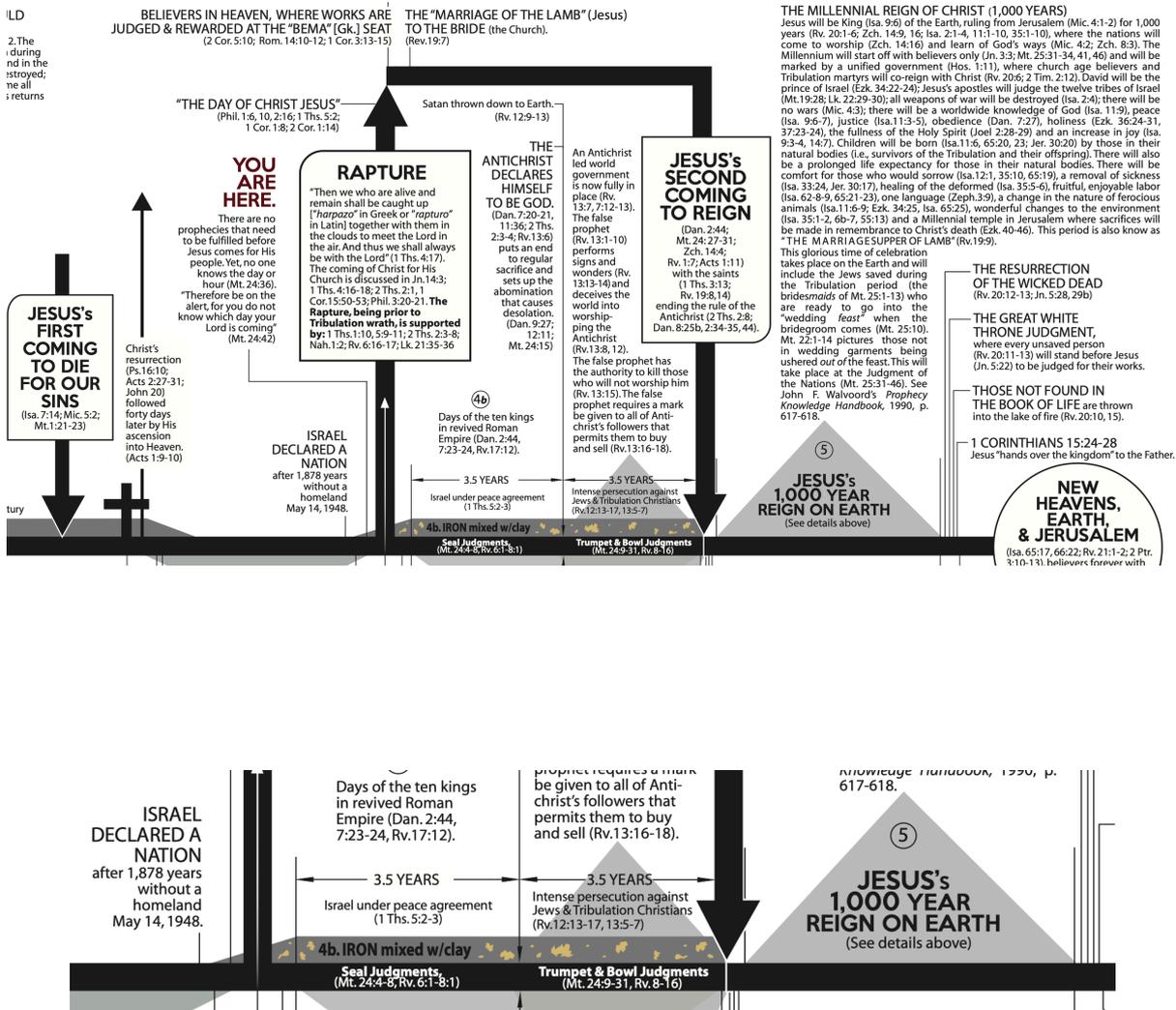
Introduction

Last week we studied Revelation 11:15-19, “God’s Kingdom Proclaimed”, where we saw an angel proclaim that, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

We saw that when God says something, it as good as done, even if the event isn’t scheduled to happen for hundreds or even thousands of years later. God is in control, and not only of world events, but also of the details of our individual lives.

This week, we come to another vignette, another story that explains the various people, events and organisations that are involved in the tribulation. This week, we begin look at: Revelation 12:1-17—The basis of antisemitism—Satan’s ongoing persecution of the nation of Israel. Revelation chapter 12 summarises Satan’s ongoing persecution of the nation of Israel because the promise of the first and second comings of the Messiah is connected to them.

This is a fascinating insight into the ongoing persecution of Israel by Satan, starting with an example from the time of the birth of Christ, and then going on to the end of the tribulation.



In context, Revelation Chapter 12 follows nicely after chapter 11. In Revelation chapter 11 we saw that the holy city (Jerusalem) (Revelation 11:2) will be trodden underfoot for the last 42 months or 3 1/2 years, meaning the last half of the 7 year tribulation period. This is after the two witnesses from Revelation 11 are killed at the midpoint of the 7 year Tribulation. They minister or witness for the first half or first 3 1/2 years of the 7 year Tribulation while the nation of Israel is still under the peace agreement (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3).

Why is the 7 year tribulation broken into two 3 1/2 year halves? Well, at the halfway point or midpoint of the 7 year Tribulation, the Antichrist, possessed by Satan, both overcomes and kills the two witnesses and breaks the 7 year peace treaty with Israel (Daniel 9:27).

Daniel 9:27 NLT paraphrase

²⁷ The ruler [antichrist] will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven [7 years], but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration [an image of himself 2 Thessalonians 2:4] until the fate [punishment] decreed for this defiler [the antichrist] is finally poured out on him [at the end of the 7 year Tribulation].”

It's at the halfway point, 3 1/2 years into the Tribulation, that the antichrist, the false Messiah, the so-called man of peace, reveals His true colours against Israel and tries to destroy them. He promised seven years of peace, but halfway through, 3 1/2 years in, he breaks his promise to Israel, and turns around and tries to wipe them out. But God intervenes and provides a place of refuge for them where they will live for the last half or last 3 1/2 years of the 7 year Tribulation. We'll go over this again towards the end of the message. This is all a part of chapter 12.

One thing we need to understand before we get into Revelation 12 is the origin and purpose of the nation of Israel. Israel is not just a central character in the tribulation, but also throughout history. This chapter helps explain what will happen to them in the tribulation and why.

The nation of Israel started or came into being when God called Abraham “to leave his home country and go to a land that I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1-3 NKJV

Now the Lord had said to Abram:

“Get out of your country,

From your family

And from your father's house,

To a land that I will show you.

² I will make you a great nation;

I will bless you

And make your name great;

And you shall be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,

And I will curse him who curses you;

And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

25 years later, Abraham and Sarah eventually had a son called Isaac, who was the son of the promise given 25 years earlier in Genesis 12. When Isaac is about 33

years old, God gives a specific reference to the Messiah coming from the nation of Israel. God says to Abraham on Mt Moriah:

Genesis 22:18 NKJV

In your **seed** all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

This **seed** is singular. It refers to only one person. Through which one person will or has the earth been blessed? Jesus, the Messiah, the Saviour of the world. How do we know?

Galatians 3:16 NKJV

¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his **Seed** were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “**And to your Seed,**” who is **Christ**.

The promise passed on to only Isaac, and not to any of the other children of Abraham from his other wives or Hagar)

Genesis 26:2-5 NKJV

² Then the Lord appeared to him [Isaac] and said: “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. ³ Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; **for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. ⁴ And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; ⁵ because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.**”

As you may remember, Isaac and Rebecca had two children, twin boys, smooth skinned Jacob and red and hairy Esau. Esau was rejected by God because of his rejection of God, but Jacob’s name was changed to Israel, meaning “governed by God.” The covenant promises that God initially gave to Abraham, and were passed on to Isaac, are now passed on to Jacob. Isaac gives Jacob the blessing in Genesis 27, and again blesses Jacob in:

Genesis 28:3-4 NKJV

“May God Almighty bless you,
And make you fruitful and multiply you,
That you may be an assembly of peoples;
⁴ **And give you the blessing of Abraham,
To you and your descendants with you,
That you may inherit the land
In which you are a stranger,
Which God gave to Abraham.**”

Later, at Bethel, when Jacob is running away from Esau, God Himself appears to Jacob and confirms the Abrahamic covenant with Jacob in:

Genesis 28:13-15 NKJV

¹³ And behold, the Lord stood above it and said [to Jacob]: “**I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. ¹⁴ Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the**

south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”

Jacob then goes on to have 12 sons who become the 12 tribes of Israel. When Jacob is older, the nation of Israel, meaning Jacob and his 12 sons and their families, go down to Egypt and multiply like rabbits. But notice that the promise about the Seed is repeated. *Again I remind you that one of the main reasons or purposes that God had for creating the nation of Israel was to bring the Messiah into the world. Once we understand this, then Revelation chapter 12 becomes much easier to understand.*

Now, once again, to understand the book of Revelation, we need to interpret the signs and symbols. We will find as we go through this chapter that the signs are symbols are actually quite easy to figure out, and the story here is very clear. Having an understanding of this chapter gives us a great insight into the spiritual battle going on behind the scenes and explains a lot of what we see going on in the earth, especially with how the world treats Israel with such unreasonable hatred. Hatred of the Jewish nation and Jews is called antisemitism.

Before we read the whole chapter together, we'll read verses one, two, and five, and then do some simple detective work with a concordance to discover and explain who or what this mysterious symbol is, and who her child is.

Revelation 12:1-2, 5 NKJV

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. ...

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 whole chapter refers to this woman, so before we continue, we need to learn who she is. Again, a simple word search in our concordance will give you the answer. We need to go to:

Genesis 37:3-4, 9-11 NKJV

Now Israel [also called Jacob] loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colours. ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

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.

Notice that in Joseph's second dream, he says that **“the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.”**

Then Israel [also called Jacob] gives the interpretation, **“Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?”**

So what we learn from Jacob or Israel's interpretation of Joseph's second dream is that the sun and moon refer to Jacob and his wife Rachael, and the 11 stars refer to the other brothers. Jacob or Israel kindly interprets the dream for us. It is clear Jacob understood that Joseph was saying; that Jacob and the rest of the family would come and bow down before him when he said, **"Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"**

Now, in Revelation 12:1-2 we read that there were 12 stars, and not 11 as in Joseph's dream. Can you think of a reason why?... Yes, well done, Joseph is the 12 son. Jacob or Israel had 12 sons, that's why there are 12 stars, because Joseph is a part of the family, a part of the nation of Israel. That is why the nation of Israel is described as being the sun, moon and 12 stars, the complete nation of Israel.

In verses 2 and 5 of Revelation 12 we read that the nation gives birth to a son. Given what we read in Galatians 3:16, the promised Seed can be none other than the Messiah, the Christ, Jesus, Immanuel, God with us, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Who is the Male Child that will rule the nations with a rod of Iron and was caught up to God and His throne? Jesus. It's the only logical answer. Jesus came down to earth from Heaven, was born as a baby of a virgin, lived a perfect life, was crucified and killed for the sins of all mankind, was laid in a tomb, then resurrected from the dead, and then ascended into Heaven where He is waiting for the Father's instruction to come and get His bride at the rapture.

So now we have the background, let's read the chapter.

Revelation 12:1-17 NKJV

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.

Revelation 12:1 NKJV

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.

v 1 **Sign...** biblically, a sign is an event which is regarded as having some special meaning.

v 1 **Now a great sign appeared:** This is the first of seven signs that John describes over the next three chapters, and it is described as a **great sign** (*mega semeion*). In Revelation chapters 12, 13, and 14 the main figures of the Great Tribulation are described, and this **great sign** introduces the first of the seven signs, which is:

v 1 **A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.** As we have already learned, scripturally, this **woman clothed with the sun** should be identified with Israel, according to Joseph's dream (Genesis 37:9–11). Again, in that dream, the sun represented Jacob, the moon represented Joseph's mother Rachel, and the eleven stars were the sons of Israel which bowed down to Joseph. In this sign with **twelve stars**, Joseph is now among the other tribes of Israel.

In addition, other Old Testament passages, Israel (or Zion or Jerusalem) is often represented as a woman (Isaiah 54:1–6, Jeremiah 3:20, Ezekiel 16:8–14, and Hosea 2:19–20).

Here is a summary of the seven signs or figures of the Great Tribulation that are introduced and described in Revelation chapters 12–14:

1. The woman, representing Israel
2. The dragon, representing Satan
3. The man-child, referring to Jesus
4. The angel Michael, head of the angelic host
5. The offspring of the woman, representing Gentiles who come to faith in the Tribulation
6. The beast out of the sea, representing the antichrist
7. The beast out of the earth, representing the false prophet who promotes the antichrist

So, after the next few weeks, as you read the book of Revelation, you will already know the main outline of the book, and also who the main figures or characters are, and it should start to make a lot of sense to you. I encourage you to continue reading it through again and again. Today, we will learn about the first five signs.

- The woman, representing Israel
- The dragon, representing Satan
- The man-child, referring to Jesus
- The angel Michael, head of the angelic host
- The offspring of the woman, representing Gentiles who come to faith in the Tribulation

Revelation 12:2 NKJV

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

v 2 **Being with child:** As we saw previously, Revelation 12:5 makes it is clear that this child born of Israel is Jesus (*She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron*, Revelation 12:5).

v 2 **She cried out in labor and in pain to give birth:** The **pain** described refers to the travail of Israel at the time of Jesus' birth due to the Roman occupation and oppression.

Revelation 12:3-4 NKJV

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.

v 3 **dragon:** verse 9 interprets who this is, "So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan..."

v 3 **Another (of the same kind) sign appeared in heaven:** Now we are introduced to our second sign or figure who will be a part of the 7 year Tribulation period. Again, we are reminded that this is a **sign**. The creature here was not literally a **great, fiery red dragon**, but the dragon represents or pictures his powerful, evil, fierce, and murderous nature and character. Remember what Jesus said in:

John 10:10 NKJV

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

v 3 **having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.** We will cover this when we study chapter 13, where it is more fully explained.

v 4 **His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven:** Myself and many others believe this describes one-third of the angelic host in league with Satan (*"his angels cast out with him"* in Revelation 12:9). This army of angelic beings in league with Satan makes up the world of demonic spirits. We read about the fall of Satan in Ezekiel 28:12-17 and Isaiah 14:12-17, but here it reveals that one third of all the angels rebelled along with Satan. What this means is that there are twice as many good or perfect angels as there are fallen or bad angels or demons. Not that it matters, because God is in control anyway.

However, some may have the question, why did, or how could, the angels rebel?

Basically, God never made an evil being; but He made angels, principalities, and powers, which are the various ranks of angels. Like humans, the angels were created with free will to love God and submit to Him or to hate God and rebel against Him.

Many have remained steadfast, for example, ‘Michael and his angels.’ But some chose not to abide in the truth, but revolted against the rule of Heaven, and became unchanging enemies of God and His Kingdom.

v 4 **To devour her Child as soon as it was born:** The attempt to **devour her Child** was initially fulfilled by Herod’s attempts to kill Jesus as a child (Matthew 2:16–18). Do you remember when the wise men were warned in a dream to not go back to Herod, and instead go back another way. Herod was so angry and jealous that he killed all the baby boys under 2 years old.

Matthew 2:12-13, 16-18 NKJV

Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they [the wise men] should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁸ *“A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more.”*

This was also fulfilled throughout Jesus’ life as Satan attacked Him. For example, John 8:58-59—the Jewish leaders try to stone Jesus, and Mark 4:35–41—the storm that threatened to sink the boat.

Revelation 12:5 NKJV

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.

v 5 **A male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron:** Clearly, this refers to Jesus Christ, the Messiah. When Jesus comes back He will rule the world with a **rod of iron**, meaning with absolute control—there will be no rebellion allowed or tolerated.

Psalms 2 NKJV

The Messiah’s Triumph and Kingdom

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 (the Father) **and against His Anointed** (the Messiah, Jesus), 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 (given the privileges and status of the first born - exalted) **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.’ ”

¹⁰ Now therefore, be wise, O kings;

Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

¹¹ **Serve the Lord with fear,**

And rejoice with trembling.

¹² **Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,**

And you perish in the way,

When His wrath is kindled but a little.

Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

Another passage that refers to Jesus ruling the nations with a rod of iron is:

Revelation 19:11-16 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. 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.** He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

Revelation 12:5 NKJV

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.

v 5 **She bore a male Child:** This refers to Jesus’ birth.

v 5 **Rule all nations with a rod of iron** refers to the triumphant return of Jesus.

v 5 **A male Child:** This is obviously Jesus. This means that the *woman* of Revelation 12:1 cannot be the church, because Jesus “gives birth” to the church, not the other way around. The *woman* must therefore either be Mary or Israel, the only two “women” who could have “given birth” to Jesus. The rest of Revelation 12 will demonstrate that this woman is Israel, not Mary.

v 5 **And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.** This is a clear reference to the resurrection and ascension of Jesus after He resurrected:

Acts 1:9-11 NKJV

⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Revelation 12:6 NKJV

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.

v 6 **Then the woman fled into the wilderness:** This happens when the antichrist breaks his promise of seven years of peace with Israel. Israel will be Persecuted by the dragon, that is the antichrist indwelt by Satan. But the woman (the nation of Israel) is protected by God in a **prepared** place for **one thousand two hundred and sixty days**

This helps us to understand with certainty that the *woman* is Israel and not Mary. How could Mary possibly flee into the wilderness in this way? When did Mary have to flee for 3 1/2 years (1260 days) into the wilderness? Never.

This event is future. It is part of Daniel's 70th week, the last 7 years decreed for Israel.

v 6 **One thousand two hundred and sixty days:** This reference to a three and one-half year period connects these events with the final seven years of the Daniel 9 prophecy. Since Revelation 12:5 describes the ascension of Jesus, and Revelation 12:6 describes yet-to-occur events in the 70th week of Daniel, between these two verses lies hundreds of years (our current period). This obvious "near-far" break in time is typical of prophecy. Daniel's seventy week prophecy has such a break (Daniel 9:24-25, then verse 27). Other examples of these "near-far" breaks (near fulfilment/far fulfilment) are found when looking at prophecies concerning Jesus first coming and His second coming. For example:

Isaiah 61:1-3a NKJV

**"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me,
Because the Lord has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
² To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,
And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn,
³ To console those who mourn in Zion, ...**

If you refer to Luke 4:18-21, Jesus read out the bold part, and stated that it had already been fulfilled (the **bold** part). The rest of it refers to the second coming, when Jesus comes back, not as the Saviour, but as the Judge (the rest).

This is another example of a near-far fulfilment of prophecy. In one passage, there are prophecies that relate to a soon coming event (or a past event from our perspective), followed by one that will happen further ahead in the future. That is what the near-far fulfilment of prophecy means.

Revelation 12:6 NKJV

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.

v 6 **Into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God:** Many say this **place** in the **wilderness** is the rock city of Petra, south of the Dead Sea, but the biblical references actually refer to a more general area, specifically the area today represented by Jordan, where Petra is located. We'll come back to this next week.

v 6 **Prepared in the wilderness:** **Prepared** uses the same ancient Greek word Jesus used in *I go to prepare a place for you* (John 14:2–3). This demonstrates that God's careful planning works on earth as well as in heaven.

Revelation 12:7-8 NKJV

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.

v 7-8 **War broke out in heaven... but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer:** At the mid-point of the great tribulation, after 3 1/2 years, God will turn the tide against Satan—first in heaven, then on earth. First, a battle will take place that will deny Satan access to heaven. The scriptures indicate, for example in Job 1:6-12, that while Satan could no longer live in heaven after his fall, which happened sometime between creation and the fall of man, he still had access to heaven. Now, at the halfway point of the 7 year Tribulation, he completely loses any access into heaven.

v 7 **Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought:** This is a dramatic scene of battle between good angels and bad angels—faithful angels against fallen angels. Of course it will be fought in the spiritual realm. This is a battle I would love to witness. I hope I will be able to witness it as I'm in heaven with Jesus during the 7 year Tribulation.

Who fights in this battle? This is truly a battle between equals. The **dragon** represents Satan (Revelation 12:9), was has the rank of archangel, and he and his demonic hosts fight Michael the archangel and his obedient angelic hosts.

Always remember that Satan is not the counterpart or equal of God—God has no counterpart or equal. If anyone, Satan is the counterpart of Michael, who seems to be the chief angel over all the good angels.

When is this battle fought? This battle occurs at the mid-point of the seven-year period, also described by Daniel in:

Daniel 12:1

At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered.

This verse is referring to the last half or last 3 1/2 years of the 7 year Tribulation.

v 8 **Nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer:** This shows us that up until the time of this angelic battle, which happens at the mid-point of Daniel's 70th week, which is the 7 year Tribulation period, Satan *does* have access to heaven.

Revelation 12:9 NKJV

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.

v 9 **So the great dragon was cast out:** This single verse uses many different titles for our spiritual enemy, including **Dragon, serpent of old, the Devil, Satan,** and he **who deceives the whole world.** These titles describe Satan as vicious, an accuser, an adversary, and a deceiver.

v 9 **the Devil:** "The title 'Devil' is from the Greek *diabolos*, from the verb *diaballo*, which has the meaning of 'defaming' or 'slandering.' He is the master accuser of the brethren."

v 9 **He was cast to the earth:** The Bible describes four sequential falls or judgements of Satan. Revelation 12:9 describes the second of these four falls:

The "four judgements or falls of Satan"

1. From glorified to profane (Ezekiel 28:14–16)
2. From having access to heaven (Job 1:12, 1 Kings 22:21, Zechariah 3:1) to being restricted to the earth (Revelation 12)
3. From the earth to bondage in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Revelation 20)
4. From the pit to the lake of fire for eternity (Revelation 20)

In Luke 10:18, Jesus said "*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*" This refers either to the first fall of Satan (from glorified to profane), or it is a prophetic look ahead to the second fall at the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period, where Satan completely loses his access to heaven.

v 9 **His angels were cast out with him:** This indicates that demonic spirits are indeed fallen angels, those who joined with Satan in His rebellion against God. These are "**his angels.**"

These **angels** are also the same as the *third of the stars of heaven* described in Revelation 12:4. Since Satan only drew a *third of the stars of heaven*, it means that two-thirds of the angels remained faithful to God. It's comforting to know that faithful angels outnumber fallen angels two to one.

Summary and Conclusion:

- The Woman clothed with the sun, moon and 12 stars represents Israel.
- One of God's purposes for the nation of Israel was to bring the Messiah, Jesus, into the world so that He could be the sacrifice for our sins, and purchase the world back to Himself.
- Because of this, Satan hates the nation of Israel, and throughout history has been trying to destroy it.
- Satan and his demonic angels are our enemy, and they accuse and condemn us day and night
- When Satan fell, 1/3 of all the angels also rebelled against God.

- Satan persecuted the nation of Israel and tried to stop God's plan by trying to kill Jesus. Satan has always been trying to destroy the Jews.
- A battle is coming, at the midpoint of the 7 year Tribulation, when Michael and his good angels defeat Satan and his bad angels.
- Michael wins the battle and Satan is confined to earth for the last half or 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation, called the Great Tribulation.
- At the midpoint of the 7 year Tribulation, Satan/the antichrist, breaks his promises and attacks Israel, but God provides a place of refuge for them for the last half of the 7 year Tribulation—3 1/2 years or 1260 days—over in Jordan.

Application:

Our battle with Satan and his demons is *spiritual*, fought on the battleground of truth and deception, of fear and faith (Ephesians 6:12).

Ephesians 6:10-13 NKJV

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

In regard to attacks against the believer, Satan and his demons were defeated and disarmed at the cross (Colossians 2:15).

Colossians 2:13-17 NLT paraphrase

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

¹⁶ So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality.

Don't ever forget this. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. We don't have to try to be good enough by keeping rules or regulations. We are free to be the people God made us to be in Christ. Simply put on your spiritual armour, focus on loving God, making your relationship with God the most important part of your life, and you will walk in victory. It's that simple. We'll go into spiritual warfare more next week.