

# Book of Revelation

## Chapter 12: Satan Out, Woman Persecuted

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## Revelation 12

- *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.” – Revelation 12:7-9 (NKJV)*

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## Revelation 12

- John sees a war in heaven
  - Michael leads fight against Satan (dragon)
  - Michael and his angels beat Satan
  - Satan and his angels kicked out of heaven
  - Satan no longer has access to heaven – no ability to accuse believers before God
- Satan is the great dragon
  - Fierce, cruel, monstrous in nature
  - Serpent of old (v 9), means crafty, subtle
  - Devil means accuser or slanderer

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## Revelation 12

- Satan
  - Means “adversary”
  - He deceives the whole world
  - He is the epitome of deceptive
- Three mentions of “cast out” or “thrown down” (v9)
  - Stresses humiliating defeat of Satan
  - Satan is sequestered to the earth itself from this point on
- This occurs likely at the *midpoint* of the Tribulation
  - V6 – 1,260 days remaining

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## Revelation 12

- *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."* – Revelation 12:10-12 (NKJV)

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## Revelation 12

- John hears an outburst of praise from heaven
- Possibly Tribulation martyrs (cf 6:10)
- These rejoice in what is coming after Satan's expulsion
  - God's salvation (total victory over Creation)
  - Manifestation of God's power throughout Creation
  - His Kingdoms (Millennial & Eternal), and
  - Authority of the Anointed One = Jesus
- Satan will continue to persecute believers on the earth, though he cannot accuse them in heaven

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## Revelation 12

- *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. – Revelation 12:13-14*

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## Revelation 12

- Satan knows his time is short!
- No longer in heaven to accuse the saints
- Now turns his attention to earth-dwelling believers
- Will have “great wrath” (v 12)
- Ramps up his antagonism and hatred
- Pulls out all stops
- Satan knows how things work out because he knows the Bible
- He continues his warring against God anyway

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## Revelation 12

- Though Satan increases his attacks he cannot get to the “woman” (Israel)
- Jews run to the hills (Matthew 24:15-28)
- God protects/preserves them for (3 ½ years)
  - Times
  - And times
  - And half a time
- The “great eagle” is likely metaphorical here like it was during Exodus
  - Exod. 19:4; Deut. 32:11; cf. Isa. 40:31

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## Revelation 12

- *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 12:15-17*

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## Revelation 12

- Serpent spewed water...
  - Possible he actually tries to drown them
  - Topography of Palestine doesn't lend to this
  - A "flood" is often used to describe overwhelming persecution (Ps. 18:4; 124:2-4; Isa. 43:2)
  - Could also refer to a "river of soldiers" or military invasion (Jer. 46:7-8; 47:2-3)
  - Most likely a picturesque way of describing Satan's attempt to destroy Jews
  - It appears ground will help Jews here by swallowing up "flood" whatever it is (v16) in some sort of miracle
  - Seems that Satan will attempt this through the Antichrist

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## Revelation 12

- Satan's unsuccessful attempt to destroy Jews will force him to turn on the rest of the believers
  - *who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ*
  - *Possibly the 144,000 believing Jews, and/or*
  - *All other non-Jewish believers alive during second half of Tribulation*

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## Revelation 13

- Next time: Revelation 13
  - The Beast from the Sea (Antichrist)
  - The Beast from the Earth (False Prophet)
- Satan's final attempts to use his agents on earth to overthrow God and establish his permanent kingdom
- John recorded this information so that people alive during this coming period would recognize these two evil men