

# REVELATION

## CHAPTER TWELVE

*Dan Trotter*

Rev 02/23/2021

### I. Intro

- A. point of this next section is to show conflict between Satan and Church throughout the world
  - 1. John goes back to the beginning
    - a. to show conflict of Jesus and Satan at Satan's birth
- B. this is the second main section in the interlude between the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet and the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet
  - 1. the first section was the measuring off of the Temple (NT Xns) for protection
    - a. the second section has the same idea
      - i. the woman (the people of God) protected in the wilderness

### II. Revelation 12:1 (HCSB) *A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of 12 stars on her head.*

#### A. "sign"

- 1. Isaiah's prophecy of Virgin mother of the messiah is basis of this vision
- 2. "sign"
  - a. **Isaiah 7:10-11** "<sup>10</sup> Moreover the LORD spake again unto Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above." (7:14) <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

#### B. "woman"

- 1. a familiar biblical image for the people of God
  - a. here, in particular, old covenant Israel
  - b. Scriptures
    - i. **Isaiah 26:17 (CSBBible)** As a pregnant woman about to give birth writhes and cries out in her pains, so we were before you, Lord.
    - ii. **Isaiah 54:6** "<sup>6</sup> For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God.
    - iii. **Isaiah 66:7-11 (CSBBible)** <sup>7</sup> Before Zion was in labor, she gave birth; before she was in pain, she delivered a boy. <sup>8</sup> Who has heard of such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day or a nation be delivered in an instant? Yet as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her sons. <sup>9</sup> "Will I bring a baby to the point of birth and not deliver it?" says the Lord; "or will I who deliver, close the womb?" says your God. <sup>10</sup> Be glad for Jerusalem and rejoice over her, all who love her. Rejoice greatly with her, all who mourn over her — <sup>11</sup> so that you may nurse and be satisfied from her comforting breast and drink deeply and delight yourselves from her glorious breasts.
    - iv. **Jeremiah 3:1** "<sup>1</sup> They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD."
    - v. **Lamentations 1:1-2** "<sup>1</sup> How doth the city sit solitary, *that was* full of people! *how* is she become as a widow! she *that was* great among the nations, *and* princess among the provinces,

*how* is she become tributary! <sup>2</sup> She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears *are* on her cheeks: among all her lovers she hath none to comfort *her*: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies.”

- vi. **Ezekiel 16:7-14 (CSBBible)** <sup>7</sup> I made you thrive like plants of the field. You grew up and matured and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed and your hair grew, but you were stark naked. <sup>8</sup> “Then I passed by you and saw you, and you were indeed at the age for love. So I spread the edge of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I pledged myself to you, entered into a covenant with you — this is the declaration of the Lord God — and you became mine. <sup>9</sup> I washed you with water, rinsed off your blood, and anointed you with oil. <sup>10</sup> I clothed you in embroidered cloth and provided you with fine leather sandals. I also wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk. <sup>11</sup> I adorned you with jewelry, putting bracelets on your wrists and a necklace around your neck. <sup>12</sup> I put a ring in your nose, earrings on your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. <sup>13</sup> So you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was made of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour, honey, and oil. You became extremely beautiful and attained royalty. <sup>14</sup> Your fame spread among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through my splendor, which I had bestowed on you. This is the declaration of the Lord God.
- vii. **Micah 4:10 (CSBBible)** Writhe and cry out, Daughter Zion, like a woman in labor, for now you will leave the city and camp in the open fields. You will go to Babylon; there you will be rescued; there the Lord will redeem you from the grasp of your enemies!

C. “clothed”

1. I think the sun is enveloping her

D. “sun,” “moon,” “twelve stars”

1. enhance a picture of glory and dominion

a. **Song of Solomon 6:10** “<sup>10</sup> Who *is* she *that* looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as *an army* with banners?”

2. from ancient times regarded as symbols of the twelve tribes of Israel

a. **Genesis 37:9-12** “<sup>9</sup> And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. <sup>10</sup> And he told *it* to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What *is* this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?”

- i. “sun”

A/ stands for Joseph’s father, Jacob

- ii. “moon”

A/ stands for Joseph’s mother, Rachel (cf. v10)

- iii. “eleven stars”

A/ stand for Joseph’s brothers

1/ the patriarch’s of Israel

2/ when added to Joseph, adds up to 12 stars

- iv. notice “sun,” “moon,” “stars” match Rev 12: 1 closely

III. **Revelation 12:2 (HCSB)** *She was pregnant and cried out in labor and agony [as she was about] to give birth.*

- A. “cried out”
  - 1. options
    - a. to proclaim to the world that the Messiah was born (Chilton)
    - b. because of her labor pains (DT)
- B. “labor”
  - 1. the most essential meaning of Israel’s history was to labor to give birth to the Messiah

**IV. Revelation 12:3 (NASB)** *Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his head were seven diadems.*

- A. “dragon”
  - 1. we are told it’s Satan in Revelation 12:9
    - a. **Revelation 12:9 (CSBBible)** So the great dragon was thrown out — the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him.
- B. “seven heads”
  - 1. Daniel’s four beasts had seven heads altogether
    - a. **Daniel 7:3-7 (CSBBible)** <sup>3</sup> Four huge beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. <sup>4</sup> "The first was like a lion but had eagle's wings. I continued watching until its wings were torn off. It was lifted up from the ground, set on its feet like a man, and given a human mind. <sup>5</sup> "Suddenly, another beast appeared, a second one, that looked like a bear. It was raised up on one side, with three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up! Gorge yourself on flesh.' <sup>6</sup> "After this, while I was watching, suddenly another beast appeared. It was like a leopard with four wings of a bird on its back. It had four heads, and it was given dominion. <sup>7</sup> "After this, while I was watching in the night visions, suddenly a fourth beast appeared, frightening and dreadful, and incredibly strong, with large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and it trampled with its feet whatever was left. It was different from all the beasts before it, and it had ten horns.
      - i. “four heads”
        - A/ leopard’s four heads, plus one for each of the other three, equals *seven* total
  - 2. The devil was behind all of the pagan world empires
  - 3. the seven heads link the dragon with the Roman Empire
    - a. **Revelation 17:9 (HCSB)** “Here is the mind with wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated.
    - b. **Revelation 17:10 (HCSB)** They are also seven kings: Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he comes, he must remain for a little while.
- C. “ten horns”
  - 1. this tells us that Satan is the power behind the Roman Empire
    - a. **Daniel 7:7 (CSBBible)** "After this, while I was watching in the night visions, suddenly a fourth beast appeared, frightening and dreadful, and incredibly strong, with large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and it trampled with its feet whatever was left. It was different from all the beasts before it, and it had ten horns.
  - 2. Sea beast (Roman Empire) also had ten horns
    - a. representing the ten Roman provinces
      - i. **Revelation 17:12 (CSBBible)** The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they will receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.
        - A/ Italy, Achaia, Asia, Syria, Egypt, Africa, Spain, Gaul, Britain, and Germany

- D. “seven diadems”
  - 1. the crowns representing the power of each world empire

V. **Revelation 12:4 (NASB)** *And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.*

- A. “stars”
  - 1. fallen angels who have joined Satan in rebellion
    - a. **Revelation 12:9 (CSBBible)** So the great dragon was thrown out — the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him.
  - 2. note how ridiculous it would be to take this literally
- B. “third”
  - 1. DLT speculations
    - a. demonic rebellion is less than half of the hosts of God
      - i. which means the good guys have the advantage still
    - b. not meant to be taken literally
- C. “threw”
  - 1. theology, not astronomy
  - 2. represents Satan’s actions in instigating angels to rebel against God
- D. “devour”
  - 1. Devil wanted to kill Jesus as soon as He was born
    - a. Herod slaughters the children of Bethlehem (Matt 2:13-18)

VI. **Revelation 12:5 (NASB)** *And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.*

- A. “male child”
  - 1. **Isaiah 66:7 (CSBBible)** <sup>7</sup> Before Zion was in labor, she gave birth; before she was in pain, she delivered a boy.
- B. “rod of iron”
  - 1. ties the male child to Jesus AND to Jesus’ body, the church
    - a. other Scripture that show Jesus rules with a rod of iron
      - i. **Revelation 19:15 (CSBBible)** A sharp sword came from his mouth, so that he might strike the nations with it. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty.  
A/ “he” refers to Jesus  
1/ **Revelation 19:13 (CSBBible)** He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God.
    - b. Scripture that shows that the church rules with a rod of iron
      - i. **Revelation 2:26-27 (HCSB)** The one who is victorious and keeps My works to the end: I will give him authority over the nations— <sup>27</sup> and he will shepherd them with an iron scepter; he will shatter them like pottery— just as I have received [this] from My Father.
- C. “caught up”
  - 1. the resurrection
    - a. mentioned here to show how Jesus escaped the power of the Devil
      - i. just like the overcoming church will

D. “throne”

1. Jesus caught up to God’s throne because Jesus reigns with God
  - a. note: the “male child” is NOT the future Antichrist , for crying out loud!
    - i. why would the Antichrist be caught up to God’s throne?

VII. **Revelation 12:6 (NASB)** *Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.*

A. “woman”

1. at this point, she is the New Israel, the church

B. “fled”

1. when Hebrew Christians in the seige of Jerusalem fled en masse to Pella
  - a. 66 AD Cestius Gallus, Roman general, comes from north, besieges Jerusalem. Jerusalem under control of Zealots, who would not let any person in Jerusalem leave the city. Zealots thought the Messiah would deliver them, so they wouldn’t surrender to the Romans. Inexplicably, Cestius Gallas withdraws. Christians in Jerusalem saw the Roman armies surrounding Jerusalem, being an abomination that causes desolation, fled the city. The Christians had been warned by Jesus in Luke’s version of the Olivet Discourse to flee when they saw this. But how to flee, since the Zealots would stop them? The Zealots left the city to chase Gallus, defeating him a short way to the north at Beth Horon. While the Zealots were gone, the Christians left Jerusalem, went northeast across the Jordan, and stayed at Pella for the duration of the Jewish War. Eusebius of Caesarea says not one Christian lost their life.

C. “1260 days”

1. 3 ½ years was the time the Christians were in Pella
2. limited period of ascendancy of triumphant wickedness
3. period of wrath and judgment due to apostasy
  - a. so, the church is protected in this “great tribulation”
    - i. just like Elijah who was fed by ravens in the wilderness for 3 ½ years (I Kings 17:3-6)
    - ii. like Israel fleeing to the wilderness to escape Egypt
    - iii. like Virgin Mary fleeing to Egypt to escape Herod (Matt 2:13-21)
    - iv. like the 8 in Noah’s boat who escaped the flood

D. Jesus warned the Jerusalem church in the Olivet Discourse

1. Scriptures

- a. **Luke 19:43 (HCSB)** For the days will come on you when your enemies will build an embankment against you, surround you, and hem you in on every side.
- b. **Luke 21:20-21 (HCSB)** <sup>20</sup> “When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that its desolation has come near. <sup>21</sup> Then those in Judea must flee to the mountains! Those inside the city must leave it, and those who are in the country must not enter it,

VIII. **Revelation 12:7 (NASB)** *And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,*

A. “heaven”

1. potential problem
  - a. why in heaven, since the dragon and his angels were thrown down to the earth
    - i. not a strict chronology
      - A/ John is looking back to the conflict that got Satan thrown down to the earth

B. “Michael”

1. many theologians say this is a symbol for Jesus
  - a. and “angels” refers to Jesus’ apostles
  - b. Barnes
    - i. refers to the real Michael, not Jesus
      - A/ why
        - 1/ if John had meant Jesus, he would have just said so
          - a/ or used a common symbol for him
        - B/ Michael in Daniel is portrayed as the guardian angel of the people of God
          - 1/ here, he’s the guardian of the people of God in the wilderness

IX. **Revelation 12:8-9 (NASB)** *and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. (v9) And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and the angels were thrown down with him.*

A. “thrown down” (v9)

1. the Devil utterly loses
2. “the gates of hell shall not prevail” against J’s Church (Matt 16:18)
  - a. **Matthew 16:18 (CSBBible)** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.
  - b. notice that a city with gates is on the DEFENSIVE
3. a form of “ballo”
  - a. similar word used when demons cast out (“ekballo”)
    - i. example
      - A/ **Matthew 7:22 (CSBBible)** On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?'

B. “devil”

1. “slanderer”

C. “Satan”

1. “adversary”

D. “deceives” (v9)

1. Satan (The Accuser) manufactured following lies about the early church
  - a. apostates
    - i. because they had left Judaism
  - b. atheists
    - i. because they had no special religious temples
  - c. ritual murderers
    - i. because of the Lord’s Supper
  - d. cannibals
    - i. because of the Lord’s Supper
  - e. social revolutionaries
    - i. because they proclaimed a kingdom
  - f. haters of mankind

E. “angels” (v9)

1. Satan’s demons

- X. **Revelation 12:10 (NASB)** “Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night,”
- A. “now”
1. a key time indicator
- B. “kingdom”
1. the kingdom had already come at the **FIRST** advent
    - a. the kingdom has come “**NOW**”
      - i. not 2000+ years in the future
    - b. Scriptures
      - i. **Matthew 28:18 (CSBBible)** Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.  
A/ after the resurrection, appearing to His disciples
      - ii. **Matthew 12:28 (CSBBible)** If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.  
A/ when did Jesus cast out devils?
- B. “has been”
1. not “will be”
- C. “thrown down”
1. when did Satan fall?
    - a. Scriptures to show: at the **FIRST** advent of X (not the Second Advent)
      - i. **Luke 10:17-19 (CSBBible)** <sup>17</sup> The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." <sup>18</sup> He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like lightning. <sup>19</sup> Look, I have given you the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy; nothing at all will harm you. . .”  
A/ Satan fell, AND they were preaching the Kingdom of God
        - 1/ the arrival of the Kingdom of God is associated with casting out demons
          - a/ **Matthew 10:7** “ "And as you go, preach, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' <sup>8</sup> "Heal *the* sick, raise *the* dead, cleanse *the* lepers, cast out demons; freely you received, freely give.”
          - i/ the Kingdom of heaven is “at hand,” and so is the casting out of demons  
A) argues that the Devil has been thrown down **NOW**
      - ii. **John 12:31** “<sup>31</sup> **NOW** is the judgment of this world: **NOW** shall the prince of this world be cast out.”  
A/ cast out (ἐκβλήθησεται, from ἐκβάλλω) is at root the same word used in Revelation 12:10
        - 1/ Revelation 12:10 → (ἐβλήθη, from βάλλω)
        - 2/ and John says the casting out happened “**NOW**”
        - 2/ word used all thru gospels for casting out is ἐκβάλλω (intensive form of βάλλω)
          - a/ word used in Revelation 12 is “βάλλω”
      - iii. **Colossians 2:15 (CSBBible)** He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in him.  
A/ happened at the cross
        - 1/ not in some far-off millennium when Satan bound
          - a/ Satan was bound *at the cross*

iv. **Hebrews 2:14-15 (HCSB)** <sup>14</sup> Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared in these, so that through His death He might destroy the one holding the power of death—that is, the Devil—<sup>15</sup> and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death.

A/ Jesus' death on the cross happened at the **FIRST** advent, not the second

v. **Romans 16:20** “the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”

2. the male child was “caught up to God” in v 5
  - a. so the resurrection is what caused the devil to be thrown down
    - i. not his binding in a far-off future millennium

XI. **Revelation 12:11 (NASB)** *And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.*

A. “they”

1. the “brethren” of Revelation 12:10 who had been accused of Satan

B. “death”

1. notice how it is still possible to be an overcomer if you lose your life
  - a. overcoming is not synonymous with surviving

XII. **Revelation 12:12 (NASB)** *For this reason, rejoice, O heavens, and you who  dwell in them. Woe to the earth [land] and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.*

A. “rejoice”

1. illustrates one of the themes of Rev
  - a. praise to God for dominion and victory of the new covenant
2. nothing wrong with rejoicing over the fall of God's enemies

B. “dwell”

1. believers and angels (DT)

C. “land”

1. apostate Israel

D. “sea”

1. heathen nations raging and foaming in their hatred against the Lord
  - a. in particular, the Roman Empire
    - i. **Revelation 13:1-2 (CSBBible)** <sup>1</sup> And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten crowns, and on its heads were blasphemous names. <sup>2</sup> The beast I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. The dragon gave the beast his power, his throne, and great authority.

E. “sea,” “land”

1. this is JESUS' territory, upon which Satan is trespassing
  - a. **Revelation 10:1-2** “<sup>1</sup> And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow *was* upon his head, and his face *was* as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:<sup>2</sup> And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and *his* left *foot* on the earth [land],”
2. Chilton, p.318
  - a. the Dragon “will seek to stir up Land and Sea, first in a demonic partnership against the Church, and then in a war against each other, in order to crush the church between them

- E. “short”
  - 1. from the time the Devil has been thrown down till now is 2000 plus years
    - a. are we prepared to say that amount of time is “short”?
  - 2. Devil only had a short time between the time John wrote till the destruction of Jerusalem
    - a. the Devil had come down to the Roman Empire and enraged the Empire against the church
      - i. the Devil trying to crush the church in two places
        - A/ the Roman Empire
          - 1/ Nero’s persecution was in the early sixties
        - B/ Israel
          - 1/ the Romans would go after Israel
            - a/ but the Devil is trying to crush the church which was in Israel

XIII. **Revelation 12:13 (HCSB)** *When the dragon saw that he had been thrown to earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.*

- A. “thrown down”
  - 1. the reason the Devil persecutes the church, is because he has already been defeated in heaven!
- B. “land”
  - 1. the church will be persecuted first by the Devil in Israel
    - a. if church had not escaped to Pella during the seige of Jerusalem it would have been destroyed
- C. “woman”
  - 1. the woman is now spiritual Israel, the Israel of God, the church
- D. “male child”
  - 1. Jesus

XIV. **Revelation 12:14 (NASB)** *But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.*

- A. “eagle”
  - 1. OT Israel was preserved in the wilderness
    - a. and Moses used the same “eagle” imagery to describe the preservation
      - i. **Exodus 19:4 (CSBBible)** 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.
- B. “fly”
  - 1. escape of Jewish believers from Roman invasions during the Jewish War
    - a. Xns escaped to shelter in desert caves in Pella
      - i. in obedience to Jesus’ command
        - A/ **Matthew 24:15-22 (CSBBible)** <sup>15</sup> "So when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place" (let the reader understand), <sup>16</sup> "then those in Judea must flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> A man on the housetop must not come down to get things out of his house, <sup>18</sup> and a man in the field must not go back to get his coat. <sup>19</sup> Woe to pregnant women and nursing mothers in those days! <sup>20</sup> Pray that your escape may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> For at that time there will be great distress, the kind that hasn't taken place from the beginning of the world until now and never will again. <sup>22</sup> Unless those days were cut short, no one would be saved. But those days will be cut short because of the elect.

- b. history
  - i. Dee Dee Warren, Commentary on Olivet Discourse, on Matthew 24:15
    - a. “Now one may ask, how can one flee if a city is surrounded? That seems like a pretty inane command. [Matt 24:15,16 “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet... then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.”] Well, history gives a remarkable reason (and proof of Christ's foreknowledge of this event) why Christ gave this command. When the Roman armies led by Cestius Gallus first surrounded Jerusalem, they had to unexpectedly withdraw due to civil war and strife fomenting in the capital. At this point, the Christians... remembering Christ's words, fled the city. History records not one Christian being lost in this siege. The apostate Jews of that time, more particularly the Zealots, mistakenly believed that God had miraculously delivered them and stirred up the city hardening it in its apostasy from Rome... This is quite remarkable and a goosebump-giving sign of Divine Providence. Also one must consider the timing of the beginning of the siege.... It was during the time when the Jewish people of that time flocked to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. It would have been highly counter-intuitive of the disciples to flee (a walled city offers much protection), but flee they did....”
  - ii. Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*, iii, v3
    - a. “But before the war, the people of the Church of Jerusalem were bidden in an oracle given by revelation to men worthy of it to depart from the city and to dwell in a city of Perea called Pella. To it those who believed in Christ migrated from Jerusalem. Once the holy men had completely left the Jews and all Judea, the justice of God at last overtook them, since they had committed such transgressions against Christ and his apostles. Divine justice completely blotted out that impious generation from among men.”
- B. “nourished”
  - 1. just because the church is fleeing, doesn't mean she's lost the battle, or that things are out of control
- C. “a time, times, and half a time”
  - 1. time between Cestus' withdrawal and fall of Jerusalem was 3 ½ years (DT)
  - 2. symbolic of the time of judgment falling on Jerusalem (Chilton)

XV. **Revelation 12:15 (NASB)** *And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.”*

- A. “water”
  - 1. just as in Exodus the Devil tried to destroy the Old Israel in the Red Sea
    - a. Pharaoh chased after escaping Israel to edge of Red Sea

XVI. **Revelation 12:16 (NASB)** *But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.*

- A. “drank up”
  - 1. the church is always preserved in the *midst* of persecution
  - 2. just as the old covenant people of God had the land dried up for them so they could escape
    - a. so the new covenant people of God had the same thing happen
      - i. they were saved from the “new Egypt,” the city which is mystically called Egypt (11:8)
        - A/ **Revelation 11:8 (CSBBible)** Their dead bodies will lie in the main street of the great city, which figuratively is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

XVII. **Revelation 12:17 (NASB)** *So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.*

A. “rest”

1. the predominately Gentile church outside of Jerusalem, scattered through the Roman Empire
  - a. a perfect transition to Chapter 13
    - i. about the sea beast, the Roman Empire

B. “children”

1. the church
  - a. how can the church be symbolized by both woman and the woman’s children?
    - i. **Galatians 4:26 (CSBBible)** But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.  
A/ Jerusalem is the mother, and the (new) Jerusalem is the children
    - ii. “daughters of Jerusalem”  
A/ refers to the population of Jerusalem
      - 1/ so, the “daughters” and the “mother” are the same

B/ Scriptures

- 1/ **Psalm 9:11,14** “<sup>11</sup> Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings. <sup>14</sup> That I may shew forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation.”
  - a/ “Zion” and “Daughter of Zion” are used as synonyms