

## EXPOSITION OF REVELATION

### Message #32

### Revelation 12:13-17

When Satan and his demons are cast out of heaven it is another loss for Satan and it is a major blow to his Satanic ego. As he is leaving heaven, there is a tremendous celebration and praise service taking place and that makes him even angrier. He realizes his time is very limited and the end is on the way. He is losing his control and losing his grip and he will not go quietly without an aggressive fight.

What we see here is this:

**WHEN SATAN AND HIS DEMONS ARE CAST OUT OF HEAVEN IT WILL SO ENRAGE SATAN THAT HE WILL TRY TO DESTROY EVERY JEW ON THE EARTH.**

Here is what Zechariah predicted: “It will come about in all the land declares the LORD that two parts in it will be cut off and perish; but the third will be left in it. And I will bring the third part through the fire, refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name and I will answer them; I will say they are My people, and they will say The LORD is my God.” (Zechariah 13:8-9).

God predicts a time when 2/3rds of the nation Israel will be destroyed. That moment starts right here in Revelation.

When we study the history of Israel there has always been a “legacy of hatred” against her. All throughout history, the Jews have been persecuted. We tracked that in our study of the History and Importance of Israel (That doctrinal study is one line).

Synagogues were burned, Jewish homes were demolished, Jewish books were banned, Jewish leaders were destroyed and many Jews were killed. This has happened many times in history.

- 1) This happened during the days of the Babylonians (605BC-586BC).
- 2) This happened during the days of the Syrians (175BC).
- 3) This happened during the days of the Romans (AD 70).
- 4) This happened during the days of the Islamic Invasions (AD 636-1099).
- 5) This happened during the days of the Christian Crusades (AD 1099-1291).
- 5) This happened during the days of Hitler (AD 1939-1945).

The Jews have been the most hated and persecuted group of people to ever live in this earth.

But of all of the persecutions that have come against Israel, the worst is yet to come. It will occur about half-way through “The Great Tribulation” and this is given the title in Scripture “the time of Jacob’s trouble/distress”(Jeremiah 30:7)

This last major wave of hatred against Israel will be the worst ever and it is right here in the Tribulation when it begins.

Keep in mind that **whenever God has permitted Israel to be dominated by Gentile powers, it is a judgment directly from Him for a national rejection of His word and His Son..**

This is the Great Tribulation which is all about judgment and the final judgment He will permit against Israel is the worst ever. Satan, who now is ousted from heaven, will lead this attack. He will target Israel in an attempt to exterminate her. That is his goal.

Satan hates Israel and this attack will be as one commentator said “desperate and deadly.” Israel is God’s elect nation and Satan knows that. Israel produced Jesus Christ and Satan knows that. Israel gave the world the word of God and Satan knows that. Israel is promised a glorious future and Kingdom on this earth and Satan knows that. So at this point in the Tribulation, he will do everything he can to destroy and exterminate Israel from existence.

There are five key eschatological truths that John brings out in these verses:

**ESCHATOLOGICAL TRUTH #1-** When Satan is confined to the earth, he will persecute Israel. **12:13**

The Greek verb “persecuted” (diwkw) is one that literally means to persecute something in a speedy pursuit that drives the thing persecuted away and puts it to flight (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p.119) The aorist tense of the verb, indicates that it starts at this moment of time when Satan is cast out of heaven.

The object of this pursuit and persecution is “the woman” who gave birth to “the male child.” Now the male child is none other than Jesus Christ and the woman who produced her was the nation Israel (Romans 9:4-5).

**When Satan is confined to this earth, he will immediately begin a pursuit and a persecution of Israel.**

When Jesus was here speaking of future events, He warned that this moment would come and that the people living in Jerusalem and Judea which is the surrounding area, need to flee as fast as they can (Matthew 24:15-18). He said don’t go get anything out of the house and don’t even get a coat; just get out of there fast.

This will be a critical matter of faith. Those Jews who believe what Jesus said and do what He said will be saved and those who don’t will be killed. Remember two prophets in Jerusalem (Rev.11) and 144,000 Jewish men (Rev.7) will be communicating this truth in the Tribulation.

When Satan is confined to this earth, he will be on a vendetta to rid the world of the Jew. He realizes his days are numbered to 1260 days and then Jesus Christ will return to set up His kingdom.

His arrogant thinking is that he will completely destroy this nation Israel. Every Jew, with the exception of the 144,000 sealed Jews, will be in jeopardy and in serious danger of being destroyed.

Those Jews who continue to reject Jesus Christ as Savior and Messiah are headed to a satanic slaughter. Satan will use political forces, religious forces, military forces and economic forces to try to exterminate Israel. His goal will be complete destruction.

**ESCHATOLOGICAL TRUTH #2-** God will sovereignly protect, preserve and provide for those Israelites who obey Him for 3 ½ years. **12:14**

What is described in this verse is that Israel is enabled by God to quickly and swiftly escape from Satanic persecution. The imagery used here is of a “great eagle.” The eagle is said to be the most powerful of birds and the most rapid in flight.

This “eagle” imagery is specifically connected to a relationship between Israel and God.

For example in Exodus 19:3-4, God told Moses to tell Israel that He was the one who bore them on “eagles wings” and brought them out of Egypt.

In Deuteronomy 32:9-12, when Moses was giving his song, he used this eagle imagery to communicate the fact that God was the One who hovered over her and protected her and provided for her.

So this eagle imagery is a specific reference of a relationship between God and national Israel. We read here in **verse 14** that Israel was given wings to “fly into the wilderness.” At the 3 ½ year point in the Great Tribulation, this will apply in at least two ways:

**Application #1-** Literally many Jews will literally flee into the wilderness area that surrounds Jerusalem.

As we mentioned this moment of fleeing to suburbia wilderness areas was mentioned and taught by Jesus Christ (Matthew 24:16). These were the very areas where King David fled when he was being pursued (I Samuel 23:13-15).

**Application #2-** Symbolically many Jews will flee to Gentile nations, who will hide Jews and protect Jews during the Great Tribulation.

In many passages of Scripture we learn that there will be Gentile people and nations who will care for the Jews during this time- Isaiah 11:9-12; Zechariah 10:6-12; **Matthew 25:31-46.**

It is interesting to note that some have suggested that the eagle imagery is specifically connected to the United States. The United States does use the Eagle as a symbol of strength and security. Those who hold this position believe that many Jews will flee to the United States during the Tribulation. This may or may not be true.

The real emphasis here is that God is powerfully and swiftly protecting Israel.

We learn in **verse 14** that the specific time frame of this persecution is identified as being “a time and times and half a time.” We know that these numbers in this very chapter refer to 1260 days (Rev.12:6). In other words, it is predicted that Satan will persecute Israel as his primary target for 3 ½ years.

This is exactly what was predicted by Daniel. In Daniel 7:23-28 it is stated that the Antichrist will “wear down” the saints for “a time, times and half a time” or 3 ½ years. In Daniel 12:7 it is predicted that God’s nation will be shattered for a “time, times and half a time” or 3 ½ years.

Based on what Daniel says in Daniel 12:11, the abomination of desolation will be announced and implemented about 30 days before the mid-point of the Tribulation, which would make the total number of days 1290.

This is when Jews must flee because the final 3 ½ years will be a Satanic assault against Israel.

**ESCHATOLOGICAL TRUTH #3-** Satan’s initial assault against Israel will be like a flood of a river. **12:15**

The prophet Daniel specifically predicted that this Satanic persecution would come against Israel like a flood (Daniel 9:26). **By using the adverb “like”, we know that this is not a reference to a literal flood of water; but a fast flowing flood of persecution.**

When a river floods, it rises quickly and flows swiftly and ferociously. When the prophet Jeremiah used this imagery, he used it in reference to Gentile powers that would quickly and swiftly rise against Israel (Jer. 46:7-8; 47:2-3).

More than likely what this means is that Satan’s first assault against Israel will be a rise of Gentile powers that will quickly and swiftly rise and turn against Israel in an attempt to completely destroy her.

**ESCHATOLOGICAL TRUTH #4-** God will not permit Satan and his forces to completely destroy Israel. **12:16**

This language of God opening the earth and drinking up the flood is imagery that is used in regard to Israel and judgment.

For example in Exodus 15:12, this imagery was used of God swallowing up the Egyptians and protecting Israel. It is certainly possible that God will use miraculous type of things to destroy Israel’s enemies.

In Numbers 16:30-32, the imagery is of God destroying the sons of Korah for their rebellion against Moses and Aaron. God did not allow Korah to succeed.

God will not allow Satan and his demonic forces to completely destroy His nation. We know from Zechariah 13:8-9 that 2/3rds of Israel will die and 1/3 will not.

God will offset this Satanic attempt to destroy Israel by raising up other nations of the earth to house her and help her (Matthew 25:31-46).

**ESCHATOLOGICAL TRUTH #5-** Satan will realize that God is protecting Israel and that will enrage him more. **12:17**

Satan will realize that he cannot completely destroy Israel because of God's sovereign protection so he will turn his attention to destroying any believer who is after understanding God's word, obeying God's word and defending Jesus Christ.

He will try to destroy anything connected to Jesus Christ and anyone committed to the word of God.

During the Tribulation, those 144,000 Jewish evangelists will be impacting the world with their Kingdom message. Many people will believe it and will seek to obey God's word and defend the name of Jesus Christ. They will be the target of Satan's rage at this point.

The best thing for one to do right now is to believe in Jesus Christ and be saved. Whether Jew or Gentile, if one will believe in Him one will never experience the wrath of God and one will never go into the Great Tribulation.