

## **Chapter 12**

### **The Israeli Perspective**

*“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”  
(Revelation 12:1)*

The nation of Israel has always been the chosen nation of God. Nowhere in Scripture has it been suggested that God overthrew Israel for the Church. Don't get me wrong; the Church is definitely in the plan of God as a stage pointing to the ultimate and final Kingdom. But since the day God spoke to Abram telling him to rise up from his father's house and follow Him into the wilderness to a land that He would show him, Israel has been on the heart of God.

We have said that God gave three witnesses to prove this revelation was true. One is the actual horsemen which is a kind of preview of the time of tribulation. The second is the end time happenings from the perspective of the Church and the third witness is the end time happenings from the perspective of Israel.

Revelation chapter 12 begins that accounting of the Israeli perspective. Verses 1-6 serve to identify the nation of Israel without question. We see the woman who is very clearly marked as Israel. The scripture goes on to speak of a child being born which can be no other than Jesus Christ.

Next we see the great red dragon who has been clearly identified as the devil in the book of Revelation drawing a third of the stars (or angels who become his demonic hoard).

This dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth just waiting to devour her child. We know that the devil appeared to Jesus forty days after He was baptized by John. Jesus had just finished a fast during which He had not eaten for forty days. The Bible clearly tells us that after the fast was over He was hungry (See Matthew 4:1-11). The devil always comes during our time of greatest weakness and tempts using our point of greatest weakness. He tempted Jesus to first turn stones to bread, then to prove Himself to be the Son of God by leaping from a pinnacle of the Temple. The devil finally got to the temptation he really wanted Jesus to say "yes" to; He offered Him all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would only fall down and worship him.

You see, the devil knew the mission of Jesus. He knew that He would die to pay the penalty for sin and become worthy to open the seals redeeming all of creation back to God. If he could just tempt Jesus into taking the easy way out and worship him then he would finally thwart the plan of God.

But Jesus did not give in. He fulfilled His mission earning the right to the seven sealed scroll. Revelation 12 summarizes all of this by stating that when the Child was born he was caught up to God and His throne.

Next the woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared by God for her. Many believe this to be the stone city of Petra that is literally carved out of the side of a mountain. I

don't know for certain because the Bible does not identify the place. It only tells us that Israel will flee to this place and be safe for roughly three and a half years.

Then we see war breaking out in the heavens between Michael, the angel apparently over the armies of Heaven, and the devil and his band. The devil is overcome and is cast to the earth and forever exiled from Heaven. Up until this time the devil still has access to Heaven to a degree as we see in the book of Job. But after this war he is allowed there no more.

Those in Heaven rejoice and you can read their words of rejoicing in Revelation 12:10-12. Then a warning is given to the Earth to beware because *“the devil has come down to you having great wrath because he knows that he has a short time.”*

The devil immediately turns his attention to the chosen of God, the nation Israel. He begins to persecute her but she is given speed as with two wings of an eagle to fly into the wilderness to this place God has prepared for her for this part of the tribulation. Note that this is not a reference to the United States as some have erroneously interpreted. It simply means that God allows Israel to flee with swiftness.

The serpent (the devil) spews water from his mouth in attempt to stop the woman with a flood but God allows the earth to open up and the water is stopped.

So the devil turns his attention to the rest of her offspring – the Christians who are identified as having the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The passage is not clear as to whether this is the physical nation of Israel or those who are true Israelites. But it does indicate that Israel will be spared and given an opportunity to truly recognize Jesus Christ as the Messiah. At any rate, by the grace of God she will be protected during the tribulation.

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