

"The Significant Characters of the Tribulation"

Part 3

Revelation 12-14

Introduction: Several weeks back we stepped into Revelation 12 and as we did we are introduced to several key players of the Tribulation. We looked first at:

I. **The War on Earth**

A.

B. **The Woman**

Notice Revelation 12:1-2

She is clothed with the sun and the moon at her feet with a crown of 12 stars upon her head. This Woman was Israel and in the beginning of chapter 12 she is pregnant with a child and experiencing birth pains.

C. **The Great Red Dragon**

Notice Revelation 12:3

There is standing before her the Great Red Dragon who is Satan and he is ready to devour the child as soon as He is born.

D. **The Child**

Notice Revelation 12:4

The Child is Jesus Christ and this entire scene takes us back to the fall of Satan when he took with him one-third of the angels. It takes us back to when sin entered the world and when God pronounced the curse and the promise of the future Redeemer who would destroy Satan.

It was Satan's desire to destroy Jesus Christ because of the promise which was made in Genesis 3:15

Genesis 3:14-15

14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

This prophecy started a spiritual war in which Satan did all he could to destroy Jesus Christ before He was born and after He was born.

Here in Revelation 12 John takes us on a tour into the past the entire way back to creation and he takes us into the future when Jesus will rule in the Millennial Kingdom.

Notice Revelation 12:5

This verse takes us from the birth of Jesus Christ then to His ascension. It also foretells His Kingdom Reign.

Notice Revelation 12:6

Here we see the Woman who is Israel will flee into the wilderness for three and one-half years which is the last half of the Tribulation. Now as we continue we can see why Israel must flee into the wilderness. This brings us to the next war we considered.

II. The War in Heaven

Notice Revelation 12:7

Here we see that the war that took place on earth is now carried into heaven. The battle is fought between Michael and his angels and Satan and his angels. This battle has everything to do with Israel. Michael is the angle who has been assigned to the Nation of Israel.

Daniel 12:1

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

This verse in Daniel is referencing the very event in Revelation 12 which is the war in heaven. The point I want you to see is that Michael the archangel is the angel which has been designated to stand for Israel. Let me show you another reference.

Jude 1:9

⁹ Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

We are not told what the weapons are which are used. Possibly the Satan uses the lies and Michael uses the Word of God.

Notice Revelation 12:8

At this time Satan and the fallen angels will be cast out of heaven. As we looked at before Satan and the fallen angels have access to God's throne at this time. But when this battle is fought that access will no longer be permitted.

Notice Revelation 12:9-10

Today Satan has access to the throne of God but when this day comes he and his fallen angels will be confined to earth. Here in these verses we are given insight as to the 2 missions of Satan.

1. **He is working to deceive the whole world.**

Satan has been busy since man was created doing all he can to lead people down a path of deception. He does not care what people believe as long as it is not the Truth. So, since the fall Satan has been busy doing all he can to keep people from believing the Gospel. Let me show you why.

Romans 1:16-17

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

The Gospel is the Good news that Jesus died for you, was buried and rose again the third day.

The Gospel is that Jesus died to pay for the sins of the world and when a person believes that the FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST IS APPLIED TO THEIR ACCOUNT.

So, Satan has been busy selling RELIGION to the world so that man will turn his back upon SALVATION. Let me show you how soon this started after sin entered the world.

Genesis 4:1-5

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

² And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

³ And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

⁴ And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

⁵ But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Cain was RELIGIOUS but he was not saved. He bought into Satan's deception that man can earn the forgiveness of sin. He refused to believe sin could only be atoned for through the shedding of blood. Satan has used people who will listen to develop many false religions to bring deception upon man.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

These verses are very frightening for they tell us that Satan and his fallen angels can present themselves as righteous angles. So, it is his mission to lead as many people as possible down the path of deception in rebellion against God. That is exactly what false religion is, rebellion against God for it is a movement against the Gospel.

Let me help you to see another way in which Satan works today. He will attempt to deceive you with your priorities.

Hebrews 2:14-15

¹⁴ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Satan has been using the tactic of fear to lead people into eternal destruction also. Here in Hebrews the writer speaks of people living in fear of death all their lives and that fear has driven them to a life of bondage. What is the writer talking about here? Let me give you my thought on this. Death is the absence of LIFE. I believe that Satan has convinced people that if they do not LIVE LIFE to the fullest they are going to miss out on something. So, we look around today and we see people that are so BUSY. Remember the definition of BUSY?

B- Being

U- Under

S- Satan's

Y-Yoke

I have said this before and I will say it again. Satan does not care what you get involved in just as long as you are not involved with serving God. He will convince you that MONEY is important, ACTIVITIES are important, SPORTS are important and the list goes on and on. So, you buy into his deception and you chase whatever is tops on your list of priorities. As I said Satan does not care what it is as long as you have no time for God and you are too busy to think about eternity.

He will do this to both saved people and unsaved people. Jesus warned about living for the world.

Luke 12:15-20

¹⁵ And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

¹⁶ And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

¹⁸ And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

²⁰ But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Satan has deceived many people and caused them to lose sight of what is important or to buy into a false religion. He has succeeded in leading many down the path of eternal destruction.

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

2. He is accusing the believers.

Notice Revelation 12:10

These are the saints in heaven rejoicing because Satan will no longer be able to come into the presence of God to accuse the brethren.

Satan will do all he can to keep people from salvation and then he will do all he can to have them stripped of their salvation which is impossible. Listen to this poem by an unnamed lady:

I sinned, and straightway, posthaste, Satan flew
Before the presence of the Most High God,
And made a railing accusation there.
He said, "This soul, this thing of clay and sod,
Has sinned. 'Tis true that he has named thy Name,

But I demand his death, for Thou hast said,
'The soul that sinneth, it shall die.' Shall not
Thy sentence be fulfilled? Is Justice dead?
Send now this wretched sinner to his doom.
What other thing can righteous ruler do?'
And thus he did accuse me day and night.

And every word he spoke, O God, was true!
Then quickly One rose up from God's right hand
Before whose glory angels veiled their eyes.
He spoke, 'Each jot and tittle of the Law
Must be fulfilled; the guilty sinner dies!

But wait!

Suppose his guilt were all transferred To Me,
and that I paid his penalty.

Behold, my hands, my side, my feet! One day
I was made sin for him, and died that he
Might be presented faultless at Thy throne."

And Satan flew away. Full well he knew
That he could not prevail against such love,
For every word my dear Lord spoke was true!"

Let us notice now how Satan is overcome.

Notice Revelation 12:11

1. **By the blood of the Lamb** - The ONLY means of forgiveness.

Hebrews 9:22

²² *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

2. **By the word of their testimony** - Others are ONLY saved by hearing the witness of those who know Christ. Faith cometh by hearing.

Romans 10:17

¹⁷ *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

3. **They loved NOT their lives to death** - Priorities in order. This is living to make a difference in the lives of others and sacrificing to make the difference.

Conclusion: There are many in our world who are deceived and they are searching. They are deep into sin but the Gospel is the POWER OF GOD unto salvation to everyone that believes and they cannot believe if they do not hear the Gospel.