

"The Significant Characters of the Tribulation"

Part 4

Revelation 12-14

Introduction: Last week in our study of Revelation we looked at the future war that will be fought in heaven and we look at how Satan and his angels will be defeated and cast out of heaven.

Notice Revelation 12:7-8

When this happens there will be a celebration in heaven and in the praise, that is spoken we were able to see two of the main missions of Satan.

1. He does all he can to deceive the world.

Notice Revelation 12:9

Last week I reminded you that Satan does not care what you believe as long as you do not believe the Gospel.

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 GOODNEWS that Jesus Christ died for our sins, He was buried, and He was risen on the third day. This is the message of the Gospel and it is this message that sets people free from the:

- a. Penalty of sin.
- b. Power of sin.
- c. Presence of sin.

This is the message that saves man from the Lake of Fire and makes him a child of God.

John 1:12

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

When we rest our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ we are forgiven of all of our sin and we are then secure in Christ.

Hebrews 10:14

¹⁴ For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Therefore, Satan does not want anyone to believe the Gospel. So, he goes about promoting his false religions, or keeping people so busy they have no time for God or to even think about eternity.

2. He accuses the believe before God.

Notice Revelation 12:10

Once we are saved it would be Satan's desire to have us stripped of our salvation and that is why he accuses us before our God day and night.

We then looked at what how Satan is overcome.

Notice Revelation 12:11

He is overcome by:

1. The Blood of Jesus Christ.
2. By proclaiming the Gospel.
3. By living sacrificial lives.

This now brings us to where we are today.

I. The Future War on Earth

This chapter has so far taken us from *Genesis* where the war started. Satan tried his best to stop the promise of *Genesis 3:15* by destroying the promised Redeemer. This war then continued into heaven after the ascension of Jesus Christ. And now we shall see that the war will spill back out to the earth during the *Great Tribulation*. After Satan loses the battle in heaven he is cast to the earth.

Notice Revelation 12:12

When Satan is cast out of heaven down to the earth he will be in a rage of fury. He knows he has but a short time left on the earth and so it will be his mission to do all he can to grab any power that he can get.

Mark Hitchcock tells us when Satan is kicked out of heaven there will be 3 major changes take place:

1. Satan will no long be able to gain an audience with God to accuse the Lord's people.
2. Satan will no long have access into the presence of God to be granted permission to test and tempt the saints.
3. Because he knows his time is short he will wreak as much havoc as possible. He will institute a scorched earth policy.

Because Satan will fail to rule in heaven he will do his best at this time to rule on earth. But in order to rule on earth he must stop the return of Jesus Christ.

Notice Revelation 12:13

When Satan is cast to the earth his focus becomes the Nation of Israel because the promise of the Lord's EARTHLY RETURN is made to Israel. If Satan is going to rule the earth he must destroy Israel to stop the return of Jesus Christ. So, all his rage and fury are directed toward Israel.

This is all happening at the mid-point of the Tribulation.

Matthew 24:15-19

¹⁵ When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

¹⁶ Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

¹⁷ Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

¹⁸ Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

¹⁹ And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

²⁰ But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

*²¹ **For then shall be great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

This passage is parallel with our text in Revelation 12. When Satan hits the earth, this will begin what is known as the GREAT TRIBULATION. Daniel also points to the very same time.

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.

Notice Revelation 12:14

Here we see the Divine protection given to the Nation of Israel. This all happens at the mid-point of the Tribulation and so Israel will be nourished by God for the last 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. The reference to the EAGLE'S WINGS speaks of SUPERNATURAL PROTECTION AND PROVISION.

Exodus 19:4

⁴ Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

This speaks of how God supernaturally parted the Red Sea and allowed Israel to escape the attack of the Egyptians. But there is also more here.

To be carried on eagle's wings has the idea of the mother eagle who forces her young from the nest and then flies beside them to be sure they do not hit the ground. If they are unable to soar they will be swooped up and carried to greater heights.

Deuteronomy 32:10-13

¹⁰ He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

¹¹ As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:

¹² So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

¹³ He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

The idea in Revelation 12:14 is that God will do for Israel what they cannot do for themselves. He will carry them on eagle's wings in order to preserve His people and he will nourish them for 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years in the place He hath made for them.

Notice Revelation 12:6

This is a place prepared by God for Israel. Many today believe it is Petra. But it could be a place that does not exist as of yet. Remember the 6th Seal Judgment?

Revelation 6:12-14

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Notice Revelation 12:15

Here we see that Satan tries his best to destroy Israel with something AS A FLOOD. It is important to notice the source of the WATER is symbolic for it is the serpent's mouth so we can therefore safely see the flood as being symbolic. Many believe this will be a military under the influence of the demon world that will pursue Israel.

Notice Revelation 12:16

Whatever Satan launches to destroy Israel God will use the earth to swallow it up. This is most likely a military and what happens here is very similar to what happened to the Egyptians when they pursued Israel through the Red Sea and were drowned in the waters. But I believe there is a more accurate picture of what happens here in the Old Testament.

Numbers 16:28-33

28 And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works: for I have not done them of mine own mind.

29 If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me.

30 But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.

31 And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:

³² *And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.*

³³ *They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.*

Here we see the earth swallowed Korah and his followers and the most likely the very same thing will happen to the military that pursues Israel into the wilderness.

Notice Revelation 12:17

Here we see that Satan will turn to the remnant of Israel's seed when he knows he cannot get to her. But this brings up a question, "WHO IS THE REMNANT HERE?"

This is probably the 144,000 Jewish men that we met in Revelation 7. They will be scattered throughout the world preaching the Gospel and they will not be able to get to the place which God has prepared. Also, we must remember that their ministry will continue in the last half of the Tribulation.

Revelation 7:13-14

¹³ *And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?*

¹⁴ *And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

The fruit of their ministry comes out of the GREAT TRIBULATION which is the last 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. So, they are very active in the last half.

Notice Revelation 12:17 again.

They are those who keep the commandments and they have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Now let me show you how God will protect these men.

Matthew 25:31-40

³¹ *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

The saved of the Gentiles will be used by God to provide for the 144,000 Jewish men.

Conclusion:

What can I glean from all of this?

1. **God will provide the protection and the provision for you and me also.**

Isaiah 43:1-3a

But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

3 For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:

2. **Sometimes I am the instrument which God wants to use to help those who are in need.**

Galatians 6:9-10

⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

¹⁰ As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.