



SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION
SESSION 19 – CH 12:7-17

REV 12:7-12

“7And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in Heaven. 9And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. 12Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”

War in Heaven

From the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, Satan has had access to the throne of God to accuse humanity. We see this portrayed in the story of Job. Satan came before the throne of God, to accuse Job. Satan’s calls his limitations against Job a “Hedge” (Job 1:10). Even to this very day, Satan has access to the throne of God to accuse the saints.

Michael is commander of the angels that did not rebel against God. In Daniel we are told that Michael is also the angel that watches over Israel. In the last days there is a war in heaven and Michael and his angels fight against Satan and his angels. Satan and his angels are cast out of the heaven.

Some think Satan was long ago cast out of heaven but there are several passages in scriptures that indicate that Satan still has access to God and accuses us before the Father continually. That is why Jesus is our advocate before the Father until the time when Satan no longer has this access. The casting out of Satan, the desecration of the temple and the killing of the two prophets will all happen very quickly probably on the same day. That is why Jesus warns Israel to not get anything out of the house but to get out of town as fast as they can. By reading only the prior verses you might think that Satan is cast out after the woman flees but verse 13 clarifies this by saying after the Devil sees he is cast out he persecutes the woman (Israel). One thing should be clear; since Satan is cast out here, he could not have been cast out at the fifth trumpet when the star fell from heaven with the key to open the bottomless pit.

Now that Satan is cast out, he has 3 ½ years to work through his Beast and his False Prophet. After that period, Jesus will deal with the Beast and then set up his own kingdom on earth.

Even when Christ was on the earth, Satan tempted Christ with the kingdoms of the earth and promised to turn them over if Jesus would just worship him.

Luke 4:5-6 *“5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, ‘All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.’”*

When were the kingdoms of the world turned over to Satan? At the fall of Adam and Eve, the kingdoms on earth became subject to satanic power and influence. Paul in Ephesians describes the spiritual world as ruling over the physical, in spiritual realms, unseen to the human eye. In these spiritual realms Satan and his angels operate, ruling over nations, governments, people, and cities (**Ephesians 6:12**).

At the middle of the tribulation period, at this point in chapter 12, Satan’s power is confined to the earth as war breaks out in Heaven. Satan and his angels lose the position they had since the fall of man and are cast to the earth.

Michael

The angel Michael is mentioned five times in the Bible (**Daniel 10:13,21 12:1, Jude 9, Revelation 12:7**).

He is a defender of the people of Israel according to **Daniel 12:1**. He is called “arch” angel or chief angel in Jude. The role Michael plays in **Daniel 12:1** gives us additional light to the events taking place in the **Revelation chapter 12**. The scene in **Daniel 12:1** corresponds to the Tribulation period - the time of Michael’s action corresponds to the period in Israel’s history unequalled in the history of nations.

Daniel 12:11 *“At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.”*

Both, Jesus (**Matthew 24:15**), and the angel in **Daniel 12:11**, link this period, to the *Abomination of Desolation*, which occurs at the middle of Daniel’s 70th week. At the middle of the Tribulation, Michael’s angelic forces are finally allowed to expel Satan and his angels from their heavenly access. Michael and Satan also known as Lucifer are old enemies, their conflict in the bible dates back to death of Moses, when Michael dared not rebuke Satan, but left the prerogative open to Lord. Satan was a cherub who covered the throne of God (**Ezekiel 28:16**), while Michael was the archangel in charge of the angelic host (**Jude vs. 9**).

According to some, the reference in **Revelation 12:4** indicates 1/3 of the angelic host followed Satan in his rebellion against God. Finally, Michael and his angelic forces are allowed to oust Satan from heaven.

Dragon

Here John links the dragon in verses 3 and 4, with Satan and his host of fallen angels. Only in the book of Revelation, in the New Testament, is Satan called a dragon. Here he is presented as having seven heads and ten crowns, the meaning of these heads and crowns are explained more fully in Revelation chapter 17. Satan is seen, as the dragon or serpent, the enemy of humanity going back to the fall of Adam and Eve.

His angels

One third of the angels, fell when Satan rebelled against God, according to verse 4. Throughout scripture the host of *fallen angels* are referred to as belonging to Satan. Christ instructs us that Hell itself was created from the beginning for Satan and his angels (**Matthew 25:41**).

Satan and his angels know what follows their expulsion from Heaven, and they do not go peacefully. A question is often raised, why does God need Michael and his angels to expel Satan from Heaven? Didn't God have the power and authority to do it? Of course, God could have expelled Satan and his host with His word alone. Just like God could have evangelized all of humanity without a single missionary, bible, or bible tract. God chooses to use his people to do his work; God wants his people to reap the reward of their work. In the same way, man participates in the Lord's work, angels, and fellow servants of man, participate in the Lord's work.

Up to this time, Michael, and the angels of heaven, served God in obedience and patience tolerating Satan's charges against God's creation. Now, Michael and his angelic host are allowed to cast them from Heaven.

Great dragon

John wants the reader to understand the long spiritual history of what is happening in Heaven. The dragon's identity in both the Old and New Testaments, is linked here by John, so the reader knows they are the same person. The dragon pursuing the woman is the same person involved in the fall of humanity at the start.

The dragon is in his final role, in the end of days, but he is also known as: Devil, Serpent and Satan. This passage defines who the dragon is. It has been said that the Devil and Satan are different beings, but this passage should make it crystal clear that the dragon, the Devil and Satan are the same.

The Devil is not just an evil force or influence as some might think. A specific being was cast out into the earth and the angels that fought with him were also cast out with him. We read in prior verses in this chapter that the number is a third of all the stars (angels). I do not know how many that is, but I think it is safe to assume that many millions of angels will be cast out to the earth. These are beings with incredible power. People on earth will think that the gods have come to earth.

This will lead to the great deception. The millions of other angels that were cast out either will have their own bodies or will possess human ones (maybe this is the real “Invasion of the Body Snatchers”). It will be an incredible time for all those living on the earth.

This verse also tells us about Satan’s nature. *He is the deceiver of the whole earth.* He is a counterfeit god. His work of deception can be seen from his deception in the Garden of Eden until his last deception at the end of the thousand-year reign.

	HEBREW	MEANING	GREEK	MEANING
DRAGON	<i>Tanniyn</i> Isa. 27:1	DRAGON SERPENT SEA MONSTER	dravkwn Drakon Rev. 12:3,4,7	DRAGON
SERPENT	<i>Nachash</i> Gen 3:1,2,14	SNAKE	Ophis 2 Cor.11:3, Rev. 20:2	SNAKE
DEVIL	<i>Shed</i> Deut. 32:17	DEMON	diavbolo <i>Diabolos</i> Matthew 4:8	DEMON
SATAN	<i>Satan</i> Job 1:6,7,8	ADVERSARY	Satana' Satanias I Thess. 2:18	ADVERSARY

Deceives the earth: Satan causes the earth to be deceived. The word in Greek, *planavw Planao*, means to cause to stray, to lead astray. From the fall of Adam and Eve to this day, Satan is the chief cause of deception on the earth.

Cast to earth: At this point Satan and his angels’ power is severely restricted. They no longer are able to accuse the saints before God’s throne.

Their time is now limited to the final 3.5 years of the tribulation period.

Revelation 12:10-12

“10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”

Voice in heaven: With Satan now ejected from Heaven, a new day has dawned, in the same way Satan accused Job, before God’s throne, Satan accused all believers.

Accuser: Satan who had access to Heaven from the fall in the Garden until the middle of the tribulation to this very day accuses the saved. He demands God judge the saved for their sins before the throne. Jesus Christ, on the other hand, is called our Advocate or lawyer. He intercedes on our behalf before the throne of God. Because Jesus has paid for our sins, he has the right to “Advocate” our situation before God’s throne. Satan to this day, day and night pleads for God’s judgment, while Christ intercedes on our behalf. | John 2:1 *“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”*

Cast down: Satan and his angels at this point become earthbound and confined. They no longer have access to the throne of God.

Overcame: The Greek word here is *nikavw Nikao*, which means to conquer, to carry off the victory. The believer has victory over Satan, our accuser, because of the work of Christ on the cross. Satan has no power because Christ has paid for all of our sins. The voice in heaven proclaims the three keys to a victorious Christian life:

1. **The Blood of the Lamb:** the first key is understanding our position in Heaven. Christ is our “Passover” lamb, His blood has paid for our sins, Satan power is removed because of the blood of Christ. This does not give us license to sin, but power to live in victory.
2. **Word of their testimony:** the second secret is to live the life of an overcomer, means to operate in God’s power. The saints who are victorious in the tribulation, will proclaim the Gospel to the Satanic world. (2 Tim. 1:7-8)
3. **Not Love their lives:** The third secret we learn for victorious Christian living, is to not fall in love with what this world offers. This world is temporary and fleeting, the victorious saints live for the world to come. Their focus is on eternity, not what they can have here. In the tribulation, people will be given a choice of life in this world or the next. The victorious brethren choose death in this world and life with Christ.

This same principle applies to the believer today, those who struggle with their possessions have a difficult time living in the victory of the Lamb's blood.

Now that Satan has lost the battle in heaven, he will use his angels to deceive and destroy mankind on earth. He will be very aware that Jesus is about to return with His saints in a very short time, and he will do everything in his power to give Him a planet with no one alive. Jesus Himself said, unless those days be shortened no flesh would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened (**Mat 24:22**). Satan will make Jews the scapegoats and the focal point to lead mankind to its own destruction.

Woe: Satan who is now cast to the earth is furious because he knows his judgment is coming. Once confined to the earth, Satan begins to lash out at anything within his reach. Satan, taking charge of earthly operations begins his last-ditch effort to prevent his judgment.

Short time: Satan understands, he is about to be judged. The second half of the tribulation ends with the return of Christ and Satan's binding. (**Revelation 20:1-3**)

In verse 12 there is only one woe mentioned by the angel because the other two are now over with. The third woe lasts the entire second half of Daniel's final week of years. The third woe will span a 3 ½ year period. It will start with the persecution of all mankind who will not worship the Beast as God and it will end with the seven vial judgments from God.

REV 12:13-17

13And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. 14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. 15And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. 16And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. 17And the dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Dragon saw: Satan is confined to the earth in the second half of the tribulation and begins to persecute Israel. The male child is the Messiah who was caught up to Heaven to rule the nations from God's throne. Satan, understanding the promises of Christ made to Israel, sees his last opportunity to prevent his judgment by destroying Israel. Christ declared before His crucifixion he would not return until Israel acknowledged Him as their Messiah.

Matthew 23:37-39: *“37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! 38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. 39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. “*

Because Satan understands God’s word, he understands *if there is no Israel*, they cannot as a nation turn and accept Jesus Christ as Messiah. Satan, like in the past, attempts the final solution, to exterminate the Jewish race, and thereby prevent them from accepting Jesus Christ as Messiah.

The woman: The woman, as we saw, is Israel and the man child Israel produced is the Messiah Jesus. When Satan is cast unto the earth, He will persecute the woman who brought forth the Messiah in the flesh. He will persecute Israel and eventually all the Gentiles that claim that Israel’s Messiah is Lord.

Why does Satan attack the Jewish people? This is a question for all history, not only for the Great Tribulation. The reason is because Israel, from the time of Abraham, has had a critical role in God’s plan of redemption. First, it was in bringing forth the Redeemer. Then, it was in the fulfillment of His plan. Because Jesus promised that the Jewish people would exist and welcome Him when He returns in glory to this world (**Matthew 23:39**). If Satan succeeds in destroying the Jewish people, then God’s eternal plan is thwarted.

The persecution of Israel is part of the satanic program to thwart and hinder the work of God. Israel is hated by Satan not because of any of its own characteristics but because she is the chosen of God and essential to the overall purpose of God for time and eternity.

Even right now the plan by the Muslim world is not to have a small sliver of Israel, but to take it all. They deny that Israel has the right to exist. They will not settle for a sliver - they want all of the land.

Persecuted the woman: This attempt is pictured by John, as the Dragon persecuting the woman. The dragon who has seven heads and ten crowns, is the final human kingdom, pictured as a dragon. Satan following his fall from Heaven, takes the reins of power at the middle of the tribulation to pursue Israel.

At this point in Israel’s history God intervenes. The woman Israel is supernaturally protected by God. This reiterates the events described in verse 6. God prepares a special place for His Jewish remnant in the wilderness. To this same group, Christ spoke in **Matthew 24:15**, regarding the coming “Abomination of Desolation,” to flee into the wilderness.

Two wings: Israel was faced with a similar extermination 3500 years ago, in the land of Egypt. Then God intervened with Moses, and Israel was led out of Egypt with God's protection. This time Israel will again be supernaturally protected against Satan's plan for their destruction.

Exodus 19:4-6 *4 'Ye have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings and brought you unto Myself. 5 'Now therefore, if you will obey my voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 'And ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.'*



Wilderness: To the east of Israel, through the Mount of Olives, a surviving group will be led to place in the wilderness of Judah. Some have speculated the location is Petra based on **Daniel 11:41**, which refers to Moab and Edom being spared at the middle of the tribulation.

← PETRA

A surviving remnant will be placed out of the reach of Satan in the final half of Daniel's 70th week. This surviving remnant will then be faced with the decision of just who is the Messiah. Do they turn to Jesus Christ and ask for his help and go against all traditions and culture for the past two-thousand years?

Nourished: During this period, God will supply all their needs. Just like in the wilderness, when the sky rained manna, God again will supply Israel's food. God will nourish Israel both physically and spiritually as they come to the realization Jesus Christ was the Messiah promised through the prophets years ago.

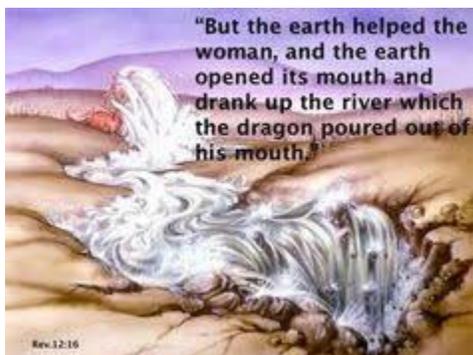
Time, and times and half a time: The time Israel spent in the wilderness corresponds exactly with the last half of the Tribulation period, 1260-days. This period is also described as *time and times and half a time* which is equal to 42 months, 1260 days, or 3.5 years. At the conclusion of this period, Israel will finally understand who their Messiah is and will call out to Him, and He will answer.

In the wilderness, Israel will finally understand the Messiah first needed to die for the sins of the World as foretold in **Isaiah 53**, and through His death we have salvation. This time of tribulation and decision is portrayed in the second chapter of Joel.

Joel 2:16-17: *"16 Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, And the bride out of her closet "17 Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar; and let them say, "Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them. Wherefore should they say among the people, 'Where is their God?' "*

The faithful of Israel will flee into the wilderness to a place where God will protect them for 3 ½ years. No one really knows if the great eagle will be a natural airlift or a supernatural airlift. God will provide for Israel as he did in the days of Exodus. As I said, those in the wilderness of Jordan will eat manna and get water out of a rock. The timeline for Satan is given in verse 13 and 14. He is cast out unto the earth *just before Israel flees*. She is protected by Michael in the wilderness for 3 ½ years or 1,260 days. (A time is a year, times is two years, and a half time is ½ a year = 3 ½ years. The 1,260 days is given to us in verse 6.) The world will be under almost total control by Satan and his millions of angels for this same 42-month time period (**Rev 13:5**).

Cast out of his mouth water like a flood: The torrent of water pictured here by John, has been interpreted several ways.



1. Satan literally uses a flood to attempt to destroy Israel, but the earth swallows the waters.
2. Satan attempts an over empowering onslaught against Israel to destroy the nation, but the Lord prevents the onslaught or flood from destroying Israel.

The second interpretation is more likely and corresponds to the events taking place. In **Zechariah 14:1-2**, we read about the armies of the Antichrist as they pillage homes and rape the women of Jerusalem. A remnant however is spared, and not cut off from the city. The Mount of Olives by splitting wide open and preparing a route of escape prevents Satan's attack from being successful and Israel's destruction is prevented.



Verse 17 *"17And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."*

Dragon: The Dragon, which is pictured as the final world government, headed by the Antichrist who is now incarnated by Satan, is enraged because it failed to destroy Israel. Therefore the full fury of Satan is unleashed against all who are associated with the God of Israel.

In Revelation chapter 13, Satan puts together a plan to separate any who might have an allegiance to any but him. He makes war with the rest of the women's offspring, those who know Christ are to be hunted down. All who refuse to acknowledge the Beast, Satan incarnate, will be killed if found.

Satan and his angels cannot touch the woman being protected in the mountains of Jordan so he will declare war on all descendants of natural Israel and all who keep the testimony of Jesus Christ all over the earth. This includes those who identified themselves as Christians who will not renounce Jesus and take the mark of the Beast.

Up until this point the world religion harlot is riding the Beast and controlling the direction of world events but after Satan is cast out to the earth and becomes a counterfeit god he will turn on the harlot of world religion and burn her with fire. This is spoken about in detail in chapter seventeen. Here we see that all who confess Jesus or Jehovah and believe the truths in the bible will become the targets of Satan.