

Prominent Persons

Revelation 12:1-6

I. Introduction:

A. Parenthetical

1. At the end of chapter 11, the blowing of the 7th trumpet is described, marking the nearness of the kingdom of Christ. The 7 bowl judgments will follow the 7th trumpet.
2. The bowl judgments will be completed with great brevity and intensity.
3. Parenthetical: Lengthy parenthetical precedes bowl judgments & the arrival of Christ.
4. A parenthetical is a pause in the action to review or give more detailed information.
5. Cosmic Conflict: This parenthetical begins by describing ongoing conflict brought on by Satan's rebellion. Satan is a created angel who desired to be like God.
 - a. Pride caused Satan to sin and he lost his place of privilege and service to God.
 - b. Ever since his fall, Satan's purposely ruined & corrupted all God created to be good.

II. Great sign Appears (Revelation 12:1-2)

A. A Woman

1. This woman is not literal woman. This is symbolic language pointing to literal reality.
2. This woman represents the nation of Israel.
3. The description John gives is very similar to Joseph's dream in **Genesis 37:9-11**.
 - a. Joseph's father, Jacob, is the sun. Joseph's mother, Rachel, is the moon.
 - b. Joseph's brothers are the stars & along with Joseph make up the 12 tribes of Israel.
4. Meaning: This woman represents the remnant of Jews during the tribulation who will worship & serve God. God sealed 144,000 Jews, 12,000 out of each of the 12 tribes.

B. This Woman is Great with Child.

1. The woman cried out in pain because she was in labor, about to give birth to a child.
2. The child who came from Israel is Jesus.
3. Meaning: The nation will cry in great pain & distress waiting for arrival of the Messiah.
4. No nation in the history of the world has been more persecuted or hated than Israel.
5. This persecution and pain will reach an apex in the tribulation.

III. A Red Dragon (Revelation 12:3-5)

A. Satan

1. John describes Satan as a red dragon. Satan is a fallen angel that was created by God, just like all the rest of the angels.
2. Ezekiel states the following: (**Ezekiel 28:14-17**)
 - a. Satan was a created beautiful and wise by God.
 - b. Apparently, Satan had a place of service near the throne of God.
 - c. Pride was found in his heart & he desired to be honored & worshipped like God.
 - d. Therefore, God removed him from his place of service and cast him out of heaven.

B. Notice the description:

1. – Fiery Red
 - a. The red color indicates his willingness & desire to shed blood.
 - b. Satan has been a murderer from the beginning. (**John 8:44**), (**John 10:10**)
2. – Seven heads, ten horns, seven crowns
 - a. This description is connected to Satan's rule in the world.

- b. The way he rules in this world is through human empires and nations.
 - c. This description of Satan is most likely drawn from Daniel 7.
 - d. Seven heads – Represent 7 consecutive world empires that Satan has influenced and used (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and antichrist's kingdom).
 - e. Ten horns – There will be ten kings who make up the kingdom of the antichrist.
 - f. Seven crowns: These are the crowns of kings. Satan wishes to rule absolute over the world. Notice how Satan is always usurper, trying to do what Jesus will do one day.
- C. Drew one third of the stars with him: (Revelation 12:4a)**
- 1. When Satan rebelled against God & was cast out of heaven, 1/3rd of angels followed Satan and became demons. They do Satan's bidding in the world today.
 - 2. Many are incarcerated in the abyss, but in the trumpet judgments it will be opened, releasing many of the incarcerated demons. They will torment and kill men in that day.
- D. To destroy the child (Revelation 12:4-5)**
- It has been Satan's goal throughout human history to thwart God's plan.
 - God's plan from before the creation of the world includes several things:
 - 1. – A redeemed people
 - a. God planned to save us before He created the universe.
 - b. Jesus is the Lamb of God, slain before the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8)
 - c. God knew we would need to be redeemed.
 - 2. – Israel His nation
 - a. God chose Israel to be His nation. God the Father determined His Son would be born humanly in the lineage of King David, of the tribe of Judah.
 - b. Since God used Israel to bring His Son into the world, remaining world can be saved
 - 3. – The Church
 - a. The church c/o all who've been or will be saved by faith in Jesus between Pentecost & the rapture. The church is the bride of Christ.
 - b. The church c/o saved people from every tongue, tribe, & nation around the world.
 - c. God determined to save the church out of the world before time began.
 - 4. – Jesus will rule His kingdom.
 - a. At the end of the tribulation, Jesus will bring in His millennial reign.
 - b. There will be a one-world government under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
 - c. To Destroy the Child: Satan's attempt to destroy the child points to his perpetual efforts to stop God's plan starting in the garden of Eden and continuing until the antichrist once again tries to wipe out Israel.
- IV. God's plan cannot be altered. (Revelation 12:5-6)**
- A. The male child was born**
- 1. In spite of Satan's best efforts to stop God's plan, the Savior was born in Bethlehem.
 - 2. The Son of God came to this world in a human body to die in our place on the cross.
 - 3. Jesus lived a sinless life, then took our sin upon Himself giving His life on the cross.
 - 4. Jesus arose from the grave three days later in victory over sin, death, and the grave.
 - 5. He ascended back to heaven where He's exalted at the Father's right hand right now.
- B. Satan will be angry.**
- 1. Satan will try one more time to hinder God's plan.
 - 2. He'll lead the antichrist to try & kill all the Jews so Christ's kingdom can't take place.
 - 3. Remnant of Jews will flee into the wilderness where God supernaturally preserves them
 - 4. Satan's efforts will once again fail.