

Revelation 027 2020

9/6/2020

Israel's Darkest Hour

Revelation 12:13-17

I. Introduction:

A. Cosmic conflict

1. Chapter 12 is a parenthetical meaning chronology pauses to fill in information.
2. This chapter is a review of the cosmic conflict between Satan and God.
3. Satan is a created being that was a high-ranking angel, around the throne of God, until pride was found in his heart, and God cast him down from his place of service.
4. Since Satan fell, he's been trying to stop God's plan of redemption & Christ's kingdom.

B. Prominent Persons

1. – Woman with child

- a. The chapter opened by introducing a woman great with child which represents Israel
- b. National Israel is a main character in God's plan for through the nation of Israel, Jesus came into the world in human form to pay for our sin.
- c. Jesus was born in King David's lineage & will sit on his throne ruling whole world.
- d. Because of that, Satan hates Israel with a passion.

2. – The Red Dragon

- a. The Red Dragon represents Satan. When he rebelled against God & was cast from heaven, he took 1/3rd of the angels with him. The fallen angels are demons.
- b. Satan has an army of demons that do his bidding as he seeks to hinder God's plan.

3. – The Male Child

- a. The pregnant woman brought forth a male child which is Jesus.
- b. The dragon, Satan, waited for the woman to deliver the child to destroy Him **Verse 4**
- c. From the biblical accounts of Jesus' birth, Herod tried to kill Jesus shortly after birth

4. – Michael the Archangel

- a. Michael will lead the armies of heaven in a battle with Satan and the demons.
- b. They will defeat Satan & his demons so Satan will be cast out of heaven for good.
- c. There will be rejoicing in heaven when Satan is cast out and restricted to the earth.
- d. There will be terror on earth as Satan vents his anger on those who are on earth.

II. Israel's darkest hour (Revelation 12:13-14)

A. Satan will turn on Israel.

1. The tribulation period will be 7 years long divided into 2 equal 3 ½ year periods.
2. The first half of the tribulation will mark the rise of the antichrist to world power.
3. He'll bring calm to troubled world & peace to mid-east by making covenant w/ Israel.
4. Then Israel will be allowed to rebuild the temple & begin again the Levitical sacrifices.
5. All will seem good until the halfway point in the tribulation.

B. Jesus warned of this day.

1. Jesus described what will happen at the halfway point of the tribulation when giving the Olivet Discourse on the mount of Olives. (**Matthew 24:15-22**)
2. Halfway through the tribulation antichrist will turn on Israel and set himself up as god.
3. He will desecrate the temple. (the abomination of desolation)
4. He will forbid worship of Jehovah God & use antichrist to try & destroy God's remnant.

C. Satan will persecute the woman.

1. Word "persecute" is the Greek word *dioko* meaning pursuing, chasing, or hunting.
2. Realizing his time's near, Satan tries to stop Christ's kingdom by wiping out Israel.

3. Historical Perspective: One proof of the validity of the Bible is the existence of Israel.
4. Miraculously, Israel has existed as a distinct group of people for some 3,500 years.
5. They've faced more hatred and persecution than any other group in human history.
6. A high-altitude walk-through history shows the satanic plan throughout the centuries.
 - (1) – Babylonians **a.** Jerusalem & Solomon's temple were destroyed by them in 586 B.C.
 - (2) – Persians **a.** During the Persian Empire, Haman tried to kill all the Jews.
 - (3) – Greeks & Alexander the Great **a.** Antiochus Epiphanies wreaked havoc on the Jews
 - (4) – Romans **a.** Titus destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70.
 - (5) – First Crusade 1095-1099 **a.** Massacred Jews by 1,000's taking Jerusalem in 1099.
 - (6) – Europe
 - a.** In 1290 King Edward banished all the Jews from England. **b.** In 1306 all Jews were banished from France. **c.** In 1492 (Columbus) all Jews were banished from Spain.
 - (7) – Stalin's Reign
 - a.** In the early 1900s nearly 3 million Jews were killed in Russia under Stalin's regime
 - (8) – Adolf Hitler **a.** Desired to kill all Jews & was responsible for the death of 6 million.
 - (9) – Tribulation **a.** This will be Satan's last opportunity to exterminate the Jews.

D. God will deliver Israel.

1. The wings of an eagle are symbolic of God's deliverance. (**Revelation 12:14**)
2. God used same analogy speaking of delivering Israel from Egyptian bondage (**Ex.19:4**)
3. God will supernaturally protect a remnant of the Jews from the onslaught of Satan.
4. Wilderness: Many have tried to figure out where God will provide this refuge.
5. Likely around **Petra** which is the old home of the Edomites.
6. Nourish Them: The remnant will have no access to food or water.
 - a.** Those refusing the mark of the beast won't be able to buy or sell.
 - b.** God will supernaturally feed His remnant.
 - c.** This won't be the 1st time God provided food for His nation.
 - d.** He fed them on mana & quail for 40 years as they wandered around in the wilderness.
 - e.** Duration: Time, times, & ½ a time is the formula for 3 ½ years, last ½ of tribulation.

III. Satan will not give up. (Revelation 12:15-16)

A. A great flood

1. Satan is not an actual serpent, in the same way this flood is not a literal water flood.
2. Satan will move antichrist to send his armies after the remnant of Jews.
3. The vast armies of antichrist will approach which will be like an overwhelming flood.

B. The earth helped the woman.

1. God will use elements He created to destroy antichrist's armies, preserving His people.
2. This will not be the first time God has used the earth to bring about His will.
3. The Red Sea: God opened the Red Sea allowing the Jews to walk across on dry ground
4. When Pharaoh & his army pursued them, waters returned swallowing up the chariots.
5. Korah's Rebellion: We find this same kind of thing in Numbers 16.

IV. Satan enraged. (Revelation 12:17)

A. All the Redeemed Persecuted.

1. The rest of Israel's offspring are all those who are saved by faith in Jesus.
2. Unable to destroy the remnant of Israel, Satan will turn to anyone professing Jesus.
3. Those who accept Jesus during the tribulation will suffer persecution like never before.

B. Proof of their Salvation

1. The proof that these men & women are saved is seen in their obedience to God's word.