

## The Third Woe

### Revelation 12:1-13:18

#### INTRODUCTION

Revelation Chapters 12 and 13 deals with seven distinct personages that we'll discussed and what they mean: A woman, a dragon and we are not talking about some fire breathing lizard when we say dragon, a man child, an archangel, the remnant, the beast out of the sea, and the beast out of the earth.

We'll only be able to cover part of Chapter 12 today because I have to set the stage for a few things.

Let's begin with Genesis chapter 1 vs. 1-2, it says, *"IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."*

No one knows how long of a period this was between God creating the heaven and the earth in vs. 1 and the earth being without form and void in vs. 2. There could have been thousands or even millions of years between vs. 1 & 2. The words form and void in vs. 2 mean **tohu and bohu** which means "indistinctly ruined". We do not believe God made it like that because everything that God creates is good, nothing in ruin. Bible scholars believe something happened between vs. 1 and 2 for the earth to be in ruin. So, let's talk about that;

In the twelfth chapter, there are three major battles involving Satan and his opposition to God's plans.

The first battle took place long ago between Satan and God when Satan was cast out of heaven with one-third of his demonic forces (fallen angels). The Bible supports three heavens, a first heaven, a second heaven and a third heaven. The first heaven is what you see all around you, even the planets. Some people believe that the planets are the second heaven however I believe the second heaven resides in the spirit realm. When Elisha asked God to open his servant's eyes so he can see the army of the Lord all around him, the servant named "Gehazi" saw spiritual horses, chariots and angels all around him. Then there was Jesus who was able to walk through walls after his resurrection so I believe he was operating in the first heaven and the second heaven at the same time before his ascension. There are other stories in the Bible as well as it pertains to angels. For instance, Satan went to God to accuse Job in the book of Job. I don't believe he went to the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven but I do believe he communicated from the 2<sup>nd</sup> heaven, and that is the realm in which he accuses the brethren (you and I) from. He was kicked out of the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven so I do not believe he has access to the third heaven as he has not been welcomed back.

The second battle will involve Michael with God's angels and Satan and his angels. In this battle Satan will be defeated and **cast down to the earth** during the tribulation period and denied all access to heaven and again, I believe that access is the communication piece. Satan will realize that he will no longer be able to accuse believers before God in heaven. Another battle will take place in which he will go after Israel to persecute them. While there will be other battles involving Satan, this will be the last attempt of the fallen angels (demonic forces) to conquer heaven.

**Revelation 12:1-2; And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: 2. And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.**

So let's talk about verse one. We'll need to reference Genesis 37:9-11 for this one in which shows a picture of Joseph's dream regarding Jacob (Israel) and Jacob's sons.

**Genesis 37:9-11; And he (Joseph) dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? 11. And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.**

Although this verse talks about the sun, the moon and eleven stars showing Joseph honor, reverence and differential respect, the family knew the interpretation of the dream as we see here and that's why his father rebuked him and his brothers got upset with him.

So in Revelation 12:1 it says the woman is clothed with the sun, the moon was under her feet, and she had a crown with twelve stars upon her head so it is believed that this is pointing to Israel.

**Jacob and Rachel represent the sun and moon.**

The eleven stars are the sons of Jacob (12 sons counting Joseph), so the 12 tribes of Israel.

Therefore, the woman must symbolize the nation of Israel through whom the Messiah would come into the world however some teach that the woman is Mary, since she gave birth and fled into Egypt to avoid Herod's attempt to kill Christ. I will make another comment concerning Mary when we get to verse 5.

Other biblical scholars point out that the sign appears in heaven, so this could be some idealization of the people of God, God's true bride.

**Revelation 12:3-4. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.**

When the Bible speaks of stars here, it is speaking of the Angels so when Satan rebelled, a third of the Angels were cast out with him when they rebelled against God. The Greek word "drakon" in the New Testament is shown 13 times, eight of those 13 times is in Revelation 12. That Greek word "drakon" can mean three things. It means either the word serpent, dragon, or sea monster and always represent Satan. When we look at revelation chapter 12 verse nine we see that the scripture refers to this red dragon as that old serpent called the devil and Satan. Satan is here to kill, steal, destroy and to deceive the whole world.

Jesus came that we might have life and that we might have it more abundantly.

### **Why Satan stood before the woman to immediately destroy her child?**

There's always been an ongoing battle to stop the seed of the woman that would bruise Satan's head as promised in Genesis 3:15

**Genesis 3:15 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.**

The dragon spoken of in verse 3 and 4 is clearly Satan and verse 9 calls the dragon Satan.

Back in the garden of Eden in genesis, Satan receives a sentence that the seed of the woman would bruise his head. From that point Satan goes on a rampage to destroy the seed of the woman.

1. As seen throughout the Bible, Satan persistently attempted to hinder and destroy the Seed (Messiah) and destroy God's plan of complete redemption, for example:

- a. The disqualification of Abel and Cain
- b. Slaughter of the infants by Pharaoh in Egypt
- c. Slaughter of the infants by Herod
- d. The crucifixion of Jesus
- e. The hatred for God's people
- f. Here, in Revelation 3:4-5, then in Revelation 7-12, and again in Revelation 13:6, etc.

Let's look at **Revelation 12:5, And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.**

When this verse says "she brought forth a man child", some interpret the word "she" as the nation of Israel and some interpret "she" as Mary, the virgin who gave birth to the Messiah being Jesus. Either way, the woman is all those who are faithful to God in Israel which includes Mary, who gave birth to the Messiah as we can see in verse 5. So why did the Messiah have to come in this world through a woman? It was the only way that man could be redeemed to God. The Messiah had to come walk among men, experience the struggles and endure through them like we do in order to be able to identify with what we go through. It was the only way to lead us back to God.

(talk more about this identifying and include:  
The friendship broken back in the garden.

God never sinned.

Jesus never sinned but was tempted at all points so he knows the struggle that you and I have to endure.

Jesus redeemed us by his shed blood.

Bucket of red paint.

Back to Revelation chapter 12:5 we see this man child "Jesus" went to where God is, to his throne. This passage is referring to Jesus being resurrected after his death and burial and ascended to the Father in Heaven.