

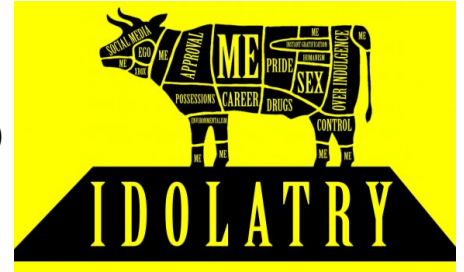
Revelation- Class 9 (Revelation 12-13)
"A Desperate Foe "

Recap:

Last week, we focused on two important themes

1. Idols of the Heart

- a. I mentioned how believers can have idols in their hearts, **HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT.**
- b. These idols can be good things (spouses, kids, jobs, ministry)
- c. Ultimately, these idols take the place of God's presence from the *throne of your heart* and places the idol there.
- d. I encouraged you to recognize, remove, and replace.



2. Chapter 11, we talked about the two witnesses

- a. Two unnamed evangelists, empowered to proclaim the gospel for 3.5 years
- b. They will be assassinated, and the world will rejoice.
- c. They will resurrect and ascend into Heaven
- d. A great Earthquake will hit Jerusalem, killing 7,000 people.
- e. And some would give God glory.



There are two aspects to understand the following chapters:

- 1. John **TURNS HIS ATTENTION** from the 7-trumpet judgements to Heaven
- 2. These passages describe a larger story before they describe what happens next in the sequence of events... **NOT CHRONOLOGICAL**
 - a. We're going to read of a sign of a woman giving birth...
 - i. It won't mean that after the 7th trumpet a woman gives birth.
 - b. For example: If I tell you, the people baptized are going to step into a life of purpose and meaning. What people? The people baptized this past weekend. In fact, as a network, we have worked on finding different ways to connect people to grow in their faith like Growth Track, Life Groups, and Bible classes....



Also, Seven has been a major theme throughout Revelation

Seven representing the number of completion

- 7 churches, 7 seals, 7 trumpet judgements.
- And now, in Revelation 12-14, we'll move into **7 GREAT SIGNS**

What are the Seven Great Signs?

Just like the majority of Revelation, everyone has an opinion what these things may be but for the sake of avoiding getting side-tracked, I'll pursue the signs as such.

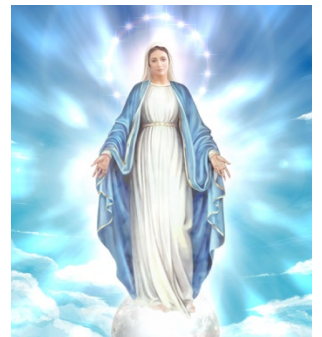
- The woman, representing Israel.
- The dragon, representing Satan.
- The man-child, referring to Jesus.
- The angel Michael, head of the angelic host.
- The offspring of the woman, Gentiles who come to faith in the Tribulation.
- The beast out of the sea, representing the antichrist.
- The beast out of the earth, the false prophet who promotes the antichrist.¹

Revelation 12

Revelation 12:1 (ESV), "And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."

The question may come to mind, who is this woman?

1. It's not a singular person
 - Roman Catholics have believed that this woman is Virgin Mary
 - Showing that she is the Queen of Heaven.²
2. It's a religious system
 - *Jezebel* is associated with a religious system promoting false teaching (Rev. 2:20).
 - The *Great Harlot* is associated with false religion (Rev. 17:2).
 - The *Bride* is associated with the church (Rev. 19:7-8).
3. It's Israel
 - Because it is similar to the vision that Joseph had in Genesis.



Genesis 37:9-11 (ESV), "9 Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." 10 But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have

¹ <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-12/>

² <https://www.gotquestions.org/Revelation-chapter-12.html>

dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?"¹¹ And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind."

In this dream, Joseph understood this dream to mean that
His father was the sun, His mother was the moon, and the eleven stars were Israel.

We read on about this woman, what did she do?

Revelation 12:2 (ESV), "2 She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth."

Yes, Mary would give birth to Jesus
But it was through Israel the Messiah would arrive.
The birth pains, believed by some, was
the **ROMAN OCCUPATION** at the time of Jesus' birth

Another view is that the crying out was written in the present tense.
What does that mean? **PRESENT TENSE...**
at the time John would see this vision, at that time.
If everything was in the future, Israel will be experiencing agony.



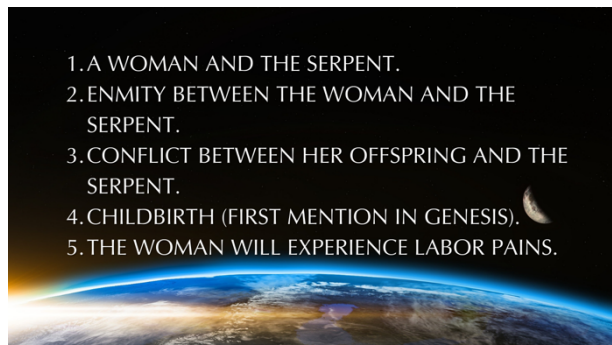
Let me simplify...

We see how Revelation is an account of the summation of God's activity on Earth.
It is the ending, but there was also a beginning...
The pain that Israel will mourn will be **FROM THE CURSE** of the original sin.

Genesis 3:13-16, "And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust All the days of your life. And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

Hold on to this... this will help us understand Revelation 12

1. A WOMAN AND THE SERPENT.
2. ENMITY BETWEEN THE WOMAN AND THE SERPENT.
3. CONFLICT BETWEEN HER OFFSPRING AND THE SERPENT.
4. CHILDBIRTH (FIRST MENTION IN GENESIS).
5. THE WOMAN WILL EXPERIENCE LABOR PAINS.



Revelation 12:3-4 (ESV), “³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.”

Remember this is a sign...

Satan was not literally a dragon, but it represented his nature and character His description “symbolically suggests his fierce power and murderous nature... a picture of the fullness of evil in all its hideous strength.” (Johnson)



I know what you might be thinking,
what’s with the seven heads and ten horns?

There are a lot of speculation as to what this could be
We could get lost in the weeds on this one description.
Some believe it to be past kingdoms, ages, phases... In relation to Daniel 7

If I keep this simple:

This dragon is none other than Satan who desires to be king.
He plots, schemes, and maneuvers to have complete authority and control on Earth.

His tail swept a third of the stars, recounting the fall of 1/3rd of the angels, becoming demons
Standing before the woman, (Israel), waiting to devour her seed.
Planning to fulfill this mission by using people to place Him on the cross.

Revelation 12:5 (ESV), “⁵She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne,”

This would be Jesus... born through the nation of Israel
Ruling with a **rod of Iron...**

MacArthur commented that this phrase communicates that when Jesus comes back
He will rule and judge sin swiftly and put down any rebellion.
An Iron rod also cannot be broken, just as Satan tried to hinder Christ before
No one, nothing, will be able to hinder the rule of Jesus.

one who is to rule all the nations...

This refers to when He will come again, he will be over every single nation.
And usher them into His kingdom, His ruling presence.
This will happen one day... **SOON**

but her child was caught up to God and to his throne...

In between Jesus being born (incarnation) ...
and coming back (coronation)
He ascended into heaven (exaltation)

Satan was defeated and remains a loser...

Story of the woman who always looked on the bright side

Satan won't give up and continue to assault God's chosen people (the Jews).

We have seen throughout human history to our present day,
Israel attacked, killed, displaced, and during the end times Satan will **INCREASE**
His efforts to destroy the Jewish people.

Revelation 12:6 (ESV), "6 and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days."

Jesus had warned

Matthew 24:15-21 (ESV), "15 "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house,¹⁸ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak.¹⁹ And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days!²⁰ Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be."

Revelation doesn't reveal the exact location where the Jews will flee
Many people believe it'll be close to modern day Israel (Moab, Petra)
But there the Lord will provide nourishment, provision, and defense.

10,000 View...

3.5 years of peace and even rebuilding the temple

When the Anti-Christ claims to be god, they are to flee

And those that do will be cared for.

what about those that don't? they'll face the 3.5 years of judgements

They may believe the witness of the two witnesses

Ultimately...

Romans 11:25-27 (NLT), "25 I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves. Some of the people of Israel have hard



hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved. As the Scriptures say,

“The one who rescues will come from Jerusalem and he will turn Israel away from ungodliness. ²⁷ And this is my covenant with them, that I will take away their sins.”

Revelation 12:7 (ESV), “²⁷ Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back,

Now= Coming back to John’s present moment...

- As we have discussed before, Satan has access to a portion of heaven- seen in Job
- His domain is the earth- Paul describes Satan as the god of the world (2nd Cor. 4:4)
- He’s the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2)
- And his demons...

Ephesians 6:12, “¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

And while the tribulation occurs... an all out fight breaks out

We don’t know how this will happen... if our idea of war includes, bombs, guns, weapons, etc.

How will they fight especially in light of **Colossians 2:15 (ESV), “¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.**

Henry Morris wrote:

“With what weapons and by what tactics this heavenly warfare will be waged is beyond our understanding. Angels cannot be injured or slain with earthly weapons, and such physical forces as we know about are not able to move spiritual beings. But these beings do operate in a physical universe, so there must exist powerful physico-spiritual energies of which we yet can have only vague imitations, energies, which can propel angelic bodies at super luminary velocities through space and which can move mountains and change planetary orbits. It is with such energies and powers that this heavenly battle will be waged and the spectators in heaven (including John) will watch in awe..”³

Interesting to note...

The Greek paints the picture that Satan is the one who starts this war...

But what causes him to finally wage war?

Some speculate that it will be the rapture of the church that will cause it.

³ *The Revelation Record*, 224

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NLT), ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. ¹⁷ Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.”

As the believers are raptured, Satan will try to hinder their passage.

The picture I want to give to you...

Goes against modern pop culture, where the Devil is equal to Jesus.

Where Satan has more power...



He's desperate...

Even though the language here speaks of war... conflict... battle...

John doesn't record how long it'll last

But even the shortest war in human history being 40-Minutes was still considered a war⁴

Revelation 12:8-9 (ESV), ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”

Now, Earth is dealing with the full 1/3rd of demons

- Those released from the bottomless pit
- Those released from the Euphrates (200 Million strong army)
- Those expelled from Heaven from the war

Revelation 12:10-11 (ESV), ¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the

⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/event/Anglo-Zanzibar-War>

accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

Even though Satan and His brood will wreak havoc on those still on Earth

During the tribulation...

John records how Satan will continue to experience defeat

As people will be saved and able to withstand the devil... how?

Blood of the Lamb...

- Christ's purchase on Calvary
- The power of forgiveness... reconciliation... life
- Outweighs any demonic noise telling you otherwise.

1st Peter 1:18-19 (ESV), ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Romans 4:7-8, ⁷ "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;⁸ blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

They took this free gift... believed... held onto it for dear life.

"The precious blood of Jesus is not meant for us merely to admire and exhibit. We must not be content to talk about it, and extol it, and do nothing with it; but we are to use it in the great crusade against unholiness and unrighteousness, till it is said of us, 'They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb.' This precious blood is to be used for overcoming, and consequently for holy warfare. We dishonor it if we do not use it to that end... The dog of hell knows the dread name which makes him lie down: we must confront him with the authority, and specially with the atonement of the Lamb of God." (Spurgeon)

Word of their testimony...

They would experience the faithfulness of God and remember the track record

They weren't quick to forget, but would remember and speak out

Contradicting the lies and deception of the enemy.

Loved not their lives...

The ancient Greek word for **love** here is *agape*,

which speaks of a self-sacrificing, decision-based love.

Just like them, it is up to us to choose to love... love our lives more than God?

Or choose to love God, even when faced with death?

They weren't afraid of the barks of the enemy... the threats...
They knew where they were going and to whom they belonged
And even the threat of their lives being snuffed no longer carried weight.

Revelation 12:12, “¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

“Satan might give up his fight against God and humanity made in God's image, except for the fact that he is utterly depraved, and probably insane in some way; Satan may have deceived even himself into thinking that he has a chance. Our rebellion against God makes even less sense than Satan's rebellion does.”⁵

Summarizing vss. 13-16...

John records Satan's desperate attempt to snuff out Israel.
God divinely protects her during the 3.5 years of tribulation on the Earth.
Satan would also send a flood to end them, being divinely protected...

Revelation 12:17, “¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.”

A 10,000 foot view of... **Revelation 13**

Once again, not in chronological order
John writes the arrival of the Anti-Christ in Vss. 1-2.
John will write that a beast (an untamed, wild, dangerous creature)



Rising from the sea...

In ancient times, the sea was regarded as wild, untamed, and frightening.

Very similar to the description of the Dragon (Satan)

This beast has ten horns= power and influence over the gentile kingdoms
Seven heads= popular views that these represent kings

Revelation 17:9-12 (ESV), “⁹ This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; ¹⁰ they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. ¹¹ As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. ¹² And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast.”

⁵ <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-12/>

Put simply...

This Anti-Christ will rise from gentile nations and will be given power by Satan.
He is known as the beast because of his unrighteousness and violence.
And his kingdom will be the last before Jesus returns.

Revelation 13:3 (ESV), ⁴³ One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast.

A popular view is that the Anti-Christ will be assassinated
And brought back to life... could it be staged? Could it be done?
Could this be used to fool people into believing that he's the Messiah?
Does it work?

Revelation 13:4 (ESV), "And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

You might question... Hold up... did this Anti-Christ really resurrect?
Was it a trick? Was it a conspiracy theory?

Matthew 24:24 (ESV), "For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect."

Revelation 13:5-10, ⁴⁵ And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.⁶ It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them: And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. ⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

***¹⁰ If anyone is to be taken captive,
to captivity he goes;
if anyone is to be slain with the sword,
with the sword must he be slain.
Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints."***

Notetakers, see how authority to do anything was given.
He was allowed to make war.
He will not be able to do anything on his own but first allowed by God
And empowered by Satan.

During this time, those who have not turned to God, will bow a knee to the anti-christ
Except those whose name are in the book of life.

Revelation 13:11-18 (ESV), “¹¹ Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. ¹² It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. ¹³ It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, ¹⁴ and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵ And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. ¹⁶ Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, ¹⁷ so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. ¹⁸ This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.”