

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

A Verse by Verse Study

by

Oliver B. Greene

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CHAPTER TWELVE

The First Five of the Seven Personages

Revelation 12:1-17

- 1. 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.**
- 3. 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.**
- 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.**
- 6. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.**
- 7. And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,**
- 8. And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.**
- 9. And 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.**
- 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.**
- 12. 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.**
- 13. And 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.**

15. **And 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.**

16. **And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.**

17. **And 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.**

Revelation is a book of sevens:

- In chapters 2 and 3 we have the seven churches.
- In chapter 5 - the seven-sealed book.
- In chapter 6 - the beginning of the seven seals.
- In chapter 8 - the beginning of the seven trumpets.
- In chapters 12 and 13 - the seven personages.
- In chapter 16 - the seven vials.
- In chapters 17, 18, 19 - the seven dooms.
- In chapters 21 and 22 - the seven new things.

Seven is God's number of completion - the divine number of divine completeness. In Revelation God is making a complete end of sin and sorrow. He will complete His wonderful plan of redemption for all creation.

Paradise, with all of its original glory, and more, is restored in Revelation, chapters 21 and 22. In the first few chapters of Genesis, Paradise is lost; in the last two chapters of Revelation, Paradise is restored.

THE WOMAN

Chapter 12 opens with these tremendous words (verses 1 and 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: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.”**

This woman (the **“great wonder”**) is clothed in a very extraordinary manner. She is wearing the sun - and for shoes she wears the moon. For her hat she wears a crown studded with twelve stars. She is a mother-to-be, and her delivery is imminent.

Why all this? What does it mean? Why would the Holy Spirit use such language to set forth some spiritual truth?

There have been many suggestions by Bible teachers and scholars, but the only way to arrive at the right answer is to compare spiritual things with spiritual, let God's Word tell us what all this is about, and who the woman is.

If we will stick to the Word of God and forget what men say and what men believe, we can learn the truth of the entire passage.

The adjective “**GREAT**” is used five times In chapter 12 - which is indeed a GREAT chapter!

The woman is not actually in Heaven - but upon the earth. The sign is in Heaven, but the birth takes place right here on this earth. This woman, clothed in the most unusual attire anyone could ever wear, is Israel.

Do you remember when Joseph had his memorable dream in the Old Testament days, he saw the sun, the moon, and stars bowing down to him (Genesis 37). This was a prophetic picture pointing to his exaltation after he had been sold into Egyptian slavery by his wicked brethren.

It was also a prophetic picture to the nation Israel. Joseph was sold into the hands of Gentiles, just as Israel has been sold into captivity, scattered to the four corners of the earth, suppressed and persecuted by Gentiles.

Even in recent years Israel has been persecuted by modern Pharaohs, some of whom were named Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, and Eichman. They did their best to wipe out Israel, but they are gone and Israel is still here!

Israel is the woman who brought forth the man-child who is to rule with a rod of iron. Only of Israel could it be said that “**she is clothed with the sun.**” “**But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings. . .**” (Malachi 4:2).

Israel brought forth the Redeemer. The Church did not produce the Saviour (“**salvation is of the Jews**” - John 4:22). “**Verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham**” (Hebrews 2:16). Again, it is of Israel - and Israel alone - that it could be said, “**He hath prepared for her a place in the wilderness.**”

Many Bible scholars believe this “**place in the wilderness**” to be the mighty, ruby-red, rock fortress of Petra. Mrs. Greene and I visited Petra and spent three days and nights there. The city is carved from solid rock, and is certainly a marvel and a wonder to behold.

It is a natural rock fortress, with a very narrow entrance. There is only one way to enter the city, and it would be impossible to capture an army within such a fortress. Today Petra is held by the Arabs, but Israel is only twenty-five miles from it. There has never been any doubt in my mind that this woman is Israel.

There are four women mentioned in the book of Revelation:

1. Jezebel (Revelation 2:20) - representing the papal system.
2. The woman we are now discussing - Israel, God’s chosen people with earthly blessings.
3. The great harlot (Revelation 17:1) or the future apostate, corrupt church that will be in power after the Rapture of the true Church.
4. “**The Bride, the Lamb’s wife**” - the Church, glorified in the Pearly white City that John saw coming down from God out of Heaven.

Here, with the woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and the stars upon her head, is presented for us a complete system of government. Isaiah tells us **“of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end”** (Isaiah 9:7). The government of Almighty God will never cease. This earth will be governed by God throughout the eternity of eternities.

The crown on the woman’s head signifies royal dignity - but why the stars in the crown? Without doubt these stars point back to Joseph’s dream in which the future glory of the twelve tribes is set forth.

“Twelve stars” . . . the number twelve used here and in several other passages in Revelation, denotes administrative rule in the hands of men. Israel is earthly with earthly promises, and every promise made to Abraham will be fulfilled to the letter, in every minute detail - even to the possessing of the land promised to his seed.

In verse 2, the woman is great with child and travailing in birth, about to be delivered. The mother-to-be is Israel - but who is this manchild about to be born . . . this child whom Satan is ready to devour? If we compare Scripture with Scripture and spiritual things with spiritual, I see no reason why we should not see plainly who the child is:

He is to **“rule all nations with a rod of iron.”** Who could that be other than Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

We the Church will reign with Him, but He will be King of kings and Lord of lords. He will rule with a rod of iron and we will reign with Him as He Sits on the throne of David. (Read Psalm 2 in its entirety.) Jesus has been the object of the devil’s hatred since He was promised in Genesis 3:15. There is a trail of blood from Genesis to the cross - a trail of blood left by those whom Satan destroyed in his all-out attempt to stop the Seed of the woman.

But praise God, Jesus fulfilled every demand of God the Father, He paid sin’s debt in its fulness. He conquered death, hell and the grave. He arose, He appeared to men, He ascended back to the Father and He is coming again in power and great glory. Jesus will personally supervise putting Satan into the lake of fire, where he will be tormented with fire and brimstone forever and ever.

The child about to be born is Jesus, the mother-to-be is Israel. Some teach that this woman is the Church - but that just could not be! The Church is the Bride of Christ. Israel is the mother of Christ - and is the wife of God! Jesus came forth out of Israel.

“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” (verse 5). If you accept this child to be Christ (and certainly the child can be none other than the Lord Jesus Christ), then all misunderstandings will disappear. Israel - not the Church - was the mother of Messiah (Isaiah 9:6, Micah 5:2, Romans 9:5, Matthew 1, John 4:22, Isaiah 66:7).

“Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child” (Isaiah 66:7).

The travailing and pain for Israel is yet future, during the last half of Daniel's seventieth week - the time of great tribulation. But before that time of travailing, Israel was to bring forth a man child - Jesus. And He has come forth. **"Therefore will He give them up until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of His brethren shall return unto the children of Israel"** (Micah 5:3). The travail will come centuries after the birth, depending upon how much longer Jesus tarries. Then why, in our present Scripture, are the travail and birth mentioned together? There are three reasons:

1. The long period of time that Israel is set aside (coming in as it does between the birth and travail) is not mentioned in our present chapter, but it is mentioned and fully discussed in many other books in the Bible.
2. It shows the deep interest and concern God takes in His chosen people. Many centuries ago, He thought of His people in the period of Great Tribulation, and made provision to shorten those horrible days lest all flesh be destroyed. Read Matthew 24:15-28 very carefully.
3. At the time of the account in our present chapter, Israel is about to go through the most horrible time she has ever known since becoming a nation - or ever will know again. The object of the Holy Spirit going back to the birth of Jesus in this Scripture is to connect Him with Israel in His proper place during this terrible time of Jacob's trouble. God has not forgotten His own - and He never will.

Remember, beloved, we are dealing with earth and Israel in this chapter. The Church is with Jesus in the air, and has been since the beginning of the reign of the Antichrist. (The Church is to be raptured before the Antichrist is revealed). Israel is on earth in her own land. The false messiah is in power. And now, during the last three-and-a-half years of the Tribulation, all hell has broken out.

SATAN

Verses 3 and 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. 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."**

The red dragon is Satan - presented here in his most horrifying character. Read Revelation 20:2, Ezekiel 29:3-4 and Jeremiah 51:34. Being a RED dragon signifies his murderous nature. This dragon is spectacular in that he has seven heads, ten horns, and seven crowns. What is said of him here is predicted of the beast we find in Revelation 13:1. The seven-crowned heads of the dragon refer to the concentration of earthly power and wisdom in cruel, despotic rule. His ten horns; point to the future extent and limit of his kingdom. He will be the unseen force behind ten kings who will rule over the ten kingdoms of the empire. The red dragon will be the ruler of the world-wide Gentile monarchy. He will carry on his government through its personal head - the little horn referred to in Daniel 7.

We note in verse 4 that the dragon's tail will pull down one-third of the stars in Heaven. The tail of this dragon is certainly one of his outstanding features. His tail swings through Heaven, coils about celestial principalities, "**and draweth along a third part of the stars, and casteth them down to earth.**" These are specific heavenly bodies with which we are now dealing - not the little stars that twinkle. Remember, we are dealing with a "**wonder**" in Heaven.

The stars here are angels. The being (or angel) who came down to unlock the bottomless pit was referred to as a star (chapter 9). These angels are truly THE "**stars of heaven.**" When God made the world in the beginning, "**the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy**" (Job 38:7). These were the angelic hosts . . . they are called stars because of their beauty and glory. They are the stars of Heaven because they pertain to Heaven, and are the most sublime ornaments of the celestial world.

Satan - the red dragon mentioned here - was at one time the leader of all stars (Isaiah 14:12, Ezekiel 28:12-15).

Study these verses carefully. Jude speaks of the angels "**which kept not their first estate, but left their habitation**" (Jude 6). Peter refers to the angels who sinned, who were cast down and are now "**in chains of darkness**" (II Peter 2:4).

There was a day when Lucifer, "**the shining one,**" became so jealous of the Lord God that he decided he would overthrow God. He brainwashed some of the angels, brought evil among the heavenly creatures and indoctrinated many of them - soiled their robes, tarnished their crowns, silenced their songs, dislodged them from their glorious seats and took from them every noble impulse and holy affection. They allied with him in an all-out attempt to overthrow the God who had created them. How this horrible disaster came about is mentioned in various places in the Bible.

The Bible does not say how many angels Satan led astray except here in this Scripture, where the dragon pulls one-third of the stars down to earth, drawn from their place of shining in God's great Heaven of beauty.

Jude tells us that they are now reserved in chains in darkness. They are blacked out, they no longer shine.

Disobedience to God brings spiritual blackout and spiritual slavery. All sinners are slaves, in bondage to the devil.

Greek scholars tell us that the two verbs used in this verse are in two tenses. "In the **drawing of the stars** the verb is in the present tense, denoting action in continuity at the time John was writing Revelation. In the **casting down to earth** the verb is in the past-tense, denoting an action past, as the disposition and ejection of the wicked angels is, and was at the Apostles time period, a past event."

This bit of information given to us by authorities on the Greek language sheds light on this passage.

Never forget that the devil is a powerful being. Three times. Jesus Himself declared that the devil is **“the prince of this world”** (John 12:31 14:30 16:11) Paul in later years declared the devil to be “the god of this world” (II Corinthians 4:4). John testifies that **“the whole world lieth in wickedness** (In the lap of the wicked one)” (I John 5:19). When we look around us today we certainly agree with John. The whole world seems to have sold out to Satan.

The red dragon had ten horns. Horns are instruments of destruction (Zechariah 1:18-21), and ten is the number of evil, worldly completeness. With ten horns the dragon gores, wounds, hurts, scatters, destroys and kills. The dragon has seven heads - but whether he comes with the head of **“an angel of light”** or the head of **“a roaring horn,”** he has the same heart and is the father of the same deception and destruction. His head may change but his heart never changes.

The dragon is RED - the color of the horse whose rider took peace from the earth (Revelation 6:4). Red is also the color of the apparel of the Almighty King when He comes in HIS strength to crush all His enemies (Revelation 19:11-16; Isaiah 63:2-4). Red describes flaming heat, Intensity of fierceness, bloody administrations - and all these terms describe the true nature of the dragon - Satan.

Satan is a **“murderer from the beginning”** (John 8:44).

- He is a **“roaring lion seeking whom he may devour”** (I Peter 5:8).
- He brutally attacked our first parents in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3).
- He hurled against Jesus everything that he could here on earth (Matthew 4).
- He is the cause of every murder (John 8:44).
- He is the cause of every deathbed scene (Hebrews 2:9-15; I Corinthians 15:30).
- He is the cause of all unrest and unhappiness (Proverbs 13:15).
- He is the cause of every tear that falls (Revelation 7:17).
- He energizes every arm that plunders, hurts, kills, blights, mars, scars and destroys both body and soul (James 1:13-16).

Yes, Satan is the red, bloody dragon!

Very few of us have ever realized the power of the devil. Ever since he became Satan he has been extremely envious and jealous of God. Here in our Scripture he is making his last great drive to overthrow the God of all creation. Under the mysterious economy of God, Satan has only been able to make certain mighty strides toward the realization of his fallen desire and purpose.

“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

According to the Word of God, principality after principality in the celestial realms succumbed and fell to his drawing power. Now there exists a mighty confederation of demons, fallen angels, men, and disembodied spirits numbering untold millions, who burden the atmosphere and overspread this planet with disorder, anarchy, misrule, darkness, gloom, sorrow, tears, death, murder - thousands dying indescribably horrible deaths because of the power of Satan.

Jesus is more than a match for Satan, but Jesus is the only one who can handle him - and even Jesus feared when He saw the cup of bitterness He must drink in order to put a stop to Satan's destruction. (Mark tells us that Jesus "**was sore amazed.**")

The devil turned loose all hell's demons, principalities and powers to prevent Jesus from paying the ransom note and making it possible for the captives to be set free. But in spite of the devil and all hell, Jesus drank the bitter cup to the last dreg, and just before He died He proclaimed, "**It is finished!**" (John 19:30). Satan is a defeated foe. He knows his days are numbered, and therefore he is working overtime to damn every soul he can and break every heart he can.

The latter part of verse 4 enlightens us further about the dragon: He stands ready to devour the woman's man child the moment it is born. The dragon was not trying to destroy the woman - but the SON . . . Jesus. In Genesis 3:15 Jehovah God announced to Satan that the Seed of the woman would bruise (crush) his head. That moment war was declared between the Seed of the woman and the seed of the devil. The battle became bloody when Cain killed Abel. (Satan was attempting to destroy the Seed that would crush his head . . . he was stabbing at the Seed of the woman.)

The battle raged through the Old Testament and was renewed in the New Testament even before Jesus was born. It continued in all bitterness until at last Jesus proclaimed, "**It is finished!**" Then, thank God, the devil and all hell went down in defeat. *

*I have a full-length sermon on *The Greatest Battle of the Ages*. You should read this message . . . you will appreciate Jesus more than you ever have.

In the second chapter of Matthew we see the slaughter of all the babies who were two years old, and under. Herod was the man who had the slaughter carried out, but the red dragon was operating through Herod, who was only a tool of the dragon. Imagine every little baby in Bethlehem and around the coast of Judaea, from one hour to two years old, all slaughtered.

The devil was not concerned over all the babies that were butchered; he was stabbing at one little Baby - the Baby Jesus. But God protected His Son. All through the earthly ministry of Jesus His enemies tried to kill Him. The devil tried to shed His Blood before He reached Calvary, because he knew that if Jesus ever laid down His life for sin and purchased redemption for the sinner, then Satan's scheme to conquer all creation and wrest it from the Creator would be lost.

From the day in the Garden of Eden when the Lord served notice on Satan that the Seed of the woman would bruise his head, until Jesus said, "**It is finished,**" the devil did everything in his ungodly power to devour the Man child - the Lord Jesus. He tried to corrupt the seed in the Old Testament era, he tried to kill the Baby when it was born, he caused the parents to forget the Child when He was twelve years of age, leaving Him in the temple with the very crowd who later crucified Him. The unholy crowd tried to push Him over the precipice, they tried to stone Him, they tried to kill Him at the whipping post; but Jesus Christ the Son of God had a single mission to fulfill, and He marched on until He could say, "**It is finished!**"

THE CHILD

Verses 5 and 6: **“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. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.”**

In verse 5, the woman delivers the Man child, the child is caught up unto God, and in verse 6, the woman flees into the wilderness where God has a place prepared for her protection. She will be fed there for 1,260 days - the last half of the Tribulation.

Those of us who are born again have nothing to worry about. Jesus is the head of the Church (Ephesians 5:23). He is the foundation of the Church (I Corinthians 3:11), and the gates of hell shall never prevail against the Church (Matthew 16:18). We are bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh and if you are born again, fret not. When all of these horrible things take place, all believers will have a grandstand seat in the sky! The Man child is caught up to God and to God's throne. We who are members of the New Testament Church will be caught up with Him before the horrible time of Tribulation comes upon earth.

From the birth of the Man child to the time He was caught up to God covered a period of about thirty-three years - the length of time Jesus lived on this earth. He had approximately three and one-half years of public ministry. Between verse 5 and verse 6 there is time element consisting of the Church age - the day of grace. It has already been more than 1900 years. We do not know just how many more years remain until the woman will flee into her place of protection, probably the rock fortress of Petra. We are living today in the age of grace. When this age comes to a close, the Rapture will take place, the Antichrist will begin his reign, and in the middle of the seven years of tribulation Israel will be forced to flee into the prepared place lest she be completely annihilated.

Only God knows the centuries covered in Revelation 12. **“A thousand years is as one day with the Lord”** (II Peter 3:8). God has plenty of time. The finite mind cannot conceive of time as measured by Him who is **“from everlasting to everlasting”** (Psalm 90:1,2). You may rest assured that God's program is running on schedule:

“Known unto the Lord are all His ways from the beginning” (Acts 15:18).

The woman Israel fleeing into the wilderness, signifies a place devoid of natural resources . . . a place of complete isolation. The Word tells us that Israel will again be fed as they were fed in the days when God rained manna from Heaven and sent quail for meat. If God did it then, could He not do it again? In Jeremiah 30:7 we read, **“Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.”** That will be a time **“when all their faces turn to paleness.”** It will be the time described by Jesus in that memorable twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew:

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (the temple of God in Jerusalem is the holy place referred to here. Read Daniel 7:8 and Revelation 19:20.) . . . then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains (This refers to the middle of Daniel’s seventieth week of prophecy . . . the time when Antichrist breaks all his promises to the Jews who are then back in their own land.): Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake, those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not” (Matthew 24:15-23).

The people in Judaea are here instructed to flee to the mountains when they see the **“abomination of desolation”** stand in the holy place. This time of tribulation will be so terrible that the Bible instructs those who are on the housetop not to return into the house to take any of their possessions. We may not fully understand this statement, but in the Holy Land the porch is on the housetop. Most houses there are built flat, with concrete tops, and people sit up on the housetop in the cool of the day.

Those who, therefore, are sitting on the housetop are instructed not to go inside to take anything, but to flee to the mountains. Those who are in the field are not to return to their homes for anything, but they, too, are to flee for their lives. Can you imagine such terror and such horrible days of persecution?

Verse 19 of Matthew 24 speaks of them who are with child and who have young babies. Many dear ladies and mothers worry about this verse; but my dear mother or mother-to-be, if you are a child of God you need not worry because when this comes to pass, all believers will be with Jesus in the air. This has to do only with Jewish mothers. The message is addressed to the people in Judaea and surrounding territory, and of course Israel will be in their own land at this particular time. It will be a time of sorrow and woe to the Jewish mothers with young children and to the expectant mothers, but it does not refer to any mother who is born again.

If you are a Christian, you have nothing to worry about, because you will be with the Lord Jesus in the air. This part of the Great Tribulation has to do with Israel, and except those days should be shortened there would not be any flesh saved (Matthew 24:22). But for the sake of Israel those days will be shortened.

THE ARCHANGEL

Verses 7-12: **“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And 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.**

“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. 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.”

“Michael and his angels fought.” Who is Michael?

He is leading the army of angels who are battling Satan and his angels. Michael is mentioned five times in the Scriptures: (Daniel 10:13-21; Daniel 12:1; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7). He seems to be the highest of all angels. Jude calls him THE archangel. Read I Thessalonians 4:16 and Jude 9.

It seems that Michael is the leading angel having to do with the Jewish people . . . he is probably the guardian angel over God's elect: **“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people”** (Daniel 12:1). That refers to Israel. Michael shall stand up to see that Israel does not perish in the Great Tribulation - the time of Jacob's trouble. **“He (Jacob) shall be saved out of it”** (Jeremiah 30:7). Michael is the militant angel who fights on the side of God's elect-Israel.

The wars that rage here on earth are but the reflex of opposing spiritual powers in the lower heavens - the atmospheric heavens just above us. Angels, good and bad, are daily playing their parts in world affairs, political and religious - right here on this earth now, and in the end time the wicked powers will have full sway. The struggle between light and darkness, though invisible, is nevertheless real. Read I Samuel 16:13-15, I Kings 22:19-23. Angels and angelic influence toward Christians here on earth is accepted by most spiritual people as a Bible fact. I believe that every born again person has a guardian angel (Acts 12, Hebrews 1:14). Angels watch over little children (Matthew 18:10).

In verse 7 war is declared: **“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.”**

It is a Bible fact that the atmospheric Heaven just above us is the kingdom of Satan. The devil does not have access to the third Heaven where God's house is. Paul was caught up into the third Heaven, and was forbidden to tell what he heard and saw there (II Corinthians 12:1-3).

Satan knows what God's house is like. Before he became Satan, he was Lucifer, the **“anointed cherub that covereth”** (Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28). But sin was born in the heart of Lucifer. He was cast out of Heaven and the angels he led astray are now in chains awaiting the judgment.

In Ephesians 1:3 and 2:6 Paul tells us that we believers sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Positionally we are dead and our lives are hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3). Positionally we are members of His body now, and He sits at the right hand of God; so we sit with Jesus in heavenly places, in the third Heaven.

Besides the saints, there are others in the heavenlies (Ephesians 3:10), and there is a battle raging NOW against wicked spirits in heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).

In Revelation 12 we find that the time will come when Satan will be evicted from the heavenlies for good, never to re-enter - and will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone (Revelation 20:1-3, 20). The title, "**The prince of the power of the air**" (Ephesians 2:2), will be lost to him forever.

Michael and his angels defeat the dragon and his angels. The dragon and his angels are cast out of Heaven.

The dragon is called "**the old serpent, the devil, Satan, which deceiveth the whole world.**" When the dragon is cast out, a loud voice from Heaven cries, "**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!**"

Imagine that! Satan spends every moment of day and night accusing God's children before God's face.

In Job 1, when the sons of God appeared on a certain day, Satan walked right up with them; and when God asked Satan where he had been, he replied that he had been on earth walking up and down, accusing the brethren. But his days of operation are numbered and one day the Lord Jesus will stop his slanderous accusations against the children of God.

Here in chapter 12 we have the account of the beginning of the greatest battle ever fought in the atmosphere above us - Michael and his angels against the devil and his angels; but praise God, Satan will be defeated, cast down, and finally placed in the eternal prison of the damned.

Since the day Lucifer was cast out of Heaven and at that moment became the devil - the deceiver - he has been the archenemy of the Lord God and of God's people. (Read Job 1:6,7; Zechariah 3:1,2; Matthew 4:4-11; Ephesians 6:11; I Peter 5:8.) The heavens as well as the earth must be cleared of all evil, demons, and sin - and of the curse (Romans 8:22). All creation suffers because of sin. All creation is out of joint, off balance, and must be set straight.

The method by which the earth and the regions above the earth will be purified is stated in Colossians 1:20 and Hebrews 9:22. the Blood of Jesus Christ is the answer. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission. Without the Blood of Jesus there is no redemption. How complete - how far-reaching - how powerful - how pure and sinless is the Blood of the Lamb!

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

Before we leave the discussion of the dragon, please let me give you the names of the dragon as listed in verse 9:

1. **“The great dragon”** -so termed because of his remorseless cruelty.
2. **“The old serpent”**: This reminds us of his first and successful attempt to effect the ruin of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3). Subtlety, craft and deep cunning are characteristic features of Satan from the beginning of his history in connection with the human race. I am satisfied that Genesis 3 is a true and actual account of what took place in the Garden of Eden. I believe Satan spoke through a real serpent. There is no need supposing that such is an impossibility, because it is not.

There are at least three remarkable instances in the Old Testament where lower animals were given miraculous use of the power of speech. Speech was given to the serpent (Genesis 3). A certain intelligence and speech were granted to Balaam’s ass (Numbers 22:21-30). The great fish which swallowed Jonah answered to the voice of the Lord God and disgorged the penitent prophet on dry ground (Jonah 2:10). I firmly believe in the exact historical accuracy of these narratives, which moreover are vouched for in the New Testament (II Corinthians 11:3; II Peter 2:15,16; Matthew 12:40).

3. **“The devil”** - a personal name. The devil is a historical person, not a spirit.
4. **“Satan”**: The two former titles (serpent and dragon) are descriptive of character. **“Devil”** and **“Satan”** refer to the dragon as a person.

At this time, Satan will know that he has forever lost his opportunity to destroy the Church. (He was informed that **“the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”**) His drastic, all-out drive to mar and scar the Church will fail, and it will be presented to Jesus without spot or wrinkle . . . a perfect Church.

Satan has lost Israel, and he is very, very wroth.

The miracle-working God of yesteryear who delivered His ancient people on many occasions, has frustrated the plan of Satan again. Satan knows it and he is furious Read Exodus 19:4; Deuteronomy 32:11, 12; Lamentations 4:19; Psalm 35. Then read Matthew 24:22. The God of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps, nor does He change.

When thousands of Israelites came up out of Egypt, God took care of them. There was not one feeble person in all the tribes. Not one foot became sore from marching. Their shoes lasted for forty long years, and not one garment became threadbare. the Lord said to His people **“YE HAVE SEEN WHAT I DID UNTO THE EGYPTIANS AND HOW I BARE YOU ON EAGLES’ WINGS AND BROUGHT YOU UNTO MYSELF”** (Exodus 19:4). What God did in that day, God is very able to do again!

Satan and Israel in the Tribulation

Verses 13-16: **“And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. 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. And 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. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.”**

Revelation 12:13 tells us that when the dragon realized that he was cast into the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the Man child. And the woman is given two wings of an eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness into her place, where she is nourished for three and one-half years, and protected from the face and the power of the serpent.

The serpent made his last attempt to destroy the woman and her child. He cast out of his mouth a flood of water in an attempt to drown the woman. Mother earth helped her. Since Israel is an earthly people with earthly promises, the earth came to the rescue opened her mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast forth out of his mouth.

THE JEWISH REMNANT

Verse 17: **“And 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.”**

At this time, Satan will know that he has forever lost his opportunity to destroy the church (He has informed that the **“the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”**). His drastic, all-out drive to mar and scar the Church will fail, and it will be presented to Jesus without spot or wrinkle . . . *a perfect Church.*

Satan has lost Israel, and he is very, very wroth. The miracle-working God of yesteryear, who delivered His ancient people on many occasions, has frustrated the plan of Satan again. Satan knows it and he is furious. Read Exodus 19:4; Deuteronomy 32:11, 12; Lamentations 4:19; Psalm 35. Then read Matthew 24:22. The God of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps, nor does He change. When thousands of Israelites came up out of Egypt, God took care of them. There was not one feeble person in all the tribes. Not one foot became sore from marching. Their shoes lasted for forty long years, and not one garment became threadbare. The Lord said to His people, **“YE HAVE SEEN WHAT I DID UNTO THE EGYPTIANS AND HOW I BARE YOU ON EAGLE’S WINGS, AND BROUGHT YOU UNTO MYSELF”** (Exodus 19:4). What God did in that day, God is very able to do again!

~ end of chapter 12 ~

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