

The Book of Revelation

By

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CHAPTER TWELVE

THE JEWISH SITUATION

God called Abraham out for three purposes.

First:- For a repository of His truth upon the earth. Abraham's seed fulfilled this purpose and gave us the Bible.

Second:- For a channel for the incoming Redeemer. GOD had promised a Redeemer. Abraham was chosen for the line to CHRIST.

Third:- For a national witness of Himself. That is, GOD gave Abraham and his seed the land of Canaan; they were to serve Him; He would bless them, showing the other nations of the world that it pays to serve the true and living God in place of idols. This the Jews failed to do, but they are going back in our present time to fulfill this purpose.

Since the Bible was written by the Jews; since so much of it is about them; since it promises so much to them in the latter days, therefore it is only natural that we look for a chapter in the book of Revelation dealing with this nation.

In chapter eleven, the ark of His covenant comes into view. This brings to our mind the Jew. It will mean comfort and joy to the Jews, but fear and torment to the world.

We have seen one hundred forty-four thousand Israelites sealed for a special purpose. "Many" have signed a contract with the antichrist (Daniel 9:27), but there are thousands of Israel's seed throughout the world. Just what is their state and what are they doing? We find our answer in chapter twelve.

The First Wonder

"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" (vs. 1).

Jacob had twelve sons. Reuben was the first-born **"but the birthright was Joseph's"** (I Chronicles 5:2). Joseph had a dream which he told to his father and brethren. **"Behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me."** Immediately Jacob realized in the

dream, himself and his family. **"Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?"** (Genesis 37:9-10).

Israel is often compared to a woman, in the Old Testament. Here we have Israel represented by a woman, with the marks of Israel upon her head, clothing and feet. Joseph's dream only had eleven stars, but he himself was the twelfth.

"And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered" (vs. 2).

The nation of Israel brought forth the child JESUS. Paul speaks of the **"Israelites... of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came"** (Romans 9:4-5). Isaiah says, **"Like as a woman with child, that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O Lord"** (Isaiah 26:17).

The Second Wonder

"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" (vs. 3).

Leviathan is a fearful creature. **"None is so fierce that dare stir him up"** (Job 41:10). Job pictures him as something huge and exceeding strong; armed at every point and with an attitude that is terrifying. But a day is coming when the Lord **"with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea"** (Isaiah 27:1).

The great red dragon is Satan. **"Red"** because he was **"a murderer from the beginning"** (John 8:44). **"Great,"** because he was created to fill a high position - the anointed cherub that covereth.

"And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth" (vs. 4).

Angels are great and shining creatures and are often called stars. Far back in ages past, Lucifer (day star) sat upon a throne and ruled his subjects. But pride ruled his heart because of his marvelous beauty, and he strove to exalt his "throne above the stars of God" (Isaiah 14:13). At his rebellion, a countless number of angels followed, and in this passage there is a hint that one-third of these angelic creatures cast in their lot with him.

The Great Enmity

"And the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born" (vs. 4).

"I will put enmity between thee and the woman," said GOD, as He placed the curse upon the serpent in Eden (Genesis 3:15). And that enmity has not ceased to burn until this day.

Oft do we hear the rattle of those fangs, and hear the cry of pain as the serpent struck at the line that led to CHRIST. Often the line grew very thin, but He that keepeth Israel shall neither

slumber nor sleep, and always there was victory for the woman's line.

Once, a tear in the eye of baby Moses saved the deliverer and brought Israel out of Egyptian bondage; Haman's plot to destroy the Jews was brought to defeat by the sleepless night of a king. Once, the whole line to CHRIST rested upon the little babe, Joash.

Satan's Attack

And so it went until the time of the promise drew nigh. Soon Israel would bring forth the Deliverer; soon of Mary would be born the virgin's Son. The long torturous journey was made from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

That night the babe was born, but just behind the scenes there was a click of massive jaws; a mouth reeking and flowing with human blood; a breath with the stench of a thousand sepulchres, as Leviathan the old dragon stood ready to **"devour her child as soon as it was born."**

"Crush" - There was a cry of pain as those jaws closed upon the tender flesh; there was a wail of sorrow, **"Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not"** (Matthew 2:18).

But not upon that child did those jaws close. There had been a dream, an angel and a trip to the south, as Egypt opened wide her arms to receive the mother and her babe. This verse is the other side of Matthew's story. There it was Herod who sought the life of the little child; here it is the dragon who most certainly put it into the heart of Herod to perform the dreadful deed.

A Great Gap

"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" (vs. 5).

There is a Son destined to rule the world, and only one. **"Thou art my Son... Ask of me and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance"** (Psalm 2).

Israel's child was born: He lived; died; arose; and ascended back to Heaven. And now comes into use a method so often employed by Holy Scriptures. Certain events are passed over in silence when a line of truth is being followed. Often do the Old Testament Scriptures jump the church age as though it did not exist; often does a comma or a semi-colon separate two thousand years of time.

CHRIST was born; at the age of twelve He astonished the doctors at His wisdom; at the age of thirty He began His ministry. The other years of His life are passed over in silence. And so here, there is a jump of two thousand years between verses five and six: a gap from the ascension to the tribulation.

Fleeing to Safety

"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" (vs. 6).

Once before, as Israel fled from Pharaoh, she found refuge in the wilderness. There GOD set up a table and fed her with manna for forty years. Daniel tells us that many will go into covenant relation with the antichrist but "**in the midst of the week, he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease**" (Daniel 9:27). That is, after three and one-half years the antichrist will break his covenant and set himself up as an object of worship (II Thessalonians 2:4).

CHRIST warned the Jews who would be living in the end time to flee unto the mountains, "**When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place**" (Matthew 24:15).

This will usher in a time of "**great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be**" (Matthew 24:21). So great will be the wrath of Satan's man, that if a man goes to work in the morning, and news of the sudden breaking of the covenant reaches him while he is in the field he has no time to even "**return back to take his clothes.**" So urgent is the warning that "**woe unto them that are with child**" because of the great difficulties in travel.

This place is prepared of GOD. In his destructive work, "**Edom and Moab**" shall escape out of the hand of the antichrist (Daniel 11:41). No doubt the Jews will find refuge in the wilderness of these countries; probably in the city of Petra, which is already chiseled out of solid rock and empty, awaiting the time for Israel to come and occupy.

GOD can easily hide this company of Jews that not even an aeroplane can locate them. The king commanded to take "**Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet: but the Lord hid them**" (Jeremiah 36:26). A mob thoroughly searched a house for a company of Christians and, although they passed the door to their room over and again, their eyes were holden and they could not see it. So again the Lord can hide His people in the place which He has prepared for them in the wilderness.

War in Heaven

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels" (vs. 7).

What strange words are these - "**War in heaven.**"

And how powerful is the adversary of our souls that he is able to withstand the general-in-chief of Heaven's angelic armies.

These two captains are no strangers to each other. No doubt they once joined together in singing the praises of their GOD. But a time came when Satan fell and brought a host of angels with him. Michael and Satan have fought before. Once they contested the right to Moses' body (Jude 9); once Michael fought the "**prince of the kingdom of Persia**" which was one of Satan's mighty captains of evil (Daniel 10:13).

Satan's Defeat

"And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven" (vs. 8).

There is no doubt of the outcome; just two words, "**prevailed not.**" There is no slaughter nor bloodshed, for these creatures are immortal. Men may fight in argument and debate, and victory or defeat is recognized. Michael won the victory in the battle over Moses' body by saying, "**The Lord rebuke thee**" (Jude 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" (vs. 9).

We may wonder why Satan does not repent. Certainly he ought to know he cannot win against GOD. Once he was "**full of wisdom,**" but when he fell into sin and became "**alienated from the life of God,**" his understanding was darkened and he cannot reason straight (Ezekiel 28:12 and Ephesians 4:18). Neither can a human being turn to GOD unless granted repentance from the Lord.

The Slanderer Expelled

"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" (vs. 10).

What sympathy there is in Heaven toward the earth.

Satan never sleeps. On report day, the mighty sons of GOD came in from their various avenues of service, no doubt from orbs far out in the depths of space and Satan came among them.

When it came time for Satan to report, he said he had been "**going to and fro in the earth**" (Job 1:7). Then no doubt he began to accuse GOD's people, but there was one he did not mention, so GOD asked about Job. A time is not far distant when this slanderer will be cast out.

Power in the Blood

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony" (vs. 11).

Men may ridicule the blood of CHRIST; cut it out of their song books and call it a "slaughterhouse religion," but up in Heaven they make much of the blood; up there they ascribe glory and honor to the Lamb that was slain. Verily, there is still power in the blood.

On earth, their feeble testimony seemed for naught; it even brought persecution and defeat. But up in Heaven, the word of testimony of the most humble saint, glowed with victory.

Woe to the Earth

"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 he hath but a short time" (vs. 12).

The presence of sin is a kill-joy for a real saint of GOD. For ages, Satan has had access to the throne of GOD, appearing there to accuse the brethren and make himself a general nuisance. There is joy in Heaven when Satan is dethroned in the human heart and great joy indeed when he is cast out of Heaven.

There is sympathy in Heaven for earth-dwellers, and nothing but a sad note of woe for the inhabitants of the earth.

The righteous are gone; the church has been raptured; the HOLY SPIRIT, in the sense He came on Pentecost, has departed; there is nothing but a sad word of "woe" to those below.

When CHRIST met the demon possessed man, the demons besought Him not to torment them before the time. They knew their future state was to be one of suffering. It is thus with Satan. Although he knows full well his battle is a losing one, yet in his great wrath he uses every moment of the short time yet allotted to him.

Well might every child of GOD learn a lesson here. Soon, very soon our Lord will come; soon traveling days will end and opportunity to witness for our Lord will be no more. How we should redeem the time and make full use of the short time that is yet ours.

Jacob's Trouble

"And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child" (vs. 13).

GOD's chosen people are the Jews. Satan's great wrath makes them a special object of his hatred. Certainly we see the beginning of sorrows for this people in our own time, as the nations raise their hands against them and even in our own land their enemies are counted as legion.

"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" (Jeremiah 30:7). Satan may persecute the woman, but Michael shall "stand up" for her and she "shall be delivered" (Daniel 12:1).

Eagle's Wings

"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" (vs. 14).

Ahab's horses might race for Jezreel but they could not out run Elijah, for the "hand of the Lord was upon him." So here, as the Jews flee to the mountains, the Lord lends them aid.

When Israel fled from Pharaoh, GOD "**bare you on eagles' wings**" (Exodus 19:4). That is, GOD took them. So here, GOD will most surely make their flight successful as He lends them aid.

This wilderness is "**her place**." Often before has Israel fled to the vastness of this territory. Moses, fleeing from Pharaoh, found refuge; for forty years Israel journeyed through it; Elijah, fleeing from Jezebel, found a place of safety here.

GOD fed Israel with manna for forty years, so here again He will "nourish" her for three and one-half years.

Satan Pursuing

"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" (vs. 15).

Let us remember the book of Revelation is written in sign or picture language. Find the meaning of the sign and we have the meaning of the passage. Much of the interpretation is found in the Old Testament among the leadings of the Lord as He led Israel out of Egypt.

"Egypt riseth up like a flood... and he saith, I will go up, and will cover the earth" (Jeremiah 46:8). Here Egypt's army is likened to a flood. When Israel fled from Egypt, Pharaoh sent his army after them. So again, when Israel will flee from the antichrist, he will send an army after them to destroy them.

"Flood"

There are those who make light of giving the Scripture to a little child. But how far wrong they are. As a little boy, I used to lock myself in my room and read the book of Revelation through and through. I knew nothing of what it meant, but somehow the Lord gave me a special love for this book and a desire to learn its message.

Looking back through the years, I see my father sitting before the stove in an Indiana country home; my mother sat on the north side while behind the stove there shuffled about a little lad, restless and aggravated. I wanted my mother to read "Swiss Family Robinson," and here I had to listen while father read from Revelation.

And so he read, "The serpent cast out of his mouth water as a 'blood'" - I let him go a moment and then in disgust I uttered just one word - "flood." Never will I forget the exclamation of surprise as my father, who thought I was not listening, looked back and saw his mistake.

The Earth Opens

"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" (vs. 16).

As Israel fled from Egypt, Pharaoh sent his army after them but they were drowned in the Red Sea. As they stood on the banks of the sea, Israel looked back and saw their old masters dead

upon the shore. With what joy did they sing with Moses, "**The horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea... Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.**"

Korah and his company rebelled before the Lord.

As they stood thus in defiance of MOSES, the servant of the Lord, "**the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up**" (Numbers 16:32). And again the earth is able to cleave asunder and swallow the army of the antichrist.

Satan has begun to lose tremendously. He missed the man child; was cast out of Heaven, and now the woman wins her safety.

There is much in common with Israel fleeing from Pharaoh and fleeing from the antichrist. Pharaoh persecuted Israel and killed some of her babes. Israel fled to the wilderness where she was fed with manna from Heaven. As she fled, Pharaoh's army pursued but was drowned in the Red Sea. So again, Israel will experience much the same things when GOD sets His hand again the second time to bring them back to their homeland.

~ end of chapter 12 ~

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