**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: If you don’t fill your mind with God’s word… The enemy will fill it with stress, anxiety, negativity and temptation.**

**{Gods redemptive plan for man}**

**THE WOMAN, THE CHILD, AND THE DRAGON**

[**Revelation 12:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/1/s_1179001) **Now a great sign**(1) **appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.**

1. **Now a great sign appeared**: This is the first of 7 signs that John relates, and is described as a **great sign** (*mega semeion*).
	1. In **Revelation** [**chapters 12**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/1-18/s_1179001)**,** [**13**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/13/1-18/s_1180001), and [**14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/14/1-20/s_1181001) the main figures of the Great Tribulation are described, and **this** **great sign** introduces the first of the seven:
		1. The woman, representing **Israel**.
		2. The dragon, representing Satan.
		3. The man-child, referring to **Jesus**.
		4. The angel Michael, head of the angelic host.
		5. The offspring of the woman, representing **Gentiles** who come to faith in the Tribulation.
		6. The beast out of the sea, representing the **antichrist**.
		7. The beast out of the earth, representing the **false prophet** who promotes the antichrist.
	2. **A woman clothed with the sun**: Because John plainly said this is a **sign**, we don’t expect this woman to appear literally on the earth. God will use this sign to communicate something to John and to us. Women often represent religious systems in Revelation.
		1. In[**Revelation 2:20**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/2/20/s_1169020)**,** *Jezebel* is associated with a religious system promoting false teaching.
		2. In [**Revelation 17:2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/17/2/s_1184002)**,** The *Great Harlot* is associated with false religion.
		3. In [**Revelation 19:7-8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/19/7-8/s_1186007)The *Bride* is associated with the church.
	3. **A woman clothed with the sun**: This woman has been associated with many different religious ideas.
		1. Roman Catholics claim this woman is Mary, pictured as the “Queen of Heaven.”
			1. It isn’t uncommon to see Roman Catholic art representing Mary as standing on a crescent moon with twelve stars around her head.
		2. Mary Baker Eddy (the founder of the Christian Science Church) said she, herself was this woman, because she birthed the Christian Science Church.
			1. *Grape nut cereal, isn’t grapes or nuts and the christian science church isn’t Christian or Science*.
	4. **A woman clothed with the sun**: Scripturally, this **woman clothed with the sun** should be identified with Israel, according to Joseph’s dream (Joseph is a teenager approximately 17)
		1. [**Genesis 37:9-11**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/gen/37/9-11/s_37009) **(NKJV) Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, “Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.” So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?” And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.**
		2. In this dream, the sun represented *Jacob*, the moon represented Joseph’s mother *Rachel*, and the 11 stars were his brothers which bowed down to Joseph.
		3. Jacob had 12 sons including Joseph and this is the representation of the 12 tribes which make up the Nation of Israel, the woman **is Israel.**
		4. In other Old Testament passages, Israel is often represented as a woman ([**Isaiah 54:1-6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isa/54/1-6/s_733001), [**Jeremiah 3:20**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jer/3/20/s_748020), [**Ezekiel 16:8-14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/eze/16/8-14/s_818008), and[**Hosea 2:19-20**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/hos/2/19-20/s_864019)).

**The woman gives birth.**

[**Revelation 12:2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/2/s_1179002) **Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.**

1. **Being with child**: Later in the chapter, it is clear that this child born of Israel is Jesus ([**Revelation 12:5**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/5/s_1179005) ***She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron*,**).
	1. **She cried out in labor and in pain to give birth**: The **pain** described refers to the travail of Israel at the time of Jesus’ birth, *under Roman occupation and oppression*.

**The dragon, A fearful, powerful dragon appears.**

[**Revelation 12:3**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/3/s_1179003) **And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.**

1. **Another sign**(2) **appeared in heaven**: Again, we are reminded that this is a **sign**.
	1. The creature here was not literally a **great, fiery red dragon**, but the dragon represented his *nature* and *character*.
	2. His description, according to (Johnson) “symbolically suggests his *fierce power* and *murderous nature*… a picture of the fullness of evil in all its hideous strength.”
2. **Seven diadems on his heads**: This dragon had great power (**seven heads and ten horns**) and claimed royal authority (**seven diadems** (Crowns)).
	1. The crowns represent his presumptive claims of royal authority against the true King. *He wants to be considered a king*.
	2. (Walvoord) “From the similar description given in [**13:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/13/1/s_1180001) and the parallel references in [**Daniel 7:7-8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/dan/7/7-8/s_857007)**,** [**2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/dan/7/2/s_857002)**,** it is clear that the revived Roman Empire is in view… The seven heads and ten horns refer to the original ten kingdoms of which three were subdued by the little horn of [**Daniel 7:8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/dan/7/8/s_857008), who is to be identified with the world ruler of the great tribulation who reigns over the revived Roman Empire.”

**The dragon looks to the earth.**

[**Revelation 12:4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/4/s_1179004) **His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to *devour* her Child as soon as it was born.**

1. **His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven**: Most believe this describes one-third of the angelic host in league with Satan ([**Revelation 12:9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/9/s_1179009)).
	1. (Seiss) “God never made an evil being; but He made angels, principalities, and powers capacitated for mighty joys and distinctions in His glorious domain, yet with free will, implied in the very creation of moral beings, which they could exercise for their everlasting weal or woe. Many have remained steadfast, to wit, ‘Michael and his angels.’ But some abode not in the truth, but revolted against the rule of Heaven, and became unchanging enemies of God and His Kingdom.”
	2. **To devour her Child as soon as it was born**: The attempt to **devour her Child** was initially fulfilled by Herod’s attempts to kill Jesus as a child ([**Matthew 2:16-18**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/2/16-18/s_931016)).
		1. It was also fulfilled throughout Jesus’ life as Satan attacked Him ([**John 8:58-59**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jhn/8/58-59/s_1005058)). (**Read Kill Jesus Notes**)

**The child, Jesus’ ministry is described by its earthly beginning and end.**

[**Revelation 12:5**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/5/s_1179005) **She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.**

1. **A male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron**: *Clearly*, this refers to Jesus Christ, the Messiah. (an iron scepter)
	1. He rules the world with a **rod of iron** ([**Psalm 2:9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/psa/2/9/s_480009) and [**Revelation 19:15**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/19/15/s_1186015)).
	2. **She bore a male Child**: This refers to Jesus’ birth.
	3. **Rule all nations with a rod of iron** refers to the triumphant return of Jesus. By declaring the starting point and ending point of Jesus’ earthly work, John referred to all that stood in between. (Like the dash on a grave stone between the birthdate and the death date, it stands for everything in between.)
	4. **A male Child**: This is *obviously* Jesus. This means that the *woman* of [**Revelation 12:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/1/s_1179001) cannot be the church, because Jesus “*gives birth*” to the church, not the other way around.
		1. The *woman* *must* therefore either be Mary or Israel, the only two “women” who could have “given birth” to Jesus. The rest of [**Revelation 12**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/1-18/s_1179001) will demonstrate that this woman is Israel, *not Mary*.

**The woman in the wilderness.**

[**Revelation 12:6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/6/s_1179006) **Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.**

1. **Then the woman fled into the wilderness**: Persecuted by the dragon, the woman is protected by God in a **prepared** place for **one thousand two hundred and sixty days** (3 and ½ Years)
2. This helps us to understand with certainty that the *woman* is Israel and not Mary, because theses 3 ½ years are of the great tribulation.
3. **One thousand two hundred and sixty days**: This reference to a 3 ½ period connects these events with the final 7 years of the [**Daniel 9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/dan/9/1-27/s_859001) prophecy.
	1. Since [**Revelation 12:5**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/5/s_1179005) describes the ascension of Jesus, and [**Revelation 12:6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/6/s_1179006) describes yet-to-occur events in the 70th week of Daniel, between these two verses lies hundreds of years (our current period). This obvious “near-far” break in time is typical of prophecy
	2. **Into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God**: Some believe this **place** in the **wilderness** is the rock city of *Petra*, south of the Dead Sea. Reportedly, Christian businessmen have stocked the place with food and evangelistic tracts written in Hebrew.
	3. **Prepared in the wilderness**: Prepared, uses the same ancient Greek word Jesus used in *I go to prepare a place for you* ([**John 14:2-3**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jhn/14/2-3/s_1011002)). This demonstrates that God’s careful planning works on earth as well as in heaven.

**Conflict in heaven, War between Michael and the dragon.**

[**Revelation 12:7-8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/7-8/s_1179007) **And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.**

1. **War broke out in heaven**: At the mid-point of the great tribulation, God will turn the tide against Satan — first in heaven, then on earth. A battle will take place that will *deny* Satan access to heaven.
2. **Michael and his angels**: Some individuals and groups (such as the Seventh Day Adventists and Jehovah’s Witnesses) insist on saying that **Michael** is actually Jesus. This is wrong on every count.
	1. Some say Michael must be Jesus, because he has **his angels**. But if Satan, a *fallen* angelic being has **his angels** ([**Revelation 12:7**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/7/s_1179007)), can’t Michael, an *unfallen* angelic being have **his angels**?
	2. Some say Michael must be Jesus, because his name means *One like God*. But if this were a title of Jesus, it could argue *against* His deity, not for it — because it would say that Jesus is *like* God, but *not* God.
	3. (Seiss) “There is also an unquestionable Godlikeness in all holy beings, which must be very exalted in those preeminent among the ministers of the throne.”
	4. Some say Michael must be Jesus, because he is called *the archangel* ([**Jude 9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jde/1/9/s_1167009)), which means leader or prince among the angels, and they say that only Jesus is the leader of the angels. But we know from [**Daniel 10:13**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/dan/10/13/s_860013)**,** [**10:20**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/dan/10/20/s_860020) and [**10:21**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/dan/10/21/s_860021) that Michael is one angelic *prince* among others.
	5. Some say that Michael must be Jesus, because Paul says that at the rapture, the Lord will call His people with *the voice of an archangel* ([**1 Thessalonians 4:16**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1th/4/16/s_1115016)**).** But Jesus can use an angel to call out His people without being that angel, just as much as God can use a trumpet to sound out a call without himself using the trumpet.
	6. [**Jude 9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jde/1/9/s_1167009)says that Michael would not rebuke or accuse Satan on His own authority, but only say “**The Lord rebuke you.”** This shows that Michael isn’t Jesus, because Jesus often rebuked Satan and demons in His own authority
		1. [**Matthew 17:18**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/17/18/s_946018) **(NKJV) And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.**
		2. [**Mark 1:25**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mar/1/25/s_958025) **(NKJV) But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him.**
		3. **Mark** [**9:25**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mar/9/25/s_966025) **(NKJV) When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!” Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him.**
		4. [**Luke 4:8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/luk/4/8/s_977008) **(NKJV) And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”**
		5. **Luke** [**4:35**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/luk/4/35/s_977035) **(NKJV) But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him in their midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him.**
	7. (Alford) “Michael is not to be identified with Christ, any more than any other of the great angels in this Book. Such identification here would confuse hopelessly the actors in this heavenly scene.”
	8. **Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought**: This is a dramatic scene of battle between **good angels** and **bad angels**.; faithful angels and fallen angels.
		1. **Who fights in this battle?** This is truly a battle between equals. The **dragon** represents Satan ([**Revelation 12:9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/9/s_1179009) **So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**)
		2. Satan ***is not*** the counterpart of God — *God has no counterpart*. If anyone, Satan is the counterpart of Michael, who seems to be the chief angel opposite this chief of fallen angels.
		3. ***When is this battle fought?*** This battle occurs at the mid-point of the seven-year tribulation period, as described by [**Daniel 12:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/dan/12/1/s_862001) (NKJV) **“At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.**
		4. ***How is this battle fought?*** We know this is a real fight; but is it a material or a spiritual battle? Our battle with Satan and his demons is *spiritual*, fought on the battleground of truth and deception, of fear and faith
		5. [**Ephesians 6:12**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/eph/6/12/s_1103012) (NKJV) **Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**
		6. In regard to significant attacks against the believer, Satan and his demons were disarmed at the cross ([**Colossians 2:15**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/col/2/15/s_1109015) (NKJV) **Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.**).
		7. **Nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer**: This shows us that up until this happens (at the mid-point of Daniel’s 70th week), Satan *does* have access to heaven, where he accuses God’s people before the throne ([**Job 1:6-12**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/job/1/6-12/s_437006))
		8. [**Revelation 12:10**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/10/s_1179010) **(NKJV) Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down**).
		9. It bothers some people to think that Satan has access to heaven, because of the mistaken teaching that God can allow nothing unholy in His presence. But the Bible clearly says that while Satan appears on earth ([**Luke 4:1-13**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/luk/4/1-13/s_977001)), and describes him as *the prince of the power of the air* ([**Ephesians 2:2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/eph/2/2/s_1099002)), it also says that Satan has access to heaven, where he accuses God’s people before the throne ([**Job 1:6-12**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/job/1/6-12/s_437006)).

**Satan and his angels are cast out of heaven.**

[**Revelation 12:9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/9/s_1179009) **So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

1. **So, the great dragon was cast out:** This single verse uses many different titles for our spiritual enemy, including Dragon, Serpent of old, the Devil, Satan, and he who deceives the *whole* world.
* “Serpent of old” v.9 / (1st seen in the Garden of Eden)
* “the Devil” v.9 / (Gk., diabolos – ACCUSER)
* “Satan v.9 / (Hb., - ADVERSARY OR ENEMY)
* “he who deceives the whole world” v.9
* “the accuser of the brethren” v.10
	1. These titles describe Satan as **vicious**, an **accuser**, an **adversary**, and a **deceiver**.
	2. Walvoord on **the Devil**: “The title ‘Devil’ is from the Greek *diabolos*, from the verb *diaballo*, which has the meaning of ‘*defaming’* or ‘*slandering*.’ He is the master accuser of the brethren.”
1. **He was cast to the earth**: The Bible describes four different falls of Satan. [**Revelation 12:9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/9/s_1179009) describes the 2nd of these four falls.
	1. #1 - From glorified to profane ([**Ezekiel 28:14-16**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/eze/28/14-16/s_830014)).
	2. #2 - From having access to heaven ([**Job 1:12**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/job/1/12/s_437012)**,** [**1 Kings 22:21**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1ki/22/21/s_313021)**,** [**Zechariah 3:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/zec/3/1/s_914001)) to restriction to the earth ([**Revelation 12**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/1-18/s_1179001)).
	3. #3 - From the earth to bondage in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years ([**Revelation 20**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/20/1-15/s_1187001)).
	4. #4 - From the pit to the lake of fire ([**Revelation 20**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/20/1-15/s_1187001)).
2. **His angels were cast out with him**: These angels are the *third of the stars of heaven* described in [**Revelation 12:4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/4/s_1179004).
	1. Since Satan only drew one-*third of the stars of heaven*, it means that two-thirds of the angels remained faithful to God. It’s comforting to know that faithful angels outnumber fallen angels two to one.

**A joyful declaration in heaven.**

[**Revelation 12:10-12**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/10-12/s_1179010) **Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”**

1. **I heard a loud voice saying**: Whoever is behind this **loud voice**, it is some representative of redeemed humanity — not an angel or God — because the voice speaks of the **accuser of *our* brethren**.
2. **The accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down:** Satan’s work of accusing only ends here, when he is cast out from his access to heaven. Today, we have (and *need*) an intercessor and advocate ([**1 John 2:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1jo/2/1/s_1161001)).
3. **And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death**: This tells us three keys to the saint’s victory over Satan.
	1. **They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb**: The **blood** overcomes Satan’s *accusations*. Those accusations mean nothing against us because Jesus has already paid the penalty our sins. We may be even *worse* than Satan’s accusations, but we are still made righteous by the work of Jesus on the cross.
		1. [**Ephesians 1:7**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/eph/1/7/s_1098007) **(NKJV) In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace**
		2. [**Colossians 1:14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/col/1/14/s_1108014) **(NKJV) in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.**
		3. [**Hebrews 9:14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/heb/9/14/s_1142014) **(NKJV) how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**
		4. It is important to say that we should not regard the blood of Jesus in a *superstitious* manner. It is not a magical potion, nor is it the literal blood of Jesus, *literally* applied that saves or cleanses us. If that were so, then His Roman executioners, splattered with His blood, would have been automatically saved, and the actual number of molecules of Jesus’ literal blood would limit the number of people who could be saved.
		5. The **blood** speaks to us of the real, physical death of Jesus Christ *in our place*, on our behalf, before God. ***That literal death in our place, and the literal judgment He bore on our behalf, is what saves us*.**
		6. **By the blood** emphasizes the *death* of Jesus. He didn’t only *suffer*, He *died*.
		7. **Of the Lamb** emphasizes the *substitutionary work* of His death, because the Passover **Lamb** died as a *substitute* for each of us.
		8. The **blood** of Jesus heals our troubled conscience, because we know that by His death our sin is atoned for ([**Hebrews 9:14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/heb/9/14/s_1142014))
		9. (Spurgeon) “these saints used the doctrine of atonement not as a pillow to rest their weariness, but as a weapon to subdue their sin.”
		10. How does **the blood of the Lamb** conquer Satan in the life of the believer? How does the death of Jesus on the cross as our substitute bring us victory?
			1. It works first because *His victory is our victory*. (Spurgeon) “First, you are to regard Satan this day as being already literally and truly overcome through the death of the Lord Jesus. Satan is already a vanquished enemy. By faith grasp your Lord’s victory as your own, since he triumphed in your nature and on your behalf… Come, my soul, thou hast conquered Satan by thy Lord’s victory. Wilt thou not be brave enough to fight a vanquished foe, and trample down the enemy whom thy Lord has already thrust down? Thou needest not be afraid, but say, ‘Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.’”
			2. It works because the work of Jesus on the cross for us is the ultimate demonstration of God’s love ([**Romans 5:8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rom/5/8/s_1051008)), and a constant remembrance of **the blood of the Lamb** assures us that every fear Satan whispers into our mind is a ***LIE***.
			3. It works because the death of Jesus on the cross as our substitute reveals the true nature of sin, and this should make us want to avoid sin. (Spurgeon) “Satan makes sin seem pleasurable, but the cross reveals its bitterness. If Jesus died because of sin, men begin to see that sin must be a murderous thing.”
			4. It works because the death of Jesus on the cross as our substitute purchases us as God’s *personal property*, and this should make us want to live for God. (Spurgeon) “If anything can make a man holy it is a firm faith in the atoning sacrifice. When a man knows that Jesus died for him, he feels that he is not his own, but bought with a price, and therefore he must live unto him that died for him and rose again.”
			5. Therefore, we *use the blood of the Lamb* in spiritual warfare, the death of Jesus on the cross as our substitute wins the battle.
			6. (Spurgeon) “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.”
	2. **They overcame him… by the word of their testimony**: The **word of their testimony** overcomes Satan’s *deception*. Knowing and remembering the work of God *in their life* protects them against Satan’s deceptions. As faithful witnesses, they have a testimony to bear — and because they know what they have seen and heard and experienced from God, they cannot be deceived by Satan’s lies telling them it isn’t true (as the testimony of the man born blind in [**John 9:25**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jhn/9/25/s_1006025)).
	3. **They overcame him… they did not love their lives to the death**: Loving not **their lives** overcomes Satan’s *violence*. If they do not cling to their own earthly lives, then there really is no threat Satan can bring against them. If they believe *to live is Christ, and to die is gain* ([**Philippians 1:21**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/phl/1/21/s_1104021)), then how can Satan’s violence against them be effective?
		1. The ancient Greek word for **love** here is *agape*, which speaks of a self-sacrificing, decision-based love. It is up to each one of us to *choose*: Will we **love** our **lives to the death**?
			1. Will our physical lives be the most precious thing to us, or will we find our life by losing it for Jesus?
			2. [**Mark 8:35**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mar/8/35/s_965035)**-36 (NKJV) For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?**
	4. **Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them!** Heaven rejoices at the eviction of Satan. But heaven’s gain is the earth’s loss: ***Woe* to the inhabitants of the earth and sea!**
	5. **He knows that he has a short time**: Satan’s power is real and terrifying, but not because he is triumphant, but because he knows *he is beaten* and has a **short time** left. He is like a wounded, cornered animal that fights ferociously.
	6. Satan might give up his fight against God and humanity made in God’s image, *except* for the fact that he is utterly depraved; Satan may have deceived even himself into thinking that he has a chance.

**Conflict on the earth, Satan attacks the woman, and God protects her.**

[**Revelation 12:13-16**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/13-16/s_1179013) **Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.**

1. **He persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child**: Some teach that the woman is a symbol representing all the people of God, including faithful Israel and the church. They use this to advance the idea that the church is here during the tribulation period. But if the woman represents *all* the people of God (the church and faithful Israel), then who are *the rest of her offspring* described in [**Revelation 12:17**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/17/s_1179017)? It is better to see her as Israel in general or Messianic Jews in particular.
2. ***Why does Satan attack the Jewish people***? This is a question for all history, not only for the Great Tribulation. The reason is because from the time of Abraham, Israel holds a critical role in God’s plan of redemption plan.
	1. First, it was in bringing forth the Messiah - Redeemer.
	2. Then, it was in the fulfillment of His plan, because Jesus promised that the Jewish people would exist and welcome Him when He returns in glory to this world ([**Matthew 23:39**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/23/39/s_952039)).
	3. If Satan succeeds in destroying the Jewish people, then God’s eternal plan would be prevented.
	4. (Walvoord) “The persecution of Israel is part of the *satanic* program to thwart and hinder the work of God… *Israel is hated* by Satan not because of any of its own characteristics but because ***she is the chosen of God*** and essential to the overall purpose of God for time and eternity.”
	5. **Rev 12:4** **To devour her Child as soon as it was born**: How has Satan tried to stop Gods plan of redemption? (just a few thoughts)
		1. In the garden – believing Satan’s lies rather than God’s truths.
		2. Trying to destroy the whole messianic line so Jesus wouldn’t be born.
		3. Satan has incited antisemitism around the world (hostility to, prejudice towards, or discrimination against the Jews)
		4. Pharoah and the Hebrew slaves, when he finally decided to let them go, he went after them with the intention to kill them and *wipe them out*.
		5. Haman of Persia in the book of Esther, when there was a plot to exterminate the Jews
		6. Herod the Great of Rome had all the baby boys 2 years old and under killed in hopes that they would *kill Jesus*.
		7. Hitler and his allies committed mass murders of *6 million* Jews.
		8. Radical Islam, Iran is still chanting for the Death of America and the Death of Israel.
		9. Satan has been trying to stop God’s redemptive plan since the beginning of time.
		10. And Satan hasn’t stopped yet, October 7th 2023 Hamas started war against Israel.
3. **But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place**: *Eagle’s Wings* are an emblem from the Exodus deliverance ([**Exodus 19:4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/exo/19/4/s_69004)), another way of connecting these people with Israel.
	1. Some have wondered if the reference to the **two wings of a great eagle** do not in fact describe a great military transport plane used to evacuate people in an emergency situation.
4. **Where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time**: This is another reference to a 3 ½ year period, indicating that these events — this dramatic persecution of Israel, takes place during the 70th week of [**Daniel 9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/dan/9/1-27/s_859001).
5. **So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman**: The fury poured out against Israel after the abomination of desolation (marking the half-way point of the 70th week of Daniel) was spoken of by Jesus in [**Matthew 24:15-22**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/24/15-22/s_953015) (NKJV) **“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.**
6. **The earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth**: This passage also describes God’s ultimate protection of Israel from the fury of Satan and his antichrist in the great tribulation.
	1. As it says in [**Isaiah 59:19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isa/59/19/s_738019)**B** (NKJV)*When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.*

**The wrath of the dragon is focused against God’s people.**

[**Revelation 12:17**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/17/s_1179017) **And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

1. **The dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring**: This may refer to Israel (**the woman**) and Gentiles who come to faith in Jesus during the Great Tribulation (**the rest of her offspring**). These two groups are particular targets of Satan and his antichrist’s persecution in the last days.
2. **He went to make war with the rest of her offspring**: This either begins or continues the fierce persecution of all those who would not submit to and worship this great Satanic dictator. The martyrs of this period were shown in [**Revelation 6:9-11**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/6/9-11/s_1173009) and [**Revelation 7:9-17**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/7/9-17/s_1174009).