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## Revelation 12

(2019)

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## Revelation 12

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### Topics.

- A woman in heaven, clothed with the sun and a crown of twelve stars.
  - A great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems.
  - The dragons tail swept down the stars and waits to devour her child.
  - The woman, gives birth to a child, who is to rule nations with a rod of iron.
  - The woman fled into the wilderness, where she is nourished for 1,260 days.
  - Michael fights against the dragon and throws him down to earth.
  - Woe to you, O earth, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath.
  - The woman is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.
  - The dragon makes war on those who hold to the testimony of Jesus.
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**The previous chapter:** began with John being told to measure the temple, but not the outer court, and that nations will trample the holy city underfoot for forty months. It spoke of two olive trees and two lampstands that stand before God; of two witnesses; a beast that rises from the bottomless pit and kills them and of them ascending to heaven after three and a half days. It then said, the second woe has passed, the third woe is soon to come. The chapter ended with the seventh angel blowing his trumpet; the kingdom of the world becoming the Kingdom of Christ; God's temple in heaven being opened followed by lightning, thunder an earthquake and hail and stating, the time of God's wrath has come. The third woes begin at (Rev. 15:5 onward).

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**A brief overview of the chapter:** this chapter is an interlude which gives an overview of the whole story of Israel's and the churches war with the dragon. The story travels through history beginning from the birth of Christ, through to the hostile religious rulers of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes), to Jesus death and resurrection and continues to travel forward until it reaches the latter days reign of the antichristian beast powers when the evil of the churches enemy reaches its peak.

- The woman (Israel) gives birth to Jesus; the dragon seeks to stop the birth (Herod the Great killing infant children) and fails; Jesus is born; ministers and ascends to heaven; the woman (Israel) flees into the wildness 1260 days where God keeps them; Israel is no longer the focus, since it is the time of the Gentiles; the dragon goes after the woman's (Israel's) seed which is the Gentile church made up of Jews and Gentile in Christ.
- The war is firstly, all about the ascension of Jesus destroying the accuser referring to the condemnation of the law and by extension the condemning accusations of every thought and of everyone who accuses a Christian of not being perfect. These have all been cast down, because we are saved by grace not works. Secondly, all antichristian hostile nations that aggressively set about to destroy Israel and Christianity from the face of the earth.

- After the dragon fails to destroy Israel (the woman), he turns his destructive powers toward the woman's offspring (Gentiles and Jews who hold to the testimony of Jesus).

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**INTRODUCTION:** it helps to understand this vision when we keep in mind that John is seeing it as though he is standing in heaven looking down on earth, and that the redeemed-on earth, do not belong to this world, but to heaven above, and that their home is not on this earth, but in heaven as the following verses show.

- Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 3:20).
- God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (Ephes. 2:4-6).

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## REVELATION 12:1

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### A Woman in Heaven, Clothed with the Sun and Twelve Stars.

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

The word wonder carries the idea of something extraordinary, or miraculous, and is commonly rendered sign. The woman has a pedigree that carries us well back into the time of the Old Testament when Jacob and his sons dwelt in the land of Canaan (Gen. 37:1), and Joseph had a dream and told it to his brethren, saying:

- Then sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me. <sup>10</sup>But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?" (Genesis 37:9-10).

In these verses, the sun symbolises Jacob the father of the twelve tribes of Israel, the stars symbolise the twelve sons of Jacob (Joseph being the twelve one) and the moon symbolises Rachel the loved wife of Jacob and the recognised mother of Israel. The LORD later changed Jacobs name to Israel making him the Father of the nation of Israel and Rachel the mother. In this vision the woman clothed with the sun, symbolizes Israel the father of the nation Israel, the moon symbolizes Rachel the mother of the nation and the twelve stars on her head, symbolizes the twelve tribes of Israel. Later in chapter twenty-eight the LORD promised Jacob that he would inherit the land about him and his offspring would be as the dust of the earth (Gen 28:10-15). With, this in mind the woman of Johns vision symbolises the nation Israel, since it is from them and through their bloodline that the man-child, Israel Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ came. This is in harmony with Old Testament teaching, since there is no other nation on earth that has history with their God as Israel does. Their history with the LORD their God goes back to the beginning of time no other nation or religion can claim such miracles and wonders or history no matter what god they may believe in. The following verses show that the United Kingdom of Israel has always been God's special and unique nation unlike any other nation, of them God said:

- Israel was his son who he called out of Egypt and he loved when they were a child (Hosea 11:1).
- He gave birth to Israel and carried them from the womb even to their old age. (Isaiah 46:3-4).
- Israel is his allotted heritage (Deut. 32:9) and the apple of his eye (Deut. 32:10).

- Israel is a people holy to him (Deut. 7:6) and his treasured possession (Deut. 14:2).

The LORD has not spoken this way with any other nation, but God has not only spoken of Israel differently, but always dealt with them differently to any other nation:

- To Israel God gave the Ten Commandments and showed his great power. (Exodus 20:1-17).
- To Israel God declared his word, statutes and his rules. (Rom. 9:4)
- To Israel God gave the prophets, the worship and the promises. (Rom. 3:4)
- To Israel belonged the covenant, the adoption, the patriarchs and the glory. (Rom. 3:5)
- To Israel the oracles of God were entrusted. (Rom. 3:2)
- The people of Israel are the offspring of Abraham the father of faith. (Rom. 9:7)
- From Israel's race came the Christ the Saviour of the world. (Rom. 9:5)
- God declared his word to Jacob, his statutes and rules to Israel. He has not dealt thus with any other nation (Psalm 147:19-20).

The LORD has not given any other nations such great privileges. These are the many reasons the Jews (especially the religious leaders of Jesus generation) considered themselves to be the holy race with God and the Gentile nations to be the unclean race without God.

**The thermometer of God's prophecy:** it is true that Israel has been and still is a special nation to God, but since Christ death and resurrection salvation for both Jews and Gentiles is in the Lord Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, Israel remains a clear sign of where we are in prophecy concerning Christ's return. It could be said that they are the thermometer of God's prophecy much like the mercury on a natural thermometer measures the heat of the day and moves up the vertical red line warning us of impending danger when the heat of the sun is reaching temperatures that are dangerous for the good health of the skin and our well-being. Likewise, Israel can be seen as the mercury of Bible prophecy in the sense that world events that come upon the nation of Israel (especially Jerusalem) are signs that give us some insight as to how close we are to that glorious breathtaking and world changing day when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory. But God's focus during our present age for eternal salvation is upon creating a new nation in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles. This new nation is also called a new creation in Christ, the body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, the church and the Kingdom of God. Israel's love for the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob cannot be doubted. When their Messiah does return in glory and the LORD pours upon them a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy when they look on him whom they had pierced, not only will the entire nation weep over the horrific crime they committed against him (Zech. 12:9-14), but the entire world and its oppressive systems of global finance and trade will be changed and its corrupt governments will be replaced for the better. For further information concerning the new nation God is building in Christ, see the title: "The Commonwealth of Israel," at the end of this chapter. However, if we move the magnifying glass further away we get a far bigger picture and see that the vision is not limited to Israel only, but symbolises the Old Testament Jewish faith, passing over to the New Testament Gospel of grace and the Gentile church through the Virgin Mary giving birth to Jesus the man-child.

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## REVELATION 12:2

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### The Woman is Pregnant and about to Give Birth.

- **Revelation 12:2:** She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.

The woman is Israel from the beginning of time God planned and purposed in His eternal mind and by His eternal foresight and eternal wisdom that the Saviour of the world would come from the nation Israel. This means that the “pregnant woman crying out in birth pains and in the agony to give birth,” can be taken to be the years of struggle, hardships, agony and sorrow the nation of Israel endured prior to giving birth to their Messiah through the Virgin Mary.

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## REVELATION 12:3

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### **A Red Dragon, with Seven Heads, Ten Horns, and Seven Diadems.**

- **Revelation 12:3:** And another sign (wonder in KJV) appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems (crowns in KJV).

Another sign and wonder was seen in heaven, not that the dragon was in heaven the place of glory and happiness, but that great power and authority the dragon symbolises was on earth. They are spoken of as being in heaven, because they are futuristic heavenly visions that John is seeing. In, reality John is sitting on the Isle of Patmos writing all these visions down, for us to read, but his mind is totally devoid of anything worldly and instead filled with the presence and Spirit of God.

**The meaning of dragon:** the word dragon comes from the Greek word (*drakon*) which means to look, it carries the idea of a fabulous kind of serpent (perhaps with the idea of being fascinated). The god of this world, is fitly compared to a dragon, for its cunning in circumventing and ensnaring the professors of Christianity; and for its cruelty and inhumanity in persecuting them; and for its superstitious religion and idolatry. It is referred to as a great one, because of its strength and power, which lay in its immense wealth, its combined nations, its numbers of authoritative people in powerful positions, its strong cities and its vast armies and massive billion-dollar stockpile of destructive weapons of war. It is symbolised as being red, because of the vast amount of blood of the faithful shed amongst the ungodly empire it symbolises, which aptly fits the character and bloody practices of the old serpent the devil who was a murderer from the beginning. The reference to the dragon in all Scriptures in the book of Revelation carry the idea of a large serpent like creature. Many notions have been attached to the dragon which did not exist, which were ascribed to it by the imagination, such as: it was of a vast size; had three rows of teeth; was black, red, yellow, or ashy in colour; had a large wide mouth; it breathed out fire; made a terribly loud and frightening hiss; had large feet and wings; inhabited dark waste and solitary places and was insatiable in ravenousness, and ever thirsting for human blood.

The red colour is the colour of flame and blood, and the symbol of destruction and slaughter, it is the emblem of the evil spirit, the devil, the perpetual antagonist of good, the persecutor of the church in all ages, a truly fitting emblem of him who Jesus declared to be a murderer from the beginning. For these reasons the dragon became, an object of great terror. It, is very likely that the original of this was a huge serpent, and that all the other characteristics were added by the imagination. However, that does not lessen the force or the prevailing idea regarding it, which is of some type of a fearful destructive creature of great power. In this vision John sees a red coloured dragon (symbolising blood), the second characteristic was that it was great, which carries the idea that it was a huge monster, symbolising some type of mighty, terrible hostile power on earth. Following are some of the great powers mentioned in the Bible that are symbolised by the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2):

**Pharaoh king of Egypt:** the great persecutor and ancient enemy of Israel, is likened to a great and mighty dragon in the following verses to signify the Egyptian power

- Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lies in the midst of his streams, that says, 'My Nile is my own; I made it for myself.' (Ezek. 29:3).
- Son of man, raise a lamentation over Pharaoh king of Egypt and say to him: "You consider yourself a lion of the nations, but you are like a dragon in the seas; you burst forth in your rivers, trouble the waters with your feet, and foul their rivers. (Ezekiel 32:2).

In these verses Pharaoh is pictured as a dragon in the Nile being so full of pride, he boasts that all of Egypt is his and as a dragon in the seas (symbolising multitudes of people) causing great sufferings and conflicts and poisoning and corrupting the nations. These verses show that the dragon can symbolise powerful worldly rulers, monarchs, states, kingdoms and empires influenced by a spirit of pride, greed, selfish ambition and the craving for power and fame that are hostile toward Gods people.

**The empire of Rome:** Rome the capital city of the empire is built upon seven hills and the dragon of Johns vision in (Rev. 12:3) and (Rev. 13:1) with ten horns links it with the fourth beast of Daniel, which is also Rome and it is also seen with ten horns (Dan. 7:7). The great red dragon in the context of Johns vision, refers to the Roman pagan empire and its emperors that were hostile toward Christianity as being under the influence of Satan. The symbol of the dragon become a common standard in the Roman armies and had to some measure superseded the eagle. The dragon can be viewed as the Roman pagan power engaging in the persecution of Christians at a time when the church was about to be greatly enlarged and take the Gospel to the world. Rome is likened to a great red dragon, because of the vastness of the empire and because of its the cruelty and the blood of Christians it shed.

**Papal Rome:** the dragon can also be taken to be the Roman Papal Church and all religions and nations in league with her, which this book describes as:

- The great prostitute woman full of abominations and drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality, with the name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations," written on her forehead. (Rev. 17:1-6).

The colour purple or scarlet was the distinguishing colour of the Roman emperors, consuls and generals and is the standard colour of the Popes and cardinals even today and there is no lack of outward pomp and ceremony. The pagan Roman empire come to ruin, but out of its ashes the Roman Papal power rose in such great strength that today it has power, influence and wealth that is greater and reaches further than the influence and power of the ancient empire of Rome. Papal Rome is likened to a great red dragon, because of the cruel and brutal persecution it inflicted upon true Christians who would not embrace their erroneous doctrines and submit to their rule.

**The seven heads:** (v3) refer to seven great powers of the world that are separated from the ten world powers represented by the horns (called kings, Rev. 17:12). The seven heads of Johns vision symbolise seven great world kingdoms that have had a major influence upon Israel. The symbolism of the great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, is as follows:

- The foundation of the seven heads is the red dragon that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2). Upon this foundation the following seven major world kingdom arose:
  1. Egypt (the first of the seven heads).
  2. Assyria (the second of the seven heads).
  3. Babylon (the third of the seven heads).

4. Media Persia (the fourth of the seven heads).
5. Greece (the fifth of the seven heads).
6. Rome. (the sixth of the seven heads).
7. Ten mixed nations (the seventh of the seven heads).

In Daniels vision (Dan. 2:36-45) Rome is pictured as the legs of the great metal image and the ten-horned beast is represented as ten toes. (Dan. 2:41-43). The feet and toes are an extension of the legs, which means that in the latter days these ten toes or horned nations will embrace the nations of the old Roman Empire and form the final global antichristian beast empire. This vision of John also strongly resembles Daniels vision in chapter seven. There Daniel saw four great beasts different from each other rising-up in succession from the great sea that four winds of heaven had stirred up (Dan. 7:2-3), signifying the four nations springing up out of a state of commotion, disorder and anarchy. In this vision, the ten refers the last period of world power, that rises-up out of the fourth kingdom (Rome) which is, connected with and reaches forward to the seventh and final head of the beast, as the following verse shows.

- The ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. (the eighth beast). (Revelation 17:12).

Here in chapter seventeen the angel tells John that the beast that he saw is seven kings, five who have fallen, one is and the other has not yet come, and when he does come, he will remain for only a short while. (Rev. 17:10). The following list, shows who the seven kings of John's vision are; who the five that have fallen refer to; who the fourth kingdom of Daniel's vision is and who the one to come refers to. The first of the seven is:

1. **Egypt (fallen):** is the first great power of John's vision, that had major influence over the people of Israel. The Hebrew people were in bondage to Egypt for over four hundred years, and when God by mighty plagues bought them out of Egypt a nation (Israel) was born.
2. **Assyria (fallen):** is the second great power of John's vision, that had major influence over the people of Israel. Assyria's armies invaded the land of Samaria and overthrew the ten tribes of Israel dwelling there and ruled over them.
3. **Babylon (fallen):** is the third great power of John's vision, and the first world kingdom, that Daniel saw in his vision of the iron man symbolised by his head of gold (Dan. 2:32) (Dan. 2:37) and a lion that had eagle wings, that were torn off (Dan. 7:4), meaning it could not fly or stand up, to arise again on its feet, but had to be lifted-up by others and once standing again it was given the mind of a man (v17-18). The inhabitants of Jerusalem and of the land of Judah had become so corrupt God used Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon as His servant to bring His judgment upon Jerusalem and the land of Judah. The armies of Babylon invaded Jerusalem burned the city destroyed the temple and took the people captive for seventy years. (Jeremiah 25:8-9).
4. **Media Persia (fallen):** is the fourth great power of John's vision, and the second world kingdom, that Daniel saw in his vision of the iron man symbolised by his silver chest and silver arms (Dan. 2:32) (Dan. 2:39), and by a ferocious bear destroying and conquering multitudes of nations. (Dan. 7:17-18). Media existed as a kingdom in its own right prior to Persia, but Cyrus the Great king of Persia toppled the Median rulers and turned Media into the Kingdom of Persia. The LORD not only called Cyrus the king of Persia His anointed shepherd and called him by name, but also equipped Cyrus for battle (Isaiah 45:1, 28). Added to this the LORD says, even though Cyrus (a secular king) does not know Him, He will go before him (Isaiah 45:2-3).

Cyrus invaded and defeated Babylon and gave Israel written permission to return to their homeland and rebuild their beloved city Jerusalem and the temple of God.

5. **Greece (fallen):** is the fifth great power of John's vision, and the third world kingdom, that Daniel saw in his vision of the iron man symbolised by the middle and thighs being bronze (Dan. 2:32) (Dan. 2:39), and by a leopard with four heads (i.e., four kings over four kingdoms) and four wings on its back with enormous governing authority and ruling power, influence and control. (Dan. 7:17-18). Media Persia fell to Alexander the Great after which the empire of Greece became firmly fixed under his control, and the city of Alexandria grew into one of the greatest cities of the ancient world. Alexandria's death created enormous problems, because there were no plans for a succession, so his empire went to the four strongest generals who were, Ptolemy 1 the King of Egypt, Cassander King of Macedonia, Lysimachus King of Thrace and Seleucus I, King of Syria. Although Alexander is not named in the Bible, but he is described prophetically in Daniel chapter eight as the great horn between the he-goat's eyes. (Dan. 8:5-8) (Daniel 8:20-22).
6. **Rome (one is):** is the sixth great power of John's vision, and the fourth world kingdom, that Daniel saw in his vision of the iron man symbolised by his legs, feet and toes, (Dan. 2:33) (Dan. 2:40-41) (Dan. 2:42-43). It, is said to be different from the previous kings and their kingdoms, in that it appears terrifying and exceedingly strong. It had iron teeth and anything it didn't destroy with its teeth it crushed with its feet. (Daniel 7:7). This is the legs, feet and toes that Daniel saw in his vision in chapter two which was Rome the fourth world kingdom (Dan. 2:40-41) (Dan. 2:42-43). The legs of iron continue down to the feet and ten toes mixed with iron and clay, which signifies that the final beast is Rome with all its affiliated nations (some strong some weak) and Papal power extending on through history to the last days when it will in some form rise again as the final world power. The early history of the small, but powerful city-state of Rome began with its gradual domination of Mediterranean powers, especially many of the states and nations of Greece. They built up their empire between the 3rd century BC and the 3rd century AD., and at Rome's height the Empire stretched from North-Western Europe to the Near East and encompassed all the lands of the Mediterranean.

**Rome and Religion:** Roman state religion was considered the formal link between men and the gods. Their religion was a type of contract between Rome and the highest god amongst all their gods. They held that their highest god would look after Rome's security and progress, providing the state looked after the god's needs by supplying the proper sacrifices and worship. In (Rev.13:2) John sees a ten-horned beast rise-up out of the sea, like a leopard, a bear and a lion which are all symbols of Daniels vision with the leopard symbolizing Greece, the bear Media Persia and the lion Babylon. The natural idea in these visions is that in the latter days the ten-horned beast will embrace the nations of the ancient Roman empire.

7. **The final world power (still to come):** is the seventh great power of John's vision symbolised by the ten horns of the beast and is the sixth world kingdom, that Daniel saw in his vision of the iron man symbolised by his ten toes. Counting from Babylon the first kingdom of Daniels vision Rome is the fourth Kingdom, counting from Egypt the first kingdom of John's vision, Rome is the sixth kingdom (falling one short of God's perfect number seven). In John's vision Rome, is the successor of the five that had fallen (1) Egypt, (2) Assyria, (3) Babylon, (4) Media-Persia and (5) Greece). All these great world-kingdom were of the same mind and the same spirit in that they were all founded in unrighteousness (i.e., all worshipped pagan gods and were in violation of Gods law). In the previous chapter these beast kingdoms are collectively pictured as a great red dragon (Rev. 12:3), with seven royal heads, symbolising that they are of the same antichristian spirit



and aggressively hostile toward Israel, and by extension the church. Historically Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media Persia, Greece and Rome were all major capital cities and empires of the world. Both Daniel and John's vision highlight the truth that the spirit of the dragon has flowed through history and will continue to do so from generation to generation until its evil power climaxes in the latter days of the final antichristian beast kingdoms and the stone that was cut from a mountain by no human hand (the Lord Jesus Christ), breaks in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold and brings all these kingdoms to an end, after which God's Kingdom which will never be destroyed will stand forever. (Daniel 2:44-45). The seven heads (1) Egypt, (2) Assyria, (3) Babylon, (4) Media Persia, (5) Greece, (6) Rome and (7) the ten toes (mixed empire) are all full of blasphemous names since they all worshipped idols and pagan gods and were aggressively hostile toward God's people Israel. In Daniel's vision Rome is counted as the fourth kingdom for his vision starts at the head of the image which was gold and symbolises Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. In John's vision in chapter thirteen Rome is counted as the sixth kingdom for his vision begins at the first world empire which was Egypt. We know that Rome is built upon seven hills and that in Daniel's vision the legs of the image symbolise Rome, which means that the empire of Rome flows down to the ten toes, prophetically this carries the idea that Rome in some form and shape will rise again as ten nations (or an alliance of ten sovereign nations or countries, (perhaps something like NATO today) and these ten will form the final world empire. The feet and toes of the great image are partly of iron and partly of clay signifying that latter day ten horned empire would be made up of some strong nations and some weaker nations (Dan. 2:33) (Dan. 2:42).

**The ten horns:** some commentators have supposed that the ten horns refer to ten kingdoms that arose after the fall of the Roman empire, the problem with this idea is that should that be the case they would be accurately known, but a careful study shows that this is not so, there are more than twenty different lists given by various commentators and interpreters. Added to this there has never been a kingdom or empire of nations on earth that has fully fulfilled all that is spoken of concerning this ten-horned beast. Following is a far more fitting and likely scenario. The two legs of iron symbolise that the Roman Empire would be divided into two branches, being the Eastern and Western empires of Rome. The ten toes (five on each foot) signify that each branch of the Roman Empire would consist of five kingdoms. The heart of the Eastern Empire (also called the Byzantine Empire) is modern day Turkey with its capital in Constantinople (formerly Byzantium) now modern-day Istanbul. Though there are various ideas who these kingdoms are, the four most likely scenarios are:

**The first scenario:** supposes that the five kings from the Western Roman Empire embraces the following countries:

1. Britain
2. France
3. Spain (or the whole Iberian Peninsula, including Portugal)
4. Italy
5. Germany

While the five kings from the Eastern Roman Empire embraces: -

1. Turkey
2. Greece
3. Syria
4. Egypt (including part of Sudan)
5. Libya

One of the kings from one of these kingdoms is the 11<sup>th</sup> horn who we now know will be the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) who the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. (2 Thess. 2:8).

**The second scenario:** there are around two hundred nations that are part of the United Nations, for these nations to submit to only ten kings, seems hardly likely, for this reason many today believe the ten kings symbolise ten regions with one designated leader representing their region, mimicking the Roman Empire. The final makeup of the ten regional unions could be something like the following:

1. European Union.
2. Eastern European Union.
3. North American Union.
4. South American Union.
5. Central American/Caribbean Union.
6. Middle Eastern/North African Union.
7. African/Sub-Saharan Union.
8. South and Central Asian Union.
9. Eastern and South-eastern Asian Union.
10. Asian Pacific Union.

**The third scenario:** supposes that the ten regions will unite the entire world under a single form of government embracing the following: -

1. The European union.
2. The Mediterranean union.
3. The African union.
4. The union of south American nations.
5. The Slavic union.
6. The gulf cooperation council.
7. The south and south east Asian association.
8. The north American union.
9. The Caribbean community.
10. The Arab league.

**The fourth scenario:** supposes that the ten horns, symbolise the following ten countries:

1. Spain.
2. Portugal.
3. France.
4. Britain.
5. Austria.
6. Italy.
7. Luxemburg.
8. Switzerland.
9. Belgium.
10. Netherlands.

All ten working in concert with earth other to bring about a New World Order for the survival of the planet and humanity and to bring justice and peace to all countries. Any one of these scenarios (or something similar) will form the global New World Order in the latter days. It will be a self-appointed organisation that is most likely composed of scientists, economists, businessmen, international high civil servants, heads of state and former heads of state from all continents. They will deal with a variety of international political issues and will be convinced that the future of humankind must be controlled for the survival of the planet and the human population and for the establishment of permanent justice and peace.

This New World Order of ten regions with one designated leader representing their region, will replace the old form of Government with a form of government that will not only have controlling power at a global level, but also have the power to enforce laws across all countries in the world. (Mimicking the Roman Empire). To achieve this ideal global sovereignty, individual and independent nations must be destroyed and replaced with a form of government that will have:

- Control over the world's natural wealth to assure equal access and distribution for all countries.

- Control at a global level of bank institutions, the financial international organizations and foreign investments.
- Control at a federal and regional level of external relations and the international trade practiced by the member states.
- Control over its own economic and military institutions to intervene anywhere in the world to re-establish peace and democracy.
- Control over agents that it can use around the world to frequently create crises.
- Control of people in high positions of the media to promote the crisis and create confusion and fear to bring an end to the old and open the way for the new.

The future New World Order regimes will occupy the highest political, financial and religious positions in the world. No one should think that chaos, especially the present chaos in Europe, will prevent the New World Order from bringing about this final world empire, since it is a principle of life that the New World Order understands very clearly that chaos is necessary to justify making the changes that are needed to achieve a required end.

**David Rockefeller wrote:** some even believe we are part of a secret cabal working against the best interests of the United States, characterizing my family and me as 'internationalists' and of conspiring with others around the world to build a more integrated global political and economic structure—one world, if you will. If that's the charge, I stand guilty, and I am proud of it." (taken from David Rockefeller, Memoirs, p. 405). Throughout most of human history, political organization has been at a tribal, city and state level and in more recent centuries a subcontinental level, however, now with the advent of superior transportation, weapons and instant worldwide communication there is for the first time the ability for a union of member states to organize at a worldwide level. As the pieces of the New World Order fall slowly but steadily into place, it will become clear that its pattern of government will be according to how the Roman Empire governed its vast empire.

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**The ten horns:** (v3) horns are emblems of power and denote that the dragon in some respects represented ten combined powers. The picture is of a wild beast (the dragon), representing a concentrated single hostile form with all the antichristian forces and power and authority of successive empires that have opposed or oppressed the people of God, and sought to destroy their efforts for good. All evil has its root in a spirit that is at enmity with God, therefore, the dragon symbolises all the sovereignties and powers which have been influenced and guided by that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2).

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## REVELATION 12:4

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### **The Dragons Swept Down the Stars and Waits to Devour Her Child.**

- **Revelation 12:4:** His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.

A power that can sweep all the stars away would be a universal power, whereas, a power that is only capable of sweeping away one-third represents a limited dominion over the complete whole. However, the dragon here is only using his tail, not his entire body, which means that whatever this dragon symbolises is an enormously formidable power on earth. Added to this, the third part of the earth that he cast down would no doubt refer to those who opposed him and his government's plans and purposes which would include the following two groups:

1. Nations, kings, princes and potentates, civil magistrates and military officers' commanders and their armies and multitudes in high places of authority and those they have under their influence and power who opposed the rule and purposes of the power the dragon symbolises.
2. Ministers and teachers of the Christian faith, the true light bearers of God's word amongst a world of darkness and those who honestly proclaim the Gospel from a true and faithful heart and boldly speak against the antichristian beast and dragon powers.

The main idea contained in John's vision is of power, it shows that the power of the dragon is so great that by the strength of its tail only, it is, able to cast down a third of the stars to earth and with its tail extended sweep them away leaving two-thirds unaffected. In the following verse Luke refers to Rome as being all the world:

- In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. (Luke 2:1).

Rome is referred to as all the world, because at the time of Luke it was the dominant power over most of the known world during his era. These stars maybe cast down by, political trickery and deception; by financial control; widespread persecution; seducing doctrines or by war. The dragon at the time of John can be taken to be the mighty Roman empire and its tail signify the great power and strength; which lay in its mighty train of armies that drew a vast number of nations into subjection to its empire, so much so that the empire of Rome was called all the world. However, the symbolism of the dragon and the dominion it represents is not limited to the ancient Roman Empire, since Satan never gives up his drive to bring chaos and destruction to earth, and never lays down his hostile power to destroy the Kingdom of God as we will see as we travel through the following chapters.

**The dragon stands before the woman to devour her child:** (v4) (a male child in ESV and man child in KJV). The dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child, he might devour it. The great dragon that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2), has from Adam and Eve stood before God's people for the sole purpose of destroying God's plan for mankind's salvation and to stop those in his dominion of darkness from being delivered into the Lord Jesus Christ Kingdom of light.

The dragon standing before the woman to devour her child can refer to the following four events:

1. Pharaoh of Egypt the ancient enemy and great persecutor of Israel, is likened to a great prideful dragon (Ezek. 29:3) (Ezek. 32:2), and was ready to devour (destroy) Israel just prior to the birth of the nation, likewise, Herod of Rome may also be likened to a great red dragon full of rage against Mary's child when he sent his soldiers to murder innocent children around Bethlehem in his attempt to devour (destroy) Israel's Messiah when he was born.
2. After the dragon through Herod failed to kill Jesus as an infant he then tried again some thirty years later through the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes), and the heads of the Roman Empire only to find that death had no power to hold a man without sin in the grave.
3. Christ is the head of the whole church and the body is united by the Holy Spirit and by love to the head forming one body with many members, and though all the members of the body, are many, they remain one body in Christ. (1 Cor. 12:12). Christ does not rule alone in this world or in the world to come, but with those who belong to his global body, which means that whatever the dragon is said to do to Christ, would naturally and by extension include his church. This means the expression, "He might devour her child," can apply to both Christ

and to the church. In the same way the dragon through Pharaoh attempted to devour Israel and through Herod devour Mary's child, likewise the dragon through the Roman Empire attempted to destroy Christianity in its embryo form, to prevent any of Christ's sons and daughters from shining the light of the Gospel upon those in his empire of darkness. When the dragon (i.e., the Roman empire) saw that the church was reproducing, growing and increasing in power and spreading itself throughout its empire and to all nations, the pagan empire of Rome (symbolised by the dragon) and its emperors took every opportunity to destroy the Kingdom of Christ to prevent the increase and spread of the church in the world. This would especially apply to the last ten cruel, brutal and murderous persecutions under the pagan Roman empire prior to emperor Constantine putting a stop to all forms of Christian persecution.

4. The power of the great dragon reaches its peak in the latter days and is manifested in the following two great entities:

- a) The great prostitute woman arrayed in purple and scarlet (red), adorned with gold, jewels and pearls, drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus and holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality, with the name mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations," written on her forehead.
- b) The scarlet (red) coloured beast full of blasphemous names, with seven heads and ten horns that the great prostitute woman sat on, meaning this secular worldly beast carried and supported the woman in her abominations. (Rev. 17:1-6).

This great latter day's prostitute woman embraces the Vatican City, its Popes, bishops and clergy and all false and worldly religions in league with her. When Jesus disciples asked him, "What will be the sign of his coming and of the close of the age?" He answered them, saying:

- If anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. <sup>24</sup>For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup>See, I have told you beforehand. <sup>26</sup>So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. <sup>27</sup>For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (Matt. 24:23-27).

The dragon, symbolising the spirit of evil that is hostile toward God, Christ and his people is forever on the watch to destroy God's people and their good efforts to establish His Kingdom. Following are three good examples of this:

- a) The hatred and fear of Pharaoh, setting a watch for the offspring of Israel and ordering their destruction.
- b) The murderous spirit and jealous hatred of Herod seeking Jesus and having innocent children murdered in a hideous attempt to kill Mary's child Jesus.
- c) The hatred of the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priest, Pharisees and scribes) keeping watch for a good opportunity to kill Jesus.

This vision shows that the spirit of the enemy is always on the watch to destroy every token of good and every resemblance of Christ in the world. The mission of the church is to bring forth in her members and before mankind the life of Christ, in contrast to this the aim of the evil spirit is to destroy that life.

The same hostility that was shown toward the infant Christ is active against His children, we should not be surprised by this since Jesus said:

- If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup>If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup>Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. (John 15:18-20).

These words of Jesus will be especially true during the latter days reign of the man of lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) the global beast kingdom and the antichristian world. Though the basis of the vision is founded on historical fact, it is not limited to these facts, but reveals a power that covers a far wider area and shows us that there are opposing principles at work in the world, which when traced to their spiritual forms, are the Spirit of Christ and the spirit of the devil. The dragon is an emblem of Satan's spirit of antagonism against all that is good and godly working through those who govern on earth. Though the dragon has fiercely, and will continue to aggressively oppose God, Christ and those in his Kingdom, the Gospel continues to be spread throughout the world and will continue to do so until Christ returns in glory. With, this in mind, it could be rightly stated, "the child is being raised up."

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## REVELATION 12:5

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### The Women Gives Birth to a Child, who is to Rule Nations.

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

**A rod of iron:** (v5) rod comes from the Greek word (*rhabdos*) and means a stick used as a cudgel, a cane, a sceptre, a staff or a baton of royalty, while iron comes from the Greek word (*sidereos*) meaning made of iron, which figuratively carries the idea of strength. The allusion seems to be to the shepherd's rod/staff, with which he leads and feeds his sheep; the same word signifies both to rule and strength and feed, guide and protect, it carries the idea that his authority will be supreme.

**She gave birth to a male child:** (v5, 13) (man child in KJV) who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. The following Psalm shows that it was predicted that Christ would rule over the nations with a rod of iron.

- I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. <sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. <sup>9</sup>You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." (Psalm 2:7-9).

However, the fact that this child is Christ must not cause us to limit the meaning of the vision to the efforts of the evil one to destroy the infant Jesus; for it is also the Christ in the church which the wicked one hates: and wherever Christ dwells in any heart by faith, and wherever the preachers of the Gospel in earnest minister for their Master, and seek to lift-up Christ, enemies can be found, like the birds of the air, ready to carry away the good seed. The birth of the child can also be taken to represent the increase and universal spread and growth of the church and the dragons attempts to destroy the child may also be taken to represent the furious opposing pagan Roman power against the church. There is clearly no doubt that the child refers to the resurrection of Jesus, but it can by extension also refer to any intervention to save the church from being destroyed by the dragon (i.e., the fierce pagan power). A fitting reference would be to the era of the Roman emperor Constantine, who, under the influence of the Gospel put an end to the brutal cruel and bloodthirsty persecution of Christians and made the Christian faith the religion of Rome. During his reign the church came under his protection and was saved from fierce pagan persecution and made safe from its enemies and given freedom to openly and publicly proclaim the Gospel and enlarge its borders. In this context the man child caught up to heaven

would refer to a greatly increasing church, that was raised up and exalted to emperor Constantine's royal throne and protected from danger. In this sense, it can be stated that the male child (symbolising the church) was raised up. During the Old Testament era when Babylon had taken God's people Israel into captivity for seventy years, God raised up Cyrus king of Media Persia to bring the Empire of Babylon to ruin and set the people of Israel free from the bondage and captivity of Babylon. The LORD refers to Cyrus as His, anointed shepherd whose right hand He would take to fulfil all His purpose (Isaiah 44:28) (Isaiah 45:1) and that He will go before Cyrus and level the exalted places and give him the treasures of darkness so that he may know that the LORD, is the God of Israel. The LORD calls the secular king Cyrus by his name even though Cyrus does not know God. (Isaiah 45:2-3) and tells him that He will equip him (Isaiah 45:5-6) and give him the wealth of Egypt and that men of stature, will follow him. (Isaiah 45:14). God used Cyrus the secular King of Persia as His anointed shepherd to set His people free. There is no reason not to suppose that in the same way God used Cyrus, he used Constantine to save and protect His people. Had God not raised up Constantine it is very likely that the dragon through the pagan Roman Empire would have greatly crushed Christianity by murderous persecution, but instead the church triumphed, because of Constantine's, public establishment of the Christian religion. This era of time, may figuratively be represented by the symbolism, of the dragon attempting to destroy the child; and the child (i.e., the church) being delivered to safety from his attacks (i.e., pagan persecution), and by the symbol of a child being caught up to heaven, and placed near the throne of God to represent the safety of the church.

**Constantine's empire:** extended as far as Britain to the west, and all Scythia to the north, Ethiopia to the south, and the remote parts of India to the east, even to the ultimate parts of the whole world, making his kingdom to be three times larger than that of Alexander the great. In the same way that the expression, "to fall from heaven," is expressive of debasement and meanness, and of a low estate that a person is brought into:

- How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! (Isaiah 14:12).

Likewise, the expression, "ascending-up to heaven," is expressive of exaltation, or a rise to some more glorious state and condition, which was clearly the case of the church during Constantine's reign since he greatly advanced the empire of Christ's kingdom. The principles manifested in the story of Constantine can be applied to any great king, Emperor and ruler (Christian or secular) that have throughout history stood up to protect God's people.

**The perfect and ultimate child, to rule all the nations with a rod of iron:** clearly refers to the Lord Jesus Christ when he returns in glory to establish God Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. Especially over the final global world ruler, the man of lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) and his forces and followers, who he will destroy with the breath of his mouth, and break in pieces with the rod of iron in order that the earth would be filled with righteousness, justice, joy and peace. The statement "to rule all nations with a rod of iron," has a clear reference to the following verse: -

- You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. (Psalm 2:9).

Though this verse belongs to Christ; and refers to his Kingdom in the latter days, the following verses shows that it is not limited to Christ only, but embraces the members of the church:

- The one who conquers (overcomes in KJV) and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,<sup>27</sup> and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. (Rev. 2:26-27).

Christ will not rule alone on earth, but with all the resurrected redeemed when the kingdom and dominion of this world, become and the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ at the sound of the seventh trumpet.

- The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." (Rev. 11:15).

What took place in the case of Mary's child, will also take place in the case of those who conquer and overcome to the end. The expression, "with a rod of iron," carries the idea that Christ's authority and dominion would be as strong as iron, meaning it cannot be broken, it carries the following thoughts:

- The principles of truth and righteousness will prevail everywhere on the earth.
- The heart, mind and conscience of people will welcome Christ's as their ruler and his word as their guide.
- Though Christ and his government administration will be under a sceptre of iron against all forms of wickedness, his rule will be predominately a rule of protection, benevolence and goodness toward all people rather than of force or violence, like a shepherd uses his staff to guide and protect his flock from danger.

#### **The predominant law over all the earth will be Christ's command:**

- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Matt. 22:37-39).

The whole law is fulfilled in this command: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Gal. 5:14). James the brother of Jesus calls this law the royal law. (James 2:8). It means do good to others and not harm. This, is why these two laws will be the dominant laws ruling over Christ's millennial Kingdom. The Lord will crush all forms of wickedness and every power that is hostile toward him and his people and that is contrary to the law of love, and reign over those who accept his rule as a shepherd does in protecting and guarding his flock that is under his care.

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**The vision assures us:** that, all life in Christ is beyond the power of the evil one, and that the forces hostile to good are powerless against that life which is hid with Christ in God. The church may outwardly appear in the eyes of the world to be as a weak, oppressed, and persecuted woman, but her faith rises-up as a song from the lips of its faithful members.

- God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephes. 2:4-7)

The warfare is, between the man child and the dragon; and those whose heart and mind are by faith founded in Christ's love and grace. The contest is not one of mere ideas and intellectual head knowledge, but a conflict between Christ, who though he has ascended, he is by his Spirit and by love always with his people, against all the powers of the great dragon that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2), which when Christ returns in glory will be crushed by the rod of his power.

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#### **REVELATION 12:6-10**

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**The Woman Fled to the Wilderness, and Nourished for 1,260 Days.**



- **Revelation 12:6-10:** and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days. <sup>7</sup>Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, <sup>8</sup>but he was defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup>And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. <sup>10</sup>And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

The Virgin Mary, Jesus and the twelve apostles and Paul were of Jewish blood, and Jesus appointed the twelve apostles and Paul to proclaim the Gospel, which means the following three things:

1. The Gentile church was birthed out of the nation of Israel.
2. The woman in this chapter symbolises Israel.
3. The woman's offspring (seed in KJV), is the Gentile church.

For greater detail concerning the woman see the notes following (v1 above).

Following are events that happened prior to John's exile on Patmos and prior to the time he had these visions:

1. Mary gave birth to Jesus.
2. Herod attempted to destroy Mary's child.
3. The religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) plotted to kill him.
4. Rome crucified Jesus and hostile Jews attempted to destroy the church.
5. Pagan Rome remained aggressively hostile toward the church.

Since the apostles were Jews and it was by them that the Gentile church was birthed and from the Jewish nation the Messiah came it can be rightly said that the Christian Gentile Church was born out of the nation of Israel. Supporting this idea is the fact that even though Mary is the literal mother of the church, the following verses show that figuratively speaking the city of Jerusalem is the mother of us all.

- Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. <sup>26</sup>But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. <sup>27</sup>For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband." (Gal. 4:25-27).

**Events that happened after John's exile on Patmos:** and after the time he had these visions:

- Rome persecuted the Christian church symbolised by the dragon.
- Constantine protected the church.
- The Papal church was established.

At the very beginning (chapter one) of these visions the angel told John:

- Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. (Rev. 1:19).

This means that John's visions cover the entire history of the church from:

- The conception of the Mary when the angel Gabriel told her she would bear the Son of David the Messiah the Christ and Son of God the Saviour of the world. To the birth of Jesus and the cross.
- Rome's hostility after the resurrection toward the Jewish nation Israel and their armies destroying Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Symbolised by the wrath of the dragon.
- Rome (symbolised by the dragon) going after the woman's offspring (seed in KJV) referring to the faithful Gospel church made up of Jews and Gentiles in Christ.
- Rome's hostility toward the Jews and in A.D. 70 the destruction of Jerusalem and God's temple, after which the dragon goes after the offspring (seed in KJV) of the woman referring to the true church made up of Jews and Gentiles in Christ.
- Constantine declaring Rome a Christian state and making Christian persecution a criminal offense.
- The ruin of Rome and the rise of the Papal Roman Church being established with great strength, wealth power and influence from Rome's ashes.

**The woman fled into the wilderness:** (v6) in verse thirteen we read, "after the dragon was cast down from heaven, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child." (Rev. 12:13). This means that the reason the woman fled into the wilderness was because of persecution.

**The wilderness and the Jews:** (v6) the woman (symbolising Israel) being in the wilderness, may refer to the Israelites flight:

- The Israelites flight from Pharaoh their great enemy into the wilderness for safety.
- The people of Israel fleeing into a desert place or city where there are few or no inhabitants or where they would be unknown and free from the observations of people.
- Mary's and Josephs flight with Jesus from Bethlehem into Egypt to escape from Herod who was seeking to destroy two-year old children (Matt 2:1-18) in an attempt, to kill Mary's child.
- For Mary and Joseph and any other Israelite the wilderness could refer to any place away from their homeland their beloved city Jerusalem the land of Judah and of Israel.

**Twelve hundred and sixty days:** (v6) one Hebrew month was thirty days which means 1,260 days is forty-two months and three and a half years. There are only two verses that speak of 1,260 days one speaks of the LORD'S two witnesses, prophesying for 1,260 days (Rev. 11:3), the other of the woman fleeing into the wilderness to be nourished for 1,260 days. (Rev. 12:6). Likewise, there are only two verses that speak of 42 months, one speaks of the Gentiles nations trampling underfoot the holy city for forty-two months. (Rev. 11:2), the other speaks of the beast speaking prideful and blasphemous words for forty-two months. (Rev. 13:5). During this space of time the following entities reach the peak of their ungodly rule, power, authority and influence over the inhabitants of the earth.

- The ungodly secular anti-Christian global world superpower (symbolised by the ten-horned beast).
- The apostate ecclesiastical beast (symbolised by the great prostitute woman full of abominations), headed by the false prophet (symbolised by the blasphemous two-horned beast like a lamb).
- The man of lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) who sets up his headquarters in the holy city Jerusalem.

Just prior to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory and prior to the seventh angel blowing his trumpet, and the kingdom of the world becoming the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Rev. 11:15), the hostility of these powers toward Christianity reaches its the peak. The twelve hundred and sixty days covers the same scope of time as expressed in the words "time, times, and half a time" that the man clothed in linen used in Daniel vision (Dan. 12:7). This space of time is accounted by most commentators and theologians to be (1 year + 2 years + ½ year = 3½ years), which is 42 Hebrew months of 30 days each, or 1,260 days. There are only two verses that use this expression, one speaks of a hostile antichristian ruler speaking words against God and wearing out the faithful for a time, times, and half a time. (Dan. 7:25). The other states that at the end of a time, times, and half a time, hostility toward God's people would come to an end and all events of Daniel's vision would be finished (Dan. 12:7), after which the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven are given to the people of God to be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions will serve and obey them.

The words of Daniel did not come to their final-end in his era, nor the events of John's visions in the overthrow of any one nation or the corruptions of any one church era, which means that the constantly-recurring period of three and a half years, or forty-two months, or twelve hundred and sixty days, remains to be perfectly fulfilled in a future age. It is impossible to show, with any degree of certainty, that the city of Jerusalem has ever been trampled underfoot by the Romans or any others for the exact space of three and a half years. No time-period set down by any theologian perfectly fits John's prophecy, which means that those that have been suggested can only be taken to be a prelude as to what is to come in the latter days of:

- The false prophet who will bring about great worldwide apostasy.
- The man of lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) who will bring about tyranny in the Holy Land and the global Christian church and destruction throughout the earth.

For these reasons, it is better to accept that the period of forty-two months and three and a half years is the symbol of a period that is:

- Just prior to the kingdom of the world becoming the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Rev. 11:15).
- Limited in length.
- Under the control of Him who holds the seven stars and lives through the ages.
- Will be fulfilled in its ultimate perfection in the last three and a half years prior to Christ's return in glory.

It has been intelligently pointed out by some that forty-two months (three and a half years), is far too short a term for the great prostitute woman full of abominations to reign over the kings of the earth, and all nations to drink of the wine of her fornication and for this ten-horned beast power to gain so much authority, power, honour and riches, as chapter thirteen, seventeen and eighteen shows that it has. Added to this three-and-a-half-year period, is also far too short for the afflictions and persecutions of the faithful that this beast power inflicts upon them. However, John tells us that the four angels, that were to kill a third of mankind had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year (Rev. 9:15), and that God had prepared a place for the woman to flee to for 1,260 days. (Rev. 12:6), which means that many of these things are being prepared now and will be fully prepared when what is being spoken of now concerning this latter-day space of time begins. This final space of limited time is the climax of the great prostitute woman, the false prophet and the beast empire reaching the peak of their secular and religious reign, power and influence over the earth. Added to this, it is most likely that

these events refer to that space of time in the latter days, after the head of the world beast power has moved his headquarters to Jerusalem, which means his empire would have existed long before that time. The apostle Paul when speaking of the return of Jesus in glory said:

- Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day (the day of the Lord) will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, <sup>4</sup>who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

It is most likely that all the events embraced in the 1,260 days are from generation to generation being prepared and that their hostile antichristian spirit symbolised by the dragon will reach its climax during the final three and a half years, beginning from the time the global world beast power moves his headquarters to Jerusalem. Throughout generations theologians have stated different periods of time and different Roman kings as a fulfilment of these events, which have neatly fitted many of the events, but as time passed they have all been found lacking, since there is no specific time-period in history that perfectly fits all the events surrounding:

- The blasphemous beast with ten-horns and seven heads and the great prostitute woman full of abominations. (Rev. 17:1-6).
- The two-witness prophesying (Rev. 11:3) and the Holy city, being trodden under foot by Gentiles (Rev. 11:2).
- The woman fleeing into the wilderness (Rev. 12:6) and the blasphemous ten-horned and two-horned beast exercising authority over the earth. (Rev. 13:5).

Which leads us to the conclusion that these remain events yet to come to pass.

**It is interesting to notice:** a commentator made the following interesting observation: the time of the beast's reign and tyranny is expressed by months, while the time of the church being in the wilderness, and the prophesying of the witnesses, is expressed by days. He explains the reason for this is that the beast and his followers are the children of darkness and of the night, over which the moon presides, from which the months are numbered, while the church and the witnesses are children of the day, over which the sun rules. For greater information concerning the 1,260 days, 42 months and a time, times and half a time click or tap [Topics in Revelation](#) and select the title: 1,260 Days, 42 Months and a Time, Times and Half a Time.

**NOTE:** Israel is in the wilderness for twelve hundred and sixty days, which is the same length of time as the forty-two months during which the witnesses prophesy, which means the twelve hundred and sixty days Israel is in the wilderness is the same space of time that the witnesses (Rev. 11:2) speak against the antichristian beast power treading the holy city underfoot. This means the woman and the witnesses must be two different groups, which they are for the prophet Zechariah wrote:

- On that day (the day the Lord protects the inhabitants of Jerusalem) I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. <sup>11</sup>On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great the priests will mourn by themselves and each family will mourn by themselves (Zech. 12:9-14).

The two witnesses symbolise the faithful church made up of Jews and Gentiles proclaiming the Gospel during this latter day's antichristian period, while the woman symbolises Israel. For further information concerning the two witnesses click or tap [Topics in Revelation](#) and select the title: The Two Witnesses.

**Overview of verse one to twelve:** the entire scene from (v1-12) is of the birth and resurrection of Jesus; the dragon being cast down, symbolises two things, firstly, the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribe's) deceivers of the whole world in that they not only denied their Messiah, the Christ and Saviour of the world, but also plotted to have him killed (Jesus himself called them a brood of serpents and vipers) (Matt. 3:7) (Matt. 23:33). Secondly, the dragon being cast down refers to pagan Rome crucifying Jesus and afterward aggressively, brutally and cruelly attempting to destroy the Christian church.

**There was no longer any place for the dragon and his angels in heaven:** (v8) means that there was no longer any place for them in God's Kingdom on earth. It refers to the Jewish rulers' hostile to Jesus. There was no longer any place for them, because Jesus rose from the grave and by doing so abolished the need for the Levitical priesthood, the temple; animal sacrifices; ceremonial rites; religious traditions and customs to be saved, since all are now saved by faith in Christ. The power, authority and influence they had over the people has been taken from them, for all are now saved by faith in Christ and not by the Old Testament covenant of law. It is in this sense that there is no longer any place for them, the control, power, authority and religious dominance and influence they had over the nation of Israel has come to nothing, because all Jews and Gentiles are now saved and washed whiter than snow by faith in the blood of the Lamb.

**She has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished:** (v6) the wilderness to a Jew would symbolize any place away from their homeland, Jerusalem and away from the land of Judah and Israel. For Jews during the era of John the Roman empire would be considered the wilderness. With, this in mind the expression the woman (Israel) was given two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness may refer Jerusalem and the Jewish nation being protected by Constantine. In this context being nourished would carry the idea that even though the nation Israel is without Christ, God keeps them. Nations far more powerful than Israel have attempted to subdue and destroy them, the little nation that should have been destroyed many times over, is prospering even today and in this sense, God is nourishing and keeping them.

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## REVELATION 12:7-9

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### **Michael Fights against the Dragon and Throws Him Down to Earth.**

- **Revelation 12:7-9:** Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, <sup>8</sup>but he was defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup>And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world— he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

The previous verses stated, "the male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron was caught up to God and to his throne," (v5) so the events spoken of in these verses are a result of Jesus being raised to the right-hand side of God. John connects this war in heaven with the birth and rapture of the man child? The story of the woman's flight into the wilderness is here suspended (i.e., put on hold) so that this passage may be inserted. This war between God's Kingdom on earth and the kingdom of the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2) has been raging since the fall of Adam, however, in the context of this chapter it refers to:

- The man child who is born a conqueror.
- The dragon his enemy, whose power affects the historical and future world.

- The man child who is destined to entirely conquer the enemy. Jesus rapture into heaven is the announcement that seated there, in the very highest, he is victor over the power of the dragon, the old serpent, whose head is now bruised (Gen. 3:15).

A little time before Jesus was crucified, he said:

- Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. (John 12:31-33).
- I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, <sup>31</sup>but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here. (John 14:30-31).

The general events refer to the death-blow given by the Lord of life to him who had the power of death. It, is the victory of the birth at Bethlehem, the death at Calvary, and the ascension from Olivet which transcend the scope of the things seen.

**War arose in heaven:** (v7) this war is not taking place in the dwelling place of God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the angels since there is no discord and contentions there, but only peace, love, and joy; but on earth below, between Christs Kingdom (i.e., the church) and the dragons kingdom that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. (v9). This war commenced after the resurrection of Jesus who is the Prince over the angels and the head of the church, who bears the iron rod. The following verse gives a description of this battle and of the victory.

- At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. (Dan. 12:1).

This chapter tells us Michael the chief angel of God's people defeats the dragon and his angels and that:

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

Paul in the book of Colossians also spoke of this war:

- He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. (Col. 2:15).

This battle covers a vast period of history and extends to the end of the age when Christ returns in glory. It commenced with the powerful religious rulers of Jesus generation the chief priests, the Pharisees and the scribes being cast down from their high positions of power, control and influence over the lost sheep of the house of Israel and the Gentiles seeking God. Jesus resurrection abolished the need for the Levitical priesthood, a human high priest to intercede for the people, and the Old Testament ceremonial law and sacrifices. No longer are any of these things needed since all Jews and Gentiles can now be united to God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In this sense the dragon symbolizing the controlling, prideful, hypocritical murderous heads of Israel's religion were cast down to earth, meaning cast down from their high positions of controlling power. However, it should not be thought that the war ends here or that the dragon has given up his attempts to deceive and destroy the faithful church. Though he is now a greatly wounded creature his evil and hostile works continued to be manifested on earth in the following historical events:

- The Jews and the Romans aggressive and hostile attempts to destroy the Gentile Gospel church.

- Rome's invasion of the city of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and the temples destruction.
- The ten hostile Roman pagan emperors who aggressively and cruelly persecuted the early church between the years A.D. 64 and A.D. 310.
- The Roman Papal churches confrontational, aggressive and combative hostility toward Christians who refused to embrace their erroneous doctrines established at the council of Nicene in AD 325 by emperor Constantine 1 and a group of high-ranking bishops.

Mohamod the founder of Islam, who according to Islamic doctrine, was a prophet and God's messenger, sent to present and confirm the monotheistic teachings preached previously by Adam, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and other prophets' siege of Jerusalem in A.D 614 and its final conquest in A.D. 637.

- All false teachers, who transform themselves into angels of light, and resist the truth and oppose those who do teach it.

The works of the dragon are not limited to these only but can be taken to embrace all other powerful rulers of the darkness of this world that have great influence and that have been aggressively hostile toward the faithful church. The great hostility of the dragon will again be greatly manifested on earth in the latter days by the two-horned beast like a lamb (Rev.13:11); the prostitute woman full of abominations (Rev. 17:1-6); the blasphemous ten horned beast (Rev. 17) and the man of lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22)

**Michael:** comes from the Hebrew word (*Miyka'el*) and means who is like God, amongst various scholars Michael is thought to be:

- The Lord Jesus Christ Himself.
- A chief archangel with angels under him.
- A chief angel and protector and guardian of Israel.
- A guardian angel of all God's people (Jews and Gentiles).
- The principal archangel.
- One of the chief princes of powerful kingdoms. (Dan. 10:13) (Dan. 12:1).
- The head of the supernatural heavenly angels who protect the Lord's people and destroy his enemies
- A prince or angelic being ruling over and influencing the counsels of the kingdom of Persia and the kingdom of Greece, and by extension influencing the counsels of various other nations.
- Faithful ministers of the Gospel, who are called angels of the seven churches in chapter two and three of this book, and the heads of the global body of Christ who fight the good fight of faith with courage in the face of adversity for the truth and spread of the Gospel on earth.
- The Christian emperors, particularly Constantine and Theodosius, and the Christians with them, who opposed paganism in the Roman empire, and put an end to Christian persecution.
- A general name applied to any who represent the cause of God in the great conflict against evil and a title used for the champion and princes of God's people who stand against God's enemies to protect His people, His Kingdom and the church.
- One of the head angels in heaven working together with Christ and his church on earth.

## The first appearances of Michael, is in the following verses:

- The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me (a man in linen) (Dan. 10:5-6) twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia. (Daniel. 10:13).

Here Michael is called one of the chief princes of the many princes of Persia. In the following verse one having the appearance of a man (Dan. 10:16) says to Daniel:

- I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these (Persia and Greece) except Michael, your prince. (Dan. 10:21).

These verses are in the context of one having the appearance of a man (Dan. 10:16) telling Daniel that after he has given Daniel his message he will then return to fight and oppose the prince of Persia, after which the prince of Greece will come. Therefore, the title the prince of Persia and the prince of Greece could apply to:

- To the king of Persia at the time of Daniel.
- To Alexander the Great, who later conquered the Persian Empire and showed the Jews favour.
- Angels, representing world power and authority working through the kings of Persia and the king of Greece.

Which means that Michael could symbolise an angelic angel that God uses to accomplish His plans and purposes and judgements working through or over the rulers of nations. This would be in harmony with the author of Hebrews statement: "all angels are ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation" (Heb. 1:14). This chapter (12) highlights the truth of the following verses.

- The LORD makes nations great, and he destroys them; he enlarges nations, and leads them away (Job 12:23).
- The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples (Psalm 33:10).
- God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne (Psalm 47:8).

Later in the book of Daniel we read:

- At that time (when a king magnifies himself above every god and speaks astonishing things against God) (Dan. 11:36)) shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. (Dan. 12:1).

Here Michael is the protector and guardian angel not only of Israel, but also of all who have their names written in the book of life. Michael performs the same work for the Christian church as all other angels do, which is to serve God for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation (Heb. 1:14). This time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time, can be applied to Babylon's and Rome's invasion of the land of Israel and the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple of God, but its ultimate fulfilment refers to the heavenly war we are now looking at in this chapter. (Rev. 12:8-9). For further information concerning Michael the Arch Angel click or tap [Daniel](#) and select Daniel chapter ten.

**I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven:** in the book of Luke we read, Jesus gave seventy-two disciples power to heal all kinds of mental illnesses and disorders and all kinds of physical, diseases, disabilities and sicknesses. This is a stunning and amazing era on planet earth, it is the first time such a vast number of men were given God's miraculous healing power to confirm the message they proclaimed and to testify that they were sent by God. The Lord sends them out two by two, into every town



and place (Luke 10:1) to proclaim the Kingdom of God and at the same time confirm it with miracles that heal every type of sickness. They returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. (Luke 10:17-18). Satan in this context refers to self-serving prideful men who are in high places of religious authority and power but are in opposition to God's Kingdom. The expression, "Satan fell like lightning from heaven," means that that everything that had been an adversary to the Kingdom of God was now losing its stronghold. This is because multitudes of Jews and Gentiles in Christ from every region were receiving the message of God's Kingdom that the seventy-two disciples had taken to various cities, towns and villages. The prideful and hypocritical religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes), and the political religious system, the priesthood, the synagogues and all that was an adversary to Christ were now losing their stronghold on the common people, because they were turning to the Messiah the Christ of the Kingdom that the seventy-two had been proclaiming. The seventy-two going out was a changing moment in history it was the beginning of the Gospel going around the world and being confirmed by miraculous signs. For further information concerning Satan click or tap [Satan and his Family](#) and select the title: Satan. Likewise, it is in this same type of symbolic and prophetic language that the great dragon and his angels are said to be thrown down to earth, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. (v9), when the manchild was caught up to heaven. This can be applied to the following two events:

1. Jesus ascending to heaven, for from this time forward the power of those who opposed and plotted his murder and oppressed and controlled the people was taken from them, for all are united to God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and not by adhering to ceremonial rites, offering sacrifices, confessing to a human priest etc.
2. The rise of emperor Constantine to the Roman throne who ended Christian persecution and made Christianity the state religion. To commemorate his great victory over ungodly tyrants and enemies of the church and persecutors of Christians a picture of Constantine was set up over the palace gate, with the cross over his head, and under his feet the form of a dragon, spiked with a dart through the midst of its body, and falling headlong into the depth of the sea. Clearly an allusion, to what is said here in this chapter and in the books of the prophets, where the ungodly evil spirit is called the dragon and the serpent. When Constantine rose to the throne, not only were all who opposed Christianity subdued, but all heathen priests were expelled and their gods who were previously adored, became the subjects of contempt.

**Concerning the nature of this warfare:** nothing is definitely-stated, nor is any specific detail given, which means that any interpretation that we give, no matter how well thought out, remains a speculation and as such we should never be dogmatic, but always open to the views of others with an eager hope to gain greater insights. However, what we can be sure of is that regardless of who Michael is the main idea of the vision is that Christ and his church stand against all who oppose God and the Lord Jesus Christ and at the sound of the seventh trumpet the kingdoms of this world, will become the Kingdom's of Christ.

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## REVELATION 12:10

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### **The Kingdom of God has Come, For the Accuser is Thrown Down.**

- **Revelation 12:10:** And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power (strength in KJV) and the kingdom of our God and the authority (power in KJV) of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown (cast in KJV) down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

Now we hear the united victorious heavenly hosts celebrating in song and thanksgiving the triumphant victory and the coming of Christ's Kingdom. This representation of a song, celebrating victory, is in accordance with the usual representations of great victories in the Bible as the following songs show.

- Song of Moses at the Red Sea (Exodus 15).
- The song of Deborah (Judges 5).
- The song of David when the Lord had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies (2 Sam. 22) and (Isaiah 12:25).

**Now is come the kingdom:** but it is not the full establishment of the Kingdom that is meant here, but rather that it is now at hand, meaning established among Jews and Gentiles alike and not to Israel only, for those who come to God will not come through the Jewish nation and their old covenant laws, but through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In the book of Matthew, it is written:

- Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matt. 3:2).

This refers to the certain ultimate triumph of God's cause in the world. Jesus ascended into heaven and got victory over death and defeated the enemy. He is the King, and even though we pray "Thy kingdom come" we at the same time confess "Thine is the kingdom" (Matt. 6:13). Through faith in Jesus eternal life comes by grace, it is the salvation so anxiously looked for and the power so much needed to save us from sin and deliver us from death.

- Who (i.e., the redeemed) by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:5).
- To those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Cor. 1:24).

The Kingdom cannot be shaken:

- Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe. (Heb. 12:28).

**The accuser of our brothers has been thrown down:** (v10) (cast down in KJV), this is another reason for joy and another feature of salvation. Though this song is heard being sung in heaven the words, "for the accuser of our brothers is cast down," show that it is not the angels in heaven singing this song, since the redeemed never call the angels brothers, nor do the angels call the redeemed their brothers, but their fellow servants, rather the song may be taken to be:

- The song of the dead sleeping in Christ rising-up as the voice of Able rose up from the earth crying for justice.
- The voice of the martyrs John saw under the altar when the fifth seal was opened, who had been slain for the word of God (Rev. 6:9).
- The voice of the faithful on earth rising-up to heaven during the ages of these events.

The vision and the song show those in Christ are bonded together as a family in Christ by the bond of love and the passions to see righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

**The title the accuser of the brethren:** refers to Satan who through the power of the law charges the conscience with condemnation and guilt and to persons who bring against others false charges affecting their character and destroying their influence, especially, false accusations against the people of God. Following are some of the accusations that were brought against Christians during the ten Roman persecutions:

- They drank animal blood during their sacred communion supper and plotted to destroy Rome.
- They committed adultery at their nightly meetings and set fires to cities of the Roman empire.
- They were the cause of famine, pestilence and wars and of any public calamity, because they refused to worship the gods of Rome.

These are the types of unfounded accusations the martyrs of Christ and ministers and followers of the Gospel were accused of. By these charges suspicion was cast on all who bore the Christian name and Christ's name was brought into dishonour.

**The words of the song:** "Now salvation and the Kingdom of God and of Christ have come, for the accuser has been thrown down," (v10) could rightly be sung on the following three occasions:

1. **The resurrection of Christ:** which dethroned Satan, manifested in the abolishing of the Levitical law and the need for human priests and the temple to be saved to eternal life, which utterly-destroyed the power, control and authority of the ungodly religious rulers of Israel, since salvation now comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, but will not be fully realised and perfectly enjoyed until we are all clothed with immortality and raised to eternal glory and everlasting happiness in heaven.
2. **At the rise of Constantine to the throne:** when the Christian faith became the dominate state religion within the empire of Rome, under Constantine. The church was free to openly and publicly proclaim the Gospel without fear of persecution. The Roman empire of Constantine's was four times larger than Alexander the Great, and as such was commonly known as, "all the world," or "the whole world." Since there was an overthrow and downfall of paganism and the Gospel was preached and churches were set up in all parts of the empire, there was an outward appearance of the Kingdom of God in the world. During the era of Constantine, Satan (manifested in the hostile Roman cruel, ungodly persecutors of Christians) was:
  - Dethroned (cast out) when the ten eras of cruel tribulation and bloody persecutions under heathen Roman emperors was made unlawful by the newly formed Roman Christian government.
  - When pagan idolatry and superstition was superseded by Christianity and the Gospel churches were under a government of Christian emperors such as Constantine.
  - When the church was free from oppression and persecution and exalted and flourishing throughout the Roman empire known at the time of Constantine as, "all the world."

There is no doubt that this song would be openly and publicly sung with loud voices of praise by those within the empire (all the world) and not only heard on earth, but also heard in heaven as our prayers are.

**NOTE:** Although there were times when Christians were persecuted for their refusal to worship the Roman emperor, the primary reason for the general dislike for Christians arose from their refusal to worship the gods of Rome and take part in sacrifice to them. This was expected of all citizens living in the Roman Empire, because it was Rome's belief that their success in battle and prosperity greatly depended upon the favour of the gods they believed in, therefore it was important to pay homage to these gods for the well-being of Rome.

**At the time of the ten Roman persecutions:** Satan was a fierce accuser of the faithful, but now this father of lies was cast out of heaven, meaning the Roman empire and its antichristian emperors were thrown down from their royal position and deprived of their power and authority that they had in the empire and lost their influence over the

populations of the Roman empire and therefore could no longer spread their lies or force their false religion and idolatries upon the nations in the kingdom. However, Satan was not wholly destroyed, or shut up in the bottomless pit, but cast down to the earth, meaning his power was greatly diminished, and was conquered, firstly, by Christ, destroying the authority and power the religious rulers of his generations (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) by his death and resurrection and secondly, by Constantine putting an end to Christian persecution and making Christianity the religion of Rome, in these two events Satan was cast down and bruised under the feet of Christianity.

3. **The seventh trumpet:** when this trumpet sounds on the eve of Christ's return in glory and the kingdoms of this world literally become the Kingdom of Christ on earth (Rev. 11:15) the song, "Now salvation and the Kingdom of God and of Christ have come, for the accuser has been thrown down," (v10) will be sung in its ultimate and final sense with the greatest joy and a spirit of the highest exaltation and of victory and triumph. All previous events are part of the story that covers the preliminary events that led up to the final event expressed in the following verse:

- The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." (Rev. 11:15).

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## REVELATION 12:11

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### **They Conquered the Accuser by the Blood of the Lamb.**

- **Revelation 12:11:** And they have conquered (overcame in KJV) him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

This verse shows that the true Christian victory comes not by war, violence and force, but by faith in the blood of the Lamb. The expression, "the blood of the Lamb," embraces the entire message of the bloodstained cross of Calvary and the Gospel, it means that salvation comes through believing in the death and resurrection of Christ and having faith in his righteousness and not our own self-righteousness. The strength of the church is in having the Lord Jesus ruling and reigning as the Head and the Captain over it. The Christian victory is a victory of two things, firstly, dependence on Christ without which there is no hope of salvation and secondly, obedience to the following two commandment he gave to those who follow him:

- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. (Mark 12:29-30).
- You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Mark 12:31).

Jesus went on to say that there is no other commandment greater than these two. Paul stated, that the whole law concerning mankind is fulfilled in Jesus command, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Gal. 5:14) and James, Jesus brother said, "if you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, you shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well." (James 2:8). This is because, this law means, do good to others and not harm and treat people with respect, when we do this, we fulfil the law of love and when we fulfil the law of love, we fulfil all the laws of God. Legalistic and theological religion without outward evidence dulls the vitality of faith, even though it embraces the intellect, whereas faith with outward evidence vitalises faith and gives it power, and moulds heroism in the spirit of those who love their Lord and Saviour and love not their lives even unto death.

**They loved not their lives even unto death:** (v11) it should not be thought that these words imply that the martyred faithful only are spoken of, but rather that John's focus at this moment is upon the martyred amongst the masses of the faithful. The most likely reason for this would

be that the martyrs have the fullest practical outward token of the spirit of devotion to Christ of those who love him more than life itself, but the spirit of such devotion and such love has breathed in the heart of thousands who have never had to die the martyr's death, who have devoted their lives to him who they loved. The martyr spirit needs not death to manifest itself; many lose their lives for Christ's sake who have never been called to lay down their lives for their Saviour, and these, have loved as truly as those who have passed away in the cloud of persecution, who have loved not their lives unto the death. The Lord we love, may call us to die for Him, or call us to live for Him, if we faithfully die for him from love or faithfully live for him from love, neither the one who died or the one who lived will be rewarded above the other, both will rise together to the highest glory in heaven.

**They conquered him by the word of their testimony:** (v12) meaning they adhered to the truth in the face of their persecution and proclaimed the Gospel despite their sufferings even in the pains of martyrdom and it was by these things that they overcame the great enemy and that the Gospel was established throughout the Roman Empire called at the time of John, "all the world." as the following verse shows.

- In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. (Luke 2:1).

All the world here refers to all the Roman empire. The significance and impact of this vision and this part of history is that the effects of persecution and the efforts of Satan to destroy Christianity from the world by brutal and cruel force rather than destroy Christianity it was strengthened. The reason Christianity was strengthened during such aggressive persecution was because Christians loved their Saviour more than their own lives. They did not shrink back when threatened with death but were willing to die as martyrs. They remained firm in their devotion to their Saviour and left their dying testimony to witness to the truth of their faith. It was by these means that Christianity was established in the world, and John, in this vision saw it triumphant, and in anticipation saw the angels and the redeemed in heaven celebrating the triumph.

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## REVELATION 12:12

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### **Woe to You, O Earth, for the Devil has come to You in Great Wrath.**

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

In prophetic language, at various times of great rejoicing, the heavens are called upon to join with the faithful in their rejoicing and celebration. The introduction, "O heavens," is used by Isaiah in the following verse:

- Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me. (Isaiah 1:2).

Here the heavens refer to the people of Judah and Jerusalem. Isaiah begins his message with "Hear O heavens," because they are the people of God, and to call them to attention for the message is one of warning of impending judgment if they do not turn from their wicked ways. Heaven itself cannot be invaded by enemies, which means that the expression, "rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them," in John's vision refers to those who belong to Christ's Kingdom on earth. The cause for Christian rejoicing here is, because the devil has been thrown down from his lofty place of pride and power. However, new woes are threatened to the inhabitants of the earth; for, though the dragon was deposed, he was not destroyed; though idolatry was depressed, yet it was not wholly suppressed; there were still many pagans intermixed with the Christians, and the devil would incite fresh troubles and disturbances on earth.

**In Psalm ninety-six:** the nations are told that the LORD'S reign over the world is established and will never be moved for the Lord will judge the peoples with fairness, impartiality and justice and then the writer goes on to say:

- Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; <sup>12</sup>let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy <sup>13</sup>before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness. (Psalm 96:10-13).

The same idea is most likely meant here in John's vision. In anticipation of Satan's utter defeat and the advance of Christ's Kingdom soon coming and the certainty of it, the angels of heaven are called to rejoice as the faithful on earth are seen rejoicing for the same reason and as they do at the conversion of every sinner.

- Jesus said, "there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." (Luke 15:7) (Luke 15:10).

If all the angels rejoice over on sinner being saved, how much more may they be thought to rejoice when Satan's kingdom is destroyed, and the Kingdom of God is established on earth. This may be thought of in part as the hostile antichristian Roman empire being overthrown by Constantine and Christian churches being given the freedom to proclaim the Gospel throughout the whole empire of Rome.

**The devil has come down to you in great wrath:** (v12) the reason he has great wrath, is because he knows that his season of power is short. The awareness, that his defeat appears certain arouses in him a great rage and greater passion to destroy his enemy. The devil in this context, is outwardly manifested in the hostile persecuting emperors of Rome, they can see that Constantine and his armies are about to overthrow them and take the royal throne. This impending defeat stirs up deep and obstinate rage and drives those full of such deep fury to muster all their power to destroy their enemy. The words, rejoice O heavens, refers to the church on earth, while the words, "woe to the sea and the earth," refers to the hostile Roman powers whose reign is about to come to an end, by Constantine who favours Christianity, conquers the hostile powers of Rome and puts an end to Christian persecution. This scene can be taken as a prelude to the final and ultimate latter day hostile Christian enemy the two-horned beast like a lamb and the ten horned antichristian beast powers, spoken of in Revelation chapter seventeen and the great prostitute woman drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus full of abominations with the name mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations," written on her forehead, sitting on a beast with seven heads and ten horns full of blasphemous names. (Rev. 17:1-6). The devil's season is limited (short), however, he is at this present moment active, sowing tares among the wheat and preparing various hostile antichristian powers, such as the wild beasts of Revelation thirteen, but when they are fully prepared they only have a short season, since their power is limited to the devil's power and the time of his power Jesus said, in the following verses, is but for, "a little while."

- A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." <sup>17</sup>So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" <sup>18</sup>So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." <sup>19</sup>Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? <sup>20</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. <sup>21</sup>When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup>So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take you from you. (John 16:16-22).

At the time of John these words would refer to the hostile Roman empire that aggressively set about to destroy the church and those who proclaimed the Gospel and to the Roman armies that destroyed Jerusalem and the temple of God in A.D. 70, but the final and ultimate fulfilment will be when Christ returns in glory and destroys all hostile beast powers that stand against Christ's Kingdom and his people. The meaning is that, Satan would ultimately be entirely overcome (symbolized by him being cast out of heaven), but there would still be temporary war upon the earth, as if he were permitted to roam over the world for a time and to spread woe and sorrow. Revelation chapter seventeen and eighteen shows that these woes are intended for those who:

- Are worldly, sensual, and earthly minded, carnal professors of religion, and those of the antichristian party.
- Have aligned themselves with the great prostitute woman drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus and full of abominations.
- Belong to the scarlet beast full of blasphemous names with seven heads and ten horns.
- Belong to Babylon the great and have made money their god and lived in immorality and indulgent luxury.
- All shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea.

The words, "he was cast down," carries the idea that he was forced down, meaning he had no intention of giving up his throne or his empire or his position of power, and because he was conquered, he was:

- Deprived of the worship that had been given to him through pagan worship and as the god of the world.
- Deprived of the authority and influence that he had over the vast Roman empire (all the world).

Satan's great wrath has been manifested in stirring up various nations and armies against Christians throughout history but will be mostly manifested in the latter days in the two-horned beast like a lamb and the antichristian global beast powers. Furious at his expulsion from heaven (his high position of pride and power) (see Isaiah 14 Lucifer cast down), and knowing that his time on earth is short, because Christ is about to set up his kingdom he gathers all who will side with him to utterly-destroy all forms of Christianity on earth, before he is confined to the bottomless pit. It is a principle of the Spirit that as light becomes more victorious, the greater will be the struggles of the powers of darkness to extinguish it, which means in the last age and the final crisis, Satan, through the the man of lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) and all other antichristian beast rulers and kingdoms will manifest himself with an intensity of hostility greater than ever before. The age of the whole Roman empire, the hostile fierce and cruel ages of persecution, the rise of Constantine and the spread of Christianity throughout the whole world can be taken as a prelude (howbeit an imperfect one) to the final rise of the antichristian beast powers and the return of Christ in glory.

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## REVELATION 12:13-16

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### **The Woman is Nourished for a Time, and Times, and Half a Time.**

- **Revelation 12:13-16:** And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. <sup>14</sup>But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.

<sup>15</sup>The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. <sup>16</sup>But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.

**The dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth:** (v13) can no doubt be applied to various periods of history, but the most obvious two would be:

1. The religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests Pharisees and Scribes) who after Jesus resurrection lost all power and control over those truly seeking God, for all Jews and Gentiles could now come to God through faith in Christ. No longer was there a need for a temple, a priesthood, sacrifices and religious ceremonies etc., and because of this the prideful hypocritical religious rulers in great wrath aggressively set about to destroy the church and all who confessed Christ and proclaimed the Gospel.
2. Pagan Rome and its antichristian hostile emperors that brutally persecuted and killed those who confessed Christ and proclaimed the Gospel, being cast down from the imperial throne when they were overthrown by emperor Constantine who made Christianity the state religion of Rome and declared Christian persecution unlawful.

**He pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child:** (v13) the woman refers to the nation of Israel since it was through the bloodline of Israel that the Virgin Mary and her child came. (For further information concerning the woman see the notes following (v1) (above). From the twelve tribes came Israel, from Israel came Mary, from Mary came Jesus and from Jesus came the church made up of Jews and Gentiles in Christ. This, is why the Scripture figuratively speaking states:

- Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. (Gal 4:26).

The dragon pursuing the woman most likely refers to the pagan Roman empires' aggression against the Jews and the armies of their hostile emperors invading the land of Israel and burning the city of Jerusalem and destroying the temple. Though John had these visions around A.D. 96 and Rome destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70 which means that it was already in ruin at the time John was having these vision, does not mean that it is not applicable to the interpretation of the vision since he was told at the very beginning to, "write the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this," (Rev. 1:19). It is best to think of the visions as covering the space of time from Jesus birth to his return in glory.

**The woman was given the two wings of the great eagle:** (v14) meaning Mary and Joseph by divine warning fled to Egypt (a wilderness to a Jew) with Jesus who was then about two years old to escape the wrath of Herod's and his murdering soldiers who went about the streets of Bethlehem killing infants two years and under in the hope they would kill the child Jesus. (Matt 2:1-18). Here they stayed for some time being nourished by the Spirit of God and by the Egyptians until Herod (the dragon) died and they returned safely to their homeland. In the Old Testament God said to the children of Israel:

- You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. (Exodus 19:4).

Here the eagles' wings speak of God's protection of Israel from their Egyptian enemies (symbolized in Scripture as a dragon), in the case of Mary and her child, the eagles' wings speak of God's protection of her and His Son from the wrath and murderous spirit of Herod (a dragon). Mary, Joseph and her son, fleeing into Egypt, where they continued during the reign of Herod, left Bethlehem not of their own will, but because of a divine warning from God, for this reason it can be prophetically spoken of as the woman being given two wings of an eagle, to flee into the wilderness (i.e., Egypt).



**She is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time:** (v14) this length of time is the same length of time as the 1,260 days," which is forty-two months or three and a half years. The same length of time that Elijah was secretly fed and nourished in the wilderness while idolatry and famine prevailed in Israel. For further information concerning this space of time see the notes following the title: "Twelve hundred and sixty days" under (v6-10) (above). The words, "to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time," (v14) links us back to verse six, which states:

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

From verse seven to verse thirteen is an interlude, the interlude has now come to an end, which means the theme of the vision now carries on from verse six. The woman in focus now embraces both the nation Israel and Mary. The wilderness to a Jew would be any place away from their homeland, Jerusalem and away from the land of Judah and Israel. The waters in this context, signify masses of people and nations, so the meaning is that there was a great number of various nations influenced by the dragon to overwhelm, corrupt and destroy the nation of Israel, as there is even today. Mary and her child were protected in Egypt, while the nation of Israel was scattered throughout Gentile nations and in this sense, could be rightly spoken of as being in a wilderness, and at the same time, being protected from the fury of their enemies (symbolized by the dragon), for no longer was the dragon able to concentrate all his forces upon one small area to obliterate God's people from the face of the earth (signified by the words, "sweep her away with a flood." (v15). It is far easier in war to conquer an enemy that is located on a single battlefield, than it is when they are spread throughout many different locations.

**NOTE:** being in the wilderness does not necessarily mean that an individual or nation must be relocated, since it can carry the idea of being in a spiritual wildness, which Israel is even today, since they are without their Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ. In this context, being given two wings of an eagle would carry the idea that God is keeping them even though they are spiritually blind and without their Messiah and King, which means they are in a spiritual wilderness.

**Time, times and half a time:** (v14) this expression may be inserted here to take our minds back to the story of Zarephath who God supernaturally kept for a time, times and half a time (three and a half years) in the wilderness. Luke, recounts this story in the following verses:

- In truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, <sup>26</sup>and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. (Luke 4:25-26).

During this literal three and half years there was no rain which resulted in a great famine, during which Elijah was sent to one Gentile woman. While with the woman he brought her son back to life, left her with a jar of flour that never emptied and a jug of oil that never ran out until the famine was over (1 Kings 17:8-24). Perhaps the expression, "Time, times and half a time," is inserted here in John's vision to take our minds back to this story to show that no matter how troubling the times are God will keep and save the nation of Israel, and that no matter how powerful the beast empire is, it will not annihilate Israel as a nation from the face of the earth. God will keep it as He did Zarephath. We are also told the woman (symbolizing Israel) was given two wings of a great eagle so that she might fly, an eagle, especially a great one can soar an enormous distance through the air, so the prophetic symbolism may on the wings of an eagle as it were take us through time and history to connect us with all the other places in scripture where this space of time is mentioned, to highlight the truth that no matter what comes against Israel the nation will survive even, through the final three and a half years when the man of lawlessness (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22), the son of destruction,

who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god and takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. (2 Thess. 2:3-4) appears. Supporting the idea that Israel will survive as a nation is the fact that there is no other nation on earth that has history with their God as Israel does. Their history with the LORD their God goes back to the beginning of time, no other nation or religion can claim such miracles and wonders or history no matter what god they may believe in. Israel's love for the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob cannot be doubted even though it is true they never recognised their Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ when he came, but even this is in the sovereign will of God. The prophet Zechariah wrote:

- On that day (the day the Lord protects the inhabitants of Jerusalem) I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. <sup>11</sup>On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great the priests will mourn by themselves and each family will mourn by themselves (Zech. 12:9-14).

**To sweep her away with a flood:** (v16) rivers, floods and overflowing waters are used in the Scriptures as an emblem of mighty enemies as the following verses show.

- If it had not been the LORD who was on our side when people rose up against us, <sup>3</sup>then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; <sup>4</sup>then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; <sup>5</sup>then over us would have gone the raging waters. (Psalm 124:2-5).

During history many such interventions have occurred, saving Israel from utter destruction.

- He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters. (Psalm 18:16).

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Here David says, the LORD took him out of many waters, symbolising many troubles.

- Who is this, rising like the Nile, like rivers whose waters surge? <sup>8</sup>Egypt rises like the Nile, like rivers whose waters surge. He said, 'I will rise, I will cover the earth, I will destroy cities and their inhabitants. (Jer. 46:7-8).
- Thus, says the LORD: Behold, waters are rising out of the north, and shall become an overflowing torrent; they shall overflow the land and all that fills it, the city and those who dwell in it. Men shall cry out, and every inhabitant of the land shall wail. (Jer. 47:2).

Here the waters symbolise Pharaoh, his armies and the stamping hoofs of his stallions, the rushing of his chariots and the rumbling of their wheels, striking down the Philistines at Gaza. (Jer. 2-8).

- Behold, the Lord is bringing up against them the waters of the River, mighty and many, the king of Assyria and all his glory. And it will rise over all its channels and go over all its banks, <sup>8</sup>and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel." (Isaiah 8:7-8).

Here the waters of the River, refer to the king of Assyria and all his armies invading the city of Damascus and not only carrying away the spoil of Samaria, but also continuing to march into the land of Judah, and the city of Jerusalem. In the context of John's vision, the floods and rivers can refer to the following:

- Persecution and hostile public opinion against the nation Israel.
- Roman rulers and mobs that aggressively set themselves against the Jews.
- Political authorities, nations and empires hostile toward Israel.

All, of these have on various occasions caused Israel enormous suffering and many deaths. Throughout history mighty and strong nations have attempted to annihilate Israel from the face of the earth, even today Iran and Hezbollah are filled with hatred toward Israel and have the same goal. (i.e., utterly swallow up Israel, so they are a nation no longer).

**The earth came to the help of the woman:** (v16) the expression, "the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth," is not to be taken literally as the following verses show it did with Korah, Dathan and Abiram.

- If the LORD creates something new, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, then you shall know that these men have despised the LORD." (Num. 16:30).

By the earth is meant the inhabitants of the earth, if the flood is applied to the Jews being scattered in the earth amongst the nations it would mean that even though Israel was still in danger the dragon could not make a direct attack to destroy the entire nation. If the flood is applied to the invasions of the hostile Roman emperors to destroy Christianity, especially to the ten Roman persecutions that threatened the church and brutally and cruelly persecuted Christians, it would apply to emperor Constantine overthrowing pagan Rome and making Christianity the religion of Rome and persecution of them to be unlawful. In both scenarios it could be symbolically said, that the earth or more correctly the inhabitants earth helped the woman. It should be mentioned here that not all the world is hostile toward Israel, throughout history and even today many men and woman have come to their aid. Following are just a few examples: -

- The Philistines were helpful to David, to screen him from the fury of Saul.
- The Jews held in captivity to Babylon were nourished by people of foreign nations.
- After Israel had been swept away by the flood of Babylon armies, Persia rose up and set them free to rebuild their beloved city.
- Lysias, the chief captain, and Felix and Festus, Roman governors, were instruments of preserving the apostle Paul from falling into the hands of hostile Jews.
- The Jews that were scattered by the Roman persecution at Jerusalem found refuge and safety amongst the Gentiles as they do even today.
- During the Holocaust many foreigners risked their lives to save Jewish people and their families.

All, hostile movements that rise-up as a flood against Israel will fail since, no movement hostile to God's eternal city can permanently succeed

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## REVELATION 12:17

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### **The Dragon makes War on those Who Hold the Testimony of Jesus.**

- **Revelation 12:17:** Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring (the remnant of her seed in KJV), on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

**The dragon makes war on the rest of her offspring:** (v17) (the remnant of her seed in KJV). The great dragon that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2) failing in his attempt to annihilate God's chosen people Israel from the face of the earth. Turns his wrath toward her offspring (seed in KJV) the true and faithful Gentile church, but it took on another and far

more-subtle method to destroy the woman's children and bring to ruin the true church. Seeing that violence and cruel persecution failed to achieve his goal, he raised up men who out of the abundance of error in their hearts, preached false and misleading doctrines, errors and heresies that led many away from the true Gospel and into a false look alike Christian faith and in this manner, cause the woman's offspring to be carried away on a flood of false doctrine. His new tactic to destroy the true church was not by violence, but by stealth which is still working even today. Though Constantine was a great blessing to the Christians of his era in that he stopped persecution of those who confessed Christ and made Christianity the religion of the Roman empire, the dragon took advantage of the freedom and raised up look alike Christians that are not part of the true body of Christ on earth in the form of the Papal Church of Rome which is founded on a mixture of Christianity, superstition, Old Testament practises that are done away with and false doctrines and errors that have infiltrated various Christian churches.

In Genesis, it is prophesied that there will always be enmity, between the seed of the woman and the seed of the Serpent (Gen. 3:15), and those now in focus are the remnant of the woman's seed, which is the faithful Gentile Gospel church made up of Jews and Gentiles in Christ. Eventually the Roman Papal Church displayed the old hostile spirit of the dragon toward true Christians which manifested itself in the brutal and cruel persecution of true believers who refused to bow down to her authority who rejected her doctrines and religious practices. As powerful and successful as the dragon has been too introduce major errors into Christianity through the Roman Papal Church, never let it be thought that he has limited his powers to Papal Rome only, since it is clear as we cast our eyes over the face of the earth that destruction, chaos, murders, violence, wars and denial of God and deception of the truth and the Gospel is rampant throughout the world. Though any attempt to sweep away the Christian church is vain, the enemy will never give up his attacks and attempts. Even today the great dragon that ancient serpent, called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2), is still very active in his warfare to destroy Christianity from the face of the earth, in fact the last few chapters of this book show that he greatly increases his attempts through the beast with two horns like a lamb that speaks like a dragon. (Rev. 13:11-18).

**Those who hold to the testimony of Jesus:** (v17) refers to those who hold fast to the Gospel, the message of the bloodstained cross and the Lord Jesus Christ himself. The enemy will not give up his war and his attacks, upon individual Christians or upon the collective global church of Christ, since he has a whole arsenal of tools and a thousand ways and means at his disposal, following are just a few:

- Petty opposition, undermining morals and making them unpopular.
- Divisions, false doctrines, selfish ambition and the craving for fame.
- Persecution, hardships of life, doubt and the desire for worldly riches.

There is no end to the list of tools that the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9), the master of destruction, ruin and deception can use against the true church in his attempts to utterly lay Christianity waste. The expression, "Those who hold to the testimony of Jesus," correctly characterizes those who:

- In the early ages, were the true friends of God, amongst abounding corruption and those who bore a faithful testimony to the truth and the Gospel.
- Those who died as martyrs for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Those who had in their hearts the love of Christ and the saving grace of salvation and endeavoured to live a life lived that honoured God and brought a good testimony to the name of Jesus.

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For further information concerning the dragon:

- Click or tap [Satan and his Family](#) and select the title: Dragon and the title: Serpent.

And for further information concerning the symbolisms used in chapter twelve:

- Click or tap [Topics in Revelation](#) and select the title: Symbolisms used in Chapter Twelve.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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