

CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE STUDY
LESSON 599

Revelation 12

Intro to Chapter 12

**We know that Revelation is the
conclusion of God's redemptive plan**

Why did God allow Satan into His plan?

Why should we care?

Motivation!

To motivate us to get closer to God

Intro to Chapter 12

- Revelation is about Jesus Second Coming
- We've had chapter after chapter of "earthly judgments"
- God drag's out this event to give one "last call" to the people on earth to repent
- The punishment on earth has gotten progressively worse
- God saying in effect OK, if that particular judgment didn't get your attention and have you repent try this one on for size
- The last two chapters were a break from the judgment process to focus in on some details
 - John was told to measure the temple and count the people in that temple
 - Then the text described two human witnesses who will be specifically sent to Jerusalem to be God's witnesses
- The last part of Chapter 11 focused back on God's throne room where people were praising God in effect by saying "Now it is the time for the wrap up"
- Showing gratitude to God for sending Jesus to rule from the earth

Summary of Chapter 12

- Chapter 12 opened with a description of a woman "clothed with the sun, moon and stars" giving birth to a male-child who will rule the world
- A dragon tries to kill her child before it was born - The child lived and was taken up to heaven
- The woman who gave birth had to run for safety from the dragon
- Then there was a war in heaven and the dragon and his followers lost the war
- The dragon was then cast to the earth where the dragon went after the woman and her other offspring
- The first key to understanding this lesson: The word is "sign"
 - Verse 1 says John saw a "sign" in heaven
 - That means we're dealing in word-pictures as opposed to a literal woman and a literal dragon

Summary of Chapter 12

- **Why word pictures?**
- **Our minds remember pictures better than it does facts and figures**
- **God wants us to think about these things**
- **The woman in these word-pictures is "Israel"**
- **The dragon is Satan**
- **Her son is Jesus and the "rest of her offspring" are believers**
- **This word-picture story is about salvation from heaven's perspective**
- **Chapter 12 is giving us the heavenly perspective of human history**
- **It talks about the existence of Satan - his rebellion against God – about other demonic creatures that follow Satan - about our salvation through Jesus Christ and Satan's ultimate destruction**

Intro to Chapter 12

Are you confused yet?

Me 2!

Hang in there – The Lord will help us!

1. *Where is the action at the start of Chapter 12?*
 - **“A great sign appeared in heaven...”**

2. *Describe the woman.*

• “...a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ² She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.”

- **A woman**
- **Clothed w/ sun**
- **Moon under her feet**
- **Crown w/ 12 stars on head**
- **Pregnant and about to give birth**

2. *Describe the woman.*

- **A woman**

- Represents the true Church of God

- **Clothed w/ sun**

- Emblematic of Son of God
- Light & glory of church

- **Moon under her feet**

- Moon = lesser lights – ruling over night
- Derives illumination from sun

- **Crown w/ 12 stars on head**

- 12 Apostles – first founders of the Christian Church

- **Pregnant and about to give birth**

- Symbolizes that God has had enuf – it is time
- A deliverer is coming

3. *Describe the 2nd vision?*

- **“another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. ⁴ Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.”**
- **Dragon = The heathen Roman empire**
- **A fabulous beast of antiquity – based on a fable**
- **A dragon was the principle standard of the Roman empire next to the Eagle**
- **Many authorities recognized this in the 2nd – 3rd – 4th centuries**
- **7 heads = the heathen forms of government**
 1. The regal power
 2. The consulate
 3. The dictatorship
 4. The decemvirate
 5. The consular power (military tribunes)
 6. The triumvirate
 7. The imperial government

3. *Describe the 2nd vision?*

- **“another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. ⁴ Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.”**
- **7 heads = Rome was called “a city built on 7 hills’ [Revelation 17]**
- **John was writing during a time of Christian persecution**
- **7 heads = 7 kings → 5 have fallen [past tense] – 1 is [current] – 1 to come [future]**
- **When John was writing there were 5 great empires existed**
- **Egyptian – Assyrian – Babylonian – Mede-Persian – Greek → Already fallen**
- **Rome was currently ruling over Israel - the 6th empire**
- **There will also be a 7th -- future**

4. *Who are the characters representing*

- **The Woman –**
- **Represents the true Church of God**
- **The Child she is giving birth to –**
- **Represents The Messiah – Jesus – who is coming**
- **The Dragon –**
- **Represents Satan**

5. *What happened to the following*

- **The Dragon –**
- **Was hurled to earth**
- **The Child –**
- **Jesus**
- **Satan tried to get Jesus to not follow His Father**
- **Demons vs Jesus throughout Bible**
- **The Woman –**
- **Gave birth – represents the suffering that Israel had to endure in exchange for being called – chosen by God**
- **Now with God in heaven (resurrected then ascended)**
- **She then fled to desert – place prepared by God (protection)**

Verses 7-9

- **War in heaven – refers to the Roman empire and the fracturing of the government – civil commotion**
- **Michael fought –**
- **Only 2 angels mentioned in Bible – Gabriel & Michael**
- **Michael mentioned 3 X in Daniel – 1 X in Jude – 1 X in Revelation**
- **Jude says he's an archangel – leader of angels**
- **Daniel says great prince who protects the people**

6. *For verses 10-12 - describe the following*

- **Vs 10 - What time is it -**
- **Salvation time**
- **Time of victory for the Christians Church over Satan**
- **Vs 11 - Who are the saved and how did they overcome -**
- **Those who chose to accept and follow Jesus as Lord & Savior**
- **Vs 12 - What is**
- **The good news - Peace - Satan is defeated**
- **The bad news - to earth as Satan was cast down there & is mad**

7. What did the dragon do after he was thrown to earth?

- **“When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach. ¹⁵ Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.”**
- ***He pursued the woman***
- ***Serpent spewed water at woman***
- ***Earth protected her***
- ***This all represents the coming persecution and protection from Satan for those who trust and believe***

8. *How was the Woman protected?*

- **“When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach. ¹⁵ Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.”**
- ***Given eagles wings***
- ***Represents the Christians in Rome***
- ***Earth opened it mouth - swallowed spewings of dragon***
- ***Barbarians swallowed up***

9. *Why was the dragon “enraged” and what did he do?*

- **“Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.”**
- ***Satan was foiled in his attacks on Christians***
- ***God protected His people***
- ***Satan is a poor loser***
- ***Satan will use any means to disrupt God’s plan and we humans are so susceptible***

A Few Closing Thoughts

- **God has a game plan**
- **Despite all that Satan will throw – God wins – we win**
- **Much of this is showing God seeking to draw us closer – to get us to choose to get closer**
- **God will keep His promises**