

Chapters 12, 13, 14 are parenthetical and explanatory to describe some key people during the Tribulation. These are major actors in the Tribulation Drama.

12 – Israel and Satan

13 – Antichrist and false prophet

14 – 144,000

The War – the woman, the Man-child, & the dragon, Chap. 12

**IN CLIMACTIC OPPOSITION TO GOD AND HIS PEOPLE, SATAN WILL FORM A CORRUPT ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT.**

**1 SATAN'S DEFEAT IN HEAVEN WILL LEAD TO HORRIBLE PERSECUTION OF GOD'S PEOPLE ON EARTH, 12:1-17.**

A. Satan seeks to destroy God's people throughout history, 12:1-6.

"sign" -- semeion - symbolic representations.

1. 1st sign: Israel is chosen to give birth to God's program for a sinful people, 12:1-2.
  - a. Woman represents the nation Israel (not Mary!; not spiritual Israel!), 12:1.

Sun, moon & stars -- Cf. Joseph's dream (Gen. 37:9-11. Jacob/Israel, Rachel, 11 brothers).

- b. The woman was in travail to "give birth" to the central Person in God's plan, Jesus Christ, 12:2.

Israel's travail throughout history. Antisemitism.

2. 2nd sign: Satan tries to destroy God's program, 12:3-6.
  - a. The dragon is Satan who currently rules over kingdoms on this earth, 12:3.

cf. Rev. 13:1; Rev. 17:3, 9-12; Dan.7:8, 24-25.

Best to interpret the 7 Kingdoms throughout world history found in Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 --

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylon

4. Medo-Persia
  5. Greece
  6. Rome (one is)
  7. Revived Rome (is to come)
- b. From the beginning to the end, Satan tries to destroy God's plan, 12:4-6.
- 1) Satan captures 1/3 of the angels at his original sin, 12:4a.
  - 2) Satan attempts to devour Christ at His 1st Advent, 12:4b-5.  
Child = Israel's Messiah, Jesus Christ. Satan incited Herod to kill babies, and he tempted Jesus in the wilderness. Throughout Jesus' public ministry he incited religious leaders against Him, etc.
  - 3) Israel will be severely persecuted during the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation, 12:6. It is the "time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7).
- B. The final angelic war will be fought in heaven, 12:7-12.
1. The timing will be mid-point of the Tribulation. (cf. v.14)
  2. War will be between Michael's angels vs. Satan's angels, 12:7. Cf. Dan.12:1.
  3. Satan & his demons will be cast out of heaven (final), 12:8-9. Deceiver of the whole world.
  4. Accuser of the brethren will be thrown down to the earth, 12:10-12.
    - a. Satan will no longer have access to God's throne room as he did ever since Job's day, 12:10.
    - b. The brethren will be overcomers because of 1) Jesus' blood, 2) word of faith, 12:11.
    - c. Heaven will be happy, but not the earth! 12:12.

Satan will feel defeated, confined, and very angry.

This is the moment that Antichrist is indwelt by Satan and he breaks the covenant with Israel by seating himself in Israel's temple. He displays himself as god - this is the Abomination of Desolation (cf. Dan. 9:27 with Matt. 24:15).

- C. Satan will intensify his persecution of Israel for the last 3 1/2 years, 12:13-17.  
Jesus said to his disciples, Matt. 24:15-16 "flee."
1. When persecution escalates, God will sovereignly protect Israel for 3 1/2 years, 12:13-14.  
The great eagle is a symbol of God's protection for Israel.  
"time, times, half a time" = 3 1/2 years. Cf. Daniel.
  2. The remnant of Israel is sovereignly protected from Satan's destructions (again), 12:15-17.
    - a. Satan's persecution will be poured out like a river to destroy Israel, 12:15.
    - b. God's supernatural protection will make Satan mad against other saints, 12:16-17.  
God will intervene to "swallow up" the pursuit. Cf. Red Sea.  
  
The physical descendants of Jacob are not the believing remnant of Israel.  
Eventually "all Israel will be saved" because God will remove the "dross" of unbelievers so that the remaining descendants are all believers. Cf. Rom.11:25.

Next is chapter 13, where the "beasts" carry out the desires of the dragon (ch.12), Satan. "Beasts" describes their true nature from God's standpoint, even though they are men. "Out of the sea" = political man of lawlessness, the Antichrist. "Out of the earth" = religious false prophet. They are actually 2 normal looking men who win over the whole world -- Satan's "2 witnesses."

## **2 SATAN WILL USE HIS TWO WITNESSES TO WIN CONTROL OVER THE WHOLE WORLD, 13:1-18.**

- A. The 1st man is Antichrist, who will win over worship by the whole world, 13:1-10
1. Antichrist is described as a beastly epitome of Satanic, worldwide authority, 13:1-3a.
    - a. He is the "beast out of the sea," 13:1.
    - b. 10 horns, 7 heads, same as Satan in 12:3. Cf. Dan.7:8.
    - c. Power & authority imitates David's throne for the true Messiah, 13:2.  
Similar to Dan. 7's 4th beast. Here, it looks back, so the order is reversed.
    - d. 1 of the 7 "heads" of this man will be wounded fatally, 13:3a.

Descriptions: "fatal wound was healed" (v.12); "who had the wound of the sword and has come to life" (v.14).

Chapter 17 -- "beast...was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss" (17:8); "beast...was and is not" (17:11).

Views of the fatal wound:

- 1] Revived Roman Empire, refers to subduing 3 of 10 kings to gain ascendance of power.
  - 2] Actually refers to a physical wound that's fatal, and he comes back to life (13:12, 14; 17:8-10 are strong evidences). This would then be Satan's imitation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, except that Jesus never died again.
2. Authority of the antichrist is described, 13:3b-10.
- a. His authority will be greater than anyone else, 13:3b-6.
    - 1) The whole world will be amazed at this man, 3b.
    - 2) The whole world will worship Satan & the Antichrist, 4.
    - 3) Antichrist will speak arrogant blasphemies against God, 5-6. He is boastful and arrogant.

Cf. Dan. 7:20; 8:11; 11:36.
  - b. His authority will overwhelm everyone in the world, 13:7-19.
    - 1) He will kill saints worldwide, 13:7.
    - 2) He will be worshipped by sinners, 13:8.
    - 3) Saints are warned about God's sovereignty, 13:9-10.

B. A 2nd man will force worship of the Antichrist and will control the world's economy, 13:11-18.

Another beast of the same kind (allon). He is also impressive. He appears meek as a lamb, but has authority (2 horns). He words reveal devilish wickedness. He is called the "false prophet" in 16:13; 19:20.

1. This false prophet will also have satanic power to make people worship Antichrist, 13:12-15.
  - a. He is Antichrist's right-hand man, 13:12. 3 persons of the trinity of hell.

- b. He will force people to worship Antichrist by doing deceptive miracles, 13:13-14 .

Miracles will be designed to deceive. Fire from heaven (Elijah). He will tell people to build idols of the Man of Lawlessness to worship him. The false prophet will make an animated image, 13:15. Cf. Nebuchadnezzar's image in Daniel 2.

- 2. This false prophet will set up a worldwide economic system, 13:16-18.
  - a. He will cause everyone to have a mark. "Mark of the beast." External sign of individual submission to Antichrist, 13:16.
  - b. No one will be able to buy or sell without the mark, 13:17.
  - c. Wisdom calculates the number to indicate a man, 13:18.
    - Calculations are many through history. Satan has a man ready at any period of history.

God allows Satan to form a one-world government. Antichrist controls people through fear. Worse than that, he openly mocks God & challenges the God of the universe & His Son, Jesus Christ. Day after day this happens for 3 1/2 years.

A one world government will exist before Jesus Christ returns to earth to clean up the mess and provide true, lasting peace.

### **IN CLIMACTIC OPPOSITION TO GOD AND HIS PEOPLE, SATAN WILL FORM A CORRUPT ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT.**

This world-wide rule will be extra misery for any living saints during the Tribulation period.

Today, ongoing attempts at world-wide money or currency, or bringing nations together in one government simply gets the world ready for what God says will happen in the end times. Events today are moving swiftly toward the Lord's return.

Better to not label people as antichrist or to focus on attempts at region-wide currency like the "Euro." Let's not become fearful of possible chip implants. These are only slight indications that the Lord's return could be today!

Our focus should be on the Glorious Lamb, Jesus Christ. Let's not miss the promised blessing of reading and heeding the book of Revelation!

APPENDIX

Names, Nature, and Judgments of Satan

NAMES OF SATAN		
Name	Meaning	Citation
Satan	Adversary	Matthew 4:10
Devil	Slanderer	Matthew 4:1
Evil one	Intrinsically evil	John 17:15
Great red dragon	Destructive creature	Revelation 12:3, 7, 9
Old serpent	Deceiver in Eden	Revelation 12:9
Liar	Perverts the truth	John 8:44
Deceiver	Counterfeits the truth	Revelation 12:9; Genesis 3:13
Accuser	Accuses believers before God	Revelation 12:10
Murderer	Solicits people into eternal death	John 8:44
Tempter	Entices people to sin	Matthew 4:3
Enemy	Opponent of God and His work	Matthew 13:28
Abaddon	Destruction	Revelation 9:11
Apollyon	Destroyer	Revelation 9:11
Beelzebul	Lord of the flies	Matthew 12:26-27
Belial	Worthless	2 Corinthians 6:15
(Lucifer) Star of the morning	Star of the morning	Isaiah 14:12
God of this world	Controls philosophy of world	2 Corinthians 4:4
Ruler of this world	Rules over the world system	John 12:31
Prince of the power of the air	Controls the airways	Ephesians 2:2

<b>SEQUENCE OF JUDGMENTS ON SATAN</b>	
<b>Judgment</b>	<b>Citation</b>
Removal from guarding the throne of God	Ezekiel 28:13-16
Prophecy predicting defeat at the cross	Genesis 3:15
Defeat at the cross	John 12:31
Michael's forces banish him from heaven	Revelation 12:9
Confined to the abyss for 1000 years	Revelation 20:3
Tormented in the lake of fire forever	Revelation 20:10

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