

# ***Revelation: A Study of End-Time Events***

## **Lesson Seven: Chapters 12 & 13**

### **Overview:**

Chapter 12 focuses on the nation of Israel, symbolized by a woman described in Genesis 37. During the Great Tribulation, Satan will be cast down to the earth and will pursue the nation of Israel, through whom the Messiah, Jesus Christ, has come. Satan will work through the Antichrist to attempt to deceive and destroy the remnant of Israel. But God will intervene supernaturally, and deliver them. Aware that he cannot touch Israel, Satan will turn his wrath on the rest of Israel's "offspring," those 144,000 Jewish evangelists and Gentile believers: "all who hold to the testimony of Jesus."

In Chapter 13, we will see the introduction of the revived Roman Empire through whom the Antichrist will arise, and another "beast," the False Prophet. As the representative of a one world religious system, the False Prophet will be given authority over the political and economic systems, as well, and force all the earth's inhabitants to worship the Antichrist or suffer death.

### **Chapter 12: The Woman and The Dragon**

#### **12:1-2**

- 1) Identity of the woman: We see from Genesis that this is speaking of the nation of Israel, which will be confirmed in the following verses of Revelation Chapter 12.

Read Genesis 37:9-10. Here, Joseph, one of Jacob's (Israel's) twelve sons, tells of his dream.

- 2) In the O.T., the nation of Israel was represented by a woman, the wife of Jehovah God (Isaiah 54: 5-10) , just as in the N.T. the Church is pictured as the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:22-33).

#### **12:3-4**

- 1) The dragon is Satan. Read Rev. 12:9
  - a) "With (having) seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns on his seven heads." The "ten horns" are a part of the description of the

Fourth World Empire (Rome), from which the Antichrist will come.  
Read Daniel 7:7-8, 23-25

- b) The seven heads will be identified in Chapter 17.
- c) Satan's "tail" swept a third of the stars (fallen angels – Rev.12:7) out of the sky and flung them to the earth." Satan, along with a third of the angels, have already "fallen" in the angelic rebellion, before man was created.

Read Ezekiel 28:12-17. "The language goes beyond the King of Tyre to Satan, inspirer and unseen ruler of all such pomp and pride as that of Tyre... The unfallen state of Satan is here described; his fall is written in Isaiah 14.<sup>1</sup>

Read Isaiah 14:12-14. Scofield notes: "refer to Satan who, as 'prince of this world' system (John 12:31)... is the real though unseen ruler of the successive world powers: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, etc. (Ezek.28:2,12-9)."<sup>2</sup>

- 2) Satan sought to "devour her child the moment it was born."
  - a) Read Genesis 3:15 God is speaking to the serpent (Satan). The "offspring" or "seed" is the promised Redeemer of mankind, Jesus Christ.
  - b) This was literally attempted at Christ's birth, when Satan put it in Herod's heart to kill the Christ-child.

Read Matt. 2:1-3,16

### **12:5-6**

- 1) This child will rule all the nations with an iron scepter - Jesus Christ!

Read Rev. 19:15-16

## **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**

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<sup>1</sup> Scofield, C.I., Ed., *The New Scofield Reference Bible: Authorized King James Version* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1967), footnotes on Ezekiel 28:12, p.869.

<sup>2</sup> Scofield, footnotes on Ezekiel 14:12, p. 725.

- 2) 1,260 days is 3 ½ years, also 42 months. All such time-frames, as they are related to end-time prophecies, are used to point to the Great Tribulation, which begins mid-way through the seven year Tribulation.

### **12:7-9**

- 1) Michael the Archangel is the protector of Israel. Read Daniel 12:1
- 2) Satan will be forcefully cast down to the earth. “Not the original casting of Satan out of heaven, but his final exclusion - an explanation of his intense hostility against God’s people in the last days.”<sup>3</sup>

### **12:10-12**

Satan is the “accuser” of the brethren (believers). Satan will have access to God until his final expulsion from the heavens. Read Job 1:6-11

### **12:13-14**

- 1) We know the male child is Jesus Christ: “who will rule with an iron scepter.” Read Rev 12:5; 19:15.
- 2) We know that this passage isn’t referring to his literal mother, Mary, because it speaks of the time of the Great Tribulation, at the end of world history.
- 3) Satan will seek to destroy the remnant of Israel:
  - a) Read Matt. 24:15-25 This is a picture of Israel’s escape from the Antichrist when he reveals his true nature in middle of 7-year peace treaty.
  - b) Read Zechariah 13:8-9 This immediately precedes the passage in Zech. 14, concerning the nations gathered against Israel and the Lord’s return to Jerusalem. It tells us that the remnant will consist of one third of the nation.
- 4) This woman will be given “two wings of an eagle.” This is symbolic language of a specific way of escape and a specific place of refuge provided by God.

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<sup>3</sup> Baker, K. (Ed.), *The NIV Study Bible* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995) footnotes on *Revelation 12:7-9*, p.1938.

- 5) The remnant of Israel will be taken care of for 3-1/2 years (last half of the Tribulation) out of Satan's reach.

Read Romans 11:25-27

### **12:15-17**

- 1) From Satan's "mouth... spewed water like a river"
- a) Satan will give the beast (Gentile world power) his throne and great authority (13:2b). This Final World Empire will be given a "mouth" (spokesman: the Antichrist: Rev. 13:5; Dan. 7:20).
  - b) Satan will make war against the saints through the Antichrist, described as the "little horn" of Daniel 7:19-25. Daniel said, "As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints..."

Read Daniel 7:19-25.

- c) "The rest of her offspring" are not the remnant of national Israel, who has been hidden away, but the 144,000 saved Jews who are evangelizing the world, plus Gentile believers: all who hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Read Galatians 3:29

## **Chapter 13: The Two Beasts**

### **13:1**

- 1) The "sea" is a common reference to the "sea of humanity." Since Israel is described as the woman in Chapter 12, we see that nations here refer to Gentile nations. The Lord has always set Israel apart from other nations.
- 2) The word "beast" (*therion*) refers metaphorically, (to) a brutal, bestial man, savage and ferocious." The beast is initially the fourth world empire (Roman), spoken of in Daniel 7:23, personified by its end-time leader, the Antichrist.
- 3) Daniel's vision (Daniel 7) speaks of four successive Gentile world empires, described as beasts:

First: Babylonian Empire - pictured as a lion (7:4). This is not referring to ancient Babylon mentioned in Genesis 10 and 11, but rather the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel's time (600 B.C.)

Second: Medo-Persian Empire - pictured as a bear (7:5)  
Medes and Persians conquered Babylon (Dan. 6:8,12,15)

Third: Grecian Empire - pictured as a leopard, having four heads (7:6), a reference to Alexander the Great, and his four successors.

Fourth: Roman Empire - pictured as a "dreadful and terrible" beast, with iron teeth to crush and devour, "and it had ten horns" (7:7-8).

Read Dan. 7:23-24 These ten kings are not historical figures. Revelation Chapter 17 places them in the final seven-year Tribulation period.

Please read Rev. 17:12-14

- 4) The Lord gives Daniel two visions to describe these four world empires, each with additional insights.

Read Dan. 2:31-45

The statue in four parts:

- 1) Head of gold (Nebuchadnezzar/Babylonian Empire)
- 2) Silver chest and arms (Medo-Persia)
- 3) Bronze belly and thighs (Greece)
- 4) Iron legs *extending* to the feet and 10 toes of clay/iron mixture (Roman Empire). This is the additional insight from this vision:
  - a) the Roman Empire continues, in a weaker divided form, until the time of the end.
  - b) As the two legs of iron, Roman Empire is divided east to west.
  - c) Ten toes on the statue correspond to the ten horns on the beast. The ten toes are ten kings, from both the east and the west. The "Rock" that became a mountain is the Kingdom of Christ. It will smash the feet, toppling the statue, smashing it to pieces.

- 5) The “ten horns” are explained in Rev. 17:12: “The ten horns you saw are ten kings who... for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.”
  - a) This tells us that they are a confederacy of kings/leaders living at the time of the Antichrist, briefly receiving joint authority with him.
  - b) These ten horns are descriptive of the Fourth World Empire (Roman Empire) of Daniel 7:23-25, out of which these ten horns (kings) will arise.

The statue of Daniel 2:31-33 was in King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, which the prophet Daniel first revealed and then interpreted for him. The four parts of the statue correspond to Daniel’s vision of the four beasts in Daniel Chapter 7, signifying the four Gentile World Powers, beginning in Nebuchadnezzar’s time and extending until the return of Christ.

The legs of iron correspond with the fourth beast, the Roman Empire. It is important to note that there are *two* legs, since the Roman Empire was later divided, East and West. The western division of the Roman Empire covered most of Europe, while the eastern division covered the region of the Mediterranean, most of which is Muslim today.

The feet and ten toes of the statue extend from the two legs, and correspond to the ten horns of the beast. Both signify the ten kings that we are studying here. Based on what we see in Daniel 7:23-25 and Rev. 17:12-13, these ten kings will rule over a global empire. That means that there will be ten regional governments, rather than ten nations. In fact, it would appear that the global government would have to be in place before the Rapture since the Antichrist will be the leader of the global government who enters into a 7-year peace treaty with Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation period (Daniel 9:27). This corresponds with the release of the first horseman (the Antichrist) in Revelation 6:2, which takes place after the Rapture.

You can visit [www.clubofrome.org](http://www.clubofrome.org) (Club of Rome) for insight into the current global movement.

### **13:2**

- 1) The beast out of the sea has the characteristics of all four beasts (empires) described in Daniel 7:4-8, representing Gentile world power. The king and his kingdom are synonymous.

- 2) The dragon (Satan) will give the beast (Antichrist) his power, throne and authority.

Read Matt. 4:1,8-10 The offer that Jesus refused, the Antichrist will accept.  
Luke 22:3: “Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot.” In the same way, Satan will enter the Antichrist.

### **13:3**

- 1) The beast will *seem* to have had a fatal wound. We will see in vv. 11-14, that the beast coming up out of the earth, the False Prophet, will deceive the inhabitants of the earth on behalf of the Antichrist. (The word “counterfeit” is defined as “to copy or imitate in order to deceive.”<sup>4</sup>) The Antichrist is a false messiah. He will counterfeit the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

- 2) “... but the fatal wound had been healed,” speaking of both the empire and its future leader (Rev. 13:12-14). Think of the Roman Empire, which appeared to have “died”, but will be “resurrected” in the last days.
- 3) What do we know about Satan’s ability to resurrect the Antichrist?
  - a) We know that “man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). If the Antichrist truly received a fatal wound, his soul would immediately go to Hades (“torment” - see Luke 16:19-31) and would not be released until the day of judgment (Rev.19:20; 20:11-15), when he would be cast into the lake of fire.
  - b) We know that only God can give life. When we read that God resurrected the Two Witnesses (Rev. 11:11) it was said that “a breath of life from God entered them.” Satan cannot resurrect the Antichrist. Satan himself is a created being, and cannot create or give life to anyone. He can only *deceive* people into thinking that he has!  
Read 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11.

### **13:4**

- 1) “Who can make war against him?”

Read Daniel 11:36-45

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<sup>4</sup> Miriam-Webster Dictionary © 1997.

This passage is a prophecy concerning the end-time ruler, the Antichrist. The previous passage, Daniel 11:21-35, concerns the King of the North (Seleucid Dynasty: Syria, Israel, Mesopotamia (Iraq), Antiochus IV Epiphanes, as one in history who foreshadows the Antichrist.

- 2) Men will worship Satan because he will give his authority to the Antichrist, and they will also worship the Antichrist.

### **13:5**

The beast will be given a mouth(piece) - a man, “the ruler who will come” (Daniel 9:26), who becomes synonymous with the beast. We see the beast identified as a man in Rev. 19:20. The beast also represents Gentile World Power, culminating in the Fourth World Empire of Daniel 7, known to be the Roman Empire. It is often said that it will be “revived” in the last days. Actually, a more proper way to describe it would be to say that it is an extension of the original, even as the feet and toes of the statue in Daniel 2 extend from the legs, having never been severed. It only “seemed to have a fatal head wound.”

### **13:6-7**

He (the Antichrist) will be given political authority over the *entire* world. This goes beyond the territory of the original Roman Empire, which covered the Mediterranean area.

### **13:8-10**

- 1) Those who worship the beast will have their names blotted out of the book of life. Read Psalms 9:6 and 69:28.
- 2) V.10 speaks to those believers who will be alive at this time. We will see the same words used in Rev. 14:12-13. This is in reference to those not taking the mark of the beast, for which they will be beheaded.

Read Rev. 14:12-13; 20:4

### **13:11-12**

- 1) The False Prophet, like the Antichrist, will be indwelt by Satan (possessed), and used for his purposes. He “spoke like a dragon,” like Satan, the Father of lies (John 8:44).

Read Rev.16:13, which speaks of his satanic possession.

Rev. 20:10 speaks of their final destination.

- 2) The False Prophet will appear gentle as a lamb, but he will be a counterfeit. (Jesus is called the Lamb of God.) The False Prophet will be a deceitful religious leader of the entire world religious system, who will force all the earth's inhabitants to worship the Antichrist.
- 3) The False Prophet will exercise authority over the world political and economic system, on behalf of the Antichrist.

### **13:13-15**

- 1) "breath" (*pneuma*) is "spirit, i.e. vital principle by which the body is animated." Remember, no one can CREATE life except God, and that the False Prophet will use satanic powers to deceive.

Read Exodus 7:8-13.

- 2) This is "an image (*eikon*), figure, likeness." It is the same word used in 2 Cor. 4:4 (please read).

### **13:16-18**

- 1) The False Prophet, representing the world religious system, will then be in control of the political world system of the Antichrist (v.12), and as we see here, the economic world system, as well.
- 2) While the number seven symbolizes completion or perfection, the number six is the number of man. The number 666 can be seen as Satan's attempt to use mankind to displace God: Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet as opposed to God the Father, Christ His Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*Now what?*

*How will this lesson change the way you live?*

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