

53. The Book of Revelation—12:5-10

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(9-1-21)

Find this weeks' Study Audio & Video [Here](#)

We are currently in a parenthetical section of the book which runs from Chapters 10 through 14.

Chapters 12 and 13 don't advance the narrative chronologically, but recap and amplify what has already taken place and give us some extra details that we didn't get from the preceding Chapters.

Revelation 12:1-6 (NKJV)

¹ Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ² Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

There is a time gap of 2000 years between the 5th and 6th verses of Chapter 12—between the ascension of Christ back to heaven after His resurrection, and the fleeing of the Jews in Jerusalem into the wilderness after the Antichrist sets up his image in the Holy of Holies—

Matthew 24:15-16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ "Therefore when you see the '*abomination of desolation*,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

When the Antichrist sets up his image in the Holy of Holies in the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem—it will mark the beginning of the last 3 ½ years of the 70th week of Daniel known as the 'Great Tribulation' (Matthew 24:21).

Remember, a biblical year is 360 days—so half of the 70th week of Daniel (3 ½ years) would equal 1260 days.

This will be a time of unparalleled hostility, persecution and suffering that will break loose against the Jews perpetrated by the Antichrist and his followers—which is why Jesus told the Jews to flee to the *mountains* when they see this event take place (Matthew 24:15).

Many scholars and commentators believe this place in the wilderness—the mountains where the Jews in Jerusalem will flee to, to escape the murderous rage of the Antichrist—is the rock city of Petra, southeast of the Dead Sea (we covered this in our last study).

We are told in verse 6 that the duration of this time of unparalleled persecution will be 1260 days (before Jesus returns to establish His Kingdom).

Some Christians and Christian commentators have trouble reconciling this with the statement of Jesus in the Gospels—

Matthew 24:22 (NKJV)

²² And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

However, the Greek in Matthew 24:22 doesn't indicate that those days will be cut short in the sense of duration—in other words, that they will be less than 1260 days.

But rather, Jesus is saying that unless this period of horrific judgment, warfare and cataclysmic upheaval was shortened—where God in His mercy will not allow it to go on day after day, week after week, and month after month but would limit it to 1260 days—no one on the earth would survive.

Professor of New Testament studies Renald Showers commenting on this said:

"...Jesus was teaching that God in the past had already shortened the Great Tribulation. He did so in the sense that He determined to cut it off at a specific time rather than let it continue indefinitely. God knew that if the Great Tribulation were to continue indefinitely, all flesh would perish from the earth. To prevent that from happening, in the past God sovereignly set a specific time for the Great Tribulation to end."

Revelation 12:7 (NKJV)

⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

"A war in heaven"!? Wrap your mind around that for a minute! This is going to be the real 'Star Wars' (angels are called 'stars' in the Bible).

→ Daniel 10:1-14

Daniel 10:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come.

This definitely tells us that the god of this world (Satan) has placed over the kingdoms of the world demonic overlords that network together to do his will and oppose the work of God in part by persecuting His people.

I wonder what fallen angelic being—what '*prince of America*' is over our country pulling the strings of our leaders to do Satan's bidding? And under that main demonic overlord, what demons are over our cities controlling its leaders?

Given the state of our cities can anyone doubt that there are demons over Washington D.C., L.A., Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Seattle, Detroit etc.?—you'd better believe there are!—

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Revelation 12:7 (NKJV)

⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought...

As we have already said, this is the midpoint of the 70th week of Daniel—the beginning of the last 3 ½ years or 1260 days before Jesus returns.

Verse 7 parallels something that was prophesied in Daniel 12 verse 1—

Daniel 12:1 (NKJV)

¹"At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, *Even* to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.

Jesus quoted this in Matthew 24:21—

Matthew 24:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

The fact that Michael will lead God's angels to victory is significant, because Michael is identified with the nation of Israel (Daniel 10:10–21; 12)—he seems to be in effect the nation's 'guardian angel'.

The name *Michael* means "Who is like God?"—and he's fighting against Satan the one who said, "I will be like God [the Most High]" (Isaiah 14:14).

Revelation 12:7-8 (NKJV)

⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ **but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.**

Unbelievers (those who believe in the God of the Bible and Satan) often are guilty of a grave error—they often believe that God and Satan are equals (counterparts) locked in battle for control of the world.

*Listen, Satan is not the counterpart of God—**God has no counterpart or equal!***

If anything, Satan is the counterpart of Michael, who seems to be the chief angel of God opposite this chief of fallen angels.

Let me stop correct some other misconceptions that many people have concerning the devil:

- Satan is a person, not just an abstract idea or the personification of evil—he is a real being.
- *The Bible talks about him as a person using personal pronouns like 'he' and 'him' to describe the devil.*
- *We see God having a conversation with Satan in Job 1.*
- *We see him tempt Jesus in the wilderness in Matthew 4.*
- *1 Peter 5, Peter tells us that the devil goes around like a roaring lion looking for people to devour.*
- *Jesus in Matthew 6 told us to pray that the Father would deliver us from the evil one.*
- *In Revelation 20 we see him finally cast into the Lake of Fire where he will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

One of the ways that Satan has been able to do so much evil in the world is by deceiving people into thinking that he doesn't exist. And that's a very popular view today because if there's no devil then there's no hell—and if there's no hell then there's no coming judgment which means people can sin at will with impunity.

The view that Satan isn't a real person is not just limited to atheists and agnostics—

Ray Stedman—

"It is not only atheists and agnostics who scoff at the idea of a real and personal devil. I once spent an evening in Berlin with a number of very learned and intelligent pastors and theologians. Though we never once opened a Bible, we spent the whole evening together discussing various passages from the Bible. These men knew the Bible so well, they could quote entire passages from memory—yet they all rejected the idea of a personal devil. By the end of the evening, they admitted that, in their rejection of the devil, they also had no answer to the problems and puzzles of life — the existence of every sort of evil from such random acts of madness as the Manson cult murders to the deliberate, methodical stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction. The question I kept posing to them was, "If there is no devil, then how do you explain what is going on in the world? How do you explain the horrible, entrenched evil in human history and in our newspapers every day?" They had no answer."

Now among Christians who do believe in a literal person called the devil and Satan, they tend to fall into one of two categories—they either take him too lightly or give him more power and credit than he deserves.

Again, he is not God's equal—he is God's servant!

C.S. Lewis said,

"Some dismiss the devil to their peril while others are preoccupied with him. Avoid both errors and extremes. God is sovereign over Satan. The devil has no free hand in the world. He is on a leash and can do only what God permits." [as in the case of Job and Peter's testing's]

Another misconception I'd like to correct is that—many people make the mistake of thinking that Satan is the ruler of Hell—a concept they have no doubt gotten from the writings of Dante and Milton.

But let me set the record straight—right now Satan isn't even in hell, no one is! When he is finally sent to hell he won't be reigning he'll be suffering along with everyone else there!

The Bible tells us that right now Satan is the god of this world but that he still has access to heaven along with his fallen angels.

What does he do when he appears before the LORD in heaven? —he constantly stands before God accusing believers before the throne of God—but here in Revelation 12 we see him finally cast out of heaven!

Revelation 12:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

The description of Satan in verse 9 is quite significant as all of his important titles are given—

- *He is described as "the great dragon,"* a term which also applies to the empire which he dominates in the end time.

- He is referred to as “that old serpent,” a reference to the Garden of Eden and the temptation of Eve.
- The title “Devil” is from the Greek *diabolos*, coming from a verb which has the meaning of “defaming” or “slandering” or “accusing”. He is the *master accuser of the brethren*.
- The name “Satan”, from the Hebrew, has the meaning of “adversary.”

Revelation 12:9 (NKJV)

⁹So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world;

Revelation 12:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; **he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.** ¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, **for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.**"

Satan's work of accusing believers only ends here when he is cast out of heaven and no longer has access to the throne of God.

Today, we have (and *need*) an *advocate* and an *intercessor*—

1 John 2:1 (NKJV)

¹My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate [‘attorney for he defense’]with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)

²⁵Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost [“all the way to glory!”] those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. [Explain]

Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)

¹¹**And they** [Tribulation Saints] **overcame him** [Satan]...

How they did so is most instructive. We’ll study that next time!

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

Reach out to us [here](#).