

20231022 Heaven's joy and earth's crisis Part 2

Revelation 12:12-17

Back to the Future Part 24

¹² Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

¹³ 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.

¹⁷ 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.

The time of Jacob's trouble

Revelation 12:6

⁶ The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for **1,260 days**.

Genesis 37:9

⁹ Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”

Revelation 12:5

⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.

The Savior is our advocate (lawyer, defender). The enemy is the accuser.

1 John 1:8-8

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

The battle in heaven and the defeat of the enemy

Revelation 12:9

⁹ The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

This descension of the enemy Satan and his fallen angels to the earth will cause two opposite situations.

Heaven's Joy

Revelation 12:10-12a

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For **the accuser** of our brothers and sisters, **who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down**.

¹¹ They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

^{12a} Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them!...

Earth's crisis

Revelation 12:12b

¹² ...But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

The suffering of the nation Israel during the Great Tribulation

Revelation 12:13

¹³ When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

2 Thessalonians 2:4

⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Matthew 24:15-21

¹⁵ So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel - let the reader understand -

¹⁶ then **let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.**

¹⁷ Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house.

¹⁸ Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak.

¹⁹ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!

²⁰ Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

²¹ For then **there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.**

God’s special grace for the Jews during the period

Revelation 12:14

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.

Revelation 12:15

¹⁵ Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent.

“In view of the fact that the wilderness is literal, the water also could be literal. God had delivered Israel out of the water, both at the beginning of the wilderness march at the Red Sea and then again at the end of the wilderness march at the Jordan River. However, the floods of water could be armies flowing like a river upon them. This figure of speech has been used by Isaiah in Isaiah 8:7–8.” (Dr. J. Vernon McGee)

Revelation 12:16

¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

“In Ezekiel’s picture of the last days, the king of the north is seen marching on Israel. Satan will use every means to destroy the people. How will he be stopped? No nation is there to stop him. But God is there, and He will destroy him with natural forces when he invades Palestine: “And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone” (Ezek. 38:22). This gives us an indication of what John is talking about here in Revelation.” (Dr. J. Vernon McGee)

Persecution spreading to the whole world

Revelation 12:17

¹⁷ 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.

Most important decision to make during the Great Tribulation
(Faith in Christ and helping the Jews)

Mathew 25:31-45

³¹ **“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.**

³² **All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.**

³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ “Then **the King** will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; **take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.**

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?

³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?

³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰ **“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’**

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,

⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

⁴⁵ “He will reply, **‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’**

Application

Two perspectives

1. Worldly perspective in understanding the history
2. Biblical perspective in understanding the history