

REVELATION 12-14 ANGELIC EXPLANATION 3 – CONFRONTATION

1. Introduction

- a. The **third angelic explanation** (Rev. 12:1-14:20) occurs after the sounding of the seventh trumpet, initiating “Jesus’ second coming procession” and “rapture of the Church” (Rev. 11:15-19). The third angelic explanation is a parenthetical section (Rev. 12-14) which explains **why Jesus’ wrath is so severe as to require the replacing of all governments on earth and what will happen to the saints.**
- b. Satan and the Antichrist will violently confront the saints and all that is good (Rev. 12-13). Jesus will dynamically help the saints (Rev. 14).
- c. This angelic explanation gives us insight into the **magnitude of Satan’s attack** against God’s purpose, people and plan (Rev.12-13) as well as, the **certainty of our victory** over the world, the flesh and the devil (Rev.14). The Church will overcome the kingdom of darkness in great victory (Rev. 12:11; 15:2; 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 21:7).

Rev.12:11 *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.*

Rev.15:2 *And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God*

- d. In Revelation 12-14 the great actors of the end-time drama are all introduced. It is around these twenty primary personalities that the Great Tribulation unfolds.
 - i **The Woman** - The faithful remnant of ethnic Israel (Rev. 12:1)
 - ii **The Dragon** - Satan (Rev. 12:3)
 - iii **Ten Horns** - Ten Kings of a ten-nation confederation who serve the Antichrist (Rev. 12:3)
 - iv **The Stars** - One-third of the angels who fell with Satan in his rebellion (Rev. 12:4, 7)
 - v **The Man-Child** - Jesus, who will rule all nations with a rod of iron (Rev. 12:4-5)
 - vi **Michael** - One of God’s chief warring archangels (Dan. 10:13, 21; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7-9)
 - vii **The Rest of Her Offspring** - The saints who keep the commandments of Jesus (Rev. 12:17; 14:12)
 - viii **The Beast out of the Sea** - The Antichrist (Rev. 13:1-10)
 - ix **The World** - The great multitude of unbelievers (Rev. 13:3)
 - x **The Beast out of the Earth** - The False Prophet (Rev. 11-18)
 - xi **The 144,000** - 12,000 Israeli believers from each of the 12 tribes of Israel (Rev. 14:1-5)
 - xii **The Father** - (Rev. 14:1)
 - xiii **Harpists** - Saints from the great cloud of witnesses in heaven (Rev. 14:2)
 - xiv **The Four Living Creatures** - The Seraphim (Rev. 14:3)

- xv **The Elders** - The Twenty-four Elders (Rev. 14:3)
 - xvi **Those who dwell on Earth** - The “resistors” who don’t serve Jesus, yet haven’t succumb to Satan
 - xvii **Holy Angels** - Various angels in the kingdom of God used in His end-time plan (Rev. 14:6, 10)
 - xviii **Harlot Babylon** - The demonically inspired global religious and economic system based in Iraq
 - xix **Beast Worshippers** - The “reprobate” who worship the beast or take his mark (Rev. 14:9)
 - xx **The Spirit** - The Holy Spirit as the third Person of the Godhead (Rev. 14:13)
- e. In **Rev. 12** a panoramic view of Israel’s history of persecution is pictured with Satan being cast to earth seeking to devour Israel and the saints.
 - f. In **Rev. 13**, Satan gives his authority to the Antichrist to continue the great war upon the earth (Rev. 13:2). The main message of Rev. 13 focuses on the resources that the Antichrist has at his disposal to wage this war.
 - g. In **Rev. 14** we see Jesus’ help ensuring our certain victory.
 - h. **This angelic explanation covers the greatest amount of time, reaching all the way back into eternity past** when, during Satan’s rebellion, he drew 1/3 of the angels into his counter-kingdom of darkness (Rev. 12:4) and then **looks forward to the end** of the Great Tribulation at the “great winepress of the wrath of God” during the seventh bowl (Rev. 14:17-20), where God’s wrath is poured out full strength upon the Antichrist and his followers who violently confronted God’s purpose, plan and people (Rev. 13).
 - i. In this section, we see a fierce war initiated in the spirit realm by Satan against God (Isa. 14; Ezek. 28) that manifests in the natural realm between the Antichrist and God’s people in the years leading up to the rapture (Rev. 11:15-19). It gives us insight into the magnitude of Satan’s attack against Israel and the Church, while exposing his two main weapons - the **Antichrist and the False Prophet**. This “eschatological revolution” will shift natural human history into the next age, called the Millennium (1000 years).
 - i Revelation 12 describes **Satan’s war in the heavens** against Michael and his angels.
 - ii Revelation 13 describes the **Antichrist’s war on earth** against Israel and the Church.
 - iii Revelation 14 describes **Jesus’ help given to the Church** ensuring our victory in 7 visions.
 - j. The seven main symbols in Revelation are all in this parenthetical section (Rev. 12-14). Daniel used most of these symbols (Dan 7:3-7, 12, 17; 8:4). He prophesied of the Antichrist as the Beast with a vast empire (Dan. 7:7, 11, 19-23) that was supported by ten kings, whom he spoke of as ten horns on the Antichrist (Dan. 7:7, 20, 24; 2:41-42; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).
 - i **The dragon:** is always symbolic of Satan (Rev. 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4; 16:13; 20:2).

- ii **The first Beast:** is symbolic of the Antichrist (Rev. 13; 14:9-11; 17:3-17; 19:19-21; 20:4, 10).
- iii **Another Beast:** is symbolic of the False Prophet, who is only called “another beast” one time. Every other time he is called the False Prophet (Rev. 13:11-17; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10).
- iv **The 7 heads:** the 7 historical empires that persecuted Israel are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, the revived Roman Empire (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 20, 24; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3-16).
- v **The ten horns:** speak of a future ten-nation confederation of ten kings that rule simultaneously over their own nation as they come into an enthusiastic agreement, or partnership, together under the Antichrist’s authority (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 20, 24; 11:36-45; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).
- vi **The harlot Babylon:** will be established in the rebuilt city of Babylon on the Euphrates River in Iraq (fifty miles south of Baghdad), which will be restored and used as a headquarters for the Antichrist. It will function as the centre of worldwide demonic religious and economic networks (Rev. 17-18; Isa. 13-14; 21; Jer. 50-51). It will seduce many to sin and to persecute the saints.
- vii **The woman with the male Child (Jesus):** the woman is the faithful remnant of Israel through history (Rev. 12:1-5). Satan wars with her offspring, who are Gentile believers (Rev. 12:17).

2. THE WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN AND THE FIERY RED DRAGON (REV. 12:1-6)

A great sign appeared in heaven: 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. ³ Then 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. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. ⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron sceptre.” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. 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.

- a. A “**great sign**” in heaven speaks of a **sign** that had to be interpreted (Rev. 12:9, 17; 17:7, 12) and as having **great** significance. This is the first of three signs in the book of Revelation (Rev. 12:1, 3; 15:1).
- b. The “**woman**” is the faithful remnant of Israel, or the people of Israel who have responded to God’s word throughout history and in the end-times. The woman is “clothed with the sun”, representing Joseph’s father Jacob and has the “moon under her feet”, representing Joseph’s mother Rachel. On her head is a “garland of twelve stars”, interpreted as Joseph and his 11 brothers, being the twelve tribes of Israel (Gen. 37:9-10).

Gen.37:9-11 *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.”*

¹⁰ When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?” ¹¹ His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

- c. The woman is described as **“pregnant”** (Rev. 12:2). This is the faithful remnant of Israel who have carried the promises of the Messiah ever since Abraham. The woman **“cried out in pain as she was about to give birth”** speaks of Israel’s very turbulent and painful history of carrying the Seed. She finally **“gave birth”** in being the nation that brought forth the Messiah 2,000 years ago.
- d. John saw another significant sign in heaven being a “fiery red dragon” having seven heads and ten horns (Rev. 12:3).
 - i The “seven heads” are symbolic of 7 historical world empires that persecuted Israel - Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome and the future revived Roman Empire. These relate to the earthly historical kingdoms that we looked at in Daniel 2 & 7. Their combined strengths of wickedness will increase and emerge again under the Antichrist (Rev. 13:1-2).
 - ii The “ten horns” are symbolic of a future 10-nation confederation out of the old Roman Empire territory that will rule simultaneously over their own nation, while coming into partnership or enthusiastic agreement together to serve under the Antichrist’s rule (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 20, 24; 11:36-45; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).
- e. The dragon’s tail *“swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth”*. This speaks of a third of the angels who joined Satan’s heavenly rebellion and thus fell from their place in heaven with God (Rev. 12:4; Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-17). Some were later bound with chains awaiting judgment (Jude 6).

Jude 6 *And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day*

2 Pet 2:4 *For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment;*

- f. The dragon *“stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born”* (Rev. 12:4). This graphically describes the unseen influence in Jesus day, when Herod killed all the children under two years old in his attempt to eliminate the coming Messiah 2,000 years ago (Mt. 2:16-18).

Mt. 2:16-18 *When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”*

- g. The woman **“gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron sceptre.”** (Rev. 12:5). The Father promised that all the governments of the earth would rest upon Jesus’ shoulders (Isa. 9:6-7). In fulfilment of the promise given in Psalm 2:8-9, Jesus will

“dash the nations” with the seven bowls of wrath (Rev. 15-16), as He takes His inheritance among the nations, initiating the Millennial Kingdom, when He will **“break them with a rod of iron”**. One of His first commands will be to throw Satan into prison (Rev. 20:1-3).

Isa. 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders...
⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

Ps. 2:8-9 Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.⁹ You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery

- h. The woman’s **“child was snatched up to God and to his throne”** (Rev. 12:5), occurred at Jesus’ ascension (Lk24:50-53; Acts 1:9-11).
- i. Then the **“woman fled into the wilderness”** speaks of the remnant of Israel fleeing into the wilderness, where she has a **“place prepared by God”** (Ezek. 20:32-40; Rev. 12:6). This is yet future. Jesus warned the remnant of Israel that when they see the **“Abomination of Desolation”** they should flee (Mt. 24:15).

Mt. 24:15-22 “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’¹⁵ 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 equalled again. ²² “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

Ezek. 20:35-38 I will bring you into the wilderness of the nations and there, face to face, I will execute judgment upon you. ³⁶ As I judged your ancestors in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will judge you, declares the Sovereign LORD. ³⁷ I will take note of you as you pass under my rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. ³⁸ I will purge you of those who revolt and rebel against me. Although I will bring them out of the land where they are living, yet they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

- j. The phrase **“she might be taken care of”** refers to the Gentile believers, combined with the Two Witnesses and the 144,000, who will provide for the remnant in the wilderness for **“1,260 days”** which is the entire duration of the 3½ years of the Great Tribulation (Rev. 12:6). The Gentile believers will **“take care of her”** or make provisions for her, even as Joseph provided for Israel during a time of famine or Jesus multiplied bread and wine. God will prepare them for this beforehand for a 3½ year period of unprecedented anti-Semitism just prior to His second coming procession.

3. THE ESCHATOLOGICAL WAR IN HEAVEN (REV. 12:7-12)

⁷ Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the

power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers^(a) has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

- a. Here John is shown that war will break out in heaven between Satan and his angels and Michael the archangel and his angels. The result is that Satan will be cast to the earth at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. Daniel spoke of this in his final vision (Dan. 12:1). Michael has contended with Satan before (Jude 9).

Dan.12:1 *“At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.*

Jude 9 *Even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil over the body of Moses, dared not insult or slander him, but simply said, “The Lord Yahweh rebuke you!”*

- b. Satan will be humiliated and enraged to lose his place in the mid-heavens. Currently, the mid-heavens are where Satan and his angels primarily reside (Job 1:6, 12; 2:1, 7; 1 Kgs. 22:19-23; Eph. 6:12; Rev. 12:10). Some teach that this war has already occurred at the cross and that Satan is now confined to the earth. However, Paul taught that we currently war against Satan’s host who operate in the heavenly places in this age, which is a superior vantage point for spiritual warfare.

Eph.6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

- c. Christ defeated Satan at the cross. However, the full scope of His victory has not yet been fully manifest on earth. At Christ's ascension, Jesus was seated at God’s right hand, far above all authority (Eph. 1:20-22). Jesus disarmed the demonic powers and made a public spectacle of them (Col. 2:15). The “already and not yet” paradox of the Kingdom is now operating.
- d. **In Daniel 10, through the agency of Michael, Daniel changed human government through fasting and prayer by hindering the demonic principalities and their activity that energized it, thus affecting history forever** (Dan. 9:21-23; 10:13, 21). This was a prophetic picture of the end-time victorious Church who will stand up as a “corporate Daniel” engaged in fasting and prayer, who fill the bowls of prayer (Rev. 5:8) thus releasing Michael to stand up again and cast Satan from heaven forever.
- e. Revelation 12:7-9 is the furtherance of the five-fold progression of Satan’s fall.
 - i From the third Heaven to the mid-heaven (Isa. 14:12; Ezek. 28:16; Lk. 10:18)
 - ii From the mid-heaven, being solely confined to the earth (Rev. 12:7-17)
 - iii From the earth surface to the bottomless pit for 1000 years (Isa. 24:21-22; Rev. 20:1-3)

- iv From the bottomless pit to the Lake of Fire after the Millennium (Isa. 24:21-22; Rev. 20:10)
- v The final Lake of Fire will be Satan's permanent home forever (Rev. 20:10)
- f. The praying Church will have a dynamic intercessory role in Michael's victory over Satan as well as contributing to the great end-time revival (Rev. 7:9), the release of the Two Witnesses (Rev. 11), the protection of Israel (Rev. 12:14), the sealing of the 144,000 (Rev. 7), the release of God's judgments in the seals, trumpets and bowls (Rev. 6; 8-9; 15-16) and Jesus' second coming procession (Rev. 22:17).
- g. In the same war there will be two different battlefronts working together - the natural and spiritual.
 - i **War in the natural:** the human army of Israel will be engaged in a physical war against the Antichrist and his armies at Jerusalem (Zech. 12-14). Jesus, the "son of David" will deliver Israel (Zech 14:1-5).
 - ii **War in the spirit:** the Church, as a spiritual army is to focus on the spiritual war through prayer, prophecy, proclamation, fasting, giving, and living a Sermon on the Mount lifestyle, even unto martyrdom, as we stand with Jesus' heart for Israel. Jesus will release angels to deliver the Church and the remnant of Israel from the Antichrist (2 Kgs. 6:15-17; Mt. 26:53; Acts 5:17-20; 12:5-11, 20-24; Rev. 8-9; 15-16).
- h. Both Rev. 12 and 20, use the same four names of Satan, revealing ways in which he attacks us.

Rev. 12:9 *And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world*

Rev. 20:2 *And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,*

- i **The "dragon"** denotes his ancient and powerful cruelty without mercy.
- ii The **"serpent of old"** refers to his crafty subtleties and lying deception in the Garden
- iii **The "Devil"** means the "slanderer" or "accuser".
- iv **The name "Satan"** means "adversary", as the one who opposes and attacks us.

4. END-TIME RELEASE OF GOD'S POWER AND THE WAY TO VICTORY (REV. 12:10-12)

¹⁰ *And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers¹⁰ has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"*

- a. A "loud voice in heaven" declares that "Now", due to Satan's removal from mid-heaven, there will be a substantial release of power available to the end-time Church. This is a huge

turning point in the unfolding drama of the end-times. At the same time that Satan is cast to the earth, empowering the Antichrist to be raised from the dead (Rev. 13), and to establish the “Abomination of Desolation”, unleashing a “time of trouble” unlike the world has ever seen, God has not left the Church to her own abilities. Here we see a massive release of power from heaven to aid the saints in their stand against the powers of darkness. There will be an increase of salvation, strength, the Kingdom of God and the power of His Christ!

- b. The end-time saints will stand true to God’s purpose for Israel, as they overcome Satan with three realities in their lives.
 - i **Blood of the Lamb:** the finished work of the cross that washes us clean and white, producing **confidence in our weakness**.
 - ii **Word of their testimony:** by taking a **bold stand for truth**, both biblical and personal testimony
 - iii **Not love lives unto death:** willingness to live and die as a **selfless sacrifice** in martyrdom.
- c. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! Satan will come down to the earth having “great wrath” because he knows that he now has “a short time” of only 3½ years to stop Israel and thwart God’s end-time plan (Rev. 12:12). When Satan sees that he is confined to the earth, he fully seeks to eliminate the Jewish people through severe persecution, as well as the Church as the only ones to withstand him (Rev. 12:13).
- d. One of the most unique dynamics in the Great Tribulation is that Satan, along with all of his fallen angels will be cast to the earth and allowed to operate in a direct and manifest way. Hundreds of millions of demons that are now bound, because they are too intense to roam freely, will be released from the bottomless pit (Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4; Rev. 9:1-12) and the Euphrates river region (Rev. 9:13-19). Satan will give the fullness of his throne to a man, called the Antichrist (Rev. 13:2). The Antichrist, along with the False Prophet will seek to kill any who refuse to worship him (Rev. 13:8, 12, 15), leading to several billion Satan worshippers from every nation (Rev. 9:20-21), operating in the same spirit of oppression from without and demonization from within, affecting their thoughts, speech, behaviour and decision-making.

5. SATAN’S PERSECUTION AGAINST ISRAEL AND THE SAINTS (REV. 12:13-17)

¹³ And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. ¹⁵ The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. ¹⁶ But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. ¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood[Ⓢ] on the sand of the sea.

- a. When Satan sees that he is confined to the earth, he will be enraged at Israel to such a degree that he will seek to exterminate the entire nation (Rev. 12:13). Part of his motivation

comes from seeking to thwart Jesus return to Jerusalem on a technicality. Jesus said unless Israel say, **“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord”** they will not see him again (Mt. 23:37-39). Satan believes that if he can totally eliminate the Jewish people, so that they cannot say this, then he can prevent Jesus from returning to Jerusalem and keep himself from the bottomless pit and ultimately the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:1-3).

Matt.23:37-39 *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! ³⁸ See, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹ For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”*

- a. The **“woman”** or the remnant of Israel is given **“two wings of a great eagle”**, which speaks of God’s miraculous provision, protection, direction, and power, as He delivers her in the wilderness. God manifested the strength, swiftness and attentiveness of an eagle to care for Israel in the time of the Exodus from Egypt (Ex. 19:4; Deut. 32:11). He continued His care for the next forty years, providing manna from the sky and water that flowed from a rock. He led them with a pillar of fire that protected them from the hostility of the neighbouring nations, gave them supernatural direction and provided heat and light for them at night.

Ex.19:4 *You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.*

Deut.32:11-12 *Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions, the LORD alone guided him,*

- b. Israel will fly into the wilderness to **“her place”** where she is **“nourished”** and protected from the presence of the serpent for 3½ years (Rev. 12:14). Satan will seek to exterminate all Israel, but some will flee with divine help. The Two Witnesses will most likely participate in releasing this provision like Moses (Ex. 16:1-36; 17:1-7) and Elijah (1 Kgs. 17:14-16; 18:41-46; 19:5-8). The 144,000 will also be connected.
 - i God will save **one-third of the land** [people] of Israel.

Zech. 13:8-9 *In the whole land, declares the LORD, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive.⁹ And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘They are my people’; and they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”*

- ii He will also preserve **one-half of the city** of Jerusalem (Zech 14:1-5).

Zech. 14:2-3 ² *For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. ³ Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle.*

- c. Satan is pictured as **“spewing water out of his mouth”** (Rev. 12:15). This will come like a flood of persecution upon Israel. He wants her to be **“carried away by the flood”**, speaking of his determination to “drown her” or exterminate Israel completely. Satan wants to carry Israel away with a flood of hatred.

- d. The earth helping Israel by **“opening its mouth to swallow up the flood”** (Rev. 12:16), speaks of the natural elements being touched by God’s supernatural power to aid Israel. God has previously used the earth to **“swallow”** His enemies, like the armies of Egypt in the Red Sea (Ex. 15:12) or Korah, Nadab and Abihu in their rebellion against Moses (Num. 16:1-40; 26:10; Deut. 11:6; Ps. 106:16-18; Rev. 12:16).
- e. Because many Israelites will be supernaturally protected by God in the wilderness and because many of those used by God to release provision are Gentile believers (Rev. 12:6), Satan will vent his wrath against the **“rest of her offspring”**. These are described as those **“who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ”**. This points to the end-time Church, which will be predominately Gentile.
- f. There will be more martyrs and more converts in the final 3½ years than any time in history. The **“mystery of God”**, which includes the Father’s eternal plan to prepare a mature bride to rule in equally yoked partnership with Jesus, while He prepares to dwell in unhindered face-to-face communion with His people in paradise upon the earth forever (Rev. 19:7; 22:4) is finished, as the full number of martyrs is complete (Rev. 6:11). This occurs when the angel is **“about to sound”**. The final martyrs killed, completing the full number are the two witnesses who are martyred just prior to the sounding of the seventh trumpet, thus the phrase **“when he is about to sound”**, signalling Jesus’ return to the planet (Rev. 10:7).
- g. Satan seeks to overcome us first with fear. Why? He knows that fear opens the door in a person’s life to many compromises. Many will worship the Antichrist and take the **“mark of the Beast”** out of fear of lacking life resources. Jesus prophesied that many will faint with fear. The praying Church will overcome Satan and the Antichrist (Rev. 12:11; 15:2; 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 21:7). Fear need not dominate us.

Luke 21:26 people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

6. SATAN WARS THROUGH THE ANTICHRIST AND THE FALSE PROPHET (REV 13)

- a. Satan will continue his war against God’s people by using his main two weapons of war, the **Antichrist** and the **False Prophet**. They will be supported by a ten-nation confederation. The Antichrist’s main goal is to be worshipped by all nations and to rule them (Rev. 13:4, 8). The saints are the only ones who have the spiritual power to withstand him, therefore he goes to make war against them.

Rev.13:4-5,7 ⁴ And they worshipped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshipped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?” ⁵ And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months....⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.¹⁰ And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,

Dan.7:21,25 As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them,...²⁵ He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

- b. In Revelation 13:1-10, the Antichrist is the final world leader who will wage war against God and His people with a **political, military** and **economic** alliance of a ten-nation confederation under the leadership of the **“Ten Kings”** that provides him with the largest army (military), the most money (economic) and power (spiritual/political) of any man in history. (Rev. 7-8).
- c. This explains why Jesus must replace all the governments on earth, because billions of people will choose to worship the Antichrist as God (Rev. 13:8). Consequently, they will operate in the same spirit, doing the same deeds of darkness. God will allow man’s free will to be exercised to its full degree. Thus, the 7 bowls of wrath are necessary to stop evil men from exterminating the human race and destroying the earth.
- a. In Rev. 13:11-18, the False Prophet is the leader of the future worldwide religious network that is devoted to causing all the nations to worship Satan and the Antichrist (Rev. 13:4, 8). John reveals the False Prophet’s three most effective strategies. Satan has been thinking about this for ages. This is the only time in history where the war is openly manifest on the earth.
 - i First, he will give demonically empowered **public speeches** that will be confirmed by great miracles to deceive the masses

Rev. 13:12-14¹² *It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence,¹³ and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. ¹³ It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, ¹⁴ and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived*

- ii Second, he will promote the **Abomination of Desolation** (Mt. 24:15; 2 Thes. 2:3-4), which will be based on an image of the Beast or a statue of the Antichrist being set up in the Jerusalem Temple. It will be a demonically empowered statue that breathes and speaks and causes all the nations to worship the Antichrist

Rev. 13:14-15 *telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵ And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.*

It’s an “Abomination” in three ways, 1)The Antichrist will say, “I am God”, 2)He will command all men to worship him,3) Billions will say yes! It brings “Desolation” in two ways, 1) God will “desolate” those who say yes, 2) Satan will “desolate” those who don’t.

2 Thess.2:3-4 *Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness¹³ is revealed, the son of destruction ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.*

- i Third, he will force the nations to worship the Antichrist by the **mark of the Beast** on their hand or forehead to force all to publicly declare their loyalty to the Antichrist (Rev. 13:16-17). To refuse this mark will result in not being able to buy or sell the necessities of life, along with being guilty of the death penalty. He will use the power of the state to kill all who resist this demand (Rev. 13:15).

Rev.13:16-17 ¹⁶ Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave,¹⁶ to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, ¹⁷ so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. ¹⁸ This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666

7. JESUS WILL SUPERNATURALLY HELP THE CHURCH COME TO VICTORY (REV. 14)

- a. The message of Revelation 14 is that Jesus will help us by supernaturally anointing the Church to walk in certain victory and there will be real consequences for both righteousness and unrighteousness. Jesus promises to reward His people and to judge the followers of the Antichrist. This knowledge removes all the options for compromise and in this posture of heart the Holy Spirit will help anoint the Church to walk in victory as “overcomers”.
- b. This section will inspire confidence that righteousness is absolutely necessary and that Jesus will help us with great power, including angelic intervention until we fully triumph. We must not yield to the deceptive allurements for the mark of the Beast nor be intimidated by the rage of the Antichrist and his followers who will all soon be overthrown
- c. There are **3 sections** in Revelation 14 containing **7 truths** that will be the fuel the saints use to war against the Antichrist in **praise** (song) and **proclamation**
 - i In Rev. 14:1-5, Jesus will stand on Mount Zion in Jerusalem with 144,000 prophetic singers.
 - ii In Rev. 14:6-7, the Church will receive angelic assistance and great power that we may succeed in preaching the Gospel to all nations in the presence of hostility (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 7:9).
 - iii In Rev. 14:8, the anointed proclamation of the defeat of the Harlot Babylon stirs our faith.
 - iv In Rev. 14:9-11, the anointed proclamation of the certainty of eternal judgment coming upon all who worship the Antichrist will embolden the saints to resist even unto death.
 - v In Rev. 14:12-13, the anointed proclamation of the certainty of receiving eternal rewards for being faithful will strengthen the Church.
 - vi In Rev. 14:14-20, we see the two different end-time harvests to be released by prayer. The harvest of souls is seen in Rev. 14:14-16 and...
 - vii In Rev. 14:17-20 we see the harvest of sin. These show the result of prayer that releases power for salvation and the removal of evil.
- d. **First section (Rev. 14:1-5):** Jesus will visit and anoint 144,000 prophetic singers who will be a model for victory in the midst of persecution, as well as provide great strength to the Church by the prophetic singing that releases great revelation and power. Jesus will stand with them on Mt. Zion in earthly Jerusalem. These singers will prophesy in power during the last 3½ years, and will be sealed or protected by the power of God in the midst of God’s judgments (Rev. 7:4-8).

- i John saw Jesus standing on Mount Zion in Jerusalem with 144,000 Jewish men as He stood after the resurrection, but before His return, with John, (Rev. 1), Paul in the Arabian desert (Gal.), the disciples in Emmaus (Lk. 24:27-47) and the apostles (Acts 1:3) to open the Scriptures to them. Jesus will personally commission and anoint them. Their calling relates to the seven thunder prophecies (Rev. 10) and the “new song” (Isa. 42). They will be deeply dedicated to Jesus and filled with prophetic revelation. The “they” of v. 3 are the harpists who are also singers who sing a new song, teaching it to the 144,000.
- ii There will be 144,000 prophetic singers from the 5-6 million Jewish intercessors who call on God’s name in worship and intercession in Zech. 13:9. These 144,000 prophetic singers will support the Two Witnesses in prophetic intercession.
- iii Jesus will raise up prophetic singers to release His power in the great war as seen when Jehoshaphat stationed the singers to lead the battle (2 Chr. 20). Isaiah prophesied about prophetic singers across nations who will also sing the “new song” in the end-times, initiating Jesus’ return.

Isa. 42:10-13 *Sing to the LORD a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea...you coastlands... ¹¹ Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice... let them shout from the top of the mountains... ¹³ The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man [2nd Coming]; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out... He shall prevail against His enemies.*

- e. Second section (Rev. 14:6-13): reveals four prophetic promises and proclamations that the Spirit will anoint and release conviction upon, confirmed with signs and wonders, so as to strengthen the spirit of the saints. These four will be released by the Isaiah 42 singers and preachers.

- i In Rev. 14:6-7, we will receive angelic assistance and great power that we may succeed in preaching the Gospel to all nations in the presence of hostility (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 7:9).

Rev. 14:6-7 *I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people-- ⁷ saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth..."*

- ii In Rev. 14:8, the anointed proclamation of the certainty of the total defeat of the Harlot Babylon will strengthen us (Rev. 17-18).

Rev. 14:8 *Another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."*

- iii In Rev. 14:9-11, the anointed proclamation of the certainty of eternal judgment coming on all who worship the Antichrist will embolden the saints.

Rev. 14:9-11 *A third angel...saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the Beast and his image, and receives his mark... ¹⁰ he shall drink of... the wrath of God... He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone... ¹¹ they have no rest day or night."*

- iv In Rev. 14:12-13, the anointed proclamation of the certainty of eternal reward for being faithful will greatly strengthen the Church.

Rev. 14:12-13 *Here is the patience [perseverance] of the saints... who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. ¹³ I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord... their works follow them.'"*

- f. Third section (Rev. 14:14-20): reveals two different end-time harvests to be released by prayer. The Great Harvest of souls is seen in Rev. 14:14-16 and the harvest of wickedness in Rev. 14:17-20. These show the results of prayers that release power for the Great Harvest and end-time judgments.

Rev. 14:14-16 *Behold... One like the Son of Man [Jesus], having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. ¹⁵ Another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him... "Thrust in Your sickle and reap... for the harvest of the earth is ripe." ¹⁶ So He... thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.*

- g. Whereas Jesus reaps the first harvest of righteousness, an angel reaps the harvest of wickedness (Mt. 13), throwing it into the great winepress of the wrath of God for Jesus to trample. A river of blood runs 200 miles or the distance from Megiddo in the north to Bozrah in the south (Israel is 160 miles from north to south).

Rev. 14:17 *Another angel came... having a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ Another angel came out from the altar...cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." ¹⁹ So the angel... gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰ The winepress was trampled... and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for 1,600 furlongs [200 miles].*

- a. The great slaughter of the Antichrist's armies will leave blood flowing for 200 miles (Rev 19:19-21; 14:20), along with the great plague that will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem and cause their flesh, eyes, and tongues to dissolve. This plague also strikes their horses, mules, camels, donkeys, and all the cattle in their camps (Zech. 14:12-15). Jesus will destroy the Antichrist with the brightness of His coming.

2 Thes. 2:8 *And the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.*