

Israel and the Dragon

Revelation 11:15 -12:12

“In chapters 12 through 14 of the book of Revelation, the great actors of the tribulation time are introduced in another parenthetical section ending at 14:20. As many commentators have noted they are seven in number: (1) the woman, representing Israel, (2) the dragon, representing Satan, (3) the man-child, referring to Christ, (4) Michael, representing the angels, (5) Israel, the remnant of the seed of the woman, (6) the beast out of the sea, the world dictator, and (7) the beast out of the earth, the false prophet and religious leader of the world. About these main characters swirls a tremendously moving scene of the great tribulation. First to be introduced and of prime importance as a key to the whole situation is the woman representing Israel.” Walvoord

- I. the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation are meant to wake the world up to God’s existence. The only way he can get mankind’s attention is to take away the false security of their idols of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride, magic arts, sexual immorality, the environment, materialism, hatred, love of self, etc. He offers no escape as he intensifies, in increasing measure, his wrath against their refusal to acknowledge Him and repent. He doesn’t leave man to figure it out on his own. Instead, He gives mankind the gospel message through the 144,000 Jewish evangelist, the two witnesses, believers, and an angel flying about the earth proclaiming the good news of salvation. What’s in store for them next, as the second half of the tribulation begins, will force them to either bow down to God as Lord or to Satan as lord. It will be a willful decision, and how they choose will seal their fate for eternity.

Rev. 11:15-19

Ps. 2:6-9

Romans 1:18 *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,*

- II. At the beginning of the tribulation, the Israeli's enters into a peace agreement with the Antichrist (6:2) to protect them from the social, political, and economic upheaval that is occurring in the world as the tribulation begins. Satan's intent is to put himself in a position to finally destroy God's covenant people, the Jews, by having them put their trust in him alone. Nothing will stop him from slaying the woman who symbolically is the nation of Israel. The battle then, is between God and Satan. Their hatred toward one another exceeds no bounds. The souls of the earth dwellers are what's at stake, with many being saved into God's kingdom and many being enslaved by Satan to spend eternity with him in hell.

Rev. 12:1-2

Jer 31:35-3

Gen 37:9-11

Gen 3:15

- III. The picture of Satan as a great red dragon depicts him as the ruthless enemy of God whose goal is to thwart God's plan of redemption by any means possible. Satan's description tells us that he is powerful and murderous. He has many powerful demons (fallen angels - 1/3 of the stars) who follow him and do his bidding. The seven crowns on Satan's head depict "*his presumptive claims of royal authority against the true King.*" The dragon's seven heads and ten horns speak of his influence over the nations that will rise up against the King of kings and his worshippers. Satan's diabolical presence is eradicated from heaven midpoint through the tribulation to show him and his followers that they have no power or influence over God's kingdom and sovereign will. Once that happens, the great tribulation that results from Satan's fury will make living on earth unbearable. *For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. "If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened (Matt. 24:21).*

Rev 12:3-11

Isa 14:13-14

Ezek. 28:12b-17

Dan 7:23-25

Dan 12:1

Ex 19:4

1 Jn. 5:1-8

βάλλω bállōto, *throw or let go of a thing without caring where it falls.*