

Revelation Chapter 12

Bible verses are from the New American Standard Bible and are highlighted in blue and italics.

Revelation chapter 6 ends with a vision of the 2nd coming. Chapter 11 ends with a vision of the 2nd coming.

This is typical of the Book of Revelation; it will show you an event and then later go over it again in greater detail.

We'll see the 2nd coming, to inaugurate the New Millennial Age of Christ, and put an end to this present age – and an end to the times of Gentiles – in even greater detail.

Chapter 11 ends with a vision of the 2nd coming.

Chapters 4-11 are more or less a linear progression to the events of the 7 seals.

Beginning in Chapter 12, the Book of Revelation goes in a different direction.

Verse 1-2

1A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;

2and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

Sign – Symbol or event points to something else. This is the first of two women who's called a harlot, a great harlot, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth. That's not this woman; actually, she is a symbol of something else.

Remember Joseph's dream in the book of Genesis? He has a dream and reports it to his father and 11 brothers.

Genesis 37:9-10

9Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, "Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

10He related it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?"

Indeed, you remember the story that Joseph's family did bow down to him because God ordered the steps of Joseph's life to become 2nd in command, just under Pharaoh of Egypt.

You remember the name of God gave Jacob – Israel. Joseph and the 11 brothers who bowed to him were the 12 Patriarchs who became the 12 tribes of Israel.

Sign of Revelation 12:1 intentionally meant to remind us Joseph's dream and how it became fulfilled, and so identify this symbol with the nation of Israel.

Several times in the Old Testament, the Nation of Israel is personified as a woman; the whole book of Hosea follows that symbol. The twelve stars are the 12 tribes of Israel.

A woman in labor pains to give birth to the Messiah, in whom both Israel and the gentiles will hope. He is to the supreme, all sovereign, king over this world and this cosmos.

David will never lack a man to sit on the throne. John sees another vision, following hard on the heels of this one.

Verse 3-4

³Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems.

We're not left to wonder who this great red dragon is, verse 9 tells is. We're not left to wonder what the 10 horns are:

¹²"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. ¹³"These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast. (Revelation 17:12, 13)

The 7 heads are the 7 kingdoms and have existed through history.

The spirit of the anti-christ exists now and always has and has had 7 major expressions/manifestations through history in opposition to God's chosen people.

Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, last day's empire.

I've mentioned types, forerunners of anti-christ:

Pharaoh of Exodus
Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
Belshazzar
Antiochus Epiphanies
Roman Emperors – Caligula, Hadrian, Nero, Alexander the Great
Herod the Great

Some in modern times:

Hitler - Aryan supremacy, master race didn't originate with him. His passion to kill all Jews didn't begin with him and didn't die with him. Industry of bureaucracy of Nazi germ harnessed to enterprise of killing Jews.

Stalin – Napoleon probably

⁴And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

This reminds is of the story of Herod the Great at the birth of Christ.

Matthew 2: 1-20

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

²"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

*⁶AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH,
ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH;
FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER
WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL."*

⁷Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared.

⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him."

⁹After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was.

¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

¹¹After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹²And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

The Flight to Egypt

¹³Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him."

¹⁴So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.

¹⁵He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON."

Herod Slaughters Babies

¹⁶Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.

¹⁷Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

*¹⁸"A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH,
WEEPING AND GREAT MOURNING,
RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN;
AND SHE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED,
BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE."*

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said,

²⁰"Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead."

When you are reading Herod the Great, you're getting insight into how the mind of Satan operates; not demon-possessed, but just had a mindset agreement with Satan.

That's what Jesus is to Lucifer. Lucifer is determined to be like most high, but Jesus is to be King of Kings. To Lucifer, Jesus is a rival King.

You get the mind of the anti-christ when you get the mind of Herod. Herod murdered some of his own sons because he thought they were interested in taking his throne. Herod brooked no rival, even to the point of killing the one whom he knew was to be the Messiah.

Verse 5-6

⁵And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

⁶Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Leaps in time – from birth of Christ and His ascension to His Millennial Reign, and back a little to mid-point of the Tribulation; time is of little consequence to the Lord.

To show what the anti-christ does:

who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. (2 Thessalonians 2:4)

"Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done.

"He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all. (Daniel 11:36-37)

The Angel, Michael

⁷And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon The dragon and his angels waged war,

⁸and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

⁹And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

¹⁰Then 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 brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

¹¹"And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

¹²"For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."

¹³And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.

Verse 14

¹⁴But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

The word for persecute in verse 13 is the word for pursue. Satan pursues the woman much as he has done in the person of Pharaoh. He attempts to trap them in the Red Sea.

You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. (Exodus 19:4)

Who or what the "two wings of the great eagle" are no one can really say. It's not been revealed yet. But the rescue is by the hand of God.

Matthew 24:15-22

¹⁵Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

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

¹⁷Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.

¹⁸Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.

¹⁹But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

²⁰But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.

²¹For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

²²Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

It's my personal belief, though it can't be proved from scripture, that this place of refuge to which they'll flee, is Petra. Petra, in Jordan, is an ancient city ruin carved out of solid rock and protected by high mountains walls on both sides. (Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade). There, the faithful who fled will receive nourishment for 3 ½ years like then Manna in the wilderness, direct from God. It has to be that way.

They won't have the mark of the Beast, so they won't be buying or selling.

¹⁵And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.

¹⁶But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.

¹⁷So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.