

Revelation

Chapter 12

Review

- The Revelation to John
 - A prophetic writing with features of a letter and of the form of literature called Apocalyptic
 - Written by John to Christians during the second half of the First Century
 - Placed at the end of the New Testament because of its concern with the “end times.”
 - So far we have studied the first 10 chapters.
 - My review of this material has been shortened

Review

- Introduction (1:1-3)
- First Vision (1:9-20)
- 7 Letters (Chapters 2 & 3)



Review

- Heavenly Throne Room (Chapters 4 & 5)



Review



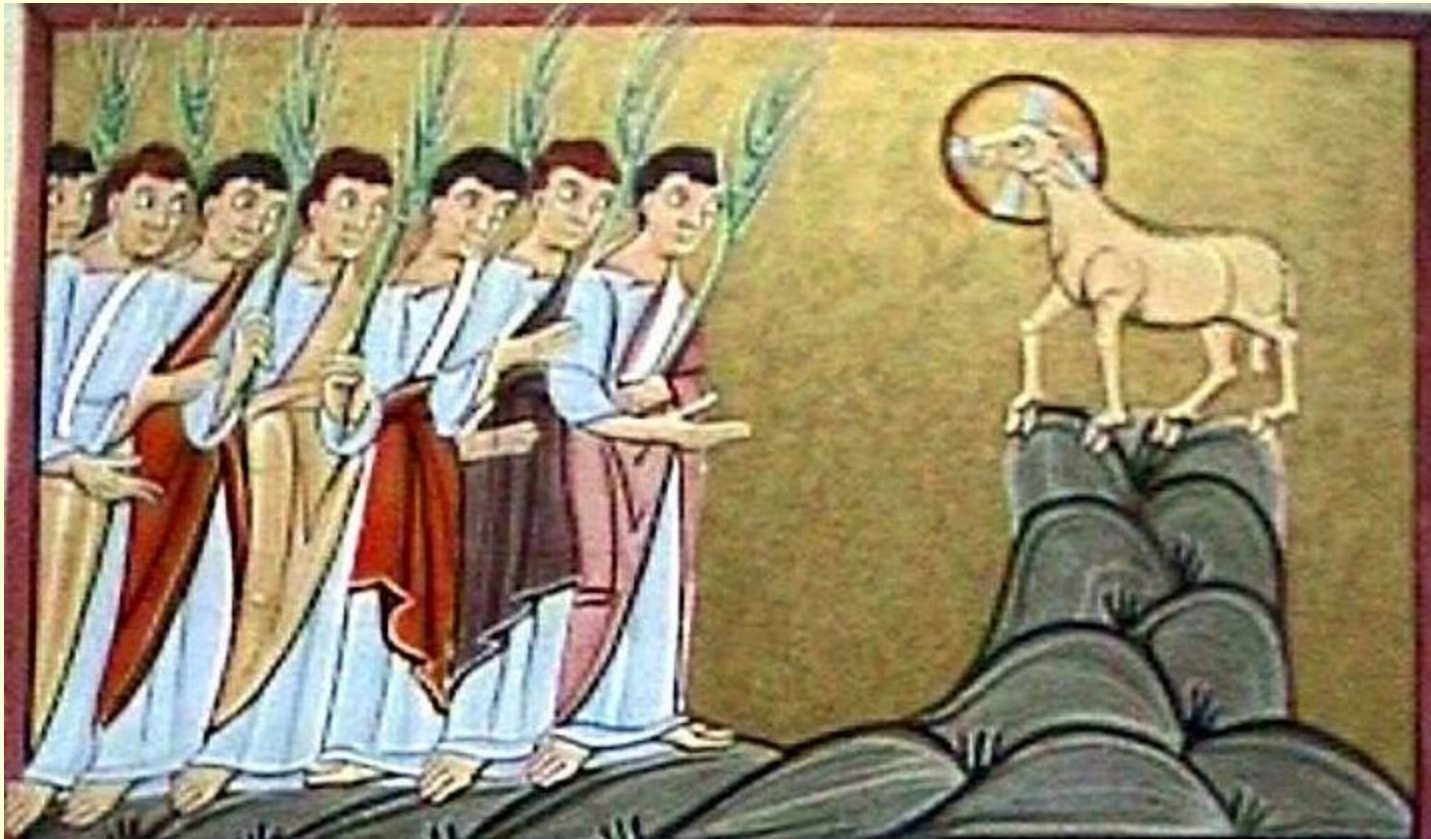
- The First Six Seals (Chapter 6)
 - The 4 Horsemen
 - Souls of Martyrs
 - Vision of the End

Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

--- Revelation 6:15-17

Review

- The Servants of God (Chapter 7)



Review

- The 7th Seal (Chapter 8)
 - Silence in Heaven
 - Prayers of the Saints
 - The First 4 Trumpets



Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!" (**Revelation 8:113**)



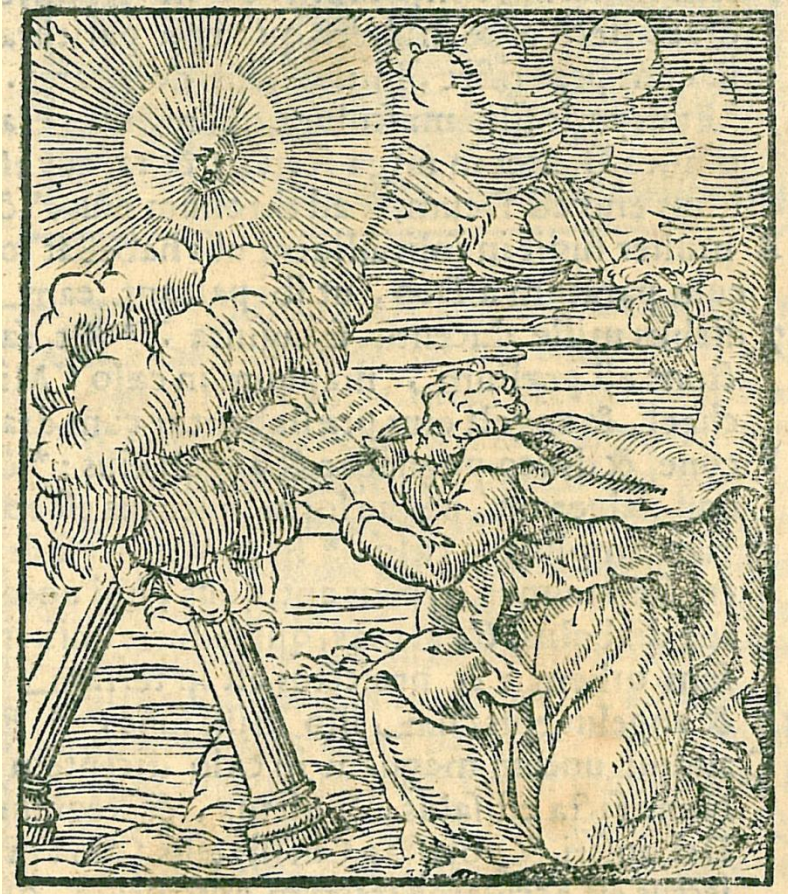
Review

- The First Two Woes (Chapter 9)



Review

- Another Mighty Angel with A Little Book(Chapter 10)



- He swears there will be no further delay, that when the 7th trumpet blows, the mystery of God finally will be fulfilled, as announced by the prophets.
- John eats the book as he was commanded to do, by a voice from heaven.
- As promised by the angel, John finds the book delicious but it leaves him with a bitter stomach.
- John is commanded to go and prophesy again to [against] many and various people.

Review

- Measuring the Temple and Those Who Worship There (Chapter 11, Verses 1-2)



Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, "Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months..."

--- Revelation 11:1-2

Review



- The Two Witnesses
(Chapter 11, Verses 3-13)

... And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

--- **Revelation 11:3-4**

Review

- The Two Witnesses
(Chapter 11, Verses 3-13)



And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified.

--- **Revelation 11:7-8**

Review

- The Two Witnesses
(Chapter 11, Verses 3-13)



But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.

--- Revelation 11:11-12

Review



- The Two Witnesses
(Chapter 11, Verses 3-13)

And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

--- Revelation 11:13

Review

- The Seventh Trumpet (Chapter 11, Verses 14-19)



Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." **(11:15)**

Review

- I think John has seen the end twice so far:
 - Once at the end of Chapter 6 where those who dwell on earth shrink in terror from the “wrath of the Lamb”
 - Again at the end of Chapter 11 where heaven praises the final coming of God’s kingdom on Earth.
 - I think the coming of God’s kingdom on Earth is (or at least contains) the third and final “woe” of which the eagle cried at the end of Chapter 8

Review

- In the visions which John has seen, both believers and non-believers pass through great tribulation.
- Tribulation sometimes comes through evil forces and figures but everything is under the ultimate control of God.
- God encourages his people to persevere and delivers them from all evil in the end.

ヨハネの黙示録 12:1-18

1. また、大いなるしるしが天に現れた。ひとりの女が太陽を着て、足の下に月を踏み、その頭に十二の星の冠をかぶっていた。
2. この女は子を宿しており、産みの苦しみと悩みとのために、泣き叫んでいた。
3. また、もう一つのしるしが天に現れた。見よ、大きな、赤い龍がいた。それに七つの頭と十の角とがあり、その頭に七つの冠をかぶっていた。

ヨハネの黙示録 12:1-18

4. その尾は天の星の三分の一を掃き寄せ、それらを地に投げ落した。龍は子を産もうとしている女の前に立ち、生れたなら、その子を食い尽そうとかまえていた。
5. 女は男の子を産んだが、彼は鉄のつえをもってすべての国民を治めるべき者である。この子は、神のみもとに、その御座のところに、引き上げられた。

ヨハネの黙示録 12:1-18

6. 女は荒野へ逃げて行った。そこには、彼女が千二百六十日のあいだ養われるように、神の用意された場所があった。
7. さて、天では戦いが起った。ミカエルとその御使たちとが、龍と戦ったのである。龍もその使たちも応戦したが、
8. 勝てなかった。そして、もはや天には彼らのおる所がなくなった。

ヨハネの黙示録 12:1-18

9. この巨大な龍、すなわち、悪魔とか、サタンとか呼ばれ、全世界を惑わす年を経たへびは、地に投げ落され、その使たちも、もろともに投げ落された。
10. その時わたしは、大きな声が天でこう言うのを聞いた、「今や、われらの神の救と力と国と、神のキリストの権威とは、現れた。われらの兄弟らを訴える者、夜昼われらの神のみまえで彼らを訴える者は、投げ落された。

ヨハネの黙示録 12:1-18

11. 兄弟たちは、小羊の血と彼らのあかしの言葉とによって、彼にうち勝ち、死に至るまでもそのいのちを惜しまなかった。
12. それゆえに、天とその中に住む者たちよ、大いに喜べ。しかし、地と海よ、おまえたちはわざわいである。悪魔が、自分の時間が短いのを知り、激しい怒りをもって、おまえたちのところに下ってきたからである」。

ヨハネの黙示録 12:1-18

13. 龍は、自分が地上に投げ落されたと知ると、男子を産んだ女を追いかけた。
14. しかし、女は自分の場所である荒野に飛んで行くために、大きなわしの二つの翼を与えられた。そしてそこでへびからのがれて、一年、二年、また、半年の間、養われることになっていた。
15. へびは女の後には水を川のように、口から吐き出して、女をおし流そうとした。

ヨハネの黙示録 12:1-18

16. しかし、地は女を助けた。すなわち、地はその口を開いて、龍が口から吐き出した川を飲みほした。
17. 龍は、女に対して怒りを発し、女の残りの子ら、すなわち、神の戒めを守り、イエスのあかしを持っている者たちに対して、戦いをいどむために、出て行った。
18. そして、海の砂の上に立った。

Revelation 12:1-17

1. And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.
2. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.

Revelation 12:1-17

3. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.
4. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.

Revelation 12:1-17

5. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne,
6. and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

Revelation 12:1-17

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.

Revelation 12:1-17

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.

Revelation 12:1-17

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 has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

Revelation 12:1-17

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!"

Revelation 12:1-17

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.

Revelation 12:1-17

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.

Revelation 12:1-17

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.

12:1

また、大いなるしるしが天に現れた。ひとりの女が太陽を着て、足の下に月を踏み、その頭に十二の星の冠をかぶっていた。

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- “And...” continues the vision before John’s eyes at the end of Chapter 11,
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- This is the context within which appears the figure of the woman described in Chapter 12, Verse 1

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- The woman is described gloriously --- sharing the glory of kingdom vision in which she appears, and I think this may be important.

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- The sun and the moon serve to decorate and support this woman, she is more important than the sun and moon.

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- The sun and the moon serve to decorate and support this woman, she is more important than the sun and moon.
- She is a queenly figure, wearing a crown of twelve stars.

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- What do you suppose is the significance of the fact that her crown is composed of exactly twelve stars.

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 - or both

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- Signs are important because of where they point.

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- Neither does strongly suggest her identity.
- Instead he describes her as “a great sign”
- Signs are important because of where they point.
- We need to wonder where this sign, of the queenly woman, is pointing our attention....

12:2

この女は子を宿しており、産みの苦しみと悩みとのために、泣き叫んでいた。

She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.



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- This transcendent queenly figure, who stands on the moon and wears the sun, is now seen to be in the agony of giving birth, crying out in pain.

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- This reveals her to be the figure of a human woman, a daughter of Eve (Genesis 3:16)

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- The child of a daughter of Eve, must likewise be human and, therefore, be the child of its father.

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- The husband and child of a queen, are likely royal figures.

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- As we read on, it becomes clear that the child to whom this woman gives birth is Jesus Christ, whom we know to be the only begotten son of God.

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- Since the late middle ages, the Roman Catholic Church has tended to read John's vision in this way.

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- But whether or not we see Mary here, I think it behooves us also to understand the pains of childbirth figuratively and to understand the queenly figure as representing Israel and the child who is born as not only Jesus of Nazareth, but also the people which he has redeemed for God.

12:3

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- The figure of the pregnant human queen is joined in John's vision by another figure which is not human.

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- Like her, this figure is described as a sign, but not as a "great sign." It is "another sign." And it appears second.
- The second sign has no significance except what is derived from the first sign.

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- And I think that the second sign, a great red dragon, was understood by John and his readers to be inherently evil, because inherently opposed to human life and happiness.

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- This dragon was, for a dragon, perfectly powerful and it pretended to a certain royal majesty of its own.
- Evil exists only as a corrupt imitation of goodness.

12:4

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投げ落した。龍は子を産もうとしている女の前に立ち、
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- Of course the princely pretender of a dragon should be expected to wage war against the queenly woman and her family.

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His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.

- Of course the princely pretender of a dragon should be expected to wage war against the queenly woman and her family.
- I think most people have understood the dragon here to represent Satan poised to devour Christ.

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- Satan literally opposed Jesus during his earthly ministry.
- We also understand that Satan has sought to overcome and undermine the Kingdom of Christ from the beginning of creation until this very day.

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- We cannot be certain how John understood the third of the stars of heaven which the dragon's tail swept down to earth.
- Probably this refers to the damage he has done to creation, mankind in particular, and most especially to Israel and the Church.

12:5

女は男の子を産んだが、彼は鉄のつえをもってすべての国民を治めるべき者である。この子は、神のみもとに、その御座のところに、引き上げられた。

She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne,

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- Despite opposition from the dragon (Satan) the woman (Humans, Israel, Mary, the Church) did give birth to the male child who would save them.
- Here I think the reference is very specifically to Jesus of Nazareth in fulfillment of Old Testament prophesy that he would come to rule.

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- This verse captures the birth, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, skipping over his death and earthly ministry
- What is in view here, in this part of John's vision, is the fact that Christ has already overcome Satan and taken up his seat at the right hand of God.

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- It is worth reminding ourselves that this outcome was never in doubt.
- Redemption of the world through Christ was the plan, before the universe was created.
- Satan never had a chance!

12:6

女は荒野へ逃げて行った。そこには、彼女が千二百六十日のあいだ養われるように、神の用意された場所があった。

and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

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- The woman represents Israel and the Church which are one and the same.
- 1,260 days is the symbolic period of suffering of God's people before the end, during which God promises to sustain them.

12:7

さて、天では戦いが起った。ミカエルとその御使たちとが、龍と戦ったのである。龍もその使たちも応戦したが、

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back,



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- The archangel Michael and other true angels of God with him fought against "the dragon and his angels."

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- The dragon tried to oppose God (God's people) and that was the beginning of the end for him.
- The archangel Michael and other true angels of God with him fought against "the dragon and his angels."
- The latter fought back --- truly futile gesture.

12:8

勝てなかった。そして、もはや天には彼らのおる所がなくなつた。

but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

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- The language of Verse 8 suggests that there once had been a place in heaven for the dragon and his angels.

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- The dragon was, of course, defeated.
- There is no place in heaven for those who oppose God.
- The language of Verse 8 suggests that there once had been a place in heaven for the dragon and his angels.
- This is consistent with Jewish folklore that regards Satan as a former angel who had “fallen” through the sin of pride.

12:9

この巨大な龍、すなわち、悪魔とか、サタンとか呼ばれ、
全世界を惑わす年を経たへびは、地に投げ落され、
その使たちも、もろともに投げ落された。

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.

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- Whether the dragon (Satan) and his angels were ever truly “good angels” (e.g. like Michael) is not clear to me.
- What is clear is that the dragon, now openly identified as the one called Satan, and other inhuman spiritual beings have been thrown down to the earth where we live.

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- What is clear is that the dragon, now openly identified as the one called Satan, and other inhuman spiritual beings have been thrown down to the earth where we live.
- Such beings are not in heaven and cannot go there!

12:10

その時わたしは、大きな声が天でこう言うのを聞いた、「今や、われらの神の救と力と国と、神のキリストの権威とは、現れた。われらの兄弟らを訴える者、夜昼われらの神のみまえで彼らを訴える者は、投げ落された。

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 has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

- Something else seems clear from the passage before us, and other passages in the Bible (e.g. Job): when Satan formerly had access to heaven, he occupied himself with making accusations against God's people, before God.

12:11

兄弟たちは、小羊の血と彼らのあかしの言葉とによって、彼にうち勝ち、死に至るまでもそのいのちを惜しまなかった。

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.



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- Those who remain faithful to Christ do not fear death.

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- Those who remain faithful to Christ do not fear death.
- Because they die and ascend to the heavenly places from which Satan has is excluded.

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- The accusations of Satan cannot reach them there.
- They are hidden there.
- They are not “earth dwellers.”

12:12

それゆえに、天とその中に住む者たちよ、大いに喜べ。
しかし、地と海よ、おまえたちはわざわいである。悪
魔が、自分の時が短いを知り、激しい怒りをもつ
て、おまえたちのところに下ってきたからである」。

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
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- Now we understand that much of the tribulation and all of the spiritual evil that comes against those who dwell on the earth, is the work of the devil.

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- But his days are numbered.

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- Now we understand that much of the tribulation and all of the spiritual evil that comes against those who dwell on the earth, is the work of the devil.
- But his days are numbered.
- And he knows it.

12:13

龍は、自分が地上に投げ落されたと知ると、男子を産んだ女を追いかけた。

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.



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- This is why the devil pays special attention to tormenting God's people.

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- This is why the devil pays special attention to tormenting God's people.
- He is angry because they are finally beyond his reach.
- And Jesus Christ, the one who has come out from the church to redeem a people for God, has also condemned Satan and excluded him from heaven eternally.

12:14

しかし、女は自分の場所である荒野に飛んで行くために、大きなわしの二つの翼を与えられた。そしてそこでへびからのがれて、一年、二年、また、半年の間、養われることになっていた。

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.

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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.

- But God will not allow Satan to overcome the Church.
- As he has always done, God will make a way and a place for those who belong to him.

12:15

へびは女の後に水を川のように、口から吐き出して、
女をおし流そうとした。

The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood.

- The devil will not give up easily, but will do whatever he can to overcome God's people.

12:16

しかし、地は女を助けた。すなわち、地はその口を開いて、龍が口から吐き出した川を飲みほした。

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.

- The earth is not, however, given over entirely to the control of Satan.

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- The earth is not, however, given over entirely to the control of Satan.
- If it were, we would certainly all be destroyed, at least physically.

12:17

龍は、女に対して怒りを発し、女の残りの子ら、すなわち、神の戒めを守り、イエスのあかしを持っている者たちに対して、戦いをいどむために、出て行った。

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.

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- Satan's inability to have his way with us, adds to his fury.

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- Once again, he particularly dislikes obedient Christians.

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- Which is we need to become increasingly careful the more we grow in the faith.

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- Satan's inability to have his way with us, adds to his fury.
- Once again, he particularly dislikes obedient Christians.
- Which is we need to become increasingly careful the more we grow in the faith.
- Satan always hates us and is always watching for an opportunity to hurt us, even if he cannot finally have us.

12:18

そして、海の砂の上に立った。

