

Revelation 12 Part 1

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, and we are in unit twenty-eight, and we're looking at Revelation chapter twelve.

'And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.'

This has to be Israel. She had, of course, twelve patriarchs.

'And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.'

Israel, of course, brought forth the Messiah, brought forth Jesus.

Verse three, *'And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.'*

Now, we will look at this a little bit closer later on, but a quick review here, or move forward to chapter seventeen, verse nine and it says, *'And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.'*

Now, a woman in the bible always represents a church. And just as the Israel church, the woman who appeared with the sun and moon under her feet is Israel, because, of course, she is also a church, so this here is a church. The red dragon is a church. And it sits upon seven hills. There's going to be more to link this in with Rome, but Rome sits on seven hills. Yes, there are plenty of other cities that sit on seven hills including Edenborough, including Kampala in Uganda, and quite a few other places. But only one city, one place, is also a church and a world power. And for a dragon to have power, that's exactly what we're looking for, so it does appear to be Rome.

And verse four of chapter twelve, *'And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.'*

And, of course, we know that's exactly what Herod did. He tried to kill Jesus right at the beginning. So, once again, at that time, it was Rome, although, of course, as a Roman Empire. There was no church actually involved in that.

Verse five, *'And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to His throne.'*

Which, of course, again, is Jesus. We know that's exactly what happened.

Verse six, *'And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.'*

Two things to note here. The thousand two hundred and threescore days is exactly three and a half years in the terminology of the Jewish calendar, there being thirty days in a month. The second point to note is that we have suddenly jumped to the tribulation period. We have moved from the time of Christ right on through to a time yet to come.

Looking again at verse four it is pretty obvious that the red dragon not only sits upon seven hills, but as his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven. These, of course, were a third of the angels from heaven. This is a link between the devil and his plans to use the church of Rome to bring about the Great Tribulation.

So in short, to recap what is actually going on here, Rome originally tried to kill Jesus two thousand years ago, and then in the latter days, right at the end, Rome is going to be inhabited by the devil, Roman church is going to be run by the devil and that will bring a persecution on Israel, and Israel will have to flee into the wilderness for three and a half years, and we'll pick it up again at verse seven.

'And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

'And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.'

Now, the other thing we can link at this time, there's going to be, in the end, of course, Christ is going to win. The devil isn't. Israel goes into the wilderness for three and a half years, and we already know from Revelation chapter eleven that two witnesses will prophesy and teach Israel for three and a half years, so that's exactly what's going on there.

Verse nine, *'And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.'*

This is reviewed in the next few verses.

Verse ten, *'And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.'*

Now, one of the things that we need to get our heads around is the fact that the blood of Jesus Christ did not save us. Faith in the death of Christ on the cross has saved us. The blood of Jesus Christ covers us from all sins. So having believed, we now have the blood of Jesus Christ to correct us, to cover the sins that we do once we believe. Because we do, all of us, fail. We are accused by the devil in heaven, and the blood covers us from our sins, but now, at this point, the devil is cast out of heaven, he cannot accuse us anymore. Bear in mind, of course, that this stage that the rapture has already occurred. God has finished with the Gentiles, that's us, and is turned back to the Jews.

On to verse eleven, *'And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.'*

'Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.'

Verse thirteen, *'And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman'* that's Israel, of course, *'which brought forth the man child.'*

'And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.'

Once again, a time is one year, times is two years, half a time is half a year. Three and a half years.

The woman is, of course, Israel. She is given two wings of great eagles that she might fly. These are the two prophets, Moses and Elijah, that preach to her. These are the guys from chapter eleven of Revelation.

And verse fifteen, *'And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.*

'And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

'And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.'

These are indeed the hundred and forty-four thousand who believe in Jesus Christ, they are Jews but they have heard the message of Moses and Elijah and have accepted it.

God bless you. Amen.