

## REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 19 (12:7-18) War in Heaven

**Introduction:** There is a war going on. It is not who's the greatest country, it is not a president, king or congress who will determine the outcome of the world, BUT there is a battle going on and it is between God and Satan. Satan and all the fallen angels, demons, etc. are doing everything they possibly can to deceive the nations and the people, that's their main business. On the other side is God and God is going to win the conflict so says the Bible. God will defeat the devil bitterly, throw him into the bottomless pit and then throw him into the lake of fire. Thus Jesus Christ and all the redeemed are going to rule forever and ever - THAT IS CHAPTER 12.

Chapter 1 is the introduction, 2, 3 is the story of the Church age, 4, 5 the Church is in heaven, 6 is a summary of the Tribulation, 7 tells of evangelism during the Tribulation, then begins the judgments where we find ourselves now. JUDGMENT is coming to this old world and every unbeliever is going to be judged. REVIEW: (vv1-6)

v1 - "wonder" - a sign, this is a Jewish chapter and they wanted signs.

- "woman" - the nation of Israel, the Jewish race.
- "clothed" - perfect tense (completed action) - clothed in the genes of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, there will always be Jews (Hitler killed over 6 million of them). They are a permanent race.
- "sun" - Jacob
- "moon" - wives of Jacob
- "stars" - the 12 sons of Jacob. Genesis 37 tells the story - REMEMBER Joseph's dream.

v2 - "with child" - Mary, representing the Jewish race

- "pained" - Satan is going (has already done) to do his best to keep Jesus Christ from coming to earth. Genesis 6 tells how he almost destroyed the human race, got down to 8 people (Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth and their wives. He didn't want the human race to remain pure.

v3 - "wonder" - sign

- "dragon" - Satan, devil, DRAGON
- "seven heads" - seven nations that have ruled over Israel (Egypt, Assyria, Chaldea, Persia, Macedonia, Rome and later the revived Roman Empire.
- "ten horns" - Ten nations of the revived Roman Empire which will one day rule the world. If the USA has any part, it will be here as one of the ten nations.
- "seven crowns" - seven of the ten nations - three will dissolve at the end of time.

v4 - "tail" - Satan

- "one third part" - one third of the angelic host followed Satan when he rebelled against God and are doing his demonic work. Millions and millions of angels fell with Lucifer.
- "stars" - angels
- "stood" - perfect tense (completed) keep on standing
- "devour" - Remember the Christmas story - describe Herod's slaughter of children

v5 - "manchild" - Jesus Christ

- "was to rule" - who could this be other than Jesus Christ? Nobody can and ever will rule the whole earth at one time except Jesus Christ. Hitler tried, other have tried and all have failed and will continue to fail until Jesus Christ comes back and HE will rule all nations.
- "caught up" - We by-pass the cross for we are not talking about redemption now but are talking about the rule of Jesus Christ, the ascension of Jesus after 50 days.

NOW DRAW A LINE BETWEEN VERSES 5 AND 6 -

The whole Church age passes by and we now find ourselves at the end of history - the seven year Tribulation..look at the verses and it will show it.

v6 - "the woman fled" o- this is talking about the Jews. In Matthew 24 Jesus prophesied that they would flee to the mountains during that terrible time. They will flee to Ammon, Moab, Amnon and they will be there for three and one half years (3 1/2). THIS HAS ALL BEEN REVIEW, NOW FOR OUR TEXT FOR THIS STUDY:

v7 - "war" - there will be a great war in heaven.

- "Michael" - He is the chief angel of God and he and all the faithful angels will fight against Satan and his angels and will defeat them in heaven.
- "dragon fought" - Here's the battle - get it - on one side all the faithful angels, Michael, etc., (remember in Jude, Satan wanted the body of Moses but God said "NO" Michael and Satan fought over the body of Moses. God had use for the body of Moses later, during the Tribulation, as a witness).

NOW WE ARE COMING TO A MOST IMPORTANT SECTION ABOUT THE DEVIL

There are people who will tell you that there is no devil. If you don't believe there is a devil, just go out into the world and you will encounter him and you will find out that the scripture is true.

v8 - "prevailed not" - the devil is not going to win against God.

- "neither was place found" - in the middle of the Tribulation, the devil and all his angels are going to be cast out of heaven never going to be able to go back again. Perfect tense, final action, a once and for all.

POINT OF DOCTRINE: The devil still has access to heaven, at the present, remember Job? The devil is walking up and down heaven today accusing you and me and all Christians before God.

v9 - "cast out" - the middle of the Tribulation, his second fall. He fell before when he did not in Jesus and attempted to take God's place but God let him stay around heaven and whenever a "council" met, the devil was there - remember Job? Satan is walking up and down heaven now, accusing you and me before God, but now in the middle of the Tribulation, he is thrown out of heaven (his second fall), never to enter again and at the end of the Tribulation, he will be cast into the bottomless pit and after the millenium, he will be cast into the lake of fire for his third fall.

NOTICE HOW SPECIFIC THE BIBLE IS ABOUT WHO THE DEVIL IS - the Dragon, that old serpent - WHY OLD? He goes back to the Garden of Eden and even before that. Man began to have an old sin nature in the garden of Eden and has had it ever since.

- "devil" - Greek is "diabolos" meaning accuser, means gossip, maligning (speaking evil), accusing. 1 Timothy 3:11 o- Paul says wives of deacons are to be grave, not "diaboloses" not gossipers, not busy-bodies, not maligners. 2 Timothy 3:3 later, when times are terrible people will become "diaboloses", gossips, accusers. Titus 2:3, aged women (who is aged?) dangerous, are not to be diaboloses, gossips, maligners. The devil is a "diabolos" meaning a gossip, an accuser, a maligner and he does all that to you and me. That's what he does.
- "Satan" - Hebrew for Shatan - one who is slandering, who is deceiving, the old serpent, the Devil. Some liberal preacher says imagination created the devil - NO, NO. The devil is described in the Word of God. Those not believing in the devil are going to be trapped by the very one they don't believe in. He is just as real as God or as Jesus Christ and God created him and has let him rule for a while, but God is going to finally crush him. He is real and he is going to get everyone in your family to go against God if he can at all.

- It is not an ignoramus who believes in the Bible, not an ignoramus who believes there is a devil. Any intelligent person who reads the Bible will find out that the devil is real, an accuser, a maligner, a gossip.
- "deceiveth" - plano - keeps on deceiving the whole world. That's what he is doing, making you believe that there's pleasure, victory, joy out there in the world, etc. All you have to do is get out there in the world and you will fall, break to pieces if you don't have God on your side. How many have had their lives fall out from under them? Movie stars, family members, etc., jump from marriage to marriage. The devil deceives the world. The devil want to tear your family apart, drive your children away from home, wants to take your wife/husband away from you, to destroy your life.
  - "cast out" - ballo - ever throw a ball? That's what this means, where our word "ball" comes from. It is aorist passive, meaning that in a point of time, when finally God will say "enough!" and in a moment of time God will cast him out. It means that the subject (Satan) received the action - he was cast out by somebody else - God.

v10 - "now" - a point of time

- "strength" - dunamis - dynamite comes from this word.
- "which accused" - the devil is accusing people day and night. How does the devil accuse people? Human good - he tries to substitute human good for divine good. He's behind all the human efforts of do-good programs. he can say that God isn't needed. Socialism and Communism all came from the devil. He is trying to substitute his program for God's program and his program never will work - on human good. He's got millions of people believing that man is getting better and better and that we will be able to save the world, etc.

v11 - Here is a part that is a parenthesis ( ). How God did it will be shown.

- "blood of the Lamb" - not the actual fluid that flowed from Jesus but stands for the cross, the hill, the people cursing, the death that God allowed Jesus to die, in that one act, Jesus paid for the sins of all mankind. The devil accuses people but God paid for their sins. The devil wants to have do-good programs, deceive the world but God did it by way of the cross.
- "word of testimony" - the cross and the Word of God (testimony)
- "loved not lives" - first the cross, saved at the cross, then the Word of God, learn how to live for God, then we witness in the world - There is God's answer.

NOTICE HOW THIS CHAPER COMES TO A CLIMAX:

v12 - "therefore" - the result of all the preceding verses

- "devil is come down" - notice what He is talking about. The devil has been cast out of heaven now, the middle of the Tribulation, the Jews have fled to the mountains, God is taking care of them, the devil comes to the earth being shut out of heaven. He is going to cause the world more trouble than ever recorded in world history. During the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation, he is going to bring hell on earth, beyond anything the human race has ever known.
- "great wrath" - the devil is going to unleash all his wrath on earth. WHY? Because he knows that he has but a short time. He knows that he is going to be thrown into the lake of fire, the bottomless pit, he knows that he only has 3 1/2 years left. He is going to unleash all his fury and anger upon the human race. It is going to be an awful time. During this time the Jewish race is going to turn to Jesus Christ and believe and at the end of that time Jesus Christ will return and you and I will return with Him. When we come with Him to this earth, Jesus Christ will give a shrill whistle and all the Jews will come from the mountains and all over the world and will bow in belief.

v13 - "woman" - Israel, the Jewish nation. Satan did his best to crush them.

v14 - "two wings" - some commentators call this an airplane but its not an airplane. Matthew 24 tells us that Jesus said that in the last days the Jews will flee into the mountains. the two wings on the eagle are the guardian angels that God will send to lead the Jews to safety. The Jews will be in those mountains of Moab, Amnon and Ammon and there God will protect them for a time, times and a half times - time = 1 year, times = 2 years, half time = 1/2 year thus 3 1/2 years (this is pictoral language) of when the Jews will be in the mountains during the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation and will be cared for by the Lord.

v15 - "water as a flood" o- is an idiom of ARMIES. In Isaiah 8:7; 59:19 waters as a flood coming into destroy Israel, the Assyrian army, like waters of a flood will come in and also other passages as well. The Bible talks of armies coming in like the waters of flood. So now begins the description of the great ARMAGGEDON battle. Come from the North, East, South, West, all these armies of Satan will congregate at one place. This will be the Battle of Armageddon at the end of time.

- "be carried away" - Satan is going to try to destroy every Jew in the world but he's not going to succeed because right at that moment, Jesus Christ will return and defeat him.

v16 - "swallowed up" - earthquakes. The earth will help Jesus. Jerusalem will become a fresh water harbor at that time.

v17 - "went to make war" - these are the last battles of Armageddon.

v18 - The first phrase of 13:1 belongs to this 12th chapter.

- "and he" - (not I) stood upon the sand of the sea

In this 13th chapter, He is going to describe the last, great stand of the devil. The devil isn't going to take this defeat lying down. He's going to call in all his millions of demons and angels. They are going to battle right down to the wire. The devil is doing his very best. REMEMBER, Jesus had two witnesses during the tribulation, Moses and Elijah. The devil is also going to have two witnesses and they are going to rise up and try to deceive the whole earth right at that last time, so it says "and HE stood upon the sand of the sea..."

Chapter 12 is a chapter of victory, of triumph. If you have looked at this world and thought it was going to the dogs, as you looked at murder, theft, alcoholism, drug addiction, war, etc. and you thought that it couldn't get any worse and that there was just no hope at all, take courage for in the end, God will defeat Satan and all will be well. Jesus Christ will come back and we will be in the army that will not be defeated. It is a time of joy and victory.

Stay in this study of the book of the Revelation, listen, look, watch for God has much more to say.