

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET: TWO SPIRITUAL WONDERS STRUGGLING BEHIND THE GREAT TRIBULATION (The Central Characters)

Rev. 12:1-5

Study #25

INTRODUCTION: This chapter rolls back the curtain between earth and heaven and shows what lies behind all the sin and evil and all the conflict and struggle of this world. It is a great *spiritual struggle* for the souls of men. There are three principle characters who have been involved in the spiritual warfare. This study is about these three characters.

I. A WOMAN WITH CHILD

The woman bursts upon the scene and is said to be a great "wonder" or a great sign in heaven. Who is this woman on earth, what people does she represent?

1. The scriptures do not name her, but it is clear who she is.
 - She is clothed with the sun, and the moon is under her feet, and she has upon her head a crown of stars. (Gen. 37:9-11)
 - the sun was Joseph's father, the moon was his mother, the stars were his brothers.
 - She is expecting a child. (v2, 5) This refers clearly to Jesus Christ. (Ps. 2:9).
2. Who is this woman?
 - Some say she is Mary, the mother of Jesus.
 - Some say she is the ideal Jerusalem, the community of God from which Jesus came. However, this idea does not fill all the things this woman does.
 - Some say she is the church. However, it was Jesus who gave birth to the church.
 - Without doubt, this woman is Israel. The very people who gave birth to Jesus Christ.

II. THE SECOND CHARACTER IS THE RED DRAGON OR THE DEVIL

1. The description and authority of the devil is revealed. The description is very different from what people think.... no fiery red serpent creature with a pitchfork, horns, and a pointed tail. Any description of Satan or the devil in the scripture always refers to the evil work he does, not to his looks or appearance. If anything, his appearance is quite magnificent. This passage describes his authority and power.
 - seven heads: complete intelligence, full of knowledge.
 - ten horns: great power by using his head and authority in an evil way.
 - god of this world: 2 Cor. 4:4
 - prince of this world: Jn. 12:31; Jn 14:30; Jn. 16:11
 - prince of the power of the air: Eph. 2:2

- king of a kingdom: Mt. 12:26; Mt. 4:8-9
- has a grip on the whole world: 1 Jn. 5:19

2. The devil originated in heaven.

- his tail draws a third part of heaven. Satan has already drawn one third of the angels to his side.
- he did cast them down. Satan caused one third of the angels to be cast out of heaven to the earth long ago.
- his name is *Lucifer, star of the morning*.
- he was the *anointed cherub who covered*. He was in charge of the glory of the throne of God.
- he fell because he wanted to take God's place. Isa. 14:12-15; Ez. 28:11-19

3. The devil or Satan or the dragon has but one aim and that is to destroy Israel out of his hatred of God.

- he was the serpent in the garden. Gen. 3:15
- he has tried ever since the garden to destroy the seed of the woman....Jesus.
- See the attachment for some of Satan's attempts to destroy the seed of woman.*
- he did all he could to keep Jesus from being born. Now he attempts to turn people away from God to himself.

III. THE THIRD CHARACTER IS JESUS CHRIST

1. Jesus was born or sent into the world to rule the world. To bring godliness and righteousness to earth, to rid the earth of sin and ungodliness.

- He did this by the cross. It is now possible for men to be forgiven of sin and be accepted by God. Jesus judged and destroyed the power of Satan.
Jn. 12:31; Heb. 2:14; Col. 2:15; 1 Jn. 3:8
- He will use a rod of iron (death) against the nations of the world..against all the ungodly and evil in the world...in the end of time. He shall rule all nations and bring righteousness and godliness to earth.
Ps. 2:9; Rev. 2:27; Rev. 19:15

2. Jesus ascended and was exalted to the throne of God. He shall rule and reign and bring righteousness to the earth.

Lk. 22:69; Ro. 1:4; Eph. 1:20; Ph. 2:9-11; 1 Pet. 3:22; Is. 9:6-7

CONCLUSION

1. A careful study of this chapter will reveal why things are as they are on earth. There is a war going on that men and women cannot see but are caught in the middle. A war between God and Satan.....and the war is all about us. Each wants us.

2. Every day we make decisions that give one or the other some of our lives. One day we shall stand before God who is the ultimate winner of the ongoing conflict involving us. Let us be sure to make the right decisions each day.