

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 12
Informational

Dr. Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed*, page 143

This chapter is the prime example of John's adherence to the instructions of writing that which is past, present, and future (Revelation 1:19). John writes the historical record in order for it to support the story of the future. By inspiration of the Holy Spirit, John ties together past and future events, giving insight into the entire story of Israel and Jesus Christ in relation to The Revelation.

Brim Note: A scriptural precedent in the Word of God is what is known as The Song of Moses—Deuteronomy 32. In this song the LORD proclaims, "For the LORD's portion is His people: Jacob is the lot of His inheritance" (Deuteronomy 32:9).

David Baron, *Israel in the Plan of God*, (page 17).

This sublime song (Deuteronomy 32), which for loftiness of style and sublimity of language has scarcely anything to equal it...has been described by an old German writer, as "God's Manifesto" in relation to the Jewish nation. It is, indeed, a condensed but very comprehensive prophecy, setting forth all the dealings of God with that nation—past, present, and future. In a very ancient Midrashic work, older than the Talmud, the exposition of this chapter closes with the exclamation: "How great is this Song! In it is to be found the present, the past, the future, and the events of the age to come" (*Sifre debe Rab*).

Rev. 12:1 ¶ *And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman arrayed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars;*

Rev. 12:2 *and she was with child; and she crieth out, travailing in birth, and in pain to be delivered.*

The woman is Israel. (See Joseph's dream: Genesis 37:9, 10.)

The Child she is to be delivered of is The Messiah. The New Testament clearly states that it is Israel "of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came" (Romans 9:4, 5).

Rev. 12:3 *And there was seen another sign in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his heads seven diadems.*

Rev. 12:4 *And his tail draweth the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon standeth before the woman that is about to be delivered, that when she is delivered he may devour her child.*

Satan (*Adversary* in Hebrew) has known the Promised Seed was coming since the Garden. It is an amazing study to see how he opposed Israel's seed down through History. Sometimes he got as close as he could. The Seed was eventually marked to come from Judah. Judah would have died childless had it not been for the misunderstood actions of Tamar to deceive him into conceiving a son. (Genesis 38. Notice particularly verse 26. "And Judah acknowledged *them*, and said, She hath been more righteous than I;") Atheliah destroyed all the heirs to David's throne but one baby boy who was hidden. Satan was the ancient adversary. At the birth of Jesus, he was suspicious of the Magi from the East following a star. None of his efforts availed. He was not able to kill that Seed until he played into God's hand and Jesus was offered upon the altar of the Cross, the perfect sacrifice, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world for the sins of humanity.

And at that time, He, the Jewish Messiah was cut off exactly as Gabriel told the Prophet Daniel in answer to his intercessions for "my people Israel...." (Daniel 9:20).

Rev. 12:5 *And she was delivered of a son, a man child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and unto his throne.*

Satan is the dragon.

A third of the angels followed him in rebellion.

Scripture is clear that the Child who will rule all nations with a rod of iron is Jesus (Revelation 19:15).

And, of course He was caught up to Heaven to be seated at the right hand of the Father.

Rev. 12:6 *And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that there they may nourish her a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*

Here we have the Lord's protection of the remnant of Israel during the last half of Daniel's seventieth week. (See Appendix: Daniel's Seventieth Week.)

Rev. 12:7 *¶ And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels going forth to war with the dragon; and the dragon warred and his angels;*

Rev. 12:8 *and they prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven.*

Rev. 12:9 *And the great dragon was cast down, the old serpent, he that is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.*

I see this war as past, as did Dr. Sutton.

Billye Brim, *The Blood and the Glory*, (pages 30, 31).

The criteria for God's work is that it is "perfect" and "glorious" (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 111:3). Therefore the beings He designed to work with Him must contain a

certain “thing.” That “thing” is dangerous to the Creator. But His created beings would be nothing more than puppets without it. That “thing” is a free will.

God is not a creator of Pinocchio’s, nor even of marvelous looking humanoid creatures programmed by microchips to worship and obey Him without fail...Worship is only meaningful when the worshipper wills to worship. Obedience can bring God pleasure only when the “obeyer” chooses to obey.

One’s will is his “chooser.” With it he makes the choices which determine his eternal destiny.

God gave Lucifer—as He gave all the angels—a free will in the day of his creation. Lucifer must have used it to worship and please God for some measure of Eternity. How long the Bible does not reveal. But it does reveal that he was the first to turn his will against the Father’s and that caused his fall.

How did he fall? How did it happen? The following passage gives the answer. (Satan is not in hell now. But when he goes there, earth’s kings that he deceived are waiting on him. They are imprisoned awaiting final judgment. Astonished at his weakness, they ask the question, “How art thou fallen?”)

Is. 14:9 Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet *thee* at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, *even* all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.

Is. 14:10 All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us?

Is. 14:11 Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, *and* the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.

Is. 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Is. 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Is. 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Is. 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Is. 14:16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, *and* consider thee, *saying*, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

Is. 14:17 *That* made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; *that* opened not the house of his prisoners?

Lucifer’s five treasonous “I wills” reveal much.

“I will ascend into heaven.” His kingdom was in a place from which he had to go up to carry out his rebellious plan.

“I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.” Lucifer had a throne, and therefore a kingdom.

“I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.” This describes the place of God’s throne. Lucifer was after the throne of God.

“I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.” The atmosphere of Lucifer’s kingdom included clouds—clouds he would surmount in an attempt to exalt his throne. many Bible scholars agree that his kingdom was here on earth. it was “the world that then was” (2 Peter 3:5, 6).

"I will be like the most High." All this entails we do not know. But his later temptation of Jesus reveals that he wanted to receive rather than to give worship.

There was a real *star wars*!

Lucifer deceived even one third of the angels and led an organized revolt against the Most High God.

What was the outcome?

Jesus told us. "And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (Luke 10:18).

Rev. 12:10 *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.*

Rev. 12:11 *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.*

"The accuser of our brethren." How telling.

It is he who accuses us. Before God. To the world. To each other. And to ourselves.

I am not perfect at it, but I make a very conscious effort not to be on his side as the accuser of the brethren.

How marvelous that we can overcome him!

How marvelous the always-overcoming power of the blood of the Lamb!

How marvelous the word of our testimony as to the efficacy of the power of the blood!

There are those in the scope of things who give their lives in martyrdom.

There are many more who give up personal ambitions and yearnings to serve the Master.

Rev. 12:12 *Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe for the earth and for the sea: because the devil is gone down unto you, having great wrath, knowing that he hath but a short time.*

The Greek word translated "time" is *kairos*, a fixed time.

Adam was granted a six-day work week—a day being a thousand years.

Legally, but not morally, Adam turned over his authority to Satan.

Satan knows when Adam's lease is up.

With great wrath, he is now desperately fighting for his survival.

Rev. 12:13-17

Satan knows that if he can stop God's Word from coming to pass, he can defeat God.

God has spoken much regarding His portion among the nations, Israel and the Promised Land. His people and His Land (Joel 3:2).

For thousands of years, the adversary of God has attempted to keep those words from coming to pass by persecution of Israel. Through the Romans, through the Crusades, the Inquisition, Russian Pogroms, the Holocaust, Anti-Semitism etc., he has attempted to wipe out the relatively small number of Jews in the world. And he will continue it until their Messiah comes on His white horse to banish Satan to the pit. God protects "the woman" till then.