

**THE RED DRAGON & THE QUEEN**

Episode Eleven: Revelation 12

There is a war fought in celestial realms. It’s the only one that matters. An ancient and ongoing battle that fuels all wars. A red dragon stalks the earth in fury, trying to destroy a Queen, her Son, and his people. It’s a story of anti-Semitism, pogroms, and holocausts. The epic Chronicles of Israel, Jesus, and his followers. We must grasp this mega-story in order to triumph in the days ahead.

1. **The Great Sign in Heaven** [Revelation 12:1] Greek: *mega semeion*. First of several great signs describing the protagonists of the War of the Ages (chapters 12-17).
2. The **Woman**, representing Israel [Rev. 12]
3. The **Dragon**, referring to Satan [Rev. 12&13]
4. The **Man-Child**, referring to Jesus Christ [Rev. 12}
5. The **Archangel Michael**, head of the angelic armies [Rev. 12]
6. The **Offspring of the Woman** who are the followers of Christ [Rev. 12&14]
7. The **Beast out of the Sea,** the final great world government and/or antichrist. [Rev.13]
8. The **Beast from the Earth**, the false prophet, false world religion, or the antichrist. [Rev. 13]
9. The **Lamb’s 144,000** or the persevering holy and faithful followers of Christ. [Rev. 14]
10. **Babylon the Great**, the mother of all prostitutes, the enticing face of the Beast. [Rev. 17]

**Note:** The number nine in biblical numerology means finality. These are the final and most important protagonists in the “War to end all Wars”.

1. **A Woman Clothed in the Sun.** [Rev. 12:1&2] Clearly Israel. SeeJoseph’s dream in Genesis 37:9-11 where Jacob is represented by the sun, and Rachel is represented by the moon. His eleven brothers are represented by eleven stars that bow down to him, the twelfth star. These twelve brothers are the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel—(which are the crown around the woman’s head)

**“She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth”** [vs. 2]Israel is the mother of the Messiah who will change the world—the *Lion of the Tribe of Judah* (the firstborn son of Jacob). He is the One who will fulfill the promise God made to Jacob’s grandfather; that is, to bring an uncountable number of people from every tongue, tribe, and nation into Abraham’s family.

She is also the mother of “other offspring”—those (both Jew and Gentile) who follow her great Son, Jesus [Rev. 2:17] Therefore, Israel is the mother of Christianity. That’s why we use the term *Judeo-Christian* to describe our Faith and the culture it produced.

**Application:** How can anyone call himself or herself a follower of Christ and be anti-Semitic? Our Savior is a Jew. The Apostles were Jews. The writers of our Bible were Jews. To be anti-Semitic is to hate our own spiritual mother. To try to kill her, whether through pogroms or holocausts or any kind of anti-Semitic behavior, is to engage in *matricide*.

This is why, though we may not agree with all the actions of various Israeli governments, and while we may have great sympathy for the plight of many Palestinians, we must always side with God’s covenant with Abraham, the covenant whereby God give the land now occupied by Israel to Abraham’s natural descendants, the Jews. It is theirs forever by divine right. {Genesis 15:17-21]

No U.N. decree, no U.S. attempts to broker a two-state deal, no pro-Palestinian bias in the news or halls of Congress, or Arab intervention, can supersede God’s forever covenant. Nor can we side with the descendants of Ishmael (Abraham’s son by the Egyptian, Hagar). Despite what the Koran illegitimately claims, the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant belong to the Jewish descendants of Isaac (the son born to Abraham’s wife, Sarah), and not to Ishmael the father of Arabs and Islam [Genesis 17:19-22} The Palestinians simply have no legal or historical right to the land, or any part of it, unless as being Israeli citizens. If the U.S. policy ever changes and it sides with the Palestinian/Arab claims to any of the land (or, if any other nations do for that matter) America will be signing its own death warrant.

As we shall later see, the nations of the earth will march against Jerusalem and Israel. The final great battle will be fought in the Valley of Jezreel, or, as the book of Revelation calls it, *Armageddon*. This attempt, by the nations of the world, to overturn God’s covenant with Abraham, will invite the armies of heaven, led by the King of Kings, to unleash the great and final wrath of God upon the earth. [Revelation 19] Though we, as Christians, are under the New Covenant, it does not permit us the right to ignore the forever promises of God’s former covenants—and particularly when it comes to Israel.

1. **A Red Dragon.** [Rev. 12:3] This is Satan. [Rev. 12:9] Notice the way he is presented.

* ***Dragon***: The most ferocious and murderous of all beasts in ancient, and even contemporary literature. Satan is a “thief, who comes only to kill, rob, and destroy.” [John 10:10] The dragon is the greatest of all beasts of prey, and there is no greater beast of prey than the Great Archangel formerly known as Lucifer. Though he can masquerade as an angel of light, a dragon bests describes his true person and character.
* ***Enormous****.* He is the mightiest of all the beasts of prey. We cannot, in our flesh stand against him. Yet, when he warred against heaven, we are told, *“But he was not strong enough, and they (he and his fallen angels) were not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down…”* [Rev. 12:8&9]
* ***Red****.* Perhaps in reference to all the blood he has spilled in his lifetime. A better reading from the original might be *fiery dragon* or *fire dragon.* A reference perhaps to his origins. Ezekiel 28:11-19 speaks of his rebellion when he was a guardian angel in Eden. This author believes that he rebelled at the time of his temptation of Adam and Eve in Eden. Before that, he had been assigned by God to guard Eden. and our original parents. In Ezekiel, we read that he was a *Seraphim,* one of the angels created from the fires of heaven to worship God [See Isaiah 6]. He was perhaps the praise leader in heaven, the highest and most beautiful of the Archangels when he rebelled against God. [see Isaiah 14]
* ***Seven Heads, Ten Horns and Seven Crowns***. You will notice in Revelation 13, that the Beast that comes out of the Sea (the final Great World Government of the Antichrist] has the same seven heads, ten horns, and seven crowns as the Red Dragon. Though we will discuss that meaning in our next study on Revelation 13, suffice it to say that the Evil Government (that is Creation rather than Creator-centric), is always a reflection of the Prince of Darkness its ultimate architect. What is going wrong in American government today, and even in our past history, has always been conceived in the bowels of hell. As St. Paul says, *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”* [Ephesians 6:12]
* ***Seven heads***:He was created by God, and ultimately controlled by him [see Job 1&2]***Ten Horns***: He has complete power over his dark domain, and those principalities and powers that are in league with him. Only those in Christ can ever stand against him. ***Seven Crowns***:His authority has been granted to him by God alone. He may be a lion, but he is on a leash that is held firmly by God. Whatever he does for evil, God turns into good for those who love him and are called according to his purpose. [Romans 8:28] All the bad things he does ultimately abound to God’s glory [examples of that are Jacob’s son, Joseph, Job, and the Cross of Jesus].
* ***Star-sweeping Tail***: Refers to his original rebellion in which he deceived one-third of the angels in heaven (which St. John refers to as *stars*). By his deception, they were flung to the earth [Isaiah 14 & Ezekiel 28].

1. **The Never-Ending World War**. [Revelation 12:4-6; 13-17] The war that began in Genesis 3, and will not end until Revelation 19, is between two kingdoms: God’s and Satan’s; light and darkness; evil and good. King Jesus versus the Prince of the Air. It never stops, is everywhere at all times, and all-out, winner-take-all. It will only end when one King is victorious and the other utterly defeated. There are no neutral zones, or R&R respites. Every one of us is either on one side or the other. There is no middle ground. We will either reign forever with Jesus or suffer eternal death with Satan. This is the most monumental choice of all. It is imperative to make the right choice, and to make it now! Your eternity hangs in the balance.

* **The dragon must kill the woman’s child or his doom is sure.** [Rev. 12:4-6]

*“The dragon stood in front of the woman so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.”* [vs. 4] This may well refer to Herod’s plot to kill the baby Jesus. But it revolves around all of history. Satan tried to kill Eve. He sent his fallen angels to copulate with Adam and Eve’s descendants before the flood, to keep Jesus from coming. He tried to destroy Noah. He tried to destroy Israel again and again so a Savior couldn’t come from her. Even now he hates Israel because she is the apple of God’s eye. Whomever God loves, Satan hates and will try to destroy. Just as he worked through Herod to kill the baby Jesus, he worked through the religious elite and the Roman authorities to crucify Jesus.

* **Jesus is indestructible**, He is destined to destroy the devil and all his forces. [vs. 5] Martin Luther in his great hymn, *A Mighty Fortress* reminds us that one little word will fell Satan. He goes on to say that one word, above all earthly powers, is Jesus. He does rule with an “iron scepter.”
* Israel’s child *“was snatched up to God and his throne.”* [vs. 5] This refers to **the death, burial, and ascension of Jesus** to heaven. As Jesus said to Pilate, not a hair on his head could have been harmed except that he allowed it to happen to fulfill God’s salvation plan. He had all of heaven’s angelic arsenal at his disposal, but submitted to the Red Dragon’s diabolical plan so that God could save the world.
* The Red Dragon has never stopped pursuing Israel, the Mother of Christ and our Christian Faith [Rev. 12:6 &13-16] Is this a recap of the history of the Jews throughout the centuries, or of what happens during the time of God’s Wrath being poured out on the earth (in the light of the 1260 days in verses 6 and 14)? If you take those numbers as symbolic it is all of history since Christ’s Ascension. If you take them literally, it is during the time of God’s wrath on the earth.

Whichever one is beleived, this much is sure: **The devil will not stop in his attempt to destroy Israel and the Jews**. How else do we explain the unrelenting anti-Semitism in history? The persecutions and pogroms in history? The holocaust of Nazi Germany? The universal hatred of Israel by the nations of the world? The anti-Israeli bias of the progressive left in Europe and North America?

Also, **God will not allow his people, the Jews, to be wiped out nor Israel to go under**. No other nation has ever ceased to exist, and then come back again. Yet, Israel has been reborn twice: first after the Babylonian destruction, and then again in 1948 after almost 2,000 years. No nation should ever go against Israel without expecting ultimate payback from heaven. No individual should ever take an anti-Semitic stance without expecting God’s discipline.

On a recent Instagram, V.P. Kamala Harris’ niece, Meena called the Israeli’s “the army of occupation” in so-called Palestine. She said that we couldn’t pick and choose which side we were on. It had to be on the side of the Palestinians. She did say one thing right though: you can’t ignore (or be neutral) regarding the battle that is raging. Again, we might not agree with all of the policies of the Israeli government in its treatment of the Palestinians, or in its draconian response to Hamas terrorism, but we cannot side with the Palestinian insistence on the removal of the state of Israel.

Yet, we should prepare for the nations to increasingly rise up against Israel in the future.

1. **The War in Heaven**. [Rev. 12:10-12] Does this describe the war in heaven when Lucifer and the fallen angels first rebelled against God? Or did it happen after Christ ascended to heaven, as the narrative flow of this chapter might suggest? Certainly, we know in the time of Job that the fallen angels were allowed to appear before God in heaven. When his disciples returned from sharing the gospel, he said, *“I saw Satan fall like lightening from heaven.”* [Luke 10:18] Was he foreseeing what would soon take place when he returned to heaven.

* *“He was hurled down to earth.”* [vs. 9]He, nor his armies of angels and demons, can stand against the forces of heaven. **Are you on the right side**?
* *“He is filled with fury because he knows his time is short.”* [vs. 12] We should prepare to see more fury against Israel, followers of Jesus, and anything that is godly (even God’s natural laws, his views of sexuality, marriage, family, the life of the unborn, and anything else that is part of his ordained order). As Satan’s time grows shorter, his fury will grow greater.

1. **War Against the Church**. [Rev. 12:17] If Satan hates those who are loved by God, we should be prepared that he will hate Christians even more than Jews; and the church even more than Israel—for they are the fruits of the Woman. We should not be surprised to see, as a result of the continual abandonment of God’s principles in our land, an acceleration of hatred against Christians and a war against the church. As much as we look forward to the Return of Christ and the New Heaven and Earth, we should remember that we have to journey through the earlier chapters in Revelation, and **prepare ourselves and our loved ones accordingly**!