

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study #51: A Woman & A Red 7 Headed Dragon
Revelation 12:1 - 6
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Revelation 12 is the beginning of the second half of the book of Revelation. Revelation 12 is the fifth vision that also begins with a heavenly scene. Revelation 12 reveals the great controversy between Christ and Satan; true followers of Christ vs. followers of Satan; God's true church vs. Satan's counterfeit; God's truth vs. Satan's lie; and true good news of the gospel vs. Satan's fake news.

The study of Revelation 12 takes us back where the great controversy started. It reveals that the enemy of souls only purpose in life is to kill, steal and destroy!

In general what is the definition of the “great controversy”?

Dictionary.com defines “Controversy”

1. a prolonged public dispute, debate, or contention; disputation concerning a matter of opinion.
2. contention, strife, or argument.

“**Great**” **controversy** not only reveals its size, magnitude, and worldwide coverage, but it also reveals its preeminence and vital importance. The great controversy involves every person on this planet! The great controversy is the greatest and most important decision in life. This controversy is NOT fought with the weaponry of bullets and guns but only through prayer and the word of God.

Before we study the prophecy of the great controversy in Revelation 12, let's first lay the foundation.

What gifts and blessings did God give to humans at creation?

Genesis 1:27-29

27 So God created man in his own image, in the **image of God** created he him; **male and female** created he them.

28 And God **blessed** them, and God said unto them, Be **fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth**, and **subdue it**: and have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every **herb bearing seed**, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat (food).

Gifts given to humans at creation based on Genesis 1:27 - 29

- 1) Life, made in the image of God! We were created in the image of God to glorify God by perfectly reflecting the character of God.
- 2) Gender, male and female. Your gender is given by God as a gift from God!
- 3) Procreation in marriage: male and female (husband and wife) the ability to have children that are not only made in the image of God, but also in the likeness of their parents.
- 4) Subdue the earth and have dominion over it: animals, fish, birds, and other living creatures.

“Subdue” (Hebrew) = to keep under subjection

“Dominion” (Hebrew) = reign or rule over

When God made humans, we were automatically princes and princess of God, the King of the universe and heaven. As a great gift God gave us rulership over His perfect creation on Earth! We were given this gift as a blessing and for holy, undefiled enjoyment and pleasure. We were not to be kings over each other because God as our Creator, is our perfect King!

5) Food – fruits, nuts, grains, and seed (the original meat!).

When Adam and Eve choose to yield to the temptation of Satan, Satan subdued humans and made them his prisoners and slaves to be executed by him. Satan stole away the gift of human dominion over the earth and became the ruler of this world. Even though Satan does not have the power to create as God, he claimed everything on this planet as his!

Before Adam and Eve sinned God warned them about Satan! They rebelled against the explicit will of God. God could have left them to perish under their own weight of sin! God created them perfect. The rebellion was not God's fault. He supplied the gifts and blessings to humans, but it was stolen from them through the cunning craft and deceit of Satan.

Satan thought the Earth was his forever. He gloated and bragged about his supposed victory over God. He thought that it was going to be his eternal headquarters of evil throughout the universe! He thought that if he was able to steal the dominion of Earth, maybe he can get the other worlds and even Heaven itself!

Do you think Satan was going to allow humans to live in his newly conquered Earth? Satan hates the image of God.

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

John 10:10 (Jesus says)

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Satan's plan was to totally destroy Adam and Eve! They were doomed!

Did God leave his Creation to be destroyed by Satan without any hope? **Remember, there is NO controversy without opposition!**

When does Jesus start the great controversy on this earth?

Even though we rebelled against God, God out of his great love started the great controversy against Satan. God's love says, "Wait a minute, Satan. You thought that the dominion that you have stolen from man would be yours forever. I got real important news for you, Adam and Eve, and ALL the universe."

What did God say to the "serpent", Satan?

Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

God reveals to Satan and the world how MUCH He loves us. Genesis 3:15 is God's plan of salvation, His everlasting covenant revealed to the world. The population on this planet at the time was only two people. God reveals to Satan that he will not have permission to destroy Adam and Eve and stop them from multiplying their seed. God reveals that their will be future seeds of children that will be allowed by God to live. But each one will have a choice of who's side of the great controversy that they will be on, God's or Satan's. Who do you believe?

Who is the woman that God is referring to in Genesis 3:15?

Jeremiah 6:2

2 I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate *woman*.

The daughter of Zion are God's people. Here God's people are described as a woman.

Ephesians 5:23-32 God's people, His wife, the woman, are described as God's true and pure church.

Ephesians 5:23-32

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning **Christ and the church**.

In Genesis 3:15 Christ establishes His church on this earth. The woman in Genesis 3:15 clearly represents the true people or the pure church of God.

What reveals that the pure church of God are the true children of God?

1 John 3:9

9 Whosoever is born of God **doth not commit sin**; for his **seed remaineth in him**: and he **cannot sin**, because he is **born of God**.

1 John 5:18-20

18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

"Thy seed"

"Thy seed" in Genesis 3:15 is the seed or children of Satan.

Who are the children of Satan?

1 John 3:8 & 10

8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning.

10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

The seed of Satan or the children of Satan are people who chose Satan by disobeying God's Law.

“I will put enmity”

Enmity (Hebrew) 'êybâh [ay-baw] From H340; hostility: - hatred. - Strong's Hebrew Dictionary

God in Genesis 3:15, makes it clear to Satan and all people that God promises to put hatred or enmity between God's people and Satan's people, Satan, and sin. God's people or true church, are those who obey God rather than Satan and hate sin.

The enmity or hatred of sin, Satan, and his devices is a great gift from God for those who are born again in Christ Jesus! Those who are born again hate the worldly things they used to love and love the Heavenly and holy things you used to hate!

Psalm 97:10

10 Ye that love the LORD, **hate evil**: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Matthew 6:24 (Jesus says)

24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the **one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.**

Amos 5:14-15

14 **Seek good**, and **not evil**, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.

15 **Hate the evil, and love the good**, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

What is the opposite of this that Satan's people do, even though they may profess to be “children of God”?

Micah 3:1-2

1 And I said, Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob, and ye princes of the house of Israel; Is it not for you to know judgment?

2 Who **hate the good, and love the evil**; who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones.

God's TRUE CHURCH is clearly distinguishable – NO CONFUSION

God, in Genesis 3:15, makes it clear to Satan and all people that He promises to put hatred or enmity between God's people and Satan's people, Satan, and sin. God's people or true church, are those who obey God rather than Satan and hate sin. In other words, God is making it clear here in Genesis 3:15 that God's pure people or church will be clearly distinguishable from Satan and his evilness.

Who is the “it” that is of the woman in Genesis 3:15 that promises to “bruise” the head of Satan even though Satan will be allowed to bruise the heel of “it”?

“It” who is part of the woman, the head of the woman, is NO other than Jesus Christ manifested to destroy the Devil and his evil work. Jesus the head of the his church, gave himself to it through His blood!

“Bruise” in the original Hebrew is not referring to a superficial or surface bruise on the head of Satan.

“Bruise” (Hebrew) = shûph [shoof]

A primitive root; properly to **gape**, that is, **snap** at; figuratively to **overwhelm**: - **break**. - Strong's

Gape = a wide opening!

Even though Satan was allowed to pierce and bruise “heel” of Christ at the cross of Calvary, Jesus' death by the cross, spilled blood, and resurrection, busted the head of Satan! Satan's fate was sealed. Satan is walking around with a fatal blow to the head from Christ. Satan is a loser; Jesus will kill him forever in hellfire!

Genesis 3:15, the beginning of the Book links perfectly and prophetically to Revelation 12. Revelation 12 gives more details of Genesis 3:15 in John's fifth vision of Revelation. It gives details of the great controversy.

Satan is self-deceived that he can circumvent his destruction by God as prophesied!

What did Satan try to do in order to avoid his fatal head wound as promised by God in Genesis 3:15?

The answer to this drama can be found in the vision that the prophet John had in Revelation 12:1-5. Let's take a look at this together and see Satan's, the devil's, evil war plan against God and His church unfold. Let's first look at verse 1.

Revelation 12:1

1 And there appeared a **great wonder** in heaven (sky); a **woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:**

So after the prophet John saw the visions of the seven trumpets in Revelation chapters 8-11, John sees a new vision here in Revelation 12:1 of a great wonder in the sky.

“**Wonder**” (Greek) sēmeion [say-mi'-on] = an indication, especially ceremonially or supernaturally: - **miracle, sign, token**. - **Strong's Greek**

John sees a great sign in the sky packed with symbolic meaning.

What is this great sign that John sees here in verse 1?

He sees a woman clothed with the sun, standing on a moon with a crown of 12 stars on her head.

As we mentioned earlier in Genesis 3:15, a woman in Bible prophecy represents God's pure church with God's faithful, obedient, and holy followers of Christ.

God's church is lit with the sun!

What does the sun represent shining on the true church of God?

Malachi 4:2

2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

The sun that shines on the woman standing on the moon in Revelation 12:1 is the righteousness of God. In other words, the woman here is God's true and pure church who is clothed with the righteousness of God which is Jesus Christ.

John 8:12 (Jesus says to the women caught in adultery)

12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

What does the moon in which the woman is standing on represent?

Psalms 89:34-37

34 **My covenant will I not break**, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

35 Once have I **sworn (severed one's self) by my holiness** that I will not lie unto David.

36 His **seed shall endure for ever**, and his throne as the sun before me.

37 **It shall be established for ever as the moon**, and as a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.

God's everlasting covenant here is symbolized as a moon that will stand forever. God's everlasting covenant is His promises to His faithful and obedient people. The moon in which the woman is standing on represents the fulfillment of God's everlasting covenant as promised by God! The woman which is God's pure and true church is established and rooted in the everlasting covenant of God that leads to everlasting life!

What does the crown with 12 stars on the woman's head represent?

Crown (Greek) = "stephanos" {stef'-an-os} which is the type of crown that is given to someone as a symbol of victory or a reward.

The woman in Revelation 12: 1 is not wearing a king's crown which is diadema in the Greek, but she is wearing a stephanos {stef'-an-os}, a crown of a reward or victory.

1 Corinthians 9:25

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

In others words, Paul is saying that the world looks for crowns and rewards or trophies that will fade away into history, but he is striving for a crown or reward that will last forever. Paul is talking about a crown of eternal victory for all who overcome sin by the blood of Jesus Christ.

James 1:12

12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown (**stephanos**) of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

The crown on the woman represents victory and is for all those who overcome the world through the Jesus Christ.

What does the 12 stars on the crown of victory represent in Revelation 12?

Revelation 1:20 it says that the stars represent angels.

Revelation 1:20

20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

These angels are God messengers of truth.

In the Old Testament, God gave His messages of truth to the 12 tribes of Israel to give to the world. In the New Testament, Jesus gave His messages of truth and salvation to His 12 disciples / apostles to give to the world.

144,000 is a multiple of 12 of God's last day worldwide discipleship of truth holding on to the everlasting covenant while sharing the everlasting gospel and giving the loud cry message to come out of Babylon!

We can conclude here that the 12 stars on the crown represent God's disciples or messengers of truth to the world. Like the stars of heaven they light up a dark sky to display awesome power of God!

In Revelation 12:1 Jesus paints for John in vision and us a perfect picture of a pure and obedient church or people clothed with the righteousness of God, rooted and establish in the everlasting covenant of God, with a crown of victory giving truth to the world.

What did John see as this woman was giving birth?

Revelation 12:2-5

2 And she (the woman) being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

3 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**.

4 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**.

5 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.

In Revelation 12:2 the woman, God's true and pure church, is pregnant and about to deliver a baby.

In verse 3 John sees another wonder or sign in the sky. He sees a great red dragon with seven heads, ten horns, and seven crowns on his head.

In verse 4, the tail of this dragon dragged one-third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth.

At the end of verse 4 while the pregnant woman is in pain and about to deliver her baby, the red dragon is in the delivery room standing in front of the her waiting to kill the baby as soon as he is born.

What does this symbolic picture that Jesus paints for us mean here?

First of all we all know that the pregnant woman here represents God's true and pure church or people.

Who does this baby that the woman delivers represent? In verse 5 it says that this baby is a man child or a male who will rule all nations with a rod of iron. Also it says that this baby is caught up unto God to his throne.

Fulfillment of Genesis 3:15, the "it" of the woman

The baby, born of the woman that was clothed with the Sun of heaven, is Divine. This is Jesus. A complete fulfillment of Genesis 3:15.

Only Jesus fits the description of the man-child that was caught up to the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is **set down at the right hand of the throne of God**.

Jesus also fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah 9:6

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

John 10:11 (Jesus says)

11 **I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**

It is Jesus who rules our lives with a spiritual iron rod that guides, corrects, and protects us. This rod is made from iron that will last forever. Also a rod is an emblem of kingship. Christ's rod of iron is eternal, it will last forever!

Jesus is the seed as promised in Genesis 3:15 to fatally crush the head of Satan.

There is no doubt in Revelation 12:5 that the man-child or baby that the woman, the true church of God, delivers is Jesus Christ.

Who is the red dragon waiting to kill the man child, Jesus, after He is born?**Revelation 12:9**

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world.

The great dragon or red dragon in Revelation 12:3 represents Satan, the Devil. It is Satan who is in front of the woman in Revelation 12 waiting to kill the man-child Jesus Christ. Satan is probably described as the red dragon here because of his bloody and murderous act.

What does the seven heads with seven crowns on the red dragon represent?

Crowns (Revelation 12:3) = Diadēma, kingly crowns

The seven dragon heads appear to be kings over kingdoms.

It is also important to note that the Bible makes it clear that Satan attempts to stop God's plan and establish his own everlasting evil kingdom **seven times**. So the seven heads with crowns appears to symbolize the seven attempts Satan makes to try to establish his evil kingdom forever.

1) The first attempt was when he rebelled in heaven. 2) The second attempt was when he got Adam and Eve to sin and later man sinned continually and God had to destroy this earth by a flood. 3) The third attempt was at the tower of Babel. 4) The fourth attempt to establish his kingdom is when Satan tried to kill Jesus and tempt Jesus. 5) The fifth attempt is when Satan in Daniel 7:25 set up a false church system (papacy) to kill off the true people of God. 6) The sixth attempt is at the battle of Armageddon at the second return of Jesus Christ. 7) The seventh attempt is found in Revelation 20:7-10 when Satan tries to overthrow God's heavenly city at the third coming of Christ. Every attempt of Satan at establishing his kingdom has failed and will fail in the future. In Satan's last and seventh attempt, he will be destroyed forever.

Killing or getting Jesus to sin against God was Satan's major and main attempt to establish his evil kingdom forever on earth. If Satan was successful at his plan there would be absolutely no hope for all humanity, we all would have been doomed to eternal death.

Satan, is a student of Bible prophecy, He knew the approximate time that Jesus would be born. He studied the same Bible prophecies that the wise men studied. Just like he used and spoke through the serpent in the Garden of Eden, Satan used the Roman government to try to kill Jesus. Many of you know the story.

Who tried to have Jesus killed when He was born?

Matthew 2:16

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

Why would Satan want to kill Jesus?

To stop the promise of Genesis 3:15, God's plan of salvation. Also Satan wanted to get rid of Jesus in order to establish his own evil kingdom on earth forever. So after Satan was unsuccessful in his attempt to kill Jesus as a baby he did not give up. If you go to Matthew chapter 4 after Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days and nights, you will find that Satan tried to tempt Jesus, his Creator, to bow down and worship him. Satan wanted Jesus to give up the plan of dying to save humanity. Satan wanted Jesus to give him dominion over the earth forever. But Jesus met every temptation of Satan with the word of God. Satan failed at his plan here but he did not give up. Satan used the Roman government again and the Jewish leaders to kill Jesus by nailing Him to a cross. In Luke 23: 46, Satan thought he was successful in killing Jesus forever. Satan thought his plan finally worked and his evil kingdom would be established forever. Satan thought he could defy Bible prophecy and keep Christ dead in the tomb forever, but to no avail. On the third day of His death which was early the first day of the week, Jesus was resurrected back to life, His ministry on earth was complete. His sacrifice for all the sins of the world was complete. Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Genesis 3:15. Colossians 1:18 makes it clear that Jesus is the head of his church and the church is the body. Jesus our Head was victorious for us at the cross. Satan thought he could fatally crush the head of Jesus, the head of God's church, but instead crushing the head of the church, Satan's head was fatally crushed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as prophesied in Genesis 3:15. Jesus is victorious, but Satan is currently walking around with a fatal wound.

Even though Satan was not successful in crushing the head of the church, he is attacking the next logical thing; the body, the church.

As Satan attacks God's faithful people, what has God done in the past and would do again to preserve His truth?

Revelation 12:6

6 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 (1260 days).

Wilderness (Greek) = erēmos [er'-ay-mos]

lonesome, that is, (by implication) waste (usually as a noun, G5561 being implied): - **desert, desolate, solitary**

Revelation 12:6 matches perfectly with the study of the two witnesses, old and new testaments have to prophesy in darkness for the 1260 time period.

It is God's faithful who are using the old and new testament as their witness to the world of God's truth. As a result, Satan persecutes God's faithful to try to stop the truth!

As we already learned historically during the time of the fifth empire since Babylon, the papacy, attacked God's faithful during the 1260 years of their rule. God's preserved His truth in the mountains and solitary places.

During the 1260 literal days at the end of time Satan, will try to eradicate God's people of the truth, but God will preserve them especially during the seven last plagues when the universal death decree is enforced upon them. God will lead them into solitary places.

Appeal

A national emergency will soon be declared! The excuse is a border wall, but what will it lead to? Could it lead to the mark of the beast crisis?

No more time to spare. Today, today, today, today. Now, now, now choose the Lord's side of the great controversy!