

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study #53: Two Wings Of A Great Eagle
Revelation 12:12 - 17
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In our previous studies we learned that Revelation 12 reveals the Great Controversy which involves every person on this planet. Revelation 12 is a direct link to the prophecy of Genesis 3:15. Revelation 12 reveals that Satan is the seven headed dragon who directly attacks Jesus and His pure church. Satan was known as Lucifer in heaven until he and 1/3 of the angels were cast out of heaven because they refused to turn from their rebellion. 1/3 of the angels believed the lies and accusations of Satan. Because his character changed, Lucifer's name changed to *Satan* which means enemy and *Devil* which means false accuser. Remember, God did not create Lucifer to sin, he chose to sin. Lucifer turned his affections and worship to himself, instead of God. He became full of pride and rebellion. God pleaded for Satan and his angels to repent. They refused and were cast out of the heavenly kingdom.

We also learned that the pure church and the message of Bible truth of the law and testimonies of Jesus Christ is preserved even in the midst of persecution and apostasy.

Pure Church defeats Satan

All those who are in the pure church of Jesus Christ and standing on the promise of the everlasting covenant overcome sin and defeat the Dragon "by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death, according to Revelation 12:11.

It is prophesied that ALL those who are on the side of Jesus Christ prevail in the end!

In the first half of Revelation 12:12, what is Jesus' response to those who overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb?

Revelation 12:12

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them...

What warning does Jesus give to the world about the Devil in the second half of Revelation 12:12?

Revelation 12:12

12 ... Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, **having great wrath**, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Wrath (Greek) thumos [thoo-mos']

From G2380; **passion (as if breathing hard): - fierceness, indignation.** - Strong's Greek Dictionary

Satan's only objective as a thief is to kill, steal, and destroy! (John 10:10)

Satan walks this earth as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

Who is one of the main objects of the Devil's attacks until the end of time?

Revelation 12:13

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

Satan hates with a passion the true church of God. As a dragon, Satan uses violence and force to try to persuade God people to rebel against God. Satan also attacks as a serpent by using deceit, lies, and trickery.

Even though Satan is raging mad and attacks the pure church of God with fierce persecution, God has always been able to preserve His truth throughout the centuries until the end of time.

Historically and at end of time, what does God do to in order preserve His truth and His faithful in the midst of intense persecution and Satan's deceptions?

Revelation 12:14

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Remember when Satan is depicted as a serpent, the Bible is emphasizing his deceptive character of lies and trickery to try to uproot the true people of God.

Going back to Revelation 12:6,
Satan used violent means to try to force those who are a part of the true church of God to rebel against God.

Notice again that both Revelation 12:6 and 12:14 is referring to the same 1260 time period.

Verse 6 says, " thousand two hundred and threescore days." This is 1260 days/years

Verse 14 says, " a time, and times, and half a time." Time = 1 year. Times = 2 years. $\frac{1}{2}$ time = $\frac{1}{2}$ year. Total = 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years = 1260 days / year.

This is the same 1260 period that was referred to in Revelation 11 concerning the two witnesses.

1260 years (Historic)

Historically, the 1260 period is referring to the 1260 of the Papal Rome Empire from 538 to 1798 AD. They used violence and deceit against the true faithful people of God who held on to both the law and the testimonies.

1260 days (End Time)

From our previous study on Daniel 12:7 and 14 Papal Rome will be set up again as the seventh Empire since Babylon. During this end time period of 1260 literal days (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years), God's faithful will also be persecuted with violence and attacked with lies and deceit by Papal Rome.

As Revelation 12:6 and 14 points out, Satan uses violence and deceit as a dragon and serpent to attack the true people of God. In both verses Jesus still nourishes and feeds His faithful even in the midst of intense persecution and apostasy.

The true and faithful people of God are fed and nourished because they are daily partakers of the bread of life, Jesus Christ. Their relationship with God is not based on the imagination of men, but the Word of God.

They seek, study, and are obedient to ALL the truths of God's Word. With great joy they also share it with others.

Two Wings as a great eagle

Remember, from our previous studies that the woman spoken of in Revelation chapter 12 beginning with verse 1 is a symbolic picture of God's true and pure church that is covered with the righteousness of Jesus Christ standing on the everlasting covenant of God. **Notice that in Revelation 12:14 that God gives his true church two wings of a great eagle so she might fly into the wilderness to be nourished or fed for the 1260 period, historically and at the end of time.**

To learn more about this scene of God's people are given two wings as a great eagle and nourished in the wilderness we must go back to learn some valuable lessons of how God nourished and fed the children in the midst of the wilderness after He delivered them from Egyptian bondage.

During Israel's many years of slavery, many of them lost sight of the everlasting covenant. As slaves they adopted the heathen practices, entertainment, amusements, customs and worship of the many false gods of Egypt. Satan deceived many Israelites away from the true God in Heaven. Even though the majority of God's people in Egypt turned their backs on Him during this time, God still loved them, He still wanted to preserve His truth in a people who would be obedient to Him and His Word.

After years of slavery in Egypt God delivered Israel as he prophesied to Abraham in order to preserve His truth and the everlasting covenant.

How does God describe His delivery of Israel from Egyptian slavery in Exodus 19:4?

Exodus 19:4

4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how **I bare you on eagles' wings**, and brought you unto myself.

This description of how God delivered Israel from Egypt sounds similar to Revelation 12:14 in which the church is given two wings of a great eagle to fly away into the wilderness.

The eagle is one of the most powerful birds in the sky. It is the king of all birds because of its size, hunting ability, large wing span, and muscular legs and talons (claws). An eagle's eyesight is over three times more sharp and accurate than human eyes.

Deuteronomy 32:9-13

9 For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.

10 He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

11 **As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:**

12 So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

13 He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

God is compared to an eagle to save His people. In Revelation 12:14, the picture of God's true church given two wings of a great eagle represents God rescuing His people or His church from total destruction.

When we go back to John's vision in Revelation 12:14, notice that after God gives His woman, His pure church, eagle's wings to fly away, where does God have His church fly to?

The wilderness, a desolate place of desert and mountain ranges. That's right. And while they are in the wilderness like the children of Israel they were fed and received nourishment both physically and spiritually by God.

Why did God have to rescue His pure and true church in Revelation 12:14?

Revelation 12:15-16

15 **And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.**

16 **And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.**

In verse 15 and 16, as a serpent, Satan casts out his lies, trickery, and deception as a flood to sweep away God's people into perdition. As a dragon, Satan also persecutes the faithful. God rescues His people from being totally swept away by the serpent and dragon, Satan.

The reason why the true people of God are not swept away by Satan's deceptions is because they are rooted and grounded in God's Word. God's Word, His Holy Bible, is our ONLY safeguard from the overwhelming deceptions of Satan.

Ephesians 4:14-15

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ

Remember, it was prophesied in Daniel that Papal Rome would rule as the fifth empire for 1260 years in Daniel 7:25 and persecute God's people.

Daniel 7:25

25 And he (Little horn=Papal Rome) shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

During the 1260 years Papal Rome, Satan used his false church system to try to annihilate God's truth from existence! To hide their falsehood, greed, and corruption, Papal Rome made it illegal to translate a Bible or to own a Bible. They deceived thousands of people away from the truth of God's word. They killed thousands of people who only lived by the Word of God and stood up against the false doctrines of the Papal Roman church.

During this time it appeared that Satan was going to win and totally wipe out God's truth and His people that followed it forever. It appeared that God's true church and pure people who stood for truth were going to be swept away like a flood by deception and persecution. It appeared that God's truth was going to be destroyed or lost forever. But as we know the prophecy in Revelation 12:16 says that God would rescue a group of true believers in His Word and feed them in the wilderness, a place of seclusion during the 1260 years.

When a flood of persecution and deception was sweeping away many, God had faithful people who had to escape to the wilderness or mountains of Europe during the 1260 years of the Papal Roman Empire. Here are some examples:

Heathen Anglo-Saxons

In the sixth century 501-600 AD the Anglo Saxon barbarian tribe took over Great Britain. Papal Rome sent its apostate missionaries to convert the heathen Anglo Saxon to Catholicism. In turn they persecuted the remnant church in Great Britain. Many had to flee to the mountains and various lands, but in doing so they still spread the message of truth that opposed the doctrines of the papacy.

Waldenses

"But of those who resisted the encroachments of the papal power, the Waldenses stood foremost. In the very land where popery had fixed its seat, there its falsehood and corruption were most steadfastly resisted. For centuries the churches of Piedmont maintained their independence; but the time came at last when Rome insisted upon their submission." Ellen White, Great Controversy, p. 64

Waldenses were a group of Christian believers who were established around the beginning of the 12th Century (1100's AD) located about 415 miles north of Papal Rome known as the Piedmont of Italy or the Alpine Valley that was on the border of France and Switzerland. Their main language was French. In French

the Waldenses was spelled [voh-dwah] Vaudois. “Vaud” in French refers to the people of the Vaud which is the mountain “foot” of the Piedmont.

The Waldenses stood up against the apostasy of the Papal Rome. They were obedient to God’s Word, including all 10 of His commandment. Many Waldenses were persecuted and driven from their homes to go into the wilderness for refuge. For years while in the wilderness God fed them and taught them. Even during these years God used the Waldenses to secretly give His truth to many places in the world. God preserved His truth even in the midst of great deception and persecution. The Waldenses’ faithfulness helped fan the flames of the protestant Reformation.

Evangelism was the focus of their education. They trained their children in the scriptures and manual labor. Many were trained as merchants and “undercover” evangelist who sought after honest hearts of people who wanted the light of truth in the midst of the papacy’s terrorism. They memorized whole books of the Bible in case their Bibles were taken from them they would be able to reproduce it again.

“The Waldenses were among the first of the peoples of Europe to obtain a translation of the Holy Scriptures. Hundreds of years before the Reformation they possessed the Bible in manuscript in their native tongue. They had the truth unadulterated, and this rendered them the special objects of hatred and persecution. They declared the Church of Rome to be the apostate Babylon of the Apocalypse, and at the peril of their lives they stood up to resist her corruptions. While, under the pressure of long-continued persecution, some compromised their faith, little by little yielding its distinctive principles, others held fast the truth.” Ellen White, Great Controversy 65

Notable Waldensian history [<http://www.waldensiantrillofffaith.org/waldensian-timeline> and Wikipedia]

58 - 59 A.D.

Apostles of Christ plant seeds of Christianity in the Waldensian Valleys as they travel across the Cottian Alps into Gaul (France) and other parts of Europe.

1120 AD

An ancient Confession of Faith of the Waldensians predates Calvin, Luther, and Peter Waldo. Peter Waldo was not the founder of the Waldenses but later became a leader in the Waldensian church.

1165 AD

Waldensians escape persecutions in France by fleeing to the Valleys of the Piedmont, and find there like-minded brethren, with whom they enjoy a mutual edification of faith.

1173 AD

Peter Waldo, wealthy merchant of Lyon (France), experiences true Christian conversion, divests himself of his wealth — using some to have a **few passages of scripture translated from Latin to French**. He then takes up the cause of evangelism. He and other fellow evangelist from Lyon called themselves “the Poor in Spirit,” but soon become known as “the Poor of Lyon.”

1180's

When Waldo and his followers ignore repeated warnings by the papacy’s Archbishop of Lyon to stop preaching, their punishment is excommunication and exile. Waldo finds sanctuary among like-minded believers in the Waldensian Valleys of Italy, who buy into his zeal for evangelism and accept him as their leader.

1215

Pope Innocent III officially denounced the Waldensians as heretics.

1400's

The papacy depicted the Waldensians as "witches".

1487

Pope Innocent VIII issued a bull for the extermination of the Waldensians. Horrible massacres took place. Many fled the Piedmont to other locations.

1545

Massacre of Mérindol: Thousands of Waldensians were killed by Papal Rome and villages devastated.

1655

Piedmont "Easter" Massacre: As result of refusing to attend the Catholic Mass, over 1700 Waldenses were slaughtered on April 24, 1655.

The modern papacy acknowledges their past persecution to the Waldensians.

"Pope Francis asks Waldensian Christians to forgive the Church"

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/06/22/pope-francis-asks-waldensian-christians-to-forgive-the-church/>

"Francis has become the first pope in history to visit a Waldensian evangelical church

Pope Francis has asked Waldensian Christians to forgive the Catholic Church for historic persecution.

The Waldensian church, which was founded in the 12th century, was rejected by the Catholic Church and its members were brutally persecuted during the Middle Ages.

"On the part of the Catholic Church, I ask your forgiveness, I ask it for the non-Christian and even inhuman attitudes and behaviour that we have showed you," said Pope Francis.

Who will Satan, as a persecuting dragon, have all out war against at the end of time during the 1260 days?

Revelation 12:17

17 And the **dragon was wroth with the woman**, and went to make war with the **remnant of her seed**, which **keep the commandments of God**, and have the **testimony of Jesus Christ**.

Remnant (Greek): loipoi [loy-poy'] = **remaining ones**: - other, which remain, residue, rest.

The true remnant people of God in the last days remain on the Mountain of Truth. These are the faithful who cling on to the Ten Commandments and the testimony of Jesus Christ. These are the ones who are called extremist and legalist for being obedient to all of God's Word.

The remnant are the seed of the pure church of God in the last days who have hatred toward sin and ALL of Satan's devices. They are totally distinct from the world. They remain pure, true, and faithful to God's Word. They are not caught up in idolatry, in worldly entertainment and amusements. They are rooted and ground in God's Word.

1260 days – end of time

As mentioned earlier in this study, Papal Rome is prophesied to be set up and reign again as the seventh empire. It will repeat many of its deceptions and persecuting ways during the 1260 days at the end of time.

God also gives His last remnant church two wings as a great eagle to fly into the wilderness as they are being chased and hunted for being faithful to ALL of God commandments and testimony of Jesus Christ. This will become very intense during the seven last plagues also known as the time of trouble when probation for all people will have been sealed. During this time God will protect his remnant in the mountains and rocks of the wilderness where they will be fed and nourished by God.

“I saw that if the saints had food laid up by them or in the field in the time of trouble, when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it would be taken from them by violent hands and strangers would reap their fields. Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and He will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water will be sure at that time, and that we shall not lack or suffer hunger; for God is able to spread a table for us in the wilderness. If necessary He would send ravens to feed us, as He did to feed Elijah, or rain manna from heaven, as He did for the Israelites.” Ellen White, *Duty In View of the Time of Trouble*, Early Writings p. 56

God's Psalms 91 promise to His faithful during the time of trouble of the seven last plagues (Let's read verses 1 – 7)

Psalms 91:1-7

- 1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.
- 3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.**
- 5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;
- 6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.
- 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

The Ten Commandments and those who keep ALL the commandments of God will be relentlessly attacked in the last days. Are you going to remain faithful?

“Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict. To every soul will come the searching test: Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Are our feet planted on the rock of God's immutable word? Are we prepared to stand firm in defense of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus? Ellen White, *Great Controversy*, p. 594

Revelation 14:12 describes the faithful remnant that will be saved in the kingdom of God.

Revelation 14:12

12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

In the last days God's faithful remnant people will be strengthen by the Lord given two wings as a great eagle!

Isaiah 40:31

31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Jesus is coming again. Our delivery from this sin sick world is coming. Be faithful. Hold on to all the promises of God's Holy Word. This is NOT the time to get weary in well doing. Get stronger in the Lord. Time is coming to an end quickly. Get ready! Get ready! Be ready!
Appeal...