

# God's Plan for the Future

## Study Sheet

(Content herein based on the work of David Jeremiah, *The Book of Signs*; and from personal study notes)

### The Tribulation: Dragon

Rev 12:1-17

#### The great \_\_\_\_\_ (12:1-2, 5-6)

*And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. (2) She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. ... (5) She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, (6) and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.*

Verse 5 highlights three great events in the life of Jesus that influence all of human history:

\_\_\_\_\_ – "She gave birth to a male child."

\_\_\_\_\_ – "Her child was caught up to God and to His throne."

\_\_\_\_\_ – He will "rule all the nations with a rod of iron."

#### The great \_\_\_\_\_ (12:3-4, 9)

Satan's \_\_\_\_\_ -9

*And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*

*Angel of light* (2Cor 11:14); *morning star* (Isa 14:12).

*Satan* = adversary. *Devil* = slanderer

He tried to keep Christ from the world, and failed. Now he's determined to keep the world from Christ.

**2Cor 4:4** – ...*The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

Satan's \_\_\_\_\_ -3

*And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.*

The dragon's seven heads and ten horns symbolize extreme intelligence and enormous strength

\_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible symbolizes completeness or totality.

\_\_\_\_\_ is the seat of intelligence.

\_\_\_\_\_ is often a biblical symbol of strength.

\_\_\_\_\_ has to do with a crowned ruler. Satan is the ruler of the world.

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Satan's \_\_\_\_\_ -4

*His tail swept down a third of the stars [angels] of heaven and cast them to the earth...*

**Ephesians 6:12** – *We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

Satan's \_\_\_\_\_ -4

*...And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child, he might devour it.*

Satan's obsession: the eradication of God's people.

- "In Eden, he seduced the first couple into disobeying God, no doubt thinking God would destroy them for their rebellion. But to his dismay, God promised redemption to the couple and told Satan he would eventually be crushed by descendants of the woman (Genesis 3:15). Naturally, the devil began plotting to prevent the fulfillment of that prophesy. He learned from God's promise to Abraham that his nemesis would arise out of Israel, so he strove to abort the formation of that nation. He ignited in Esau's heart a murderous rage against Jacob, who would father Israel's twelve tribes. But Satan failed to kill Jacob, so Satan induced Pharaoh to slaughter the male babies of the Israelites in Egypt—a plot which Jesus survived. Had Satan eradicated either Jacob or Moses, there would be no nation of Israel.
- During the reign of Judah's kings, Satan's scheme came within a hair's breath of succeeding. Knowing that the Messiah would emerge from the royal descendants of David, he set about to cut off that line. After the death of King Jehoshaphat, Satan incited a series of assassinations that eradicated all but one family of David's line—King Ahaziah and his children. When Ahaziah was also murdered, his mother, Athaliah, ordered all his royal heirs slaughtered (her own grandchildren!) and took the throne herself.
- Finally, Satan had succeeded. The royal line of David was ended and would never produce the Messiah (or so it seemed). But a sister to the murdered king managed to whisk away and hide his youngest son, Joash, until he could safely be revealed and crowned as the rightful king (2 Chronicles 22:10-12). Again, Satan was thwarted and the line of the Promised One preserved.
- Next, Satan provoked a high Persian official, Haman, to plot the mass extermination of all the Jews. The brave Queen Esther exposed Haman's conspiracy, shattering Satan's scheme yet again (Esther 4:14).
- Despite the dragon's maneuverings, Christ was born. Frustrated but undaunted, Satan goaded the already-evil Herod to slaughter all the baby boys in Bethlehem, thinking this insidious mass infanticide would take out the Christ Child (Matthew 2:16). But through a dream, God directed Joseph to get the Child out of Bethlehem before the killings began. The Child was born—and lived.
- As Jesus neared the end of His 40-day wilderness fast, Satan laid before Him three successive temptations designed to destroy His redemptive mission. But using no weapons other than the Scripture, Jesus repelled Satan's attacks and sent him scurrying away in defeat (Luke 4:1-13).
- The devil makes two more attempts on Jesus' life. He incited Nazareth's leaders to throw Him off a cliff (Luke 4:29) and the Pharisees to stone Him (John 8:59). Jesus miraculously escapes both attempts.
- Finally, however, Satan succeeded. On Friday before the Jewish Passover celebration, the hatred he infused into the hearts of the Jewish leaders finally paid off. He watched in gleeful triumph as they beat Jesus unmercifully and nailed His battered body to a cross to die. When His body was sealed within a tomb, Satan's victory was complete (or so he thought). He did not realize that Jesus' death was but a prelude to His resurrection—the event that would ensure Satan's ultimate doom."

*David Jeremiah, Book of Signs, 317-318; Adapted from W.A. Criswell, Expository Sermons on Revelation, vol 4, 85-87.*

**The great \_\_\_\_\_ (12:7-8)**

*Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, (8) but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.*

**Jn 16:8,11** – *And when [the Holy Spirit] comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment ... (11) concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

**Heb 2:14** – *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.*

Q: If Satan has already been judged by the cross, why is he still free to wage war?

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### The great \_\_\_\_\_ (12:10-13, 15-17)

An \_\_\_\_\_ assault -10-12

*And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. (11) And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. (12) Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"*

An \_\_\_\_\_ assault -13, 15-16

*And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ... (15) The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. (16) But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.*

An \_\_\_\_\_ assault -17

*Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.*

### The great \_\_\_\_\_ (12:14)

*But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.*

**Ex 19:4** – *You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.*

Just as God delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage, He will deliver them again.

God assures Israel that a godly remnant of their number will be saved.

God treats us the same way. All born-again believers are kept in the shadow of God's protective wings!

**Psalm 17:** \_\_\_ – *Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in **the shadow of your wings**,*

**Psalm 36:** \_\_\_ – *How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in **the shadow of your wings**.*

**Psalm 57:** \_\_\_ – *Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in **the shadow of your wings** I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.*

**Psalm 63:** \_\_\_ – *You have been my help, and in **the shadow of your wings** I will sing for joy.*

The dragon's days are numbered. The day is coming when Satan's war will be over and he will be defeated.

Victory over \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ were assured when Jesus died on the cross and rose again! *Praise the Lord!!*