

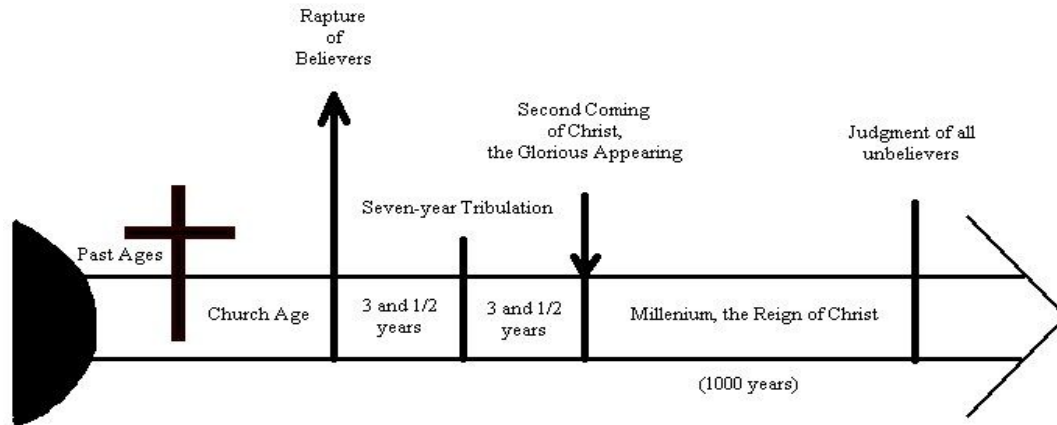
# Finishing Well

Lesson #24

Satan's Final Wars

June 14, 2023

The Bible teaches of the depravity of the human heart and of Satan's desire: destroy God's Chosen People & thwart God's plans to reestablish His theocratic Kingdom.



## Overview of End Times

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Church Age	Rev. 1-3	Rapture: Rev. 4-5	Tribulation: Rev. 6-19
2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming	Rev. 19:11-20	Millennial Kingdom	Rev. 20:1-6

Ps. 2:6-9 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. <sup>7</sup> I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

<sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

<sup>9</sup> Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Bible prophecy reveals there is no let-up in Satan's campaign to destroy Israel.

Immediately prior to Christ's return, the worst genocide of the Jewish people will take place.

➤ "the time of Jacob's trouble" [Jer. 30:7] or the Tribulation.

Zech. 13:8 a sobering truth; two-thirds of the nation of Israel in the land will perish.

Satan will possess a world ruler who is so despicably evil the Bible calls him the Antichrist.

Key: The Antichrist will be a mere pawn in Satan's hand to carry out his evil agenda—one that began thousands of years ago.

Daniel prophesied of the Antichrist's relationship with Israel during the seven-year Tribulation:

Dan. 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week [7 years]:

and in the middle of the week [3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years], he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease,

On the wing of abominations will come one who destroys, until the decreed end is poured out on the one who destroys.

3<sup>rd</sup> Parenthetical Passage: Chapters 12-14

3<sup>rd</sup> parenthesis: Comes between the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet and the bowl judgments, reveals 7 personages:

The Sun Clothed Woman	Israel	Revelation 12:1-2
The Great Red Dragon	Satan	Revelation 12:3-4
The Man Child	Jesus Christ	Revelation 12:5-6
The Archangel	Michael	Revelation 12:7-12
The Jewish Remnant	Remnant Seed Of Woman	Revelation 12:13-17
The Beast out of the Sea	Antichrist; World Dictator	Revelation 13:1-10
The Beast out of the earth	False Prophet; Religious Leader	Revelation 13:11-18

Rev. 12 > Persecution of God's people by the dragon

Rev. 13 > Persecution of God's people by the dragon-energized beasts

Warfare On Earth: Rev. 12:1-6 The Woman, The Child, The Dragon

Explains what Revelation is about - a parenthetical passage that is a flash-back.

It is the consummation of a cosmic battle between God and Satan that has been going on in the supernatural world since the revolt of man in the Garden of Eden. [Gen. 3:15]

Satan tried to stop the first coming of the Messiah.

He will try to prevent the second coming of the Messiah.

John's vision opens with two wonders in heaven Rev. 12:1-5

The first is a woman giving birth to a son Rev. 12:1-2

The second is a great red dragon Rev. 12:3-4

The woman in 12:1-2 a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

This imagery comes out of Joseph's dream in Gen. 37:9-11.

The sun stood for Jacob, the moon for Rachel and the stars for Joseph's brothers.

The woman is the nation of Israel, the descendants of Jacob.

The woman is pregnant and about to give birth. Israel provided the Messiah to the world.

Rev. 12:3-4 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. 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. Satan's long-time hatred: Israel is the source of Jesus Christ who is the means of Satan's defeat and condemnation.

This conflict and ultimate defeat were prophesied in Gen. 3:15.

Throughout OT history, Satan tried to prevent the birth of the Redeemer. There was always a "dragon" standing by, waiting to destroy Israel or the ancestors of the Messiah.

Ezek. 29:3 Pharaoh is called a dragon.

Jer. 51:34 Nebuchadnezzar is called a dragon.

II Kings 11:1-3 The royal line was limited to one little boy.

Matt. 2:16 Satan motivated King Herod to kill all the male babies.

Satan thought he had succeeded when he used Judas to betray the Lord and hand Him over to be crucified. BUT the cross was Satan's defeat.

Remember: Satan has access to heaven where he accuses God's people, but he cannot dethrone the exalted Savior. His strategy is to persecute God's people and devour them if possible.

[I Peter 5:8]. He has a special hatred for the Jewish people and has been the power behind anti-Semitism from the days of Pharaoh and Haman to Hitler and Stalin.

Rev. 12:5 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. [The Ascension]

Note: The colon in the middle of the verse. It represents 33 years of history.

➤ Jesus is waiting to rule all the nations with a rod of iron.

Ps. 2:9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Remember: One of the reasons Jesus died on the cross was to make it possible for man to reassert his rightful dominion over the earth. This is one of the many delayed benefits of the Cross. [glorified body is another one].

Jesus Christ will reclaim dominion over the earth when He returns at the end of the 7 years.

Note: There is a gap between Rev. 12:5 & 6: After Christ's Ascension > Church Age

We skip the first half of the Tribulation period and are now picking up the midpoint.

During the first 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years, Israel will continue to worship in a rebuilt Temple while the Antichrist protects it from aggressive invaders.

During these 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years, God will raise up 2 witnesses, dressed in sackcloth, who will prophesy for 1,260 days. [Rev. 11:3]

God will give them a prophetic message through the power of the Holy Spirit, endow them with power to work miracles and protect them from death until their ministry is complete.

Satan's anger will intensify as he realizes he is unable to destroy Israel.

Antichrist will show his true colors and his hatred of Israel by murdering the 2 witnesses.

But after lying dead in the street for 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  days, the witnesses will miraculously resurrect and ascend into heaven while their enemies watch [Rev. 11:5-12].

This event will take place halfway through the Tribulation. The Antichrist will stop the sacrificial system and begin his savage persecution of the Jewish people [Mt. 24:9-14].

Matt. 24:15 Before His death, Jesus prophesied, Therefore, when you shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

The abomination of desolation will be fulfilled in the middle of the Tribulation in two stages. The Antichrist will seize the Temple halfway through the 7-year period and enthrone himself as God [Matt. 24:15; II Thess. 2:4].

An image of the Antichrist will be erected in the Temple, and people will be commanded to worship him as God. Refusal to do so will mean instant death [Rev. 13:8, 11-15].

The abomination of desolation will be a sign for Jewish people to flee from the Antichrist's rule in Jerusalem.

Matt. 24:16-21 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

<sup>17</sup> Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house:

<sup>18</sup> Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

<sup>19</sup> And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

<sup>20</sup> But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

During winter rain and flash floods make travel extremely difficult.

Public transportation is not available on the Sabbath. Many would be trapped in Jerusalem

<sup>21</sup>For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Rev. 12:6 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]

Verses 7-12 give us the immediate cause. Verses 13-17 provide details of persecution.

An event takes place in Rev. 12:7-12 at the Tribulation's midpoint that will create the greatest Jewish persecution in history.

Warfare In Heaven: Rev. 12:7 Mid-point

Rev. 12:7-8 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, <sup>8</sup> And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Interesting Note: Michael = Who Is Like God versus

Satan's boast in Isa. 14:14> I Will Be Like God

Rev. 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Satan causes men to miss the plan & truth of God by his many methods and traps of deception.

Trap of Occultism                      Mysterious, hidden, area of spiritism

Trap of Religion                      Doing good deeds from a works basis to get God's blessing

Trap of Sin                              Luring people deeper into sin and rebellion with the lie that happiness comes in hedonism.

Trap of Miraculous                    If it is miraculous, then God MUST be behind it.

Trap of Emotionalism      Seeking emotional experiences as a sign of spirituality  
Trap of Materialism      Happiness comes in the abundance of your possessions.

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.

A voice of praise is announcing the millennial kingdom with its salvation accompanied by the power of God and authority of Christ. Salvation in this context is the deliverance from the reign of Satan and the Tribulation and to the completion of that which God will do to establish the reign and rule of Jesus Christ on earth.

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. [3 reasons for victory over Satan:]

1. Blood of the Lamb The basis of victory > the person and work of Christ on the cross  
Satan was defeated at the cross.

We can always resist and overcome Satan IF we turn to Jesus Christ.

2. The Word of Their Testimony = The activity that overcomes and defeats Satan's attacks  
The proclamation of the Word, Bible doctrine & the truth of Jesus Christ by my life and my lip.  
By the Word of God known, believed and applied by faith in consistent Christian living, I can put to silence the accusations of Satan.

Jesus Christ, my advocate, answers Satan's accusations in heaven.

➤ I can answer them by proclaiming and living the Word.

Satan and his world system claim that God is not what man needs.

The world claims man's need is human knowledge, science and the material things of life.

We demonstrate the world to be wrong when we do not live as materialists.

When we love not the world nor the temporal things of the world. [I John 2:15-17]

When we seek to live by God's Holy Word and live as sojourners rather than by the temporal details of life, we counter Satan's accusations. [Job 1 & 2; Matt. 4:4]

3. They did not love their life even unto death. >The Attitude which overcomes Satan

There are 2 vital attitudes of faith that give the capacity to serve the Lord regardless of what Satan might throw at us.

Perspective of Eternity = See this life as a vapor, a training ground and  
a preparation for eternity [I Peter 1:17-2:12]

Tozer: We are made for two worlds and as surely as we now inhabit the one,  
we shall also inhabit the other.

This eternal perspective will lead to a second attitude of faith...

Self-sacrifice even unto death - This life is not the end; it is only the beginning.

It is vital to study God's Word and its doctrines: Doctrine of Death; Doctrine of our eternal hope and inheritance > an inheritance that is untouched by death, unstained by evil and unimpaired by time. [I Peter 1:3-5; Matt. 6:19-21; II Cor. 4:16-18; 5:10]

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

Therefore: The casting down of Satan and victory of the saints

Rejoicing by the inhabitants of heaven

Satan can NO LONGER enter into the heavens.

God's kingdom is about to be established on earth with Satan put away.

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

Woe is Pronounced: Satan will then be restricted to earth and he knows his time is short.

In the middle of the Tribulation all hell will literally break loose on earth.

Satan becomes exceedingly wrathful. Rev. 12:13 - 13:18 describe some of his wrath.

Satan, the great opponent of God, is pitted against the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. 12 As the Accuser he stands in opposition to Christ as Priest and advocate of Believers.

Rev. 13:1-10 As the Dragon and source of the beast, the world dictator, he stands Opposed to Christ as King of Kings.

Rev. 13:11-18 As the source of the 2<sup>nd</sup> beast [False Prophet], he stands opposed to Christ as the Prophet, the one who truly reveals God.

The Persecution Of The Woman: Rev. 12:13-17

Describes Satan's final activities on earth before he is cast into the abyss. [Rev.20:1-3]

12:13-16 The persecution of the woman who is Israel

12:17 The persecution of the godly remnant of believers

13:1 ff The rise of the system of the beast

Note: All the above proceed as a result of Satan's expulsion from heaven and restriction to earth for the last half of the Tribulation.

Rev. 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

Rev. 13:2 Satan gives the Antichrist "his power, his throne and great authority."

The Antichrist, energized by Satan, breaks his treaty with Israel, commits the abomination of desolation and begins to persecute the woman, Israel.

[cf. Dan. 9:27b; 11:36-41; Matt. 24:15-22] All of this is the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

Dan. 9:27 Antichrist will stop the sacrifices at the Temple in Jerusalem.

Matt. 24:15 Set up an abomination of desolation - probably statue of himself

Dan. 11:36-39 Antichrist will blaspheme God.

II Thess. 2:4 Antichrist will declare himself to be God.

Antichrist's purpose will be to annihilate every Jew so God cannot keep His promise to save a great remnant at the end of the 7 years. [Zech. 12:10, 13:1; Rom. 9:27; 11:25-26]

Rev. 12:14 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, [3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years; 42 months; 1260 days] from the face of the serpent.

The first provision of divine deliverance figuratively portrayed as "the two wings of a great eagle." Based on two OT passages: Exodus 19:4 and Deut. 32:11-12

God's protection and deliverance of Israel is likened to an eagle who carried her to safety from the clutches of Egypt.

God performed many supernatural MIRACLES to deliver Israel out of Egypt.

God will work to deliver Israel from the clutches of Satan. [supernatural care]

Matt. 24:16 refers to this: Christ exhorts those in Judea to flee to the mountains when they see the abomination of desolation take place in the city of Jerusalem.

Daniel indicates the location of the safe place. He states that the Antichrist will conquer all the Middle East except Edom, Moab and Ammon. [Dan. 11:41]

These areas are included in modern-day Jordan.

Possibly a hideaway in Jordan > remarkable box canyon city of Petra. In its heyday, [4<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC] it contained a population of tens of thousands.

Note: Zechariah 13:8 reminds us of a sobering truth; two-thirds of the nation of Israel in the land will perish. Evidently many will ignore the warning of Matthew 24:16 and refuse to flee.

Rev. 12:15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.

Satan's all-out effort to destroy the Nation in the greatest anti-Semitism the world has ever known.

The most probable meaning is that of an overwhelming army dispatched by the beast and instigated by Satan. This corresponds to the same figure of speech in the OT.

When the Egyptian armies came against Babylon, Jeremiah said in Jer. 46:8

Egypt riseth up like a flood, and his waters are moved like the rivers; and he saith, I will go up, and will cover the earth; I will destroy the city and the inhabitants thereof.

God is equal to the need. Isa. 59:19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

Ps. 124:1-8 If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, now may Israel say:

<sup>2</sup> If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us:

<sup>3</sup> Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us:

<sup>4</sup> Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul:

<sup>5</sup> Then the proud waters had gone over our soul.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth.

<sup>7</sup> Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.

<sup>8</sup> Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Note: Try as he will, Satan will be unable to reach and destroy the woman in the place of protection and nourishment.

Rev. 12:16 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.

It seems a great chasm will open in the earth, already trembling and unstable from the worldwide earth movements, and swallow them up.

Such a terrestrial miracle is appropriate in the context. The whole situation is analogous to the pursuit of the children of Israel by pharaoh at the time of Exodus.

When the Egyptian armies were drowned in the Red Sea, Miriam sang of the deliverance:

Ex. 15:12 Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.

Not long afterward, a dangerous rebellion was thwarted:

Num. 16:32-33 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. <sup>33</sup> They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

Note: Whatever the exact fulfillment of this prophecy may entail, it is calamitous and devastating to the purposes of the beast and dragon.

Their miraculous deliverance and sustenance will be traumatically persuasive to the Jews, trembling in their refuge.

As the 40 years in the wilderness prepared the people of Israel to enter the land of Canaan, their promised inheritance, so these 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years in the wilderness will make the Jews ready to receive Christ and enter the glorious Millennial Kingdom.

The Persecution Of The Godly Remnant

Rev. 12:17 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.

This verse serves to emphasize that the dragon will become totally frustrated and enraged over his inability to wipe out the woman, but he will become particularly angry with the believing remnant who will turn to Jesus Christ, believe the Word, and stand ready to die for their faith in the Savior.

In Rev. 12 we are given a panoramic view of the angelic conflict and of the supernatural forces of darkness that are ever at work in the world and have been since the fall of Satan when he drew with him a host of angels who chose to follow Satan rather than God.

Thus, Satan has strived mightily to destroy Israel through the centuries up until this present time so that there would be no Israel to invite Jesus to return to the Earth.

Why hasn't Satan been able to accomplish his repeated purpose to kill off this small nation of only a few million people? God has promised to preserve His covenant nation forever.



Jer. 31:35-36 Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day, and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name: "If this fixed order departs from before Me," declares the LORD, "Then the offspring of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before Me forever." If one could first destroy the sun, moon, and stars, then, and only then, could someone go about destroying Israel.

### The Final War Against Israel

Zech. 12:2-3 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

Satan's final attempt to destroy Israel will take place at the Battle of Armageddon in the Valley of Megiddo, when all the nations of the world will come against Israel. The Jewish people will be on the brink of annihilation when Messiah Jesus, in all His glory, will descend from heaven at His Second Coming to defeat Satan, destroy his forces, and save Israel.

➤ Joel 3:9-16; Rev. 16:14, 16; 19:11-19

Jesus will consume the Antichrist with "the breath of His mouth and destroy [him] with the brightness of His coming" [II Thess. 2:8; Rev. 19:11-16].

Rev. 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image.

These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Rev. 20:1-3 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, <sup>3</sup> And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Rev. 20:7-10 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, <sup>8</sup> And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

<sup>9</sup> And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

<sup>10</sup> And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.