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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world - he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom on earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.."* [Acts 16:31a](#) And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* [Romans 10:9,10](#) *"For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* [Romans 10:13](#) *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* [Romans 5:1](#)

Revelations 12

A. The woman clothed with the sun. v.1

“*And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:*” - Revelations 12:1 - και σημειον μεγα ωφθη εν τω ουρανω γυνη περιβεβλημενη τον ηλιον και η σεληνη υποκατω των ποδων αυτης και επι της κεφαλης αυτης στεφανος αστερων δωδεκα.

1. “*And there appeared a great wonder in heaven;*” - *kai semeion mega ophthe en to ourano*. The word **appeared** is the aorist passive indicative of *horao*, which meant to see. If it was it the active voice it would mean to see, but in the passive voice it meant that something was seen. *Horao* also meant that John was really looking at this sign in the heaven. In the aorist tense it tells us that this constellational alignment occurred at a point in time, it was not a recurring event. **In heaven** is en to ourano using the definite article, it says in the heaven, or in the sky.

The word **sign**, *semeion*, denoted something that was miraculous in itself, but pointed to a deeper spiritual significance. But in the classical Greek the word referred especially to the constellations in the heavens as signs or omens. Both are true here because there is spiritual significance connected to this particular sign, but also because this is referring to an actual constellational alignment that did occur in history and will occur again shortly. So it's speaking of an actual constellational alignment that has a spiritual significance concerning the birth of Jesus Christ. The word great, *mega*, tells us how important this sign of this alignment of the constellation is!

2. “*A woman clothed with the sun*” - *gune periblemene ton helion*. The word **clothe** is the perfect passive participle of *periballo*, which meant to encircle from to cast around, or to throw around. The woman is not enveloped by the sun where you couldn't see her head or torso; she isn't clothed by the sun where you could only see her face, but not her body; she is encircled by the sun, which has the idea that the sun is behind her, but you can still see her face and body.

In ancient history the cultic interpretation of the **sun** was that it was a reference to a male deity, God, while the reference to the **moon** denoted the wife of that deity, the goddess. Any **offspring** of that union would make them gods. And this is where we start getting into the spiritual significance that arises out of that constellational alignment, which is what makes a sign, not only a constellational alignment, but also one of doctrinal significance, which tells us these 12 stars are God's children.

So who is this woman? We know she is pregnant with a child; we know that this child is the Messiah; and we know that she is crowned with 12 stars, which refer to the 12 tribes of Israel! The crown on any woman's head throughout history has been the children she has brought into this life. Because there are 12 of them here we know that it refers to the 12 tribes of Israel.

Now we have real life history here involving Jacob because the 12 tribes came from Jacob, whose name was changed by God from Jacob to **Israel** meaning Prince of God. So the nation Israel, who is the woman, was the OT wife of God, and the children she bore him were the 12 tribes of Israel. But when the Word uses **Israel**, it is not referring to the present day nation-state of Israel, nor the people who inhabit it, nor those who call themselves “Jews”! It is referring to the true descendants of the 12 tribes of Israel, who have believed on Jesus as their Savior, these are the true Israelites!

Paul clarifies this in Romans 9:6, “*Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For **they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:***” - ουχ ‘οιον δε ‘οτι εκπεπτωκεν ‘ο λογος του θεου ου γαρ παντες ‘οι εξ ισραηλ ‘ουτοι ισραηλ. What Paul is stating is that not everyone who has physically descended from Jacob/Israel is the Israel of God. In God’s eyes true Israel are Israelites who are saved. And again in Galatians 6:16, “*And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon **the Israel of God.***” Also in Romans 2:29, “***But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.***”

But we want to go back to the sign, which was a familiar theme in the ancient world. A usurper doomed to be killed by a yet unborn prince plots to succeed to the throne by killing the royal seed at birth. A theme carried out even in the present time. The prince is miraculously snatched away from his clutches at birth and carried away to a place where he would be safe, (Egypt), until the time came when he was old enough to kill the usurper and claim his kingdom.

In the **Greek** myth concerning the birth of Apollo, when his mother, the goddess Leto, reached the time of her delivery, she was pursued by the dragon Python who sought to kill both her and her unborn child, only the tiny island of Delos welcomed the mother where she gave birth to Apollo. Four days after his birth Apollo found Python at Parnassus and killed him in the Delphic cave.

In **Egypt** it is **Set** the red dragon that pursues **Isis**, the pregnant mother of **Horus**. When the child is grown, he too kills the dragon. These were common myths in the first century and no doubt John and his readers would be well familiar with the theme, which adds richness to the prophetic sign of the true Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, (where an attempt was made on his life by Satan through king Herod and had to flee into Egypt), who will inherit his kingdom and slay the dragon, Satan.

3. “*And the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:*” - *kai he selene hupokato ton podon autes, kai epi tes kephales autes stephanos (victory) asteron dodeka*. So what we have here is a woman, who has the sun enveloping her, the moon under her feet and a crown made up of 12 stars. The word for **crown** is *stephanos*, which was the victor’s crown telling us that the woman, who are the redeemed Israelites from the 12 tribes of Israel, were and are victorious over the dragon.

Now Mary is the human woman who bore the Lord Jesus, but the woman in view here is the nation of Israel, that is, the 12 tribes of Israel, but not just racial descendants of Israel, but those Israelites who were saved by faith in Christ. The lineage of Christ came down **only** through those who were born **again**. And the rest of chapter 12 bears this out. “*And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the **woman** which brought forth the man *child*.* Revelations 12:13

The woman also represents a continuous entity from the inception of the 12 tribes of Israel, to the time of Mary the mother of Jesus, all the way to the end times of the born again believers in Jesus Christ from all the 12 tribes of Israel. Now we want to look at this from the perspective of constellational alignments, which gets into the Constellation Virgo.

Here I believe we see a symbolic picture of the redeemed nation of Israel, (not Israel according to the flesh), who is put here as the woman and the birth of the Christ child. I believe this symbolism appeared as a sign in the skies over Jerusalem signaling his birth in the alignment of the stars on Rosh Hashanah 9/11/03 BC. (Romans 2:29; 9:6) So the woman does refer to the nation of Israel, but not physical Israel, but to that sector of OT and NT Israel that had believed on Jesus Christ as their Savior.

On that day the constellation **Virgo** (the woman) was clothed with the sun and the moon was under her feet. Above her head were the **3 planets Mercury, Venus and Jupiter**, which were in alignment with the star Regulus in Leo; Regulus was also in conjunction with Jupiter. The **9 stars of Leo and the 3 planets make up the crown of 12 stars**. This occurred on Rosh Hashanah 9/11/03 BC (9/11?) This is said to occur once again on **9/23/2017 AD** 2 days after Rosh Hashanah on the day of Shabbat Shuvah (Return). Here we have the beginning of the Jewish New Year, the Day of Atonement and the returning to God in repentance all occurring in this same time frame, which is on **9/23/2017 AD**.

So the **woman** is the redeemed nation of Israel and she is also the constellation Virgo. Now the woman is mentioned twice in Revelations 12, or I should say, in two settings. 1) when the child, or the Messiah Jesus is born; and 2) during the Tribulation where **she**, (those redeemed from the 12 tribes that have believed on Christ), who will flee into the wilderness for 3 ½ years to be protected from the antichrist. So it appears that this sun, moon and stars alignment scenario also applies to both times.

B. Pain of childbirth. v.2

“And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.” Revelations 12:2 - και εν γαστρι εχουσα κραζει ωδινουσα και βασανιζομενη τεκειν We have the present active participle of echo – to have; the present active indicative of krazo – to cry; the present active participle of odino - to be in pain; the present passive participle of basanizo – to be tormented; and the orist active infinitive of tikto – to be delivered.

This brings our attention, of course, to the reality of the **pain** involved in the birth of the Christ child as a literal moment in time, but also to the **helplessness** of any woman when bringing forth their child. An expanded translation could also read as, “And she having pain and being tormented in the womb was crying out to bring forth the child”.

Now we know that this is a literal description of the pain that Mary went through as she was delivering the Lord Jesus on the day he was born, but it is also a metaphor for the redeemed nation of Israel, the true Israel, the elect of God, describing what they were going through at that time, while their nation had been invaded by foreigners, who cared nothing for the spiritual life of Israel, nor for Israel’s God; and as they were ruled by the tyranny of Rome and corrupt government and religious officials!

C. The Red Dragon. v.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.” - Revelations 12:3 - και ωφθη αλλο σημειον εν τω ουρανω και ιδου δρακων μεγας πυρρος εχων κεφαλας ‘επτα και κερατα δεκα και επι τας κεφαλας αυτου διαδηματα ‘επτα.

Verses one and two reveal to us a great sign in heaven focusing in on a woman who was in great pain delivering her child, then it shifts its focus from that to another sign of the same kind taking us from that scene to a scene having this ferocious dragon wanting to kill her child the moment it was born!

The word **behold** is the orist middle imperative of idou, which commands our attention to focus in on what John is saying. The word **having** is the present active participle of echo. This reference to the beast having seven heads, ten horns and seven crowns on his heads is also found in Revelations 13:1; 17:3,7,9. The word for **crowns** is *diadema* denoting the rule of royalty.

A red dragon figured prominently in the ancient world as a cosmological myth where the dragon represented the forces of darkness in array against the sun god. In Egypt the red dragon called Typhon was the enemy of Osiris and his son Horus. In Babylon the dragon went against Damkina the mother of Marduk. In Persia similar evil forces were arrayed against the mother of Zoroaster. Zoroaster comes from two words: **zero** – the seed; and **aster** – the woman; the seed of the woman.

Now this beast is referred to as having seven heads and seven crowns on these heads. Revelations 17:9, “*And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.*” gives us more insight into this matter.

Most Christians are familiar with the concept that the seven hills, sometimes referred to as mountains, refer to the seven hills that the city of **Rome** sits upon. But **Jerusalem** also sits on seven hills, and some say that even **Washington, DC** sits on what could be called seven hills. But we do know that this refers to the Roman Catholic Church, which sits in Rome. But is this reference to the seven mountains something else other than the geographical site of Rome?

But there is a structure to Rome and there is an organization, and in this organization there is the visible power and “the power behind the throne”. Above the priests, and above the cardinals, we see the pope at the top, and it is only been recently that we see the power above the visible pope is the one called, “the black pope”, who is the Jesuit General.

But has anyone ever entertained the idea that there is a power behind all that? That the Roman Catholic Church, the Vatican, the pope and the Jesuit General are nothing more than a front organization for the true power behind the scenes? A power that has been firmly entrenched for hundreds of years? Family dynasties that go back centuries?

The word **mountain** is used both literally and figuratively; it is also used literally with a figurative use along with it. In the Greek the word **mountain** is used as a metonymy for a mountainous region, for hill country, for the idols worshipped there and for the people inhabiting that region.

So the word **mountain** can be used literally for a real mountain or hill, and it can be used figuratively at the same time to refer to a region surrounding that mountain or hill and the people that lived there. And looking at a mountain it is nothing more than dirt, just like its counterpart in the low lands and valleys, the only difference being that the mountain rises up above the others. Which tells us that there always has to be a ruling family, or clan; a dynasty, which refers to a family of rulers who rule over a country for a long period of time, a succession of rulers of the same line of descent.

So what this indicates to us is that Rome, the Vatican, the Roman Catholic Church, Babylon in a Christian disguise, is **the religious front organization for seven ruling dynasties located in Italy. Seven different families that have ruled the world through the Vatican for centuries!**

The passage also tells us that these *seven mountains are seven heads*. The word for **head** is *kephale* and it denoted the authority of someone over something. The passage tells us that the woman, Mystery Babylon, the Roman Catholic Church sits upon these seven heads, which tells us that these seven ruling dynasties are the real power behind St. Peter’s throne! They are the ones in charge; they are the ones with the real authority! They are the ones who put the popes in power to do their bidding **making the popes nothing more than religious figureheads!**

One must also remember that the Vatican is a **business corporation** and that the **pope is the CEO of that corporation!** A corporation, by the way, that is over **all** the other corporations in the world, business and governments! But as the CEO he runs that corporation for the benefit of these seven ruling dynasties! Many have looked to the pope for centuries as the one in charge of the Vatican, others have come to believe that it is the Jesuit General who actually rules the Vatican, but now we see that the real power behind the Roman Catholic Church, that those who are really in charge are these seven ruling dynasties that are located in, or having come from, Italy.

We also notice that on these **seven heads** were **seven crowns!** The word for **crown** here is *diadema*, which is the word, not for the victor's wreath, *stephanos*, but for an actual crown that kings wore! So what this tells us is that **each one of these seven dynasties are the authority or power behind the Vatican; they are seven royal families!**

These seven dynasties not only control the Roman Catholic Church, which was set up as a Luciferian front organization to deceive Gentiles away from truly knowing Jesus Christ, but they also control all Freemasonry around the world. The members of these families may appear to be Christians to the public they rule over, (to deceive them), but as Freemasons they are what is known as Gnostics, who believe just the opposite of what the Bible teaches. They believe that Lucifer is the good god and Jehovah is the bad one. It is said that these seven families are going to choose someone from their dynasties very soon to be the “messiah” of the world and he is going to go into a rebuilt third temple in Jerusalem, shed his own blood with a knife, and offer it as a sacrifice for the world. The Black Nobility families consists of **seven families** that are still in existence today: **Colonna, Massimo, Pallavicini, Orsini, Borghese, Odescalchi, and Ludovisi.** Not saying they are, but possibly so.

And the ten horns, *kai kerata deka*, refer to the horns of power; the political power of rule from these seven dynasties. And we notice that all these heads, crowns and horns are attached to the red dragon, that is, it is this power structure that Satan uses to rule over the world. This was the situation back in John's day, it existed before John, it existed before the Lord was born and it exists today.

D. The red dragon tries to kill the child. v.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.” Revelations 12:4 - και ‘η ουρα αυτου συρει το τριτον των αστερων του ουρανου και εβαλεν αυτους εις την γην και ‘ο δρακων ‘εστηκεν ενωπιον της γυναικος της μελλουσης τεκειν ‘ινα ‘οταν τεκη το τεκνον αυτης καταφαγη

We have several scenes taking place here in this passage: 1) the scene of the woman bearing her child; 2) the scene of the dragon on earth poised to devour her child; 3) the scene of the woman fleeing to the wilderness for 1,260 days (years); 4) the war in heaven with the dragon being cast out; 5) an enraged dragon now on earth persecuting the woman; 6) then he goes off after the rest of her seed.

1. *“And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven” - *kai he oura autou surei to triton ton asteron tou ouranou.* The word **drew** is the present active indicative of *suro*, which meant to drag, to pull, to draw as drawing fish in a net, to drag away, to drag someone away by force. The use of the present tense is interesting because it usually speaks of something that is currently taking place, which would be at the time of this letter by John. But it's probably an historical present, which is used to refer to a past event put in the present tense to add vividness to the action.*

The **stars** (plural) of the **heaven** (singular), *ton asteron tou ouranou*, refer to the angels, celestial beings that sided with Lucifer in his rebellion against *Yahweh*. How he did this is by the use of the word *suro*, which meant to drag, or to draw. It is used 5 times in the NT four of them all having the idea of **force** and then we have our passage. So this presents an interesting spin on **how Lucifer swayed, drew, led in tow**, or any of many ideas that would bring out the mechanics of how Lucifer was able to so sway this multitude of celestial beings that they would follow him.

John 21:8 had the idea of **dragging a net** with fish in it, “*And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.*” Acts 8:3 had Paul breaking into houses **dragging husbands and wives** off to prison, “*As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling (dragging) men and women committed them to prison.*” Acts 14:19 has the scene where Paul is stoned presumably to death and his **body was dragged away**, “*And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.*” Acts 17:6 has Jason and some other believers were **dragged** to the city officials, “*And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;*”

The **tail** of the dragon, (Lucifer), is interesting in that, even though we have a figure of speech being used here, it points to the idea that Lucifer could have a tail as an appendage of his torso. After all, he did appear in the Garden as a serpent and he is always portrayed as a dragon with a tail. The scorpion also has a tail, which houses its venom. So is it possible that Lucifer used his poisonous venom of bitterness toward *Yahweh* to infect and influence a third of heaven to follow him? We ask this because it was his tail that drew or dragged them along to follow him.

Bitterness, which is a combination of pride, anger and the rebellious will, with inordinate ambition, can be a great motivator toward evil. And it can be covered up with a nice appearance to disguise one’s true motivation from other people. How many bitter people have we come up against in life that have an outwardly sweet disposition?

2. “*And did cast them to the earth:*” - *kai ebalen autois eis ten gen*. To **cast** is the orist active indicative of *ballo*, which meant to cast, to throw, to propel, but also to set in a place, to send out. When used with the preposition *eis*, it tells us **where** the objects are put or placed. He put his offering into the temple. So this dragon put these 1/3 of the celestial beings that sided with him into the earth, or **unto** the earth. *Eis* denotes the idea of movement from an object, which would be the heaven here; a goal in mind, which would be the earth; not penetration into an object, but a final arriving at that goal.

3. “*And the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered,*” - *kai ho drakon ‘esteken enopion tes gunaikos tes mellouses tekein*. To **stand** is the perfect active indicative of *histemi*; **ready** is the present active participle of *mello*; and **delivered** is the orist active infinitive of *tikto*.

We notice that the dragon stood before the woman. Out of all the infinite numbers of places that Lucifer could go to and take a stand we see that he has taken a position before the woman. So the question is why? Certainly this demonstrates **hostile intent** on the part of the dragon toward the woman and the child she is going to bring forth.

The word to **stand** is in the perfect tense denoting a completed action; he stood before the woman, that is, he has taken a position before, or in front of, the woman, which shows a progress in action that has come to a completed state.

Perhaps the definition of *histemi*, or to **stand**, will give us more insight. *Histemi* had a variety of usages utilizing the idea of bodily position; it was used often in a military application of the soldier taking his stand on the battlefield to defend his territory. Remember, when Adam sinned against God he lost his position as prince regent over the world and it was subsequently handed over to Lucifer.

Now we have the true heir of the world ready to be born into the world as a man, so the only way that Lucifer could prevent that is to stop his delivery, or destroy the child at his birth. Lucifer, somehow, had acquired the knowledge of this and planned to stop God's offensive action by destroying God's Son at birth, so Lucifer takes up his position to do that; a completed action. Because the control of the world was handed over to Lucifer subsequent to Adam's sin against God; Lucifer now considered the world his territory and he was prepared to defend it by killing the true heir of the world – Jesus Christ! But Lucifer didn't own the world, he was only its Ruler; the Owner is now being born.

Before the woman is *enopion*, which denoted the idea of in front of, which meant to place something before, or in front of, which tells us that this dragon is now standing before, or in front of, ready to eat her child as soon as it was born! Quite a chilling and frightening concept! From the Gospel narrative we found that he was trying to find out when and where the Christ child would be born, so he could go there and kill the child, which reveals the process involved in the perfect tense.

4. “*The woman which was ready to be delivered,*” - *tes gunaikos tes mellouses tekein* To be **delivered** is the orist active infinitive of *tikto*, and **ready** is the present active participle of *mello*, which brings out the idea that she was in labor and just about to give birth. Now enters this powerful, evil dragon, who was poised to eat the most precious thing a woman could have, her new born baby, and at her weakest moment while she was delivering her child and could not protect it! This brings out the stark contrast of how good God is and how horribly evil and vicious Satan is!

5. “*For to devour her child as soon as it was born.*” - *hina hotan teke to teknon autes kataphage*. **Devour** is the orist active subjunctive of *katesthio* and **born** is the orist active subjunctive of *tikto* again. When *hina* is used with the subjunctive, as we have here, it introduces a purpose clause, which is to say that Lucifer had positioned himself before the woman for the purpose of eating her child as soon as it was born! And to **devour** is how they translated the intensive use of to eat.

Now this tells us that it was Satan who positioned himself before the woman to kill her child, but the human agent he used to do this was King Herod! It was through Antipater that the wicked king Herod the Great came, (37bc-4bc), he was an Edomite/Idumean, and it was Herod who murdered all the male children of Israel under two years of age when he had heard that **the rightful king of the Jews had been born!** The Edomites also were seated in the various positions of power both in the priesthood and politics. And it was Pilate, who brought Herod, who was allied to Rome so he could keep his position of power, into the matter.

Herod the Edomite

The murder of the infants by King Herod, (an Edomite), that was supposed to be the king responsible for the murder of the infants at the time of the Lord's birth. He was known as Herod I (the Great). But what was so interesting and quite disturbing was his reaction over the birth of Jesus Christ, and not only his, but also the reaction of the city of Jerusalem! “*When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.*” Matthew 2:3 - ακουσας δε ηρωδης ο βασιλευς εταραχθη και πασα ιεροσολυμα μετ'αυτου

The word **heard** is the aorist active participle of *akouo* and the word **troubled** was the aorist active indicative of *tarasso*. Now we know that the action of the aorist participle precedes the action of the main verb, which tells us that it was the news that the king of Jerusalem had been born that **caused him to be troubled!** And what's really disturbing is the entire city of **Jerusalem** was bothered as well!

Now Herod had been made king by **Rome**, (notice the political and economic international power at work here) to rule over: Judea, Samaria, Galilee, Idumea, Batanea and Peraea. He was an Edomite and remained a friend of Rome throughout his life, but not a friend of God's people.

Now we notice that we have an Edomite ruling over whatever was left of the true Israelites in the land; a man who had **no right to even live on the soil that God had given to the 12 tribes**, and not only that, he was ruling over them as their king! Sounds very similar to America today. How he had ended up in this place and position was due to the many machinations that the Edomites had been involved in for centuries. Through wars, conquests, lies, deception and intermarriage into power they gravitated to the highest positions of political and religious power both in Jerusalem and in Rome.

The word **troubled** here means to be stressed; Herod became stressed when he had heard that the king of Jerusalem had been born! And why is that? Because he knew that he had no right to be king; he had only been placed into that position of rule by Rome; he knew that the real king would accede to his rightful position and then what would he do? He would do what any other king would do and that is send him to his death or demise as an illegitimate poser.

By we also have something else here and that is **all of Jerusalem** as a whole became stressed as well. Why is that? Because for the most part **they weren't Israelites!** They were at the very least half breeds, or not of Israelite stock at all, or one of the many migrants who filtered into the land, including those of Edomite stock, and were passing themselves off as **Jews!**

So what would happen to them when the real king of the true Jews showed up and took over the country? At the very best they would be forced to leave the nation altogether and leave behind their property and everything else that they had worked for in life! Why? They had no right to be there, even if Rome and its puppet king, Herod, said they did.

Remember that the common use of the word **Jew** back then denoted an inhabitant of **Judea**. So when it says, "*Saying, Where is he that is born **King of the Jews?** for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.*", Matthew 2:2; it's referring to the land of Judea as the area of his kingdom and those that are living there are supposed to be his subjects, his own people. But instead of having his people there on his land, which the Father gave him, he is met with of Edomites and foreigners living on his land as vassals of Rome.

Remember what the idea of **stress** is about; it is a nondescript agitation of the soul, which is caused by the emotion of fear! Herod and the whole of Jerusalem are in **a state of anxiety** over the true king of Jerusalem and all Judea showing up. They had no rights, especially as foreigners, for all power and authority was vested in the king.

We also want to notice that the **chief priests** of the temple system were involved in this with Herod, along with the **scribes**, for he asked them **where** the Messiah was to be born. "*And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them **where** Christ should be born.*" Matthew 2:4

Now Herod had determined **where** the child was to be born, which was in Bethlehem; he next needed to know **when** he was to be born and that's why he had a private meeting with the three wise men so as to ascertain at **what time** did his star appear in the sky! "*Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently **what time** the star appeared.*" Matthew 2:7 This is all a part of the process involved in the perfect tense of the dragon standing before the woman.

He then sent the three wise men on their way **to find out exactly where** the child was so he could "worship" him, which was a total deception and lie. Herod had no intention of worshipping the Lord; he wanted to kill him! But Herod sent them off to look for the child and to send that information back. "*And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have **found** him, bring me word again, that I may come and **worship** him also.*" Matthew 2:8

Which they didn't do, instead when the three wise men decided to go back home to the East, they were instructed in a dream by God to **go back another way**. "*And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.*" Matthew 2:12

Now after the three wise men departed to go back home to the East, an angel of the Lord appeared to **Joseph** to tell him he has to take the Lord and his mother now and flee to Egypt! And flee he did; they left in the middle of the night and fled to Egypt until Herod died. "*And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into **Egypt**, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:*" Matthew 2:13,14 Not only were gold, frankincense and myrrh gifts that one would give to a king or deity, where Christ was both, but were used to heal and build up the immune system, including arthritis - myrrh; frankincense was used for perfume and anointing oil; and gold was the money one could live on for long term in Egypt.

E. Christ's birth. v.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.*" - Revelations 12:5 - και ετεκεν υιον αρρενα ος μελλει ποιμαινειν παντα τα εθνη εν ραβδω σιδηρα και ηρπασθη το τεκνον αυτης προς τον θεον και τον θρονον αυτου.

The woman refers to the mother of Jesus and it also refers to the community of believers both in the OT and the NT. In the OT it refers to the community of believers found within the 12 tribes of Israel; and in the NT it refers to the community of believers once again found within the descendants of the 12 tribes of Israel. She brought forth a child, delivered a child, aorist tense at a point in time and the child she brought forth was a son, *huion*, ἄρρην, *arrhēn*, also found as *arsēn*. Literally it's she delivered a son, a male child with the emphasis on the son being strong.

Who was to rule is the present active indicative of *mello*. The word *mello* is translated in some Bibles as who was destined to rule because when *mello* is used followed by a verb in the present infinitive, it takes on the idea that there is an action that necessarily follows a divine decree. Which is exactly what we see in Psalms 2:6-9, "*Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the **decree**: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*"

To **rule** is the present active infinitive of *poimaino*, which is not the rule of a king, but the rule of a **shepherd!** There is the rule of a democracy, which is the rule of the majority or a mob; the rule of an oligarchy, the rule of a few; the rule of republic, which is rule by principle; a monarchy, the rule by a king; or a rule by a shepherd who loves his sheep. John chapter 10 goes into how much Christ loves his sheep. The **rod** is to give them a thump, when they're wandering off from the shepherd getting into things they shouldn't be doing; and the **staff** is to pull them out of trouble and the world.

“And her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.” - kai herpasthe to teknon autes pros ton theon kai ton thronon autou. And to be caught up is the aoist passive indicative of *harpazo*, which is the word used for the rapture, as it is called. The word does not denote to ascend, or to float up, but to be taken up, or to be snatched up, much like the eagle snatching a fish up out of the water. *“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was **taken up** (epairo – aorist passive indicative); and a cloud received him out of their sight.” Acts 1:9*

We want to notice where the woman's son was taken to after he died and was resurrected from the dead; he was taken up into heaven even to God and his throne! Very few people appreciate this because no one had ever gone into heaven before and certainly not to the very throne room of God! But here we see Jesus not only getting to go to heaven, but now he is before the Father and about to take his seat at the right hand of God, sitting at the position of favor in a glorified body! **One can only imagine the rage that Lucifer felt at seeing this!**

E. The 1,260 days. v.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.” - και ἡ γυνὴ ἐφυγεν εἰς τὴν ἐρημὸν ὅπου ἔχει τόπον ἡτοιμασμένον ἀπο τοῦ θεοῦ ἵνα ἐκεῖ τρεφῶσιν αὐτὴν ἡμερᾶς χιλίας διακοσίας ἑξήκοντα.

1. *“And the woman fled into the wilderness,” - kai he gune ephugen eis ten eremon.* To **flee** is the aoist active indicative of *pheugo*, which indicates this occurred at a point in time. The word **pheugo** meant to flee from persecution, or prosecution, which tells us that she was running for her life.

So who is this woman again? We know it isn't Rachel the wife of Jacob because Jacob's 12 sons came through four women. We also know that it isn't Mary, the human mother of Jesus, because she wasn't alive at this time. We know that the woman is identified with the actual 12 tribes of Israel from which the Messiah came, so she represents the community of believers within the 12 tribes of Israel. We also see that she fled into the **wilderness** where she could be protected from the wrath of the devil. From history we see her fleeing into all the parts of the earth for safety from Rome and from the Edomites who called themselves Jews.

The word for **wilderness** is *eremon* and it refers to an uninhabited place, a place where there are no inhabitants, or few inhabitants. From that idea came another idea where it was a place of solitude, a place where one could be safe. This would be in contrast to an inhabited place, cities, towns, etc., that were under the control of Rome. So the important thing was to move to areas where Rome had no influence or control over, **areas that lacked the presence of Rome**.

2. *“Where she hath a place prepared of God,” - hopou echei topon hetoimasmēnon apo to theou.* **Hath** is the present active indicative of *echo* – to possess something. And **prepared** is the perfect passive participle of *hetoimazo* – to prepare.

We see that God had a place in mind for her to go to and he had already prepared this place, which takes in every aspect of land, jobs, the people, their culture, the elements of safety, etc.. Historians had identified these places as Europe and the British Isles to the West, basically anything outside the control of the Roman Empire.

The **wilderness** always represented a place of peace, solitude and safety away from the soldiers of Rome, who were bent on persecuting the people of God. The Waldensians and Heugonauts were some of those who did flee to the mountains to escape the persecution of Rome and eventually were able to go to other countries where they could worship freely as Protestants.

The word for **prepared** is the perfect passive participle of *hetoimazo*, which gets into the idea of one having company over to stay with you for awhile, so you do all the things necessary for their stay; having a room for them, bedding, food, etc.. We note that it is in the perfect passive participle, which shows that somebody else has prepared this for them – God, and that it has already been done. The word for **place** is *topos* and it refers to a: place, space, area, region, district, a place where something can be found, a city, town, or village, and area, even an opportunity. It also could refer to a place, but also to people living in that area.

3. “*That they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*” - *hina ekei trephosin auten hemeras chalias diakosias hexekonta.* To **feed** is the present active subjunctive of *trepho*, which meant to feed, or to nurture. *Hina* plus the subjunctive mood introduces a purpose clause, so this is telling us that God has prepared this place in the wilderness for the saved believers out of the 12 tribes of Israel for the purpose that they should feed or nurture her.

To **feed** is the present active subjunctive of *trepho*, which means more than just feeding, but also to nourish, to support, to provide the things that are needed so they can stay alive. It’s the same word used for mothers feeding their babies; yes they feed them, but they provide them with warmth, comfort and with protection.

The problem is with the word *trephosin*, which is in the 3rd person plural **they!** Who are these **they** in the wilderness that **they** should feed them? There is no reference to a plural subject to be found, so it brings up an interesting point. It appears that what we have here is a synecdoche where the world, or a **place**, or a land is put for the **inhabitants** of that land. People need more than just land to survive on, they need food, water, shelter, clothing, etc.. So what this is saying is that in this wilderness, free from Rome and the devil’s wrath, the people of God will be provided the resources needed to survive.

Jonathan Edwards wrote that the 1260 days of Revelations 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.*” were prophetic day years denoting 1260 years that the Church, which was primarily made up of born again believers from the 12 tribes of Israel, would be protected by God in the wilderness from the papacy.

It was in 756 AD that the pope was given temporal power over the entire world by Pepin the Short, who was the first of the Carolingians. This took place in 756 AD and 1260 years from this date ends up in the year **2016!** A side note on this it was the Carolingians, who were mayors of the palace that killed the descendants of the Merovingians. For a further background on the Merovingians see the book, Holy Blood, Holy Grail by Dan Brown.

G. War in heaven. v.7

“*And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,*” Revelations 12:7 - και εγενετο πολεμος εν τω ουρανω ‘ο μιχαηλ και ‘οι αγγελοι αυτου επολεμησαν κατα του δρακοντος και ‘ο δρακων επολεμησεν και ‘οι αγγελοι αυτου. **There was** in the Greek is the aoist middle indicative of *ginomai*. The first occurrence of **fought** is the aoist active infinitive of *polemeo*; and the second occurrence of **fought** is the aoist active indicative of *polemeo*.

1. “*And there was war in heaven:*” - *kai egeneto polemos en to ourano*. We first see the devil here on earth where he tries to devour the Christ child through his human agent King Herod, who was the king of Judea at that time. (That says a lot about the political structure of Judea at that time). He fails and the next thing we see is this Christ child being snatched up to heaven to the very throne of God, which obviously enrages the dragon to go after those true believers belonging to the Messiah.

We may not have noticed something in our study on Revelations 12 and that is the many times the word **and** is used, in fact, it is used 44 times! This is called polysyndeton for “**many ands**”, while asyndeton is “**no ands**”. If “no ands” are used, the writer is asking us to rush to the grand climax, but if “many ands” are used the writer is asking us to consider each point in the clause carefully.

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; 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.
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.
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.
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.
And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon;
and the dragon fought and his angels,
And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.
And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth,
and his angels were cast out with him.
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.
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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

But the passage takes on another thought and goes in a different direction from Revelations 12:7-13, while Revelations 12:6 takes up its thought again in verse 14. “*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.*” v.6 “*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.*” v.14 It’s like John is talking about the woman, but before he finishes what he has to say, his attention is brought to the dragon and this war in heaven where the dragon is kicked out.

Now this train of thought about the woman is interrupted and John is talking about this war in heaven. “*And there was war in heaven.*” - *kai egeneto polemos en to ourano*. **There was** in the Greek is the orist middle indicative of ginomai. The word *ginomai* signifies a change of condition; it tells us that there wasn’t any war going on in heaven, but now there is. The question is, **who** started the war and **why**? Did Michael begin this war as the result of some judicial decision from the throne of God? Or did Lucifer perform some hostile action against the throne that forced Michael to fight the devil?

We also want to notice **where** this war takes place. En plus the locative of sphere tells us that this war takes place in the sphere of heaven, not just any heaven, but the very heaven, en to ourano, in the heaven, where God and his Son are! So this is getting into the idea that the dwellingplace of the angels is in the 2nd heaven, but here we find a war going on in the 3rd heaven, which tells us that Satan’s angels in the 2nd heaven had made an assault to take over the throne of God itself going from the 2nd heaven up to the 3rd heaven whereupon Michael and his angels fought against them forcing them out of heaven and casting them down to earth!

“*Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,*” - *ho Michael kai hoi angeloi autou epolemesan kata tou drakontos kai ho drakon epolemesen kai hoi angeloi autou*. The first occurrence of **fought** is the orist active infinitive of polemeo; and the second occurrence of **fought** is the orist active indicative of polemeo.

“*The Michael and the angels of him fought against the dragon; and the dragon and the dragon fought and the angels of him.*” The word *polemos* denotes an actual war going on with the outbreak of battles. Definite articles are not used with proper names, so it would be “the Michael” but if we translate Michael we have “who is like unto God”, so we have “the one who is like unto God fought”.

H. The dragon loses his place in heaven. v.8

“*And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.*” Revelations 12:8 - και ουκ ισχυσαν ουτε τοπος ευρεθη αυτων επι εν τω ουρανω

1. “*And prevailed not;*” - *kai ouk ischusan* To **prevail** is the orist active indicative of *ischuo*. The orist tense here is a culminative orist, which looks at the overall aspect of this war in heaven being fought at a point in time, but with the emphasis being on the results of that action. Which is that **the devil and his angels lost their place in heaven and were kicked out having to go to the earth.**

The word **prevail** is *ischuo* and it denoted the idea of having the strength, or whatever else that one may need, to prevail in a battle. Two armies meet each other out on the battlefield with the result that one is the victor and the other is the loser. What made the difference? The victor had the strength in numbers, weapons, skill, strategy, tactics, etc. that enabled them to defeat the other – that's *ischuo*. So Satan's army was defeated in this war in the 3rd heaven due to God's army having superior numbers, by a 2 to 1 ratio, because of the righteousness of God and his angels and because the eternal Father had decreed it.

“*Neither was their place found any more in heaven.*” - *oute topos heurethe auton eti en to ourano* The word **found** is the orist passive indicative of *eurisko*. *Heurisko* meant to find something or to discover. The word for **place** is *topos*, which had the ideas of a place, position, or region. It could refer to an inhabited region, a city, or village, a building, a location, a position, or office. Everyone has their place in the order of things and we will too in the celestial hierarchy and government of God. These angels had their “place” in heaven, not just the space in where they exist in heaven, but their **position** in God's government, but this they also will lose. So they will lose their place in heaven, that is, the place where they exist, but they will also lose their positions in the hierarchy of God.

I. Cast down to earth. v.9

“*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*” Revelations 12:9 - και εβληθη ο δρακων ο μεγας ο οφεις ο αρχαιος ο καλουμενος διαβολος και ο σατανας ο πλανων την οικουμενην ολην εβληθη εις την γην και οι αγγελοι αυτου μετ' αυτου εβληθησαν.

So when he is cast down to earth, what do you think he's going to be telling the people of earth? And this is very important because we will be able to see one of his greatest lies he has ever told! And this is the lie that his “son” the antichrist and the false prophet are going to perpetrate on the people of the world. What is the **lie**? That he has defeated *Yahweh* in heaven to gain control over the universe and he has now come down to earth to put into action his rule of enlightenment over the world and that he is putting his “son” the antichrist as ruler over the world to ensure his rule of enlightenment!!

1. “*And the great dragon was cast out;*” - *kai eblethe ho drakon ho megas*. To **cast** is the orist passive indicative of *ballo*. The word **ballo** means to throw, or to throw out. In the passive voice it's to be thrown (out). The English word **expel** could translate the idea because it means to officially force someone to leave a place or an organization. The word **oust** would take it another step for it has the idea of removal or dispossession by power of the law or by force or compulsion. The devil and his angels will be forced out of heaven by the military action of Michael and his angels this following the storming of heaven by the devil!

John uses words and concepts that cover just about all of ancient history of various groups and cultures including the Jews and Babylon: the serpent, the dragon, the devil and Satan. Babylon had a myth about a dragon storming heaven. The Jews referred to one of these ancient deities as Tiamat and so did the Babylonians, where **Tiamat** was a huge bloated female dragon that personified the saltwater ocean. Rome is also identified with the dragon.

The word **Tiamat** later on became *thalassa* the Greek word for sea. Now this is significant because we see a **beast** (*therion*) rising up out of the sea. “*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*” Revelations 13:1 The word for **beast** here is *therion* and it denoted back then to a half celestial being (alien) and half human being, which points to the **antichrist!**

Some writers have put forth the idea, and they may have something here, that not only does Satan make an assault on the throne of God, but also he does so to depose God’s Son, Jesus Christ, from his throne and place his DNA manufactured son, the antichrist, in his place! This obviously would trigger a war in heaven with Michael leading the charge resulting in Satan and his son being kicked out.

2. “*That old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan,*” - *ho ophis ho archaios ho kaloumenos diabolos kai ho satanas*. “*The old serpent, called the devil and Satan*”. To **call** is the present passive participle of *kaleo*, what this tells us is that the serpent isn’t calling **himself** the devil or Satan, but this is what he is being called to this day by people from all around the world. His real name, and it isn’t Lucifer, is probably, as the closest I can get to it, is *Hellel*.

3. “*Which deceiveth the whole world*” - *ho planon ten oikoumene helen*. The word for to **deceive** is the present active participle of *planao*, which means to lead astray. First comes deception using lies and half truths, then comes the leading away from the truth, the path, from God. In the present active participle it tells us that the one behind the entire planetary deception is the devil and that he does this constantly every day as a part of his existence. As the Lord said, he is the father of lies. John 8:44, “*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*” When it says that he is the father of lies, it’s saying that he was **the first creature of God that ever lied!** Which could have been a real factor in causing the 1/3 of the angels to follow after him. Why? Because no one had ever lied before!

The **whole world** is *ten oikoumenen helen*, which refers to the inhabited world, or we could say he deceives all the people of the world so that they depart from any saving knowledge with Christ so that they may know the true God, “The one deceiving the whole world”. He even blinds the mind of people away from the Gospel. 2 Corinthians 4:4, “*In whom the god of this world hath **blinded** the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*”

4. “*He was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*” - *eblethe eis ten gen kai hoi angeloi autou met'autou eblethesan*. **He was cast** is the aorist passive indicative of *ballo* and his **angels were cast** is also the aorist passive indicative of *ballo*, which is a culminative aorist viewing the whole action at a point in time, but with emphasis on the results of that action, which is the devil and his angels are kicked out of heaven and go to the earth. **Dispossessed** is a good idea of this because they not only lose any standing, or privileges in heaven, but also the place where they existed.

J. Cast down to earth. v.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.” - Revelations 12:10 -

και ηκουσα φωνην μεγαλην λεγουσαν εν τω ουρανω αρτι εγενετο ‘η σωτηρια και ‘η δυναμις και ‘η βασιλεια του θεου ‘ημων και ‘η εξουσια του χριστου αυτου ‘οτι κατεβληθη ‘ο κατηγορος των αδελφων ‘ημων ‘ο κατηγορων αυτων ενωπιον του θεου ‘ημων ‘ημερας και νυκτος.

1. *“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven,” - kai espousal phone galena leguminous en to ourano. **I heard** is the aorist active indicative of *akouo*, which simply meant to hear something. This has the idea of an announcement being said in the heaven. **Saying** is the present active participle of *lego*, which tells us that John was hearing the announcement as it was being said.*

2. *“Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ.” - arti egeneto he soteria kai he dunamis kai he basileia tou theou hemon kai he exousia tou christou autou. **Is come** is the aorist middle indicative of *ginomai*, which denotes a change of condition where something that was not there before now is. Satan now is the god of this age and the ruler of this world, but all that is going to change when Christ returns to earth.*

The preposition arti is used here to denote that the action of the verb, which is the kingdom of God and all that comes with it is going to occur at the immediate present and can be translated as immediately, or at once. What this tells us that this expulsion of Satan and his angels from the heaven and all the other things found in Revelations 12 now mark the immediate bringing of the kingdom of God to earth.

Matthew 6:9,10 covers this in the Lord’s prayer, which is really to be the Christian’s prayer where we are to pray for the will of God to be done on the earth, which will occur when Christ returns to earth to establish the Father’s will. This passage in Revelations 12 shows the beginning now of the establishing of the Father’s will on earth through his Son Jesus Christ. It now begins by the expulsion of Satan and his angels to earth. *“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”*

The salvation is *he soteria*, the **salvation** of our God. As stated before our salvation really needs to be thought of in the final result of our resurrection body. Yes our souls were saved the moment we believed on Christ as our Savior, but our present bodies die and go back to the elements of the soil. It is not the Father’s will to leave us as disembodied souls throughout eternity, but to give us eternal bodies to live with him forever. This he accomplishes in the resurrection of the dead, which is accomplished when Christ returns and raises us from the dead.

*“And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should **raise it (him) up again** at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and **I will raise him up at the last day**.” John 6:39,40 “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory.” Matthew 25:31 “For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.” 1 Corinthians 15:25 “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the **last trump**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” 1 Corinthians 15:52*

And strength is *kai he dunamis*, or, *and the power of our God*. When Christ returns to earth in power and glory all mankind will now see the power of God in operation. It will take power to overthrow the devil, the beast and the false prophet. It will take power to destroy all those who ride up against him in war. It will take power to raise the dead in Christ. It will take power to take all those who have rejected Christ as their Savior and throw them into the Lake of Fire. And it will take power to redo the earth from the toxic garbage dump it is and bring it back to the place it should be.

And the kingdom of our God is *kai he basileia tou theou hemon*. At the beginning of the verse we had, “Is **come** in the aurist middle indicative of *ginomai*,” which denoted a change of condition or state telling us that Satan had been ruling over the world for thousands of years up to this point, but now things are going to change for God is sending his Son, Jesus Christ, and now he is going to be ruling!

This is when the **prayer** in Matthew 6:9,10 becomes reality, “*After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*” The aurist middle indicative of *ginomai* tells us that 1) everything has been building up to this point; 2) we will be benefited by it; 3) and the reality of it all. It's really happening now. The word **kingdom** tells us what kind of rule there will be on earth after Christ returns and it will be a kingdom of one man ruling over the world.

And the power of his Christ: - *kai he exousia tou christou autou*. The word for **power** here is *exousia*, which denotes the legal right to exercise power over someone and should be translated as authority. It has to be conferred on someone from someone else; here it's the Father granting his Son the authority to his Son to rule the earth. “*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All **power** (authority) is given (granted) unto me in heaven and in earth.*” Matthew 28:18 “*Jesus knowing that the Father had given (granted) all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;*” John 13:3

3. “*For the accuser of our brethren is cast down,*” - *hoti kateblethe ho kategoros ton adelphon hemon*. The word for **cast down** here is the aurist passive indicative of *kataballo*. In verse nine we had, “*he was **cast out** into the earth*” where the word for **cast** is the aurist passive indicative of *ballo*, which meant in the English to **expel** because it meant to officially force someone to leave a place or an organization. The word **oust** would take it another step for it has the idea of removal or dispossession by power of the law or by force or compulsion.

So the word **cast** in verse nine looks at the aspect of Satan being kicked out of heaven, actually forced out because of the idea of Michael and his angels having to drive him out of heaven, and verse ten now looks at where he ends up – on earth! And this is denoted by *kataballo* in the aurist passive indicative. *Kataballo* meant to be brought down from a higher place, or to be thrown down. It always has this idea of being brought down from a higher position, place, or privilege to one much lower.

In the beginning Satan held a very high position in the celestial kingdom of *Yahweh*; he was the Guardian Cherub who had a very close relationship to God. But because of his pride and prideful ambition; he lost his position there and was expelled to the lower heavens, which we refer to as the 2nd heaven the abode of angels. But, after apparently storming the gates of heaven and trying to take God's throne from him, or by trying to place his “son”, the antichrist, on the throne he was defeated by Michael and his angels and now has his 2nd demotion where he is kicked out of heaven altogether and ends up on the earth. His 3rd demotion is where he will be placed in the sides of the bottomless pit for 1,000 years; and his 4th and permanent demotion is the Lake of Fire.

It is viewed that Lucifer was originally on the mountain of God in the 3rd heaven where he served as a covering cherub. *“Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.”* Ezekiel 28:14 *“You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were **on the holy mount of God**; you walked among the fiery stones.”* NIV

But he was expelled by God from the 3rd heaven and lost his position as the anointed cherub. Now some have incorrectly surmised that he was sent to Hell or to earth, which is not the case. We see that after his expulsion from the 3rd heaven, he was not confined to Tartarus nor to the earth for he still had access to the presence of God in heaven. This was Satan's **1st casting down**. *“And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From **going to and fro in the earth**, and from walking up and down in it.”* Job 1:7

So where did he go? He was sent down to the 2nd heaven, which was the abode of angels. As far as the 2nd heaven is above us, so is the 3rd heaven above the angels. But he still had access to the heavenly courtroom of God. There is a difference between the throne room of God and the courtroom of God where all celestial beings have access to him for justice.

Even lower level demons have access to the throne of God. *“And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.”* 1 Kings 22:21,22

So what do you think Lucifer's explanation to all the other celestial beings was in trying to tell them why he lost his elite position in the celestial hierarchy of God and his expulsion from the 3rd heaven? Do you think he told the truth? Or did he make up some kind of lie as to why he was now there? This could have been the beginning of the swaying of the 1/3 of the angels to side with him!

Satan's **2nd casting down** in our passage here is where he is forcibly removed from heaven by Michael and his angels and cast down to the earth. This is where he storms the gates of heaven with his army of the 1/3 angels who sided with him in his attempt to overthrow the rule of *Yahweh*. Now he ends up on the earth and what do you think he's going to tell the people of earth? The truth? Or do you think he's going to spin another lie? He's probably going to tell the people on earth that he has won the war in heaven deposing *Yahweh* and his Son Jesus Christ and that **he** now is ruling over the universe and is going to place his “son” the antichrist on the earth as its world ruler.

The word for **accuser** is *he kategoros*, which in the singular with the definite article tells us that he is the one who has been accusing the people of God all along. He is the Satan of the OT, or the prosecutorial figure. Satan translated has the idea of adversary at law, one who is trying to get you on some infraction or breaking of the law so he can prosecute you. He tempts God's people to sin, and after they have sinned, brings charges against them in God's courtroom in heaven.

Satan's **3rd casting down** is after Jesus Christ defeats the beast, the false prophet, the people of the world, Satan and his army, then Satan will be cast down into the bottomless pit where he will remain for 1,000 years. *“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 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.”* Revelations 20:1-3

Satan's 4th and permanent **casting down** will occur after the 1,000 years where he will be released for a season, then he will be cast into the Lake of Fire. “*And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*” Revelations 20:7 “*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.*” Revelations 20:10

4. “*Which accused them before our God day and night.*” - *ho kategoron auton enopion tou theou hemon hemeros kai nuktos.* **The one accusing them before our God day and night.** Here we have the present active participle of *kategoreo*, which denotes a continuous practice of the devil. It is his way of life; it is what he does; he searches the galaxies far and wide seeking to find someone who is violating *Yahweh's* rules for the universe and then brings charges against them before the Father. Only here on earth he has a rich field for finding people who break God's Laws. What does he want God to do? Condemn them and throw them in the Lake of Fire!

We see a picture of this in Zechariah 3:1, “*And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.*” -

וַיִּרְאֵנִי, אֶת-יְהוֹנָשָׁע הַכֹּהֵן הַגָּדוֹל, עֹמֵד, לְפָנַי מֵלֶאֱדָי יְהוָה; וְהַשָּׂטָן עֹמֵד עַל-יְמִינֵי, לְשָׂטָנוּ.

“*And he showed me Yehoshua the high priest standing before Malak-Yahweh, and **the satan**, (or the prosecutorial figure, or the accuser), standing at his right hand to satan him, that is, **accuse** him.*” We have *satan* used twice: 1) as a noun with the definite article; and 2) as a verb, the qal infinitive of satan. The verb defines what his activity and position in heaven are.

Zechariah 3:2, “*And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD **rebuke** thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem **rebuke** thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?*” The word for **rebuke** is *gā'ar* and it meant to shout out or to scream. In the military it referred to a battle cry, but in the heavenly courtroom of God it was an expression of his divine wrath directed at someone in judgment. Here it is God's rebuke against the prosecutorial figure.

Zechariah 3:3, “*Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.*” It appears that what we have here is Joshua, who has been installed as the high priest of Israel standing before *Yahweh* as the representative of the nation of Israel. But at the same time we have the prosecutorial figure, **the satan**, standing at his right hand accusing him before God. The action of accusation seems to be over the matter that Joshua was not pure enough to stand in the presence of God.

This is where we find the Lord rebuking Satan using the word *ga'ar*. There's two things in view here: 1) isn't it more important to save a man, or a people? “*Is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?*” 2) God himself is going to make Joshua and his people pure. Which we see in the next verse: “*And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.*” Zechariah 3:4,5

This is an exact parallel with what we have here in Revelations 12:10 only now we do not have the nation of Israel represented by the high priest before God we have the Church of Jesus Christ! And our high priest is sinless, which Joshua wasn't. But the prosecutorial must find fault so his attacks on not being righteous enough to stand before God are directed at Christ's people.

K. Overcoming the devil. v.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.*” - Revelations 12:11 - και αυτοι ενικησαν αυτον δια το 'αιμα του αρνιου και δια τον λογον της μαρτυριας αυτων και ουκ ηγαπησαν την ψυχην αυτων αχρι θανατου. To overcome is the aorist active indicative of *nikao* and loved not is the aorist active indicative of *agapao*.

1. “*And they overcame him*” - και αυτοι ενικησαν αυτον. The word **they** here refers back to the brothers of John, who are believers in Jesus Christ that are being accused by this prosecutorial figure day and night in the courtroom in heaven. The word **him** here refers back to the prosecutorial figure known as Satan or the devil.

2. “*By the blood of the Lamb*” - *dia to haima tou arniou*. Dia plus the genitive denotes the means by which something takes place, which is to say that our victory over the devil occurs by means of the atoning sacrifice of Christ for our sins. There are two categories of **overcoming** in view here: 1) is in the legal setting where the devil is bringing charges against them in God's heavenly courtroom. This matter is dealt with by the blood of Jesus Christ, who paid the penalty for our sins thus taking away our guilt and stopping any further prosecution. “*Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.*” Hebrews 7:27 The 2) overcoming is in our experience here on earth where believers hold to their faith in Christ, their testimony for the Lord and loved not their lives unto death.

3. “*And by the word of their testimony;*” - και δια τον λογον της μαρτυριας αυτων. We need to take the word **testimony** in its original definition of a courtroom setting where one has to testify before a judge. If one had to appear before a judge to hear charges against him, he had to testify concerning these charges. What was he going to plead? Guilty or not guilty?

If he had an attorney who acted on his behalf, his defense attorney would speak for him. Christians have an attorney who defends us in this heavenly courtroom drama. “*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an **advocate** (defense attorney) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous [one]:*” 1 John 2:1

The prosecutorial figure (Satan) brings charges against the individual Christian that he has sinned in this area or another; he then demands that *Yahweh* punish him according to the Law and as the acts of sin require. Now assuming these accusations are true, and there is no reason to doubt that they are, then God would be required that the individual that the accusations are against needs to be punished. But because we have already testified of our faith in Christ here is where Christ enters our plea for us, he enters into evidence that the penalty for those sins has already been paid by his own blood.

4. “*And **they** loved not **their** lives unto the death.*” - και ουκ ηγαπεςαν την ψυχην αυτων αχρι θανατου. The word *martureo*, which is translated both as witness and to testify, shows that because we are not in heaven personally, our **Advocate** is there for us, we still have a testimony here on earth and that is our lives! Our lives bear witness to God in heaven and all those assembled there that we belong to Jesus Christ, therefore his atoning death for our sins applies to us! Satan has tried millions of times to get Christians to recant their faith in Christ under the threat of death, sometimes a terrible death, but these Christians held to their testimony even unto their death, therefore their life and even their death is their witness they have trusted Christ as their Savior!

L. Woe to the earth. v.12

“Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. 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.” - Revelations 12:12 - δια τουτο ευφραινεσθε 'οι ουρανοι και 'οι εν αυτοις σκηνουντες ουαι τοις κατοικουσιν την γην και την θαλασσαν 'οτι κατεβη 'ο διαβολος προς 'υμας εχων θυμον μεγαν ειδως 'οτι ολιγον καιρον εχει.

1. “Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them.” - *dia touto euphrainesthe hoi ouranoi kai en autois skenountes*. It begins with therefore, or because of this. John now is telling us the reason for the heavens rejoicing and why the earth will be in a state of woe. The reason why is because Satan and his mighty army of angels that make up 1/3 the total population of the heavens are now being expelled!

We notice also here that this is not just about Satan being kicked out of the heaven, closed off from any access to the third heaven, but being kicked out of all the heavens! Apparently Satan's army has been dwelling throughout all the heavens far and wide in areas so vast no one can comprehend it. They have not only lost any access to the throne of God, which they have had ever since they were created; they have also lost whatever their positions were in God's celestial hierarchy in the heavens, but they have also lost their dwelling places in the heavens! (**Rejoice** tells us that other beings dwell in the heavens.)

The word for **rejoice** is the present middle imperative of *euphraino*. The word *euphraino* meant to be cheerful, to gladden a person, in the middle and passive voice it meant to make merry. It meant merriment, cheerful, which merriment stems from events and situations which give rise to communal rejoicing. It would be the idea of what one would expect at a wedding banquet where all the guests are celebrating the giving of hand in marriage. In the present imperative it's a command to keep on being merry. Today we would say **the heavens are commanded to celebrate!** Which tells us that heaven is going to be celebrating over the event of Satan and his army being kicked out of the heavens! Sort of like how the little village in the Wizard of Oz celebrated when the wicked witch died.

The word for **dwell** is the present active participle of *skenoo*. Interestingly enough that the word chosen for **dwelling** here is *skene*, the word for a tent! Normally the idea behind living in a tent connoted the idea of a temporary place to live. If one wanted to settle down and live permanently in an area, then one of the *oikeo* word groups would be used. But if one was going to live in an area on a temporary basis, then *skenoo* would be used. The present heavens will be replaced by a new heaven and earth.

Paul spoke of our body earthly house in 2 Corinthians 5:1, “For we know that if our earthly **house** of this **tabernacle** were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” at us looking at it from a permanent dwellingplace. But he shows in 2 Corinthians 5:4, “For we that are in this **tabernacle** do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.” that **it's only a temporary tent**.

Which tells us that Satan and his angels must have thought that their habitations and their positions in the heavens were guaranteed to be permanent! Apparently they never realized that their existence was dependent upon *Yahweh*. But what this shows is that they were only temporary. The same as their existence; they must have assumed that they would exist forever, but the Scriptures show that they won't! “But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.” Psalms 82:7 “I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.” v.6 “But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.” v.7 “I have said, Ye are gods ... But ye shall die like men (Adam),” (Divine Council)

2. “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea!” - *ouai tois katoikousin ten gen kai ten thalassan*. The word **inhabiters** is the dative plural present participle of *katoikeo*, which meant to dwell fixedly in one place, to settle down in an area, often to build or rent a home in one area, to settle down, to view some place as your home so now you make it a permanent dwelling.

When Abraham and his nephew Lot went down into the area that God was giving to Abraham as a possession, Lot settled down in Sodom in a **home**, which meant that he was viewing it as a permanent location, while Abraham lived in a **tent**, *skenoō*, traveling around the area living in that tent. What was the difference between the two men? One viewed his present living condition as being **permanent**, while the other one viewed it as only being **temporary**!

Which gives us insight into the mental makeup of people living on the earth. One of the biggest desires and drives of most Americans is to settle down in one area and buy a home. They want to feel secure, permanent and part of the community. This is the *katoikeo* mind set. While some Christians, like Abraham who had his eyes on the city of God, view living on earth as only a temporary situation.

But John says something that is going to rattle their cages; something that is going to turn upside all the plans and dreams they had for their lives and he announces it by the word *ouai*. The word *ouai* was an onomatopoeic exclamation expressing pain that something really bad was going to happen; it was used to denote the screaming of a baby the noise of a jackal and served as a **warning** to the world that something really bad and painful was going to happen to it.

Those who **dwell in the sea** is an interesting statement. Whatever the term inhabitants of earth refers to, which denotes those who dwell on the earth, then the same idea must be applied to the inhabitants of the sea! Those who dwell in the sea! Perhaps we don't know as much about things that we think we do.

3. “For the devil is come down unto you,” - *hoti katebe ho diabolos pros humas*. Celebration in heaven, but incredible **woe** to the inhabitants of the earth and John is going to give us the reason why in this clause and it's **because**, (*hoti*), because the devil is now going to be on the earth. There are many people on earth who worship the devil, or Lucifer as some call him; they think he's an enlightened being who is going to make the world a better place to live for them and their families; they think he's going to bring an enlightened form of government where everyone can reach their full potential, when what he is bringing with him is just the opposite!

A satanically empowered antichrist is going to bring war worldwide slaughtering hundreds of millions, billions of people as he conquers the world; the carnage will be unfathomable. People will be killing each other; inflation will be at such a scale that people won't be able to buy what little food is left; people will starve to death all over the world. People will contract diseases of all sorts resulting in their deaths; personal murders, roving gangs, military actions, starvation, diseases, attacks by wild animals will wipe out the majority of the inhabitants of the earth. That's what Lucifer brings when he comes to earth and that's why John says **woe** to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea.

To **come down** is the aorist active indicative of *katabaino*. The culminative aorist looks at the entirety of the action, which would be Satan kicked out of heaven and having to come down to earth, but with the emphasis on the results of that action; the results we have just listed. He is going to bring with him a slaughter that the world could never imagine. *Baino* refers to the journey of the soul. *Anabaino* was to go up to heaven; *katabaino* was to go down to the earth. *Katabaino* was to go from a higher position to a lower one; to be **forced** to do so was a **demotion**.

Isaiah 14:12 tells us that Lucifer (*Hellel*) had fallen from heaven and was cut down to the ground (earth), “How art thou **fallen** from heaven, O Lucifer, (*Hellel*), son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!” The word for **fallen** in the Greek is *ekipto*, which meant to fall from a height, to fall out of something, to be excluded, to be driven out.

Isaiah 14:13,14 tell us the reason **why**. “For thou hast said in thine heart, I will **ascend** into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.” Because he wanted to ascend into the third heaven and place his throne above Yah's. The word for **ascend** here is *anabaino*, which is the journey of the soul to a higher place.

Isaiah 14:15 tells us what will happen instead; he will be **brought down** to Hell to the sides of the pit. “Yet thou shalt be **brought down** to hell, to the sides of the pit.” The word for **brought down** here is *katabaino*. *Anabaino* is the journey of the soul upward, while *katabaino* is the journey of the soul downward. Jesus Christ left heaven first and came down to earth, which was his *katabaino*, did the Father's will and then went back to heaven, then his *anabaino*. But Lucifer wanted to journey upward to the throne of God, which would be the *anabaino* in his own mind, but instead he was sent down to earth, which was his *katabaino*, which will finally result in the Pit, then the Lake of Fire.

4. “Having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.” - *echon thumon megan eidos hoti oligon kairon echei*. It says that **the devil** is coming down **to you**, *pros humas*, not some abstract figure from the universe, but Satan is now here on earth and when he does come to earth, (not voluntarily but because he has been kicked out of heaven), he is coming with **great wrath!**

We have seen that lust delayed results in frustration and lust denied results in anger. The greater the pride, the greater the anger; the greater the lust, the greater the anger; the greater the ambition of the individual's lust, the greater the anger. We find all of these present in the devil, but added to that is his loss of everything he already had. He had his place in the 3rd heaven and he lost that. He was thrown out of the 3rd heaven down to the 2nd heaven and now he's lost that! So he not only was not able to fulfill his lustful ambition to seize the throne of God, he has lost everything else and ends up on earth! One cannot even imagine the rage that he has.

And here's the reason why, “Because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.” - *eidos hoti oligon kairon echei*. *Hoti* gives us the reason **why** and that's because he knows that he has short time left to accomplish his goal, which he won't be able to. He has not been able to complete his plan to put his throne above the throne of *Yahweh* for the last 6,000 years and we don't know how long he had before this to try to fulfill his ambition. So if wasn't able to do it in 6,000 years and all the time before that, then he certainly isn't going to be able to do it in 3 1/2 years! Especially sense he was defeated militarily in heaven by Michael and his angels!

Knowing is the perfect active participle of *oida*, which means to have a completed knowledge on something, here it's that he knows he has but a short time left before he is seized and judged by Jesus Christ. But the perfect tense denotes an action that had a beginning, there was development or progress in the action, it comes to a completed state with continuing results. Which tells us that over a long period of time Satan was beginning to see that he was losing the war; but his pride and ambition kept driving him on, but over a period of time he began to realize more and more that he was not going to win this battle against *Yahweh*. Probably the final stroke that drove all of it home to him was when he lost the battle against Michael and his angels and was now kicked out of heaven.

M. Satan persecutes the woman. v.13

“And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.” Revelations 12:13 - και 'οτε ειδεν 'ο δρακων 'οτι εβληθη εις την γην εδιωξεν την γυναικα 'ητις ετεκεν τον αρρενα.

As mentioned before the narrative of verse 9 continues on down in verse 13, “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.”

1. “And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth ” - *kai hote eiden ho drakon hoti eblethe eis ten gen.* The **dragon** refers to the aforementioned devil and Satan; the rogue angel that rebelled against God and lost his place in heaven.

The word for **saw** is the orist active indicative of horao. The orist tense is a culminative orist, which looks at the action at a point in time with emphasis on the results of that action. Horao did mean to see with the eyes, but because the Greeks were a people of seeing, often the eye was used to represent that, it had the idea of mental perception. The word we would use today is **realize**. It was when he landed on the earth the reality of it all had hit him. His attempt to take God's throne away from him had failed; he had lost his position in the celestial hierarchy; he had been kicked out of heaven after losing his war with Michael and now he found himself here on the earth; the reality of it all had finally sunk in.

So what is he to do now? Obviously he is going to mount a counterattack against Christ when he comes after him on earth, but this too is going to fail. If he couldn't defeat Christ in heaven, how is going to do it here on earth? But we have to go back to verse 12 to see what's going on in his state of mind. After he loses the war and is kicked out of heaven he will be full of great wrath and it is this blind rage that is going to be driving him to go after the 12 tribes of Israel, especially the born again remnant of the 12 tribes of Israel. And that's what we see in the next clause.

2. “He persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.” - *edioxen ten gunaika hetis eteken ton arrena*. It's when he finds himself on the earth, after existing in the 2nd and 3rd heavens for who knows how long, and realizing that this is his fate now, he then goes after the descendants of Jacob/Israel. There is **racial Israel** made up of those who physically came from Jacob and his 12 sons; then there is **spiritual Israel** made up of all Jews and all gentiles who believe on Christ as their Savior; then there is **true Israel**, which is made up of those racial descendants of the 12 sons who have believed on Christ.

To **persecute** is the orist active indicative of dioko, which meant to drive out, to drive away, to chase after, to go after for the purpose of doing them harm. It had the idea of, if they are living amongst you, then you drive them out; if they are living elsewhere, then you go after them where they live to do them harm, which gets into the area of genocide. Genocide is the killing off of a race of people and there are two ways you can do this: 1) by actually killing them by means of war; 2) or by breeding them out of existence, especially by interbreeding with their women so they can't bring forth your race. We are presently seeing this going on in Europe and America where Muslims from the Mediterranean and Africa are raping the European women and killing the Europeans, plus there is a movement being started to kill off white people as we see going on in America. This is just the beginning and it will turn into a horror show if the people do not stop it.

N. Fleeing into the wilderness. v. 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.” - και εδοθησαν τη γυναικι δυο πτερυγες του αετου του μεγαλου 'ινα πετηται εις την ερημον εις τον τοπον αυτης 'οπου τρεφεται εκει καιρον και καιρους και 'ημισυ καιρου απο προσωπου του οφεως.

1. *“And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle,”* - *kai edothesan te gunaiki duo pteruges tou aetou tou megalou.* The word **given** is the aorist passive indicative of *didomi*. The aorist tense tells us that this occurs at a point in time, which would coincide with the time that the serpent is trying to persecute her after he had been kicked out of heaven down to the earth.

This has been a very difficult passage to interpret by many scholars because of the reference to the eagle. Modern dispensationalism has interpreted it as an American military air lift to get the people in the nation state of Israel out into the wilderness. But there is more going on here than to jump to conclusions even interpreting the specifics of two airborne divisions being brought into play.

We need to understand, first of all, that John's audience was Christians who either lived in the city of Rome, or one the provinces of the Roman empire. Secondly, he used a language of putting things out there in a way that the unsaved Gentiles wouldn't know what he was really getting at, but that the saved Gentiles, who had wisdom, would understand. Thirdly, these people would have a thorough knowledge of Roman myths and the Mystery religions because that's what they were raised in and came out of when they got saved. Fourthly, he used it with the constellation Virgo, which everyone in those days would think of their mother goddess and child. Fifthly, he has already done that by referring to Rome as the City of Babylon! If an unbelieving Gentile heard a sermon or read an article talking about the City of Babylon, the individual or maybe a government official would read it and say, “so what”! But if a believer read it, they would know that it spoke of Rome!

Now as far as stating that this refers to America because of the use of the eagle as the nation's symbol many, many nations over the years have had an eagle as their symbol. Even Mexico down to the south has an eagle grabbing a snake in its talons. And Rome had an eagle as its standard and symbol before the time of Christ! It was the symbol of the Greek sky god Zeus and the Roman's sky god Jupiter. In the Latin Aetos was Aquila. Aquila is also a constellation in the northern sky.

The ancient world in most cultures had this myth of a golden eagle who swept down and carried away a beautiful girl, or wife of one of the gods to a safe place out of the reach of danger. Some had this idea, but it was also one of the gods in the heavens who turned into an eagle so he could carry away this woman to a safe place. In Norse mythology the **giant Thiassi** had the ability to turn himself into an eagle where, after having done so, he came to earth and snatched **Idunn** and flew away with her to his home in Thryheim where she would be safe.

So what do we have here? We have an eagle, which was also found in many other cultures throughout the Middle East and the Mediterranean although varying in colors, which was sent by a deity in the sky to rescue a woman in danger, or the deity transformed himself into an eagle. The deity's name in Greece was Zeus and Jupiter in Rome. The woman could have been the wife of that deity or a goddess in herself, either way she was precious to the deity and loved. This story was well known by those in those days, but the majority of them applied it to their mystery cult, while John is using this story to apply it to believers in Christ in the last days.

2. "That she might fly into the wilderness, - *hina petetai eis erēmos*. To **fly** is the present active subjunctive of *petomai*, which combined with the word *hina* introduces a purpose clause. God gives the woman, which refers to the born again descendants of the 12 tribes of Israel, a means of transportation away from the attack of the beast.

There is a reference to being borne on the wings of eagles found in the OT, which described God's deliverance of the ancient Israelites as they left Egypt to go into the promised land. Exodus 19:4, "*Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on **eagles' wings**, and brought you unto myself.*" And in this case they walked there not flew there. And it was used figuratively in Isaiah 40:31, "*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.*"

To fly away was a common expression in those days for escaping from danger. Whenever one's life was threatened and they were surrounded on all sides with no way of escape, for those who were afoot or horseback there would only be one solution in their thinking of escaping all this and that would be to sprout wings and fly away! As David so clearly stated in Psalms 55:6, "*And I said, Oh that I had **wings like a dove!** for then would I fly away, and be at rest.*"

We have had the word for **wilderness** before, *erēmos*, and it was the word to denote a desolate place, a deserted place, a depopulated or uninhabited place, whether a desert or in the forests. Obviously it was a place where there wasn't the presence of Rome, but its emphasis was a place absent of people. Which brings in an interesting spin on things and one that is outside the mainstream of Christian thought. **The mechanics of how we get there are not revealed.**

What if it's off-worldly? When studying last days prophecy it's important that we put forth possible scenarios that we can reject out right or consider into events down the road, even though they sound a little crazy. Remember in Norse mythology the **giant Thiassi** had the ability to turn himself into an eagle where, after having done so, he came to earth and snatched **Idunn** and flew away with her to his home in Thryheim where she would be safe? What if something like this is what occurs when the Lord comes back and takes his precious bride to some inhabited place, (or heaven)? This is where some who hold to the mid-trib view have the rapture of the Church in the middle of the tribulation.

It could also refer to a science fiction concept, (or science fact), that has been circulating around right now where very important and educated men have been working at the highest levels of government with an off world group of aliens called the Nordics. They say that there are several races of aliens, namely the Reptilians, that hate the human race and are trying to destroy it and the planet, while there is another group of aliens that love people and are trying to protect them. This second group of aliens are called the Nordics and they are white-skinned, blond hair and around 11-14 feet tall! Giants!

We have to consider every reasonable possibility that is out there no matter how far-fetched it sounds, at least have it in our data banks of understanding, so that if one of them ever occurs, then we will not be caught unawares. Luke 21:34, "*And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you **unawares**.*" The reality of being deceived in the last days will be very strong so we need to be ahead of what is going on with doctrine, so we won't be! "*And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you **unawares**.*" Matthew 24:24 "*And for this cause God shall send them strong **delusion**, that they should believe a lie:*" 2 Thessalonians 2:11

3. "Into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." - *eis ton topon autes hopou trephetai ekei kairon kai kairous kai hemisu kairou apo prosopou tou opheos*. **Nourished** is the present passive indicative of *trepho*, which had the idea of having the things needed to stay alive being provided for you.

We have four different references to 3 ½ years in chapters 11, 12 and 13: 1) Revelations 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**."; 2) Revelations 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**, from the face of the serpent."; 3) Revelations 13:5, "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue **forty and two months**." 4) Revelations 11:2, "But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot **forty and two months**."

The first reference to this is in Revelations 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**." takes place somewhere in between the time after his attempt to kill the Lord at his birth and when he is actually kicked out of heaven and has to come to the earth. Many have taken this as a day/year prophecy where the 1,260 days refers to 1,260 years.

The second reference to this is in Revelations 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**, from the face of the serpent.", which takes place after he is kicked out of heaven and comes to earth and before Christ's return. Here it is taken as a time being one year, times two years and half a time being six months, so 3 ½ years total.

The third reference to this is in Revelations 13:5, "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue **forty and two months**." Now virtually everyone who has looked at this passage interprets it with our idea of months, like 12 months a year. But the word is **moon**, *mēn*, which refers to an actual cycle of the moon which occurs every 28 days! So 42 moons equals 1,176 days.

The fourth reference to this is in Revelations 11:2, "But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot **forty and two months**.", which talks about the temple and the City of Jerusalem being trodden down by the Gentiles indicating the presence of UN troops policing the City.

Now a Gentile year runs 365 days, while a Jewish year runs 360 days. Seven Gentile years is 2,555 days, while seven Jewish years is 2,520 days. Half way through for the Gentiles would be 1277.5 days, while half way through for the Jews would be 1,260 days. So if we're talking about days and years, then that's what we end up with, but if we're talking about moons, then 42 moons is 1,176 days! And that's where we get into a significant difference.

So there are 7 prophetic years set aside for the nation of Israel, which would be 2,520 days. And let's say that these 7 years of the Tribulation began on an even year, such as January 1, 2010. The end of those 7 years then would be January 1, 2017, which would make the first half of the Tribulation falling somewhere around August 1, 2013.

This middle of the Tribulation would be the time that the antichrist is given power by the devil to rule the world and as we saw in Revelations 13:5 he was given the authority to rule the world for 42 months or moons, “*power was given unto him to continue **forty and two months.***” Now if we take it as our idea of months, then he would finish his rule January 1, 2017 for seven full years. But if use moons, then the last half of the Tribulation would be shortened by **101.5 days**, which could be the reason for the shortening of the Tribulation for the sake of the elect in Matthew 24:22, “*And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*”

The Gentiles use the **solar** calender of years, months and days, but here we have something altogether different by using the word month, or moon, which refers to a **lunar** cycle of 28 days. Three and one half years of a solar calender, which follows a cycle of the sun is 1,277.5 days, while three and one half years of a lunar cycle is **1,176 days**, which is a difference of **101.5 days**. Now if we count back deducting the 31 days of December and the 30 days of November and the 31 days of October and 9 days of September, we end up around **September 21 of 2017**, which would be at Rosh Hashanah that begins sundown September 20 and ends sundown September 22, 2017! Also the constellation Virgo is said to be aligned once again on 9/23/2017 AD 2 days after Rosh Hashanah on the day of Shabbat Shuvah (Return) as it was on 9/11/03 BC.

“*From the face of the serpent.*” - *apo prosopou tou opheos*, means out of the serpent's reach. God is taking his people to a place, its specific geographical location we do not know, nor do we know the means by which he is going to do this, but we do know that it is for the purpose of nurturing her.

O. Water from the serpent. v.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.*” Revelations 12:15 - και εβαλεν 'ο οφης οπισω της γυναικος εκ του στοματος αυτου 'υδωρ 'ως ποταμον 'ινα ταυτην ποταμοφορητον ποιηση.

The concept of water and a flood being used here was well known in those days by many cultures to refer to a dragon, or a sea-monster, who came out of the primordial waters to harm those who walked righteously on earth. We see it in Psalms 18:4, “*The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.*”

The imagery was used to denote the utter destruction of a people either by God in his judgments, or by the forces of Satan persecuting the people of God. Nahum 1:8, “*But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies.*”

Psalms 124:2-5 speak of evil men trying to destroy the souls of God's people using this imagery of a flood. “*If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us: Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us: Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul: Then the proud waters had gone over our soul.*”

And like the earth swallowed up the enemies of God in another setting, so will it do so in this setting. Exodus 15:12, “*Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.*”

To be **carried away** by the flood is *potamophorētos*, which meant to be overwhelmed by the waters so that you drown. The **flood** of water would refer to the forces of the serpent who are so many that they would overwhelm the saints of God, but are defeated by the earth opening up and swallowing them.

P. The earth helps out. v.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.” - Revelations 12:16 - και εβοηθησεν ἡ γη τη γυναικι και ηνοιξεν ἡ γη το στομα αυτης και κατεπιεν τον ποταμον ὃν εβαλεν ὁ δρακων εκ του στοματος αυτου.

The word **help** here is the orist active indicative of *boetheo*, which meant to come to the aid of someone, but usually it was found in a covenant context where the one who is helping is in covenant with the one he is helping. So it points out that this woman, the redeemed from the 12 tribes of Israel, is in covenant with Jesus Christ.

When the dragon was kicked out of heaven and had to come to earth, he became enraged and the first thing he did was persecute the woman. But when God carried her away on eagle's wings to a place in the wilderness that he had prepared for her, then he became even more angry and sent his military after her just like Pharaoh did when Israel left Egypt.

So here are the armies of the antichrist pursuing after the woman into the wilderness like a flood to kill her, but God has the earth open her mouth to swallow them just like God had the sea collapse on the army of the Pharaoh to kill it. To **swallow** is the orist active indicative of *katapino*, which has the intensive idea of eating, so it's to gulp it down, as we would say.

So how does the earth swallow the flood of the serpent? One possible scenario is a literal swallowing of the earth as it did in the rebellion of Korah perhaps very similar to this modern phenomenon going on today with **sinkholes**. *“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.” Numbers 16:32*

Another distinct possibility is that there would be a massive **earthquake** where their army is encamped and is buried by rubble. Or another possibility is there would be an **earthquake** that causes the area in which they are to drop quite suddenly and water from a river or the sea would rush into the area and swallow them up.

And again another distinct possibility would be that the **terrain** in which they are maneuvering is so difficult to exist in, such as, in the forests, or the jungle, or the desert, or in cold mountainous ranges that they would all die because of the ecological problems. There's still an expression used today when speaking about the jungle that it just “swallows them up”. Or if they're at sea a storm could come up and swallow all their ships.

So we could have a metaphor here referring to a natural phenomenon where the saved descendants of the 12 tribes of Israel are taken to a safe place out of the way of the antichrist's forces, but his army pursues after them, but face such opposition by the natural terrain that stands between these people of God and the army of the Antichrist, and remember the woman is flown there by the wings of the great eagle implying the idea that the only way they can get there is overland, but once his army gets into the area that surrounds the woman the terrain is too much and they all die there.

Or a more literal concept would be where the earth actually opens up, due to sinkholes or a large earthquake and swallows them up alive. And of course there is the idea that a large earthquake could cause a major sinking of a land mass, which in turn would open that area up to being flooded. So all of these are possible scenarios.

Q. The rest of her offspring. v.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.” - Revelations 12:17 - και ωργισθη ὁ δρακων ἐπὶ τῆ γυναικὶ καὶ ἀπηλθεν ποιῆσαι πολέμον μετὰ τῶν λοιπῶν τοῦ σπέρματος αὐτῆς τῶν τηρούντων τὰς ἐντολάς τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ ἔχοντων τὴν μαρτυρίαν τοῦ ἰησοῦ χριστοῦ.

1. *“And the dragon was wroth with the woman,” - kai orgisthe ho drakon epi te gunaiki. Epi when used with the dative case denotes an action of hostility against someone, which fits in with the idea of orge.*

Now we have a shift in the mental attitude of Satan going from bad to worse, but also following after the progression of the complex of anger. In verse 12 it says that when Satan was kicked out of heaven down to the earth he had **great wrath** using the word *thumos*, but in this passage it says that he is now **enraged**, which is the aoist passive indicative of orge!

In verse 12 it says **having great wrath** using the word *thumos* for **wrath**, which uses the present active participle of echo, which describes a condition with Satan now and in this passage it says he was **wroth** with the woman using the aoist active indicative of orge for **enraged** and went out to make war with the remnant of her seed at a point in time.

Now to understand this and see the significance of what's going on we have to go back and understand the progression of anger in the soul. 1) It begins, first of all, with a mental attitude of **pride** where one thinks of himself higher than he is. The pride has to be there first before the progression of anger takes place. 2) The second thing is that there has to be something that the pride **reacts** to, something at cross purposes with the individual's will. When there is there is a reaction in the soul to it and that reaction is called bitterness. 3) Once there is a reaction, bitterness – pikria, then the next phenomenon that takes place is *thumos*, which is a **burning form of anger, but that's all it is is a burning anger in the soul that has not yet broke out. 4) The next stage of **anger** is *orge*, which is more pronounced, vindictive, taking some form of action.**

We have seen that Satan is **prideful**; he is the king of pride. So we have this mental attitude in place. The next thing is his **reaction**, somewhere along the line he has reacted and this is probably where he is denied taking over the throne of God and being cast to the earth. Instantly upon the heels of that is where **wrath – thumos**, comes about and we see that after he lands on the earth he has great *thumos*, or **great wrath**. So we see he is burning mad, or furious now. But this is all in his mind, it hasn't broken forth. And that's where we come to our passage here in verse 17 where it says that he was **wroth** with the woman. His anger now is focused and is bent on directing this anger over the woman and not being able to kill her, so his **anger** drives him to go after the rest of her offspring, which is orge in action.

1) Satan was kicked out of the 3rd heaven down to the 2nd ; 2) he will be kicked out of the 2nd heaven down to the earth; 3) he tried to kill the woman's child, the Lord Jesus Christ, at his birth but failed; 4) he will try to kill the born again remnant of the 12 tribes of Israel when he comes to earth, but will fail again; 5) now his attention is directed toward the rest of her offspring.

2. *“And went to make war with the remnant of her seed,” - και ἀπηλθεν ποιῆσαι πολέμον μετὰ τῶν λοιπῶν τοῦ σπέρματος αὐτῆς. **Went** is the aoist active indicative of aperchomai and **to make war** is the aoist active infinitive of poieo, which reveals the purpose of him going off and that is to make war against the rest of her offspring, or her seed.*

Aperchomai meant to go away, or to go from, but it doesn't tell us where is going from and it doesn't indicate any specific place he is going to, only that he is going after a specific group of people here on earth. We are only told what he is going to do and that is make war against these believers in Christ.

The preposition meta, with, is used here with the genitive to indicate that Satan is in the company of those who are actually doing the fighting against these believers in Christ. I guess his presence with them is to indicate that he wants to make sure that all these believers around the world are killed! The company or party that is doing the killing is Imperial Rome headed by the antichrist and false prophet.

*“And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him **to make war with the saints**, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.” Revelations 13:4-7 “I beheld, and the same horn **made war with the saints**, and prevailed (current action, not permanent results) against them;” Daniel 7:21*

To make war does not refer to persecution or pursuit, but to armed conflict. Satan, through his man the antichrist, will be waging full military conflict, through the UN, against the rest of the woman's offspring. But who are these offspring? It seems to point to a different group other than the descendants of the 12 tribes of Israel who had believed on Christ as their Savior.

In Revelations 12:13, “*And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the **man child**.*” we saw that the woman had given birth to a **man child**, *arsena*, but in verse 17 we have a shift in words to **seed**, *spermatos*. “*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.*”

By using the word *arsena* in verse 13 we know that the reference here is to Jesus Christ, even though he is referred to as the “seed of Abraham”. Now **true Israel** was and is believing Israel, that is, those who had come from the 12 tribes of Israel and had believed on Jesus Christ as their Savior. **Spiritual Israel** would refer to all believers in Jesus Christ regardless of their racial ancestry.

The word for **seed** here is *spermatos* and it can refer to physical seed or spiritual seed. Romans 9:8, “*That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the **seed**.*” Galatians 3:16, “*Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*” Galatians 3:29, “*And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*” 1 Peter 1:23, “*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*”

The spiritual seed spoken of in the Bible refers to the “**faith seed**” that Abraham had; faith in Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:29 tells us that all who are a believer in Christ are of Abraham's seed. And Romans 9:8 tells us that those who are children of the promises, that is, those who have believed on Christ as their Savior are counted as the **seed**. The **incorruptible seed** of 1 Peter 1:23 refers to that seed of faith, when germinated and grows, becomes the new nature inside of us! What this indicates is that this refers to all those outside of the 12 tribes who have believed on Christ as their Savior.

So what does the **remnant of her seed** mean, των λοιπων του σπερματος αυτης? We know who **her** is referring to in our passage and that's regenerated Israel, which is the true Israel of God; it is the Israel that God refers to and the only Israel that God accepts as being his own; it is those from the 12 tribes of Israel that had believed on Jesus Christ as their Savior. **Jesus Christ descended from a regenerated line of human beings from the 12 tribes; he did not come from unsaved people!**

So what's this deal with **seed**? It is the seed of anything, whether plants, animals, or people that determines what it is. The seed of elephants produces elephants, the seed of carrots produces carrots, the seed of a human being produces a human being, and even that after its own kind. So when we're talking about **her seed** we know that we are talking about the seed of faith, about regenerated people.

The word for **remnant** is *loipos* and it refers to that which is left of something, which something has already been denoted in the passage. When God judged and destroyed the southern kingdom back in 586 BC, there was the entire kingdom made up of a certain number of people, but after they were judged and destroyed, and after certain ones were taken off into captivity, there was a certain number of them that was left behind and that was the **remnant**, *loipos*.

There is a certain number of believers in Christ here on earth. Some of them are from the ancient twelve tribes of Israel and the rest are from outside these tribes, but they are all of the **same seed!** We and they are of the **faith seed!** That is, we all have in us that seed of faith of believing in Christ as our Savior. Even the Scriptures say that we are of Abraham's seed. *“And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:29*

3. *“Which keep the commandments of God,” - ton terounton tas entolas tou theou.* To **keep** is the present active participle of tereo, which meant to keep, to guard, to protect and to observe. It had the idea, say in following a teaching, that a certain teaching was handed down to you, you obeyed it personally, you guarded it from error and handed it down to someone else.

The word for **commandments** is *entolē*, which meant to command, but it had the force of an official edict of a king. So it's a quite powerful word for command. It is found in the accusative plural, *entolas*, which tells us that it refers to all the commandments of God. Some people might associate this word with strictly the 10 commandments of God, **but it refers to all the commandments God has given his people to live by in the NT age.**

Peter denoted this in 2 Peter 3:2, *“That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:”* where he let us know that these commandments were given by Jesus Christ to the Church.

4. *“And have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” - kai echonton ten marturian tou iesou christou.* The word **have** is the present active participle of echo, which meant to have, to possess, to hold as one's possession, something that belongs to them, something they hold to. And what is the thing they hold to? Their testimony for Jesus Christ.

As we have seen, one's testimony is what one stated in a court of law. When one testified, it was not wishy-washy, but a statement of fact that he held to, which was permanently entered into the records of the court. So what was these believers testimony? That they believed on Jesus Christ as their Savior! And they held to that testimony; they obeyed the commands of God given to them through Jesus Christ their Savior and they maintained their witness for Christ.

Now we have a textual problem. Do we take Revelations 13:1, “*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*” to be the last verse of chapter 12? Or do we take it to be the first verse in chapter 13? Or do we take the first part of it as the ending of Revelations 12:17, “*And the dragon was wrath 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. And I stood upon the sand of the sea,*” and the second half as part of Revelations 13:1, “*And [I] saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*”? The various translations have different approaches.

The other problem we have is in the verb, “And I stood”. Some translations have it as “*And I stood*”, while others have translated it as “*And the dragon stood*”. So is it referring to the Apostle John? Or is it referring to the devil? The original clears it up for us.

5. “*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*” - Revelations 13:1 - και 'εσταθην επι την αμμον της θαλασσης και ειδον εκ της θαλασσης θηριον αναβαινον εχον κεφαλας επτα και κερατα δεκα και επι των κερατων αυτου δεκα διαδηματα και επι τας κεφαλας αυτου ονομα βλασφημιας.

The word for **stood** is the orist passive indicative 3ps of *histemi*, which translates out as “**he**”, “*And he stood upon the sand of the sea*”. Which would refer us back to the devil, after he has been kicked out of heaven down to earth, we find him next standing on the shore of the sea. So if we take this as the 3 ps, then our translation of Revelations 12:17 would go like this. “*And the dragon was wrath 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. And **he** stood upon the sand of the sea,*” So we ask ourselves **what** sea and **why**? **Why** is he standing on the sea shore?

I guess one of the reasons why some authors have translated this as, “and he stood on the sand of the sea” is also because of the use of the word **and**, which connects the thought back to what has been transpiring. All the way down we see that the subject in view has been the dragon; **he** was kicked out of the 3rd heaven, **he** was kicked out of the 2nd heaven; **he** was kicked down to earth; **he** pursued after the woman, but failed; **he** waged war against the rest of her seed; and now we find **him** standing on the shore of the sea. For what purpose?

This goes back to ancient cosmology and mythology where an ancient sea monster lies waiting in the depths of the sea waiting for this evil sky god to summon him. So to me it is the devil now summoning the antichrist to come forth from the sea to rule the world under him. While it is the false prophet who is from the earth. Making a triumvirate of three holding power: 1) the devil is over the sky; 2) the false prophet is over the land; 3) and the antichrist is over the sea.