

Revelation 12

12:1- The First Sign- a pregnant woman

Symbolic of the nation Israel

v. 3- The Second Sign- an enormous red dragon

v. 4- 'a third of the stars' = angels See 12:7, 9

v. 5- 'male child' = Jesus Christ

12:7- 'war in heaven'

Satan has access to heaven, even today.

What is this conflict all about?

The fact that Michael led God's angels to victory is significant, because Michael is identified with the nation Israel (Dan. 10:10-21). The name Michael means "Who is like God?"

Additionally, after the church is taken to heaven, believers will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and have their works examined. On the basis of this judgment, rewards will be given (Rom. 14:10-12; I Cor. 3:10-15; 2 Cor. 5:10-11).

It may be that Satan will be present at this event and will accuse the saints, pointing out all the "spots and wrinkles" of the church (Eph. 5:24-27).

The name devil means "accuser," and Satan means "adversary". Satan stand at the throne of God and fights the saints by accusing them (see Job 1 & 2; Sech. 3). But Jesus Christ the "heavenly advocate" (I John 2:1-2), represents the church before God's holy throne.

12:14- 'wings of a great eagle' This is a repeated image in the OT with reference to Israel.

- God delivered Israel from Egypt "on eagles wings". Ex. 19:4
- God cared for the people in the wilderness as an eagle would her young. Deut. 32:11-12
- Their return from Babylonian captivity was like "mounting up with wings as eagles." Is. 40:31

God will prepare a special place where the Jewish remnant will be protected and cared for.

Revelation 13

The sea symbolizes the Gentile nations. (See Rev. 17:15)

Beast = The Antichrist Up to this point he was leading a 10 nation European league. He now becomes a world dictator.

Seven heads represent seven mountains (Rev. 17:9); since Rome was built on seven hills, this must be a veiled reference to that powerful city.

Ten horns represent ten kingdoms (Dan. 7:24; Rev. 17:12).

13:2- The three animals here remind is of the four beasts Daniel saw.

John saw these in reverse order since he was looking back, while Daniel was looking ahead.

13:3- "fatal wound that was healed"

Will this be a resurrection to mimic THE RESURRECTION?

13:4- 'men worshipped the dragon' Worship is one thing Satan has always wanted.

13:5-6 Dictators have usually manipulated people with words.

In Revelation 17, we will learn that the "beast" rises to power by means of "the harlot," a symbol of the apostate world church. This is not any one denomination or faith, but a world system that has rejected God's Son and God's truth. However, when "the beast" rises to universal power, he will no longer need "the harlot" and shall subsequently destroy her and establish his own satanic religion.

Later in Revelation the beast from the earth is called "the false prophet." The dragon or Satan is the counterfeit Father, "the beast" is the counterfeit Christ, and the false prophet is the counterfeit Holy Spirit. This completes the satanic trinity.

13:16-17 The Mark of the Beast

Since man was created on the sixth day, six is the number of man. Creation was made for man and likewise has the number six stamped on it: twenty-four hours to a day (4x6), twelve months to a year (2x6). Seven is the number of perfection and fullness, but six is the "human number," just short of perfection.