

The Seven Personages - Part I

12:1-17

Introductory Notes

- We enter another parenthetical section that does not follow the chronology of the seal/trumpet/vial judgments.
- Revelation so far has focused on the Divine judgments that are poured out on earth, but now we take a look at events on the earth during the Tribulation
- This section in Chapter 12 and 13 is marked by seven “persons”: the woman, the dragon, the man-child, Michael the angel, the remnant seed of the woman, the beast out of the sea, and the beast out of the earth.

Outline

- The Woman - vs. 1-2
- The Great Red Dragon - vs. 3-4
- The Man-Child - vs. 5-6
- Michael and the War in Heaven- vs. 7-12
- The Persecution of Israel - vs. 13-16
- The Remnant - vs. 17

Notes

- vs. 1 - “great wonder” - literally a ‘sign’. This section is not literal but representative
- (1) The Woman - represents the nation of Israel
- vs. 1 - sun, moon, twelve star - similar imagery used in Genesis 37:9-11
- vs. 2 - this refers to the First Coming of Christ
- (2) Great Red Dragon - Satan, but also his empire on earth
- vs. 3 - red - probably refers to death and murder (John 8:44)
- vs. 3 - ten horns, etc. - see Daniel 7:7-8, 24
- vs. 4 - third part of the stars - may refer to the angels that rebelled with him, see Daniel 8:10 and Jude 6
- vs. 4 - “devour her child as soon as it was born”:
 - As Herod tried in Matthew 2:16-18
 - Satan knew Christ’s coming was his downfall (Genesis 3:15)
- (3) Man-Child - Christ
- vs. 5 - “rule all nations with a rod of iron” - see Psalm 2:9
- vs. 5 - “was caught up unto God” - refers to Christ’s Ascension in Acts 1:9-11
- vs. 6 - “fled into the wilderness” - God protects His people as He similarly did for Elijah in I Kings 17:1-7
- NOTE - At some point between the end of vs. 5 and the latter half of vs. 6 we are back into the Tribulation period.
- vs. 6 - 1,260 days - 3 1/2 years, most likely the second half of the Tribulation
- vs. 7 - “war in heaven” - this startling scene is in Heaven itself as Satan’s downfall begins. We know from Job chapters 1-2 that Satan has had some access to Heaven. Here he and his forces are defeated and expelled to earth.
- (4) Michael - the archangel, mentioned in Daniel 10:13,21, Daniel 12:1, Jude 9.

- vs. 9 - if there was any confusion about who the dragon is, this clears it up.
- vs. 10 - “power” - authority. I take this and the passage preceding it as pointing to the coming of Christ’s Kingdom.
- vs. 10 - “accuser of our brethren” - in contrast to Christ our advocate in I John 2:1
- vs. 11 - Note how these believers, probably martyrs, overcame Satan:
 - “blood of the Lamb” - that has cleansed us from sin
 - “word of their testimony” - they could not be made to deny Christ
 - “loved not their lives unto death” - willing to die for Christ’s name
- vs. 12 - note the range of emotions here. Those in Heaven could rejoice seeing the coming of the Kingdom, while those on Earth had terrible judgment coming.
- vs. 13 - Now Satan turns in fury against Israel
- vs. 14 - “two wings” - not sure if there is any more meaning to this than great speed
- vs. 14 - MATH WARNING! - Times (2) + Time (1) + Half a Time (1/2) = 3 1/2. Pretty certain this refers to the last half of the Tribulation.
- vs. 15 - flood - no one is certain as to whether the flood is literal or figurative of Satan’s fury. In context of the figurative nature of this chapter I lean toward the latter.
- vs. 16 - ...and God protects and preserves His own.
- vs. 17 - while Satan’s fury is poured out against Israel, it is even hotter of the Jewish believers.
- (5) Remnant Seed of the Woman - Jewish believers, almost certainly the 144,000 in Revelation 7.