

REVELATION 12:13-17

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 12 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

I realize we have spent some three weeks on this chapter, but it is important we understand who the people are in this chapter.

If you get this wrong, then you will be messed up with Bible prophecy and thus, this is important.

We saw that the **“woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars”** represented the nation of Israel. (Revelation 12:1)

Many in the Roman Catholic Church say that this is Mary, and that is wrong. This idea that this woman represents Israel comes right out of the Old Testament with the dream that Joseph had in Genesis chapter 27.

The male Child that the nation of Israel gave birth to was Jesus Christ, the Messiah. (Revelation 12:2, 4-5)

The **“fiery red dragon”** is the Devil who tried to destroy the child, which the New Testament speaks of Herod trying to accomplish that! (Revelation 12:3)

And the persecution by the Devil, which we will read more of tonight, is against Israel and she will flee to the rock city of Petra where God will preserve her for 3½ years! (Revelation 12:6)

In our last study we saw a war break out in heaven between Michael and the angelic hosts of heaven fighting against Satan and his demonic forces.

It is during this battle that Satan and his demonic hosts will be cast out of heaven to the earth.

No longer will he be able to accuse the brethren before our loving Father.

This period of time here on earth is known as the Great Tribulation Period, or the Time of Jacob's Trouble. It speaks of the last 3½ years of the 7-year Tribulation Period.

This war that began in heaven between Michael and his angels against Satan and his forces will continue on the earth, but now Satan will fight against the nation of Israel and all those who refuse to worship him and he will use the Antichrist to do this.

That is what we will be looking at this evening and it is a time that is unparalleled in human history. Of this time Jesus said, "**For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.**" Matthew 24:21-22.

I do realize that there are those who believe that the elect is speaking of the church, and sometimes it is, and sometimes it is speaking of Israel.

So how do we know who this is speaking of?

Context, context, context!

As you look at what is being said in Matthew chapter 24 Jesus is speaking to the Jewish people, Israel and not the church. How can I be so sure?

Simple. Listen to what He says in Matthew 24:20, a verse just before the verses I just read. We are told, "**And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.**"

How many of you only travel a short distance on the Sabbath? None of you worry about that because we are the Church and that Sabbath restriction, which was added by the Jewish religious leaders, does not apply to us.

That means that the phrase **“for the elect’s sake . . .”** is speaking of Israel, and that is what Revelation chapter 12 is all about, the nation of Israel. I hope that is clear!

Now, in saying that, notice what the Lord says to Jeremiah regarding the nation of Israel returning to the land, which occurred on May 14, 1948.

And once they are in the land, the time of Jacob’s trouble will come upon them, the seventieth week of Daniel. That is what is next on God’s agenda after the Rapture of the Church or the calling of the church home to be with the Lord.

We read in Jeremiah chapter 30, beginning in verse 1, **“The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, ‘Thus speaks the LORD God of Israel, saying: “Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you. For behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,” says the LORD. “And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.”’ Now these are the words that the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah. For thus says the LORD: ‘We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it. For it shall come to pass in that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘That I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds; foreigners shall no more enslave them. But they shall serve the LORD their God, and**

David their king, whom I will raise up for them. . . . You shall be My people, and I will be your God.’ Behold, the whirlwind of the LORD goes forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind; it will fall violently on the head of the wicked. The fierce anger of the LORD will not return until He has done it, and until He has performed the intents of His heart. In the latter days you will consider it.” Jeremiah 30:1-9, 22-24.

This is the last 7-year period of time, also known as the seventieth week of Daniel, which will come to pass in the latter days. And some of the results will be that Israel will return to their God and Jesus will sit on the throne of David, ruling and reigning from Jerusalem. But before that happens, a war breaks out on earth!

Now let me add this from David Hocking because there are many today who have said that the Scriptures that speak of Israel are now speaking of the church, or replacement theology. Which is totally wrong! This is what he wrote,

The nation of Israel has a prominent place in God’s plan for human history.

In one respect, all human history is vitally related to the history and destiny of the people of Israel. God’s promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 reveals that all the nations of the world will be blessed through the descendants of Abraham.

According to the Bible, Satan has a deep hatred of the Jewish people and has sought by many means to destroy them.

God has never allowed that to happen, though some political leaders have dedicated themselves to eliminating Israel from the face of the earth.

These leaders have perished as will all who curse Abraham’s descendants.

God is committed to their survival and future glory. He will one day restore the kingdom to Israel, and a Jewish Messiah will rule from Jerusalem over the entire world.

Naturally, many Gentiles do not appreciate such words nor do they believe that such a prophecy will ever be fulfilled.

In Revelation 12, details about Israel's troubles and survival during the tribulation period are given.

The nation is represented by a woman with a special child, who is none other than the Messiah Himself.

- David Hocking, The Book of Revelation, pp. 393-394

Again, this is important for us to understand as we look at Bible prophecy. The focus is Israel as God is finishing up the seventieth week of Daniel or that last 7-year period of time before He comes to set up His Kingdom on this earth.

Let me share with you Revelation 12:12 as that sets us up for what will transpire in the verses that we will be looking at this evening. We are told, "**Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.**"

Heaven is rejoicing as the Devil, Satan, the one who accuses us before our God, and the host of wickedness are cast out of heaven!

But on earth, there is no rejoicing. Why?

We don't have to speculate on this one, we are told, "**... For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.**"

We will see the fury that the Devil will unleash upon not only the Gentiles, but specifically the Jewish people. His time is short, he knows it, and look out, or "**... Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and sea! ...**"

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Revelation chapter 12, beginning in verse 13 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word this evening.

REVELATION 12

VERSE 13

Like a cornered animal, Satan is going to fight and fight and try to destroy as many lives as he can before his time is up.

Regarding this, Warren Wiersbe wrote,

Knowing that his time is short, and having no more access to heaven, the adversary must vent all of his anger earthward.

He begins with Israel (the woman) and creates a wave of anti-Semitism.

Satan has always hated the Jews because they are God's chosen people and the vehicle through which salvation came into the world. Satan would like to destroy the nation, particularly as the time draws near for the Messiah to return to earth to establish the promised kingdom. A Jewish remnant must be ready to receive Him and form the nucleus for the kingdom (Zech 12:9-14:21; Rev 1:7).

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – NT, p. 1006

Exactly! Now this woman is Israel, who gave birth to the Messiah and now the powers of darkness once again are coming after this nation to destroy her!

It is as Walvoord said, ***“The persecution of Israel is part of the satanic program to thwart and hinder the work of God . . . Israel is hated by Satan not because of any of its own characteristics but because she is the chosen of God and essential to the overall purpose of God for time and eternity.”***

Think about that for a minute. Satan can no longer persecute the Male Child, Jesus Christ, for the victory over Satan was completed on Calvary.

But that does not stop him from going after the woman who gave birth to the Male Child, going after the nation of Israel!

But some continue to try and make this the church.

Leon Morris, in his commentary on the book of Revelation makes this mistake as he looks at the woman of verses 1-6 differently than the woman in verses 13-17, which the text does not imply or support.

This is what he has to say regarding this woman, ***“Here the woman is undoubtedly Israel who gives birth to the Messiah, but later in the chapter she is the church who is persecuted for her faith.”***

A very wrong conclusion. This woman is still the nation of Israel and not the church. One big reason is that the church was removed or Raptured from the earth unto our Lord back in Revelation chapter 4, before the seventieth week of Daniel begins, which is Jewish territory.

That is not to say that those who get saved during the Tribulation Period will not be persecuted, for they will, and many will be martyred for their faith in Christ. But the focus of this chapter is primarily the nation of Israel!

And Jesus warned them of this day in Matthew chapter 24, when He said, **“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place’ (whoever reads, let him understand), ‘then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.’”** Matthew 24:15-22.

Again, this is not the church but the Jewish people who are fleeing for their lives to the rock city of Petra, where God will protect them from the Antichrist and his forces for 3½ years!

One writer sums up this persecution of the Jewish people through history for us. He wrote,

Israel faced constant threats from her neighbors during the periods of the judges and of the kings.

Later, first the northern kingdom of Israel (722 B.C.) and then the southern kingdom of Judah (586 B.C.) were conquered by their enemies. As a result, the Jewish people lost their independence and became subject to foreign powers, including Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.

In postbiblical times the story has, tragically, been much the same. The history of the Jewish people for the last two thousand years is a sad litany of prejudice, persecution, and pogroms [massacres].

The first widespread persecution of the Jewish people in Europe took place during the First Crusade (1095-99). As they made their way across Europe toward Palestine [Israel], mobs of unruly crusaders destroyed Jewish homes and villages and massacred their inhabitants. When they captured Jerusalem in 1099, the crusaders herded Jerusalem's Jewish population into a synagogue and set it on fire. Most of the Jews perished, and the survivors were sold into slavery.

King Edward I banished all Jews from England in 1290, thus giving England the dubious honor of being the first country to expel its Jewish population. They would not be permitted to return until the time of Oliver Cromwell, nearly three and a half centuries later.

France followed suit in 1306, Spain in 1492 - ironically, the year of Columbus's voyage of discovery to the New World.

Throughout the Middle Ages, the Jews were blamed for various natural disasters - most notably the Black Death (1348-50) - and savagely persecuted.

The nineteenth century saw an outbreak of anti-Semitism in Russia, where Jews were blamed for the assassination of Tsar Alexander II (1881).

In the ensuing pogroms [massacres] of the next four decades, tens of thousands of Jews were killed, and hundreds of thousands of others driven from their homes.

Nearly 3 million more were killed during Stalin's reign, part of the tens of millions of people massacred by that notorious dictator.

1894 saw the scandalous Dreyfus affair in France, in which a Jewish army officer, Captain Alfred Dreyfus, was falsely convicted of treason. Only after twelve years of public turmoil over the case was Dreyfus exonerated.

But the darkest hour in the long history of anti-Semitism was yet to come. In the early 1930's the Nazi party came to power in Germany and their insane racial theories became public policy.

Unlike others who had persecuted the Jewish people, the Nazis and their maniacal [delirious] leader, Adolf Hitler, did not merely seek to persecute the Jews, but to eliminate them.

In the Holocaust that ensued when the Nazis sought to implement their "final solution" to the "Jewish problem," 6 million Jews - more than half the Jewish population of Europe - were slaughtered. . . .

It is the fervent hope of the Jewish people that the horrors of the Holocaust will never again be repeated.

Tragically, however, they will. The Bible warns that a time of suffering lies ahead for Israel that will be worse than anything the nation has endured in the past.

Jeremiah called that time "the time of Jacob's distress" (Jer 30:7). Jesus described it as "a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will" (Matt 24:21).

- John MacArthur, Revelation 12

So as Satan, through the Antichrist, begins to persecute the Jewish people, notice what God does for them.

VERSE 14

We now see the Dragon rise up and persecute the nation of Israel by the Antichrist.

When does it begin?

As we have seen in Matthew chapter 24, Jesus tells us very clearly that the beginning of this persecution will occur when the Antichrist goes into the rebuilt Temple of God and demands to be worshiped as God.

This event occurs in the middle of the 7-year tribulation period, or the 3½ year mark, and leads us into the Great Tribulation!

Jesus said that when you see this blasphemy take place by the Antichrist, **“then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.”** Matthew 24:16-20.

Like I have said, Jesus is specifically speaking to the nation of Israel. We can travel as far as we want on the Sabbath, but for the Jew, I believe he can only travel 1/4 of a mile.

Everything shuts down on the Sabbath in Jerusalem. No work is to be done. And Jesus is telling them to flee when they see this event, and prayerfully this won't occur on the Sabbath for your own sakes. In fact, the persecution is going to be so intense, don't even go home to pack your bags, just flee into the mountains, the wilderness!

John tells us that those who flee to the mountains will be given wings as an eagle and transported there.

What is that talking about?

Some feel that this was the best way that John could explain the transportation of the Jewish people back then. In other words, he is speaking of our modern-day airplanes, that is how they will be evacuated!

Now that could happen, but I don't believe John is speaking of a literal airplane here, and I will show you why. I think the Scriptures speak otherwise.

Let's look at this example of being carried on the wings of eagles and I think it will help you to understand what this is all about. And remember, the book of Revelation takes what is in the Old Testament and puts them together into one book regarding prophecy!

In Exodus 19:4 we read, **“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.”**

This was not speaking of a literal eagle's wings, but how God carried them from their bondage in Egypt, through the Red Sea. It speaks of God's loving care and protection.

When a young eagle is learning to fly, the mother eagle stirs up the nest and lets those young move out of the safety of that nest, and the mother eagle flies under them with her wings spread out to catch them, and to help them to learn to fly.

We also see this in Deuteronomy 32:9-12, where we read, **“For the LORD'S portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance. He found him in a desert land and in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; he encircled him, He instructed him, he kept him as the apple of His eye. As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings, So the LORD alone led him, and there was no foreign god with him.”**

I believe that is what God is speaking of here in Revelation 12:14. That He will be flying under their feet as a mother eagle would do, protecting them and watching over them. He will bring them to a place of safety, helping their faith to grow, to come to that saving faith as they turn to Jesus as their Messiah!

Think about that for a minute. Isn't that what God does with each of us?

You bet it is!

You see, He stirs up the nest, stretches us, He gets us out of the safety of the nest, and teaches us, in a sense, how to fly.

Before I moved up to Manitowoc, I lived comfortably in the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago. And I was very comfortable. I had a great church that I was actively involved in. I was an Assistant Pastor, had a mid-week home Bible study, loved my pastor and the people. I had a great job. I had a beautiful home. The school system was great. I was very cozy. My wife and I even talked about how comfortable we were, and that we loved the way things were going.

And then God stirred the nest, stretched me and my family and He was teaching us to fly by bringing us to Manitowoc.

Now I am not going to say that I am comfortable anymore, but I do love it up here.

And I know that God will stir the nest, not necessarily moving us, but helping us to grow as we encounter different things in our life.

And folks, God won't allow us to get comfortable, to be in a perpetual nest where we will become fat and flightless. He wants us to grow, He wants to teach us to fly, and He will keep working with us, teaching us as we walk with Him!

Now many believe that this wilderness area or mountains, where Israel is protected for those 3½ years, is the area known as Petra.

Petra is located approximately 180 miles south of Amman Jordan and 75 miles north of Aqaba and 120 miles southeast of Jerusalem. This city is located in the area of Jordan today.

Now why do we believe this is the area?

One reason is found in Daniel 11:41, which is speaking of the Antichrist moving out to conquer the land, and we are told, **“He [the Antichrist] shall also enter the Glorious Land [Israel], and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon.”**

Also, in Isaiah 16:1-4 we read, **“Send the lamb to the ruler of the land, from Sela to the wilderness, to the mount of the daughter of Zion. For it shall be as a wandering bird thrown out of the nest; so shall be the daughters of Moab at the fords of the Arnon. Take counsel, execute judgment; make your shadow like the night in the middle of the day; hide the outcasts, do not betray him who escapes. Let My outcasts dwell with you, O Moab; be a shelter to them from the face of the spoiler. For the extortioner is at an end, devastation ceases, the oppressors are consumed out of the land.”**

Now Edom, Moab and Ammon form the boundaries of modern-day Jordan.

And interestingly enough, the chief ruler of Jordan lives in the capitol of Jordan, Ammon.

Jordan’s king was King Hussein, who wanted the Jewish immigration to Israel to stop and for Israel to give back the mountains of Jerusalem back to them! But he has died and things have changed some.

In a recent article, listen to what is happening between Israel and Jordan. We are told, Israeli President Isaac Herzog has revealed he met King Abdullah II of Jordan in Ammon, an unannounced meeting held against the backdrop of improving diplomatic ties between the two countries.

“Last week I met and had a very long conversation with the king of Jordan, I was in his palace, an entire evening. It was an excellent meeting,” Herzog said in clips from an interview broadcast on Saturday on Israeli television. . . .

Jordan and Egypt are the only two countries bordering Israel to have signed peace treaties with it.

- <https://bit.ly/3v8Z14F>

A very interesting article from September 4, 2021!

But, no matter what, this land will become a place of refuge for the nation of Israel as they flee from the Antichrist.

Also, we should note that the highest mountains in Jordan are located in the area of Petra.

Now **PETRA** is the Greek word meaning “**rock**.” In the Hebrew it is translated **SELA** and is also known as Mount Seir or “**Hairy**” for it is where Esau and his descendants came to live.

When you look at this city, you can easily understand where it got its name, Rock. For it is very rocky and barren.

Petra is situated in the valley which is surrounded by almost impassable mountain cliffs, with only a narrow gorge or entrance to get through, which is one of the most fantastic rock formations on the earth and is called El Ciq.

Thus, this area could be defended easily for this narrow opening is only some 10 to 12 feet wide and it zig-zags back and forth. The entire Petra complex, including the Ciq, is about 20 miles square.

In Malachi 1:2-5 we read of this area being destroyed, even though many times it has been rebuilt.

Today we see the ancient cities of Ammon and Aqaba have been rebuilt and enlarged but Petra remains a ghost town. The only people there are the tourists who come to see it!

But this Ghost town is able to hold some 1.5 million people in its cliffs, and thus, it is waiting for the nation of Israel to flee there!

And my last remark on why I think Israel will flee to the area of Petra is found in Psalm 60, where we read of God's deliverance of the nation of Israel from its enemies to a place of refuge.

This is what we are told, **“O God, You have cast us off; you have broken us down; you have been displeased; Oh, restore us again! You have made the earth tremble; you have broken it; heal its breaches, for it is shaking. You have shown Your people hard things; you have made us drink the wine of confusion. . . . Who will bring me to the strong city? Who will lead me to Edom? Is it not You, O God, who cast us off? And You, O God, who did not go out with our armies? Give us help from trouble, for the help of man is useless. Through God we will do valiantly, for it is He who shall tread down our enemies.”**

Psalm 60:1-3, 9-12.

What is the strong city that is located in Edom?

It is Petra, the capitol of Edom!

God is the one who will give them eagles wings to bring them to the place of protection and safety, for man's help will be futile.

But don't think that this will stop the Antichrist from coming against them.

For he will mount up his forces and attack them as we shall see in verses 15 and 16 of Revelation chapter 12.

VERSES 15-16

Notice who the Antichrist, indwelt by Satan or the dragon, comes after! It is the woman or Israel.

And as we have seen, as Israel begins to flee from Jerusalem, because they refuse to worship the Antichrist, he assembles his armies to go after them and to overtake them.

The water that flows from the mouth of the serpent refers to his army and not a literal flood.

How can I be so sure?

Because the Scriptures tell us.

We see that it is the prophet Isaiah who illustrates this for us in chapter 59, where we read regarding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, **“So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun; when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him. ‘The Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,’ says the LORD.”** Isaiah 59:19-20.

The Lord is saying to all those who turn from their idolatry, and return to the Lord God, that even as the enemies of God come in like a flood, that God will protect them by His Spirit!

Also, Psalm 124 speaks of God's protection against their enemies.

And this Psalm could apply to various times in Israel's history where God has raised up a standard against Israel's enemies.

But it could also be looking into the future when God will deliver the nation from the Antichrist as He protects them for 3½ years.

Let me show you what I mean. We are told in Psalm 124, beginning in verse 1, **“If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, Let Israel now say – ‘If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, When men rose up against us, Then they would have swallowed us alive, When their wrath was kindled against us; Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, The stream would have gone over our soul; Then the swollen waters Would have gone over our soul.’ Blessed be the Lord, Who has not given us as prey to their teeth. Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; The snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.”**

Psalm 124:1-8.

Make no mistake about it, if God was not on their side, the Antichrist and his army would have swallowed them up like the waters of a raging river. But their help is found in the **LORD**, just as ours is!

And if you think about it, if the **LORD** was not on their side, they would have been wiped out long ago, but God is on their side and God will deliver them!

Thus, as Israel is fleeing to the wilderness, with the armies of the Antichrist in hot pursuit, the earth opens up and swallows these flood waters, this army up, destroying the enemy.

This event should remind us of the time when Israel was fleeing from Egypt, and as their backs were up against the wall, with the Egyptians coming from one direction, the Red Sea in the other, and it looked hopeless, with mountains on either side of them. But God opened the Red Sea up so that the Israelites could pass through on dry ground, but the enemy was still coming upon them.

And as Israel passed through the Red Sea on dry ground, as the Egyptians entered in and were in the middle of the Red Sea, those waters came crashing down upon them, killing all the Egyptian army including Pharaoh!

And in the Song of Moses, we see how God's mighty hand saved them from this army. We read, "**Your right hand, O LORD, has become glorious in power; your right hand, O LORD, has dashed the enemy in pieces. And in the greatness of Your excellence you have overthrown those who rose against You; you sent forth Your wrath; it consumed them like stubble. And with the blast of Your nostrils the waters were gathered together; the floods stood upright like a heap; the depths congealed in the heart of the sea. The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my desire shall be satisfied on them. I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.'** You blew with Your wind, the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? You stretched out Your right hand; the earth swallowed them. You in Your mercy have led forth the people whom You have redeemed; you have guided them in Your strength to **Your holy habitation.**" Exodus 15:6-13.

You would think at this point, with the Lord destroying the army of the Antichrist, that he would just give up. Make no mistake about it, this will not stop the Antichrist and his attack on the Jews, because, as we shall see in verse 17, not all will leave the city or be able to make it to this place of protection.

VERSE 17

The Antichrist, empowered by Satan could not touch those Jews who were in Petra, they are protected by the Lord. And since he can't destroy this group of people, then he will go after the ones he can, those who remain in Jerusalem.

Understand that he is going after believers here. Those who have come to the faith in Jesus Christ during the Tribulation Period. Now I think John is speaking of the Jewish converts, but it is not limited to just the Jews. The Antichrist will go after all those who refuse to worship him, but again I think this is primarily Jewish territory here in Revelation chapter 12.

But can this also be speaking of unbelieving Jews? I guess it can if they refuse to bow and worship the Antichrist!

David Hocking explains it like this. He wrote,

While it may be a reference to Jewish believers only there is no reason why it could also refer to Gentile believers in the Tribulation – they are also “the remnant of her seed.”

The “martyrs” mentioned in Revelation 6:9 were “slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.”

Also, in Revelation 14:12 we read: “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” The descriptions are indeed similar!

Satan's war with Israel is described in the next few chapters explaining how he will unleash his anger toward Israel and his diabolical plans to destroy the very people God says will never cease to exist.

- David Hocking, The Book of Revelation, pp. 410-411

I too believe that specifically this is speaking of the Jews but don't forget that the Antichrist will unleash his anger against all those who are against him, and those are the ones who have turned to Christ during this period of time, both Jews and Gentiles!

We see the multitude of people that are saved out of the Tribulation Period in Revelation 6:9-11. This is what we are told, **“When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.”**

And in Revelation 7:9-17 we are told, **“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb! All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.’ Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, ‘Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?’ And I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ So he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”**

This is the result of the fury of the Antichrist coming after Christians, but again, what about the Jews?

Zechariah gives us some insightful but painful statistics of what will transpire in the Great Tribulation. He says in chapter 13, starting in verse 8, **“And it shall come to pass in all the land,’ says the LORD, ‘That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, “This is My people”; and each one will say, “The LORD is my God.””** Zechariah 13:8-9.

We see that during this time two-thirds of the nation of Israel will be destroyed by the Antichrist.

Today there are almost 7 million Jews living in Israel and that number is growing daily. That would mean that over 4.6 million Jews would be destroyed and 2.4 million would survive, most in the safety of the city of Petra.

That is just speaking of the Jews, 4.6 million martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ!

Now, in saying that we need to keep in mind that we too are persecuted for keeping **“... the commandments of God and hav[ing] the testimony of Jesus Christ.”** Revelation 12:17.

We are to be on guard, we are to be watchful, we are to pay attention to the things that are happening around us. We are not to fall into a false sense of security! We need to keep our eyes focused on the Lord and be led by Him.

Peter tells us that we are to **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”**

I Peter 5:8-9.

Peter is telling us how we can overcome the enemy, and his solution is by keeping our faith in God and resting totally upon Him.

The enemy is always looking for an opening to attack us, to weaken us, and to cause our testimony to be made useless. He wants to make us ineffective as Christians. He wants to put out the light we have!

I think we open ourselves up to danger when we play the Lone Ranger.

What do I mean by that?

I mean this.

We don't need to go to church.

We don't need to fellowship with our brothers and sisters in the Lord. We can do it on our own.

We don't need anyone else to help us, we have the Lord.

And that is true, and yet the Lord has given us the body of Christ to work together, to strengthen the body, to keep it healthy.

The Lone Ranger needed Tonto, and we as Christians need each other to keep us on the right path, to encourage us.

Remember in I Corinthians when Paul rebuked the church in Corinth for allowing the young man who was having sexual relations with his stepmom. He rebuked them and he told them to kick the young man out of the church so he would be outside the protection of the church, he would be on his own so Satan could buffet him and maybe he would repent and return to the Lord!

And in II Corinthians it seems like this young man did repent and Paul said to let him back into the church, into the fellowship of believers!

And remember what Paul said in Hebrews 10:24-25, “**And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**”

We do need each other, may we not forget that, because the enemy will use those times that we are alone to defeat us, to discourage us. Don't let him!

Don't become discouraged. Encourage one another knowing that you are making an impact for the Kingdom of God.

And when you think about it, as you are serving the Lord, that is why you are being attacked. If you were not doing anything, you are no threat to Satan. But if your light is shining brightly, he will try to extinguish it so others will not be drawn to it, they will not see Jesus through you.

Our defense against his attack is Christ. We are to stand against Satan and his schemes.

Our offensive weapons are the ***WORD OF GOD*** and ***PRAYER!***

The defensive weapons we have for our protection is ***THE COMPLETE ARMOR OF GOD*** which Paul speaks of in Ephesians chapter 6.

Paul tells here in Ephesians chapter 6, “**Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**”

Ephesians 6:10-13.

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!

We have seen in our study of Revelation chapter 12 the introduction of some of the key players in the Great Tribulation Period.

Israel, Satan, Christ, Michael the archangel and the godly remnant.

But as we move into chapter 13, we are going to be introduced to two more key players of this time, the beast out of the sea, and the beast out of the earth. They are known as the Antichrist and the false prophet and we will deal with them or begin to next time.

And as you will see, these players are not on God's side, but are representatives of Satan.

Remember to stand strong in the Lord and the power of His might!

As Paul said, **“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”** Colossians 2:8-10.

Be complete, be in Christ!

As I close this evening, listen to what writer has to say to help tie this all together. He said,

For the long-suffering people of Israel, the darkest hour lies ahead. But it will be followed by a glorious dawn. The elect remnant of Israel, having the most savage persecution in the nation's long history, will be saved and enjoy the bliss of the millennial kingdom, 'and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written' (Rom 11:26).

- John MacArthur, Revelation 12

Amen to that!

Now, in saying that I want you to keep in mind what this book is all about, the unveiling or the Revelation of Jesus Christ in all of His glory!

In other words, **“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’”** Revelation 11:15.

The Lord is coming back, He will reign on this earth, and those who believe will enter into the Kingdom Age with Him!

PICTURES OF PETRA









