

The Great Conflict Revelation 12

I. Identity of the Combatants – 12:1-4

1. The Woman – 1, 2

Earthly conflict began in the Garden of Eden

Genesis 3 relates attack of Satan on Eve

Genesis 3:15 tells of an on-going conflict

Satan & his seed in conflict with woman & her seed

God chose Israel as vehicle to bring Messiah

Woman's identity noted in Genesis 37:9-11

Jacob knew sun, moon & 12 stars was his family – Gen. 37:10

This woman (Israel) is to give birth to a child

The seed of this woman is the Messiah

This is clearly identified in Revelation 12:5

2. The Dragon – 3, 4

The Great Dragon is identified in v. 9 as Satan

He has 7 heads & 10 horns – great power

7 crowns – authority to rule in his kingdom

This conflict began in heaven – Ezek. 28:12-19

Lucifer's pride caused him to rebel – Isaiah 14:12-17

He took 1/3 of the angels (stars) with him

They became demonic spirits in his kingdom

Genesis 3:15 speaks of this conflict & outcome

Child will be bruised, Satan's head crushed

Dragon sought to kill this child at birth

Used King Herod to do this

II. Issue in the Conflict - 12:4-6

What is the reason for hostility? – 2, 4-6

1. It is all about the child who is to be born

She suffers much giving birth to this child – 2

Satan attacked Israel to prevent his birth

Satan tried to devour child at his birth – 4

Herod was Satan's instrument in this attack

2. It is the ultimate destiny of this child – 5

This child will rule the nations with a rod of iron

Satan knows Christ will rule, and he is doomed

Christ ascended to heaven in triumph

He sits on the Throne

Satan can't touch Christ so he turns on Israel – 6

God will protect her against attacks for 3 ½ years

III. Intensity of the Conflict – 12:7-17

1. This spiritual battle began in heaven – 7

This spiritual conflict continues – Eph. 6:10-12

Wrestle against spiritual wickedness in Heavenly sphere

2. Satan's defeat is assured – 7-9

Christ defeated Satan at the cross – Col. 2:15

But Satan still accuses saints before God – 10

Example of this is found in the Book of Job

He is defeated and cast out of heaven – 7-9

His kingdom of fallen angels also cast out

3. Ultimate victory comes through Christ – 10-11

Final victory is proclaimed over Satan

The accuser of the brethren is cast down

The blood of the Lamb brings victory

May be suffering & death but there is victory

4. This victory brings rejoicing in heaven – 12

Those who dwell in heaven celebrate victory

5. This victory brings woe to those on earth – 12

Satan becomes more hostile knowing his time is short. The end is near

6. Satan turns his hostility on Israel (woman) – 13

He will persecute the woman who bore the seed

7. God miraculously protects the woman – 14-16

With Eagle wings to fly to a place of safety – 14

Swallowing up flood meant to drown her - 15-16

8. Dragon makes war on the remnant – 17

Satan's attack on Israel is greatly intensified

But God protects His own – believing remnant

Those who keep God's commands and rest their faith in Jesus Christ

9. Satan will gather His forces against Israel

Next chapter introduces the beast & false prophet