

Satan, Israel, and the end of the world.

I was afraid as a child when I watched the wizard of Oz. the wicked witch and the great Oz scared me. I no longer got scared of the great and powerful Oz as soon as they pulled the curtain back and he was revealed as not being so fearsome. In Revelation 12, Jesus pulls the curtain of Satan exposing his fearsome tactics in opposing God and repeated and ultimate defeat by God. In the end he is not to be feared.

Main points: For God's people to understand the opposition of Satan to God's people and God's provision and victory. For non-Christians to NOT follow the Satanic deception but receive and follow Christ.

Tips to understanding apocryphal language

1. Metaphors describe literal events that happen in real time on earth
2. **The nature of the events** is evident by their effects.
3. **The chronology of the events** is evident by **Their relationship to Daniel's 70th week. PPT of 70**

Daniel 9:27: *Seventy ^[a]weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to ^[b]finish the transgression, to ^[c]make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and ^[d]prophecy and to anoint the most holy place. . . . nd he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of ^[a]abominations will come one who ^[b]makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who ^[c]makes desolate."*

Illustration: map of campus which has an arrow pointing to the words "You are here". Daniel's 70th week is God's timeframe telling us to relate events to it.

Why does Jesus want us to know these events are in earth's final 3.5 years? To know **the end is near!** There will be "no more delay" (10:6); The Old Testament prophets are about *to be fulfilled* (10:7).

Rev. 11 summarizes how God the world responds to the first 1260 days (3 ½ years) of God urging them to repent through ministry of the two witnesses preaching repentance and bringing God's judgments on them. They refuse to repent and rejoice when the two are killed.

Jesus wants us to know from Rev. 12 onward He describes earth's final 31/2 years.

- a. Rev. 11:2. Jerusalem invaded and conquered 42 months.

- b. Matt. 24:14-17 After Covenant broken Israel invaded and flees to survive great persecution.
- c. Rev. 11:2. Israel conquered and persecuted by Gentiles for **42 months**.
- d. Re. 11:3. **1260 days** of ministry of 2 witnesses who are they killed by the antichrist.
- e. Rev. 12:6. Israel flees and is protected by God for **1260 days**
- f. Rev. 12:14. Satan attempts to destroy Israel and she flees to the wilderness where God protects her for a **time, times and half a time. (3 ½ years)**
- g. Rev. 13:5. The Antichrist is given authority to rule for **42 months**.

Their relationship to the judgements. Chap 12 describes events after the first 6 seals and trumpet judgments 11:14-15

Why Israel is key to the end of the world: The woman. 12:1-5

1. The woman is Israel. Many views: Mary Baker Eddy founder of Christian Science claimed to be this woman
 - a. Not a literal woman. She is a 'great sign' not a literal mother.
 - b. Not Mary. She is persecuted during the final 3.5 years on earth and has 'other children" 12:17.
 - c. Is Israel.
 - i. Only other vision of the sun and moon under the feet is Joseph's dream of ruling over the sun (Jacob) the moon (Rachel) and 11 stars bowing down to him (Gen. 37:9-11) His parents and brothers understood it meant them.
 - ii. She gives birth to the messiah.
 - iii. She is persecuted by Satan in the last days. Jesus says this of Israel in matt. 24:14-18
2. She gives birth to the Messiah 12:4
 - a. The seed of Abraham. Gen. 12:3. In you all families of the earth will be blessed
 - b. In your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed. Gen. 22:18
 - c. In the seed of Isaac all the families of the earth will be blessed. Gen. 28:14
 - d. David, Your descendant I will establish his throne forever. 2 Sam. 7:13
 - e. He will break the nations like a rod of iron breaks pottery. He will reign forever. Ps 2:7-9

"I will surely tell of the ^[e]decree of the Lord: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the ^[f]nations as Your inheritance,

And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession. ⁹'You shall ^[g]break them with a ^[h]rod of iron, You shall shatter them like ^[i]earthenware."

Satan and the end of the world: Who is he?

1. **He is a fallen angel.** 12:1. The dragon Ezek. 28; Isa 14 PPT

a. Ezekiel 28: 11,13 15-17

‘You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; . . .¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. ¹⁶ . . . you were filled with violence, and **you sinned**. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, ¹⁷ Your heart **became proud** on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth.

b. Isaiah 14:12-15

“How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! “But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, . . . ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will **make myself like the Most High**

2. **He is supremely evil.** 12:3. The Dragon. He is referred to using 5 different names: Dragon, Serpent of old, the devil, Satan, Accuser. 12:9-10

John 8:44 - Jesus warned of Him:

You are of *your* father the devil, . . . He was **a murderer** from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the **father of lies**.

devil means slanderer

satan means adversary

serpent who deceived Eve.

deceiver of the world

He continues to deceive concerning Christ. 2 Cor. 4:4

He deceives through false teachers and teaching. 2 Cor. 11; Gal. 1

He masquerades as an angel of light, as messengers of righteousness. 2 Cor 11

He ensnares people to oppose God’s truth. 2 Tim. 2;24-26

His evil angels propagate false teachings. 1 Tim. 4; Gal. 1

He will deceive through the miracles of the antichrist. 2 Thess. 2; Rev. 13

He deceives the nations to fight at Armageddon. Rev. 16:12-16

Satan: How He opposes God and how God defeats him.

1. He opposes God through evil people and governments. 12:3 Dan. 10:13.

- a. Seven Heads: Seven world empires including the last. Egypt, Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, Greek, Roman
- b. Ten horns: 10 kings The last days world ruler is described this way. Rev. 13:1
- c. Three times Jesus called Satan the ruler of this world (Jn 12;31;14:30; 16:11)
- d. He is the god of this age. 2 Cor. 4:4
- e. He is the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience. **Eph. 2:2** *And you ^[a]were dead ^[b]in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you formerly walked according to the ^[c]course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience*
- f. He is the one who offered Jesus the kingdoms of the world. **Matt. 4:8-9** ⁸*Again, the devil *took Him to a very high mountain and *showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; ⁹and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and ^[c]worship me."*

The whole world lies in the power of the evil one. **1 John 5:19** *We know that we are of God, and that the whole world **lies in the power of the evil one***

- g. He gathers the worlds armies to fight Christ at Armageddon. Rev. 16:12-16

God's victory: all nations armies destroyed. Rev. 16, 19

3. He opposed God by leading 1/3rd of angels to rebel. 12:4. They are 'his angels' not God's any longer. Rev. 12:7

4. His opposed God by persecuting Israel throughout history.12:2. Her "Great pain" refers to her repeated persecution through history.

a. Satan Attempted Genocide

- i. Egypt twice: through killing male babies and by killing them at the Red Sea.
- ii. Assyria: through invading them and destroying their cities. God defeated them by the Angel of Lord destroying 185,000 Assyrian soldiers overnight. Isaiah
- iii. Persia: Through Haman's decree in Esther to kill all Jews.
- iv. Rome : (decimated, scattered Israel, removed them and forbid them from living in their land, renamed their land Palestine)
- v. Hitler killed 6,000,000 Jews
- vi. Antichrist will attempt Genocide. Rev. 12:13-16

b. God's victory: He preserved and returned Israel as a nation.

5. Tried to kill or divert Jesus 12:4

- Attempts to have him killed BEFORE the time of his substitutional death.
- Attempts to alter his purpose for coming. Matt. 4; worship Satan; **Matt 16:22-23 through peter: God forbid Lord. This shall never happen! Get behind by Satan. You are a stumbling block to me. For you are not setting your mind on God's interests but mans.**
- Attempts to kill him as a baby through Herod. Matt. 2:16-23
- John 13:27. The devil entered into Judas to betray and kill him.
- Attempts to keep him from being raised. Crucifying Romans guard and seal.

God's victory: protecting, raising and exalting Christ to rule over the earth. He will not stop Jesus rule of the earth.

6. He seeks to destroy Christ in heaven. He will be cast out of heaven by

Michael and his angels. 12:7-9 Dan. 10:13,21; 12:1 Michael is the protector of *Israel*. Satan is active throughout the heavens now, and he still has access to God (Job 1:6; Eph. 2:2; Rev. 12:10)

- a. He will be banished from heaven to earth v. 7-9
 7. He was originally banished from residing in Heaven. Isa 14; Ezek 28
 8. He was allowed access to heaven to accuse God. Job 1,2 and Rev. 12 10
 9. He is banished to the earth with no access to heaven and imminent banishment to the Abyss. 12:1

10. He attempts to get God's people to deny Christ. 12:11

- a. **They overcome because of Christ's blood** which assures them of God's salvation and love. Rev. 6:9; 14:12; 20:4. Death and suffering no longer defeat them or intimidate them. Proof of His defeat is his powerlessness over the Christian.
- b. **Overcame because of the word of their testimony.** 12:17.
 - i. The Word of God was their testimony. They testified to what it said and trusted in it.
 - ii. We resist anxiety, fear, etc by being firm in our faith 1 Peter 5:8-9 cp.
 - iii. Jesus example of fighting temptation with scripture. Matt. 4
- c. **They overcome because they did not love their life even to death.**
 - d. He oppresses and manipulates the world through fear of death. Heb. 2
 - e. He seeks to try to intimidate by magnifying fear in Christians. 1 Peter 5:7-9
 - f. They resist fear of loss by clinging to God's word firm in their testimony and faith. 14:12-14

11. He seeks to destroy Israel. God preserves a remnant. 12:6, 13-16. (Zech. 13:8-9 1/3 escape)

- a. They flee like on Eagles wings just like God did for them escaping from the Egyptians. Exodus 19:4
- b. He protects them from death by flood. Just like the Red Sea.
 - i. It could be a literal flood or a flood of soldiers (Jer. 46:7-8; 47:2-3). A flood is a metaphor for overwhelming persecution (Ps 18:4; 124:2-4; Isa 43:2).
- c. Zechariah 14:4-5. Israel flees from the great persecution through a valley created by an Earthquake
- d. He nourishes them (Rev. 12:6) when there is no human means since the antichrist denies anyone buying food who will not worship him. Rev. 13:17
- e. Illustration: Israel is God's object lesson of power to judge and preserve. The Egyptians should NOT have chased them into the Red Sea. His power over them was evident!

God's victory: He supernaturally preserves Israel.

12. He will persecute Christians. 12:17

God's victory: Death and suffering will not move them. They are faithful to death.

He will be eventually cast into hell (He knows he has a little while)

His punishment involves having no glory or power, no reputation. The worship and adorations he craved will instead by mocking. Ezek 28. He won't have what was his idol.

Jesus wants us to see the ultimate end of all opposition to Christ is defeat.

Why Jesus wants us to know Satan's strategy and defeat:

1. **So we won't freak out.** God is in control. Satan will be defeated. Jesus will win.
2. **So we won't lash out – man is not your enemy, Satan is. 2 Tim 2:24-25**
3. **So we will speak out - silence denies Christ.** The word of their testimony was their response to a satanic world. Rev. 12:11.