

CHAPTERS 12 & 13:

Both chapter 12 and chapter 13 should be considered as Interlude Chapters. The understanding of these two chapters is one of the primary keys to understanding the seven year tribulation period. These two chapters identify seven of the main characters involved in the tribulation period, as well as, many of the details about their personal attributes and their actions during this seven year period. I have again listed below the six or seven characters (depending on how you interpret 12:17) described in the 12 & 13 chapters of the Book of Revelations:

- 1) The Woman is the nation of Israel → Rev. 12:1-2.
- 2) The Red Dragon is Satan → Rev.12:3-4.
- 3) The Child of the Woman is Jesus Christ → Rev.12:5-6 & 10a.
- 4) Michael the Archangel is God's Warrior that ejects Satan out of heaven and down to the earth, Rev.12:7-12.
- 5) Revelations 12:13-17 adds more details about the relationships between these characters.
 - a) Some scholars like J. Vernon McGee believe that there are 'seven characters' being described in these two chapters. He believes that Rev. 12:17 is speaking about a separate group, which is the 'Remnant of Israel' after the antichrist attacked the nation of Israel. This attack would have occurred after the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period when the antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel.
- 6) The Beast Out of the Sea is the Antichrist → Rev. 13:1-2.
 - a) Rev.13:3-10 describes many of the attributes and actions of the Antichrist during the seven year tribulation period.
- 7) The Beast Out of the Earth is the False Prophet or religious leader of the Antichrist → Rev.13:11.
 - a) Rev. 13: 12-18 describes many of the attributes and actions performed by the False Prophet during the seven years tribulation period.

I think it is clear from the list above how important it is to understand these two chapters if you are going to understand the Book of Revelations. Many people give up trying to understand this book solely because of the symbolism used or

contained within these two chapters. Now we will now look a little closer at each of these two chapters.

CHAPTER 12:

We will now discuss each of these characters in some detail, as well as, the part they play and how it fits into the tribulation period. This will be a verse by verse analysis, therefore, trying to keep the flow of the chapter in tack. Also, there are two, “...signs appear in heaven...” being talked about in this chapter.

- 1) The first is in verse 1 and is speaking about the nation of Israel.
- 2) The second in verse 3 and is speaking about Satan.

A correct understanding of who the ‘signs’ in verse 1 & 3 are referring to is key to a correct understanding of the remainder of the Book of Revelations.

VERSES 1-2:

“A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.”

As in the previous chapters many of the words or descriptions have literal meaning and we would take them at face value. **However, this is not the case in chapter 12 as many of the words are symbolic and require some type of interpretation or other scriptural reference to identify the meaning.**

As you can imagine there have been many interpretations or views as to the meaning of these two verses I will provide some of the more popular.

Some scholars in the past and today believe that the, “...great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven” and the, “woman clothed with the sun...” in Rev.12:1-2 is describing the Virgin Mary or the church. The early Roman church was the originator of this theory that the “woman” was the Virgin Mary. Based on my research they do not offer any scripture to support their opinion. However, many of their internal documents place a great deal of importance on the Virgin Mary

and this seems to be the foundation of their opinion. The scholars that believe that the “woman” is the church base their opinion on the concept that the woman is the church of all ages and that the woman’s child is the church that will be raptured up to heaven, based on the last portion of verse 5, “**And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.**”.

Also, there have been specific individuals that have claimed to be this woman such as Joanna Southcott in the early 1800’s. There have also been several female ministers in southern California that have claimed to be the woman in Revelation chapter 12. Obviously none of these women were the woman mentioned in Rev. 12:1-2.

I do not think it is worthwhile to spend the time to disprove the above views with scripture but rather spend the time on what I believe to be the correct interpretation of these verses. I think most reputable scholars believe that the “woman” mentioned in Revelations Chapter 12 is the Hebrew nation of Israel. The ‘nation of Israel’ would be further defined as starting or had its beginning when God made his promise/covenant with Abraham and ending at the end of the 1,000 year reign of Christ. Therefore, if the “woman” mentioned in Rev. 12:1-2 is the nation of Israel then there is no question that God is beginning this chapter with symbolic language. As a matter of fact I think if you look closely at the words of this chapter you will find that God is using a lot of symbolic language as well as what I would consider, eye grabbing descriptive words, which are trying to focus the readers senses on the importance of these events. I will list below scriptural facts or Biblical truths that I believe support the Israel conclusion.

- 1) Verse 1 begins with the words, **“A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven...”** indicating three things:
 - a) **“A great and wondrous”**→meaning something really mega or big or large is coming and it will be something that has not been seen before. God chosen people to tell the world about him.
 - b) **“...sign...”**→meaning a symbol pointing to something else. Therefore, the word “sign” is a symbolic word that is pointing to another event. There are seven

signs listed in the Book of Revelations: 1) Rev. 12:1; Rev.12:3; Rev.12:13; Rev.13:14; Rev. 15:1; Rev. 16:14; Rev. 19;20

- c) **“...appeared in heaven...”**→ this tells us where the “great and wondrous sign appeared”. It appeared “in heaven”. My opinion is that these words are letting men in general know that there is an extremely close relationship between God and Israel. God the Father is also declaring to the people of the world this woman/Israel is very important to him. Last, anything that is declared from heaven is so that all the earth will know about it! Just an opinion.
- d) The next part of this verse is where we find the definition or clues to defining the first portion of this verse, **“...a woman clothed with the sun, with a moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.”** There are a variety of places within the scripture that I believe we could use to verify our belief that the woman is symbolic for the nation of Israel. I have listed some of the better ones below:
- Gen.15:5, tells us that Abrahams seed will be like the stars of the sky, **“He took him outside and said, ‘Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’”**
 - Gen. 22:17, is again God telling Abraham that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, **“I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore.”**
 - Gen. 26:4, again God states that Abrahams descends will be a numerous as the stars of the sky, **“I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky...”**
 - Gen. 37:9, Joseph is speaking to his brothers and father, **“Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. ‘Listen,’ he said, ‘I had another dream, and this time the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.’”** This is probably the best and most complete description of Israel and it almost is word for word.
- e) The last part of this verse speaks about, **“...a crown of twelve stars on her head.”** I believe is speaking about the twelve sons of Jacob, Gen.35:22,

“...Jacob had twelve sons...” which became the twelve tribes of Israel, Gen. 49:28, “All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them, giving each the blessing appropriate to him.”

Note: keep in mind that the Book of Revelation describes four symbolic women,

One→ Rev. 2:20, “Jezebel” who is symbolic for paganism.

Two→ Rev. 12:1, “a woman clothed with the sun” who is symbolic for the nation of Israel

Three→ Rev. 17:3-6, the “scarlet beast” that is symbolic for the apostate religion during the end time period

Four→ Rev. 19:7-8, “his bride” of the Lamb who is symbolic for the church

Last→ some scholars believe verse 1 symbolically compares the celestial bodies to the governmental authority Israel will possess on earth at the time of Jesus Christ return. The sun is superior and the ‘woman’ is clothed with the sun and the moon is subservient to the sun which is the other nations of the earth.

Verse 2:

Verse 2 states the following about the ‘woman’ or Israel, **“She was pregnant and she cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.”** Again this verse provides us with two facts about the woman/Israel.

- 1) **“She was pregnant...”** This portion of verse 2 indicates that the woman/Israel will produce a child. (The fact that this child will be Jesus the Christ will be defined in verse 5.) Isaiah prophesied this event, Isa. 9:6, **“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.”** Also see Micah 5:2-3. Then the New Testament confirms the fact that Jesus is a Jew, therefore, from the nation of Israel, Heb. 7:14, **“For it is clear that our Lord descended from the tribe of Judah...”** also, John 4:9, **“The Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Will you give me a**

drink?’ His disciples had gone into town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘You are Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink.’?” Also see Romans 9:4-5.

- 2) “...and she cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.” I think most scholars believe that this portion of verse 2 simply states that the woman/Israel has in the past and will continue go through a great deal of human and spiritual suffering because she is the mother of the Christ. Scripture tells us that Israel was chosen to be the nation that God used to bring to the world the Holy Bible or his written word, which would be communicated to man through the prophets and through whom his son Jesus Christ birth would be foretold. However, even though Israel was blessed with all of these opportunities they continuously brought on themselves great pain because of their constant rebellion. I believe the biggest of these was missing the first coming of Christ, which has cost them thousands of years of suffering waiting for his second coming. Also see Isa.66:7-8.

VERSES 3-4:

“Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.”

Verses 3-4 introduce the second of the characters described in Chapter 12, “an enormous red dragon”. Also, the first part of these verses tells us that what is to follow within these verses will include some degree of symbolism in describing the character introduced as the second, “sign” of chapter 12. Remember Israel in verses 1-2 was introduced as the first, “sign” of chapter 12. There are a variety of facts that we can obtain from these two verses which I will list below:

- 1) Verse 3 begins with the word, “Then” indicating that the events to follow come after the events in verses 1-2.

- 2) Again this was, “another sign appeared” or the second sign too appeared in chapter 12.
- 3) The sign appeared; “in heaven” meaning these signs or events began in heaven. Remember the first sign; the woman/Israel also began in heaven.
- 4) Verse 3 now begins to describe the sign that appeared in heaven and John uses symbolic language that can be interpreted with scripture.
 - a) “...an enormous red dragon,” the dragon is defined as Satan in verse 9, “The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan,” Therefore; there can be no question as to the identity of the “dragon”. I believe that John is also trying to give us more details about this “dragon” based on the words he is using to describe the “dragon”. I will list below the meaning of these descriptions:
 - b) “...enormous or great” (depending on your translation) indicating the amount of power and control God has granted Satan on the earth. Mathew 4:8-9 are good verse to demonstrate the power and control that God will grant Satan, “Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ‘All this I will give to you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me’. I also think this is a great verse to point out the arrogance of Satan given he knows, based on scripture, that he was granted this power and does not have any real power based on his own. The other point I would like to point out about Satan’s arrogance is: If you really think about what Matt. 4:8-9 is saying→ **Satan is trying to ‘Make a deal with the CREATOR (remember Jesus Christ was all man but he was also all God) of everything to give back to the Creator everything he created and gave Satan this Power, if he, ‘The Creator’ will worship him-Satan’.** I think these verses probably are the best example of Satan’s arrogance in the scripture! How all of this will work out for Satan and his followers and the earth in general is better described in Dan.8:23-25 and Rev. 19:11-21, which we will discuss in more details later in the study.
 - c) “...red” Indicating the dragons total disregard for human life. He is the father of death and murder. In the Book of John, chapter 8, verse 44, John makes this very clear, “You belong to your father the devil, and you want to

carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him." Also, "red" is the color that denotes 'blood'. I think the other point worth noting, as it relates to the word, "red", is that during the seven year tribulation period the 'antichrist, false prophet and Satan will reduce the world population from about 7 billion to less than 1 billion. That is a lot of 'blood'! Also, this reduction will not include the blood shed at the Great Battle of Armageddon.

- d) "...dragon" Remember the word "dragon" is symbolic and is being used to paint a picture in the readers mind of something that is very evil and destructive. The word "dragon" occurs thirteen times in the Book of Revelations and eleven of these are in this chapter, chapter 12. The other two are in Revelations chapters 16 & 20. We know that the "dragon" of verse 3 is Satan because verse 9 clarifies this for us; however, Rev. 20:2 also makes this very clear, "He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years." To me the use of the word "dragon" is clearly defined to mean Satan in the Bible. However, in this case I believe it is also trying to provide us with some of the personality traits of Satan. All down through time the word "dragon" has been used to indicate something very evil and deadly to humans and even domesticated farm animals. It speaks of pain, and destruction, and human suffering, and even total annihilation of human life in some villages. Therefore, I think John used a word that would bring extreme fear to all people when the word is used. It has also been used in scripture to describe very evil leaders/men and their Empires or Kingdoms. I will list two examples and will be using the KJV: 1) Jer. 51:34, "Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon hath devoured me, he hath crushed me, he hath made me an empty vessel, he hath swallowed me up like a DRAGON, he hath filled his belly with my delicacies, he hath cast me out."; and again in Ezek.29:3-4, "Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great DRAGON that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself."

5) "...with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his head." The use of these words in scripture normally is used to describe the world kingdom of the Antichrist during the seven year tribulation period. However, in this case I believe these words are being used to describe the power source for the Antichrist and his world kingdom. Rev. 13:2, "The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority." Later on in our study we will see how this power and authority is embodied in the antichrist and the false prophet. The entire Book of Daniel and Revelations chapters 13 & 17 will provide most of the details about this process. However, for now we will limit our discussion to just the words as they are written, which are as follows:

One: The use of the words, "seven heads" to me indicates the perfection of Satan when he was created, see Ezekiel 28:12-19. This could also indicate the totality of his dominance in the world during his seven year (actually the last 3 ½) rule. Keep in mind that this verse also says that the dragon had seven crowns on each of his seven heads. I cannot be dogmatic about this interpretation but believe it has to do with the immense power that God has granted Satan during this seven year period.

Two: The words, "and ten horns" is referencing the ten toes of the last world kingdom. That is the last world kingdom ruled by a human leader given the next kingdom is ruled by Christ and last 1,000 years. This is best referenced in the Book of Daniel. Daniel 7:1-14 records the dream of Daniel about the seven major world kingdoms:

- 1) Babylonian
- 2) Medes-Persian
- 3) Greeks
- 4) Romans Empire
- 5) Revived Roman Empire, (remember there were ten kings to start) pre—
antichrist take over
- 6) Revived Roman Empire, (after antichrist there are only seven kings) post—
antichrist take over
- 7) Christ, (millennial kingdom)

Three: If we use the bible as our reference book to interpret the words, “...and seven crowns on his heads.” The “crowns” could be referencing a type of head covering that was used by the High Priest in the Old Testament, or a head covering that was used in wedding both in the Old Testament and New Testament time period or the crown of a ‘worldly king’; like when David was crowned king of Israel. And in this case I do not think there can be any doubt what these words mean → ‘The Crowning of a Worldly King’. To me this speaks to the issue that Satan has been granted by God the Father the position of ‘Ruler of Planet Earth’ for a seven year time period that the bible calls the Tribulations. During this time period Satan will be granted dominion, and power, and authority and sovereignty over planet earth, see rev. 13:7b. His rule will be dominant in the first three and one half years but will be absolute in the last three and one half years. I have five points that I believe support my conclusion:

- 1) To complete the prophecies of the Book of Daniel Satan must be granted this position and we know all of Gods prophecies are always fulfilled, Dan. 9:27.
- 2) We know that Chapters 10-14 of Revelations are interlude chapters and were designed by God to give us additional information about the events going on during the seven year tribulation period. Rev. 10:6-7 tells us that God has decided to end the time of the physical earth. Remember up until now this information was only known to God the Father. Daniel 9:27 tells us exactly when the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’; BEGINS SEVEN YEAR TRIBULATION PERIOD → **“He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven’, BEGINS LAST HALF OF SEVEN YEAR TRIBULATION PERIOD → but in the middle of that ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering.”** Also, in Rev. 11:2b, **“They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.”** God provides us with this same message → we are in the last half of the seven year tribulation period. These dates and activities correspond directly to Daniels prophecy in the Book of Daniel; see Dan. 7:24 & 9:26-27 & Dan. 11:36-39.

- 3) Then in Rev. 11:15-19 God tells us that the time frame for ending Satan's kingdom has been set and Christ will begin his 1,000 year rule, which is recorded in Rev. 19:11-21.
- 4) Revelation chapter 12: 9 **"The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth and his angels with him."** states that Satan is cast out of heaven and now is confined to the earth. I believe that this fact is again confirmed in Rev.12:13.
- 5) Then Revelation chapter 13 tells the story of how, **'The Dragon/Satan'** empowers his human pawns during this seven year period and even embodies or possesses the body of the Antichrist during the last half of the seven year tribulation period: Antichrist, Rev.13:1-10 & False Prophet, Rev. 13:11-18.

Therefore, to me the evidence is overwhelming that the word **"crowns"** used in Rev. 12:3 is talking about dominion and power and authority and sovereignty over the earth for a specific time period. Also, if you go back to the original text the word **"crown"** is translated as the word; **'diadem'** which meant royalty or supreme power during the time John wrote this book. I also base my opinion on the fact that this word, **'diadem'** is used three times in the Book of Revelation, **First**→ to describe the dragon/Satan in Rev.12:3; **Second**→ to describe the beast out of the sea in Rev.13:1 and; **Third**→ in Rev. 17:12 to describe Christ. Point being, given this word is used to describe Christ as a world ruler I am using it means the same to describe the dragon/Satan and the beast/Antichrist as world leaders, at least in the Book of Revelations. Remember all power comes from God the Father because he is the creator. Genesis 1:1, tells us that God created both the 'heavens' and the 'earth', **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."** Isaiah 46:9-10, tells us that there is only one God and he is all powerful, **"Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God; and there is no other; I am God and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please."** also, Matt. 19:26, **Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'** Then Revelations chapter 19

tells us what will happen when Christ returns the second time to rule the earth for 1,000 years. If we focus in on Rev. 19:19-21 we can see the power of God and his son, Jesus Christ, as it relates to him dealing with the Antichrist, the False Prophet and sinners in general, "Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh." Then Revelations 20:7-10 records how God deals with Satan after Jesus Christ 1,000 year reign on earth at which time Satan rebels for the last time. I will only quote 9b-10, "But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. (This sentence is talking about the unsaved children born during the 1,000 year reign of Christ.) And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever." This makes it very clear who has the power to do as he pleases, even with Satan. Last in Revelations 20:11-15, we find the final judgment of all men. This has been called the 'Great White Thrown Judgment'. I will only quote verse 15 as it is what I would consider the bottom line, "If anyone's name was not found in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." You may want to review our 'chart' on this process, used when we were studying page 91.

Again God has power over everything that has been created as well as, every being, both physical and spiritual that has ever been or will be created. Again God is all powerful. We have spent a lot of time establishing the facts as it relates to the totality of Gods power, but without this as our basis the bibles end time prophecies cannot be taken as absolute fact, because another more powerful being could change some of the events. Last I think that God provided us with scripture that supports other scripture so that we will know that he-God is all knowing and was able to write all scripture before the events happened.

Last we will talk more about the issue of the number of “heads, horns and crowns” more when we study the “beast out of the sea” in the first part of chapter 13.

VERSE 4:

“His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.”

I believe that verse 4 provides us with some additional insight into the character of Satan and his intense hatred toward God the Father and his Lamb Jesus Christ. This verse also provides us, the reader, with two specific examples:

- 1) Because of Satan’s hatred of God and his general rebellion against anything that is of God he, Satan, also infected one third of heaven’s angels and caused them to sin. “His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.”
 - a) However, the symbolism used in the beginning of this verse, “His tail swept...” I believe provides us with a key attribute about Satan’s character. If you look at Isa. 9:15b, “...the prophets who teach lies are the tail.” Satan is the father of all liars and he is a ‘false prophet’. His/Satan’s ‘lies and false teachings caused one third of heavens angels to sin and be expelled from heaven. I think it is also important to note that this is the same process he/Satan used on ‘man.
 - b) Many scholars today believe that the stars being referenced in this part of verse 4 are fallen angels and they offer the following scripture as backup for their view, Job: 38:7, “...while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy.” Another example is Dan.8:10, “It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them.” And again in Isaiah 14:12, “How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!” However, I think the most compelling confirmation of this symbolic use of words is in Rev. 1:20, and by the way this is Christ speaking, “The seven stars are the

angels of the seven, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”
And again in Rev. 12:7-9, “And there was a war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”

- c) Based on the above verses and the scripture before and after this verse I believe John is using the word stars symbolically to refer to the angels that supported him in his rebellion in heaven.
- 2) Satan’s hatred for God and all that is of God is not limited to any one area but covers all of creation and even heaven itself. I will not re-quote the above verses but based on them it would appear that angelic beings fall into sin, as well as, humans.
- 3) I believe that the last part of verse 4 was put in to confirm the hatred that Satan had for anything that was of God and especially his son, Jesus Christ. “The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.” There are many places within the scripture that describe how Satan has tried to destroy the nation of Israel, which is the woman in this verse because he knows that the savior of the world will come from the nation of Israel, Jer. 33:14-15, “‘The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name he will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness.’” Also see Isa. 7:14; 9:6; 53:3-7; Micah 5:2; Zech. 9:9; Jer. 23:5-6. To me this process first started when God cursed Satan in the Garden of Eden after Satan deceived Eve and Adam and caused them to sin/fall. Genesis 3:14, records the curse that God placed on Satan for his sinful deception, “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heels.” However, in this specific verse I believe that God is talking about the specific actions taken by King Herod when

he ordered all male children under the age of two to be killed. Matthew 2:13-18 describes this event, however the key portion of this is described in verse 13b, “...for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” And the child being described is Jesus Christ.

VERSE 5:

“She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with and iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.”

This verse is providing the reader with additional details about the **‘The Child’** of the **‘woman’** referenced in verse 1 &2 and again in verse 4. Remember the ‘woman’ is Israel and the ‘child’ is Jesus Christ. I believe that from this verse we can obtain the following facts about the child, which are as follows:

- 1) The woman who has been defined as Israel will give birth to a son or male child, “She gave birth to a son, a male child...” Therefore, to me there can be no question as to the gender of this child. Isa. 7:14, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be child and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” (which means God with us) In my opinion these verse are speaking about the same person → “a male child’ or “a son” or “Immanuel” or “God with us” or “Jesus Christ”, I think you get the idea!
- 2) The child that will come from Israel will rule the world, “...who will rule all the nations...” Again to me there is no question that based on God’s words someday this child will rule the world? Psalms Chapter 2 talks about what will happen after Christ second coming, Psalms 2:8, “Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.” This same subject is talked about in Psalms 8. Also, look at the words in Revelation chapter 19:11-21 that speaks about the ‘Second Coming of Jesus Christ’; focus on verses 15-16, “Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. ‘He will rule them with and iron scepter.’ He treads the winepress of fury of the wrath of God almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has the name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” From these words I do not think there can be any question about who is in charge of the earth → and it is Jesus Christ, the Son of God the Father.

3) Again the child that will come from Israel and will rule the world will rule them with total power, “...with and iron scepter.” Again I think this means total or complete power. Again Psalms chapter two is a great place to find many details about how Christ will rule after his second coming, Psalm 2:9, “You will rule them with and iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”

These words are also used in Rev. 2:27.

a) Data Point→According to my understanding of scripture there will only be ‘Three’ people that will hold this position;

- **First Person to Hold This Position**→ King Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonian Empire; Dan. 2: 32a, “The head of the statue was made of pure gold...” Then the interpretation, Dan 2:37-39, “This was he dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands he has placed mankind and the beast of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are the head of gold.”
- **Second Person to Hold This Position**→The antichrist/Satan during the last 3 ½ years of the seven year tribulation period. Again, this power comes from the God of creation, Rev. 13:7-8a, “He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. **And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All the inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast...**” The time period is set at 42 months or 3 ½ years, Rev. 13:5, “The beast was given a moth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.”
- **Third Person to Hold This Position**→ This third and final world ruler will be Jesus Christ. It will begin at the battle of Armageddon and end 1,000 years later: The story of the Battle of Armageddon is told in Rev. 19:11-21, some key words out of these verses, “Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with and iron scepter.” Rev. 20:4b, “They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” Also, see verse 3.

4) The last part of this verse, “**And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.**” I believe is talking about the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. Many scholars today believe that David’s words in Psalms 68:18 was a prophecy about Christ ascension, “**When you ascended on high, you lead captives in your train; you received gifts from men, even from the rebellious—that you, O lord God might dwell there.**” This prophecy is confirmed in Mark 16:19, “**After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them; he was taken up into heaven and sat at the right hand of God.**”

Note: Again we need to keep in mind when reading Revelation chapter 12 that all of these events are focusing on ‘three characters’: **One**→the woman which is Israel and things related to or from Israel; **Two**→the ‘child’ which is Jesus Christ; **Three**→ the dragon which is Satan and things related to or about Satan. Also keep in mind that when most of these words were written they were prophetic and as of this point in time some have been fulfilled and some were still prophetic. Exciting times!

VERSE 6:

“**The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.**” Most scholars believe that this verse is speaking about the situation Israel will be in during the last half of the seven year tribulation period. Notice the time period mentioned is 1,260 days which I believe refers to the last three and one half years of the seven year tribulation period, (30 day month X 42 months = 1260 days). I base my opinion on the following:

- 1) Remember at the beginning of the seven year tribulation period the Antichrist will make a treaty or covenant with Israel which means that they will come under his protection. However, in the middle of the seven years he will break his covenant and place himself on the seat of God in the rebuilt temple of God in Jerusalem, Dan. 9:27, “**He will confirm a covenant with many for one seven, but in the middle of that seven he will put an end to the sacrifice and offerings.**” During this last three and one half years of

the seven year tribulation period the Antichrist will do everything in his power to kill every Jew and every Christian on planet earth. This is made very clear in Revelations 13:7, **“He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.**

- 2) This issue is further detailed in Revelation 13:15, which is talking about the authority and power given to the False Prophet by the Antichrist, **“He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.”**

Note: remember all of this power has been granted to these beings/men by God the Father. The sequencing is as follows: God the Father → Satan/the Dragon → the antichrist/the beast out of the sea → the false prophet/ the beast out of the earth.

- 3) The last point I would like to make about this verse has to do with the place that the woman/Israel fled to where God would take care of her. There are several views on what this verse means. I will list the most popular below:
 - a) Many scholars believe that the remaining Jews will once again retreat to the city of Petra. This is an ancient city which is imbedded within a large mountainous region which can only be approached through a deep gorge making it almost impenetrable. However, to me this makes little sense given modern weapons like planes, bombs and missiles.
 - b) Some scholars believe that the remaining Jews will escape to the countries referred to in Daniel 11:41, **“He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand.”** The countries of Edom was south of the Dead Sea; the country of the Moabites was southwest of the Dead Sea; and the country of the Ammonites was northeast of the Dead Sea. Most of this land today falls within the boards of Jordan.
 - c) To me the scripture is not totally clear about how God will protect his people during this period of time. However, from the words of Daniel above we know for sure that there will be specific areas that the Antichrist will not control. We also know based on Zechariah chapter 14 that this

three and one half year period will end with the second coming of Christ. This chapter also gives us some of the details about what will be happening when Christ actually comes, Zech.14:2b-5, "I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will be taken from the city. Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. ...Then the Lord my God will come, and all his Holy Ones with him." Remember that Mount of Olives is due east and slightly north of Jerusalem and Azel is south of Mount of Olives. This event is also recorded in Revelation 19:11-21.

- d) Last, remember all of these are opinions with some scripture to back them up but they are still just opinions.

VERSES 7-9:

We will analyze verse 7-9 together because they are all talking about and describing the same event.

Verses, (7) "And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. (8) But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. (9) The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth and his angels with him."

Remember in Revelations Chapter 12 verse 4a, "His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth." tells us that, Satan caused one third of the angels in heaven to sin and as punishment for their sin they were cast out of heaven and down to the earth. I believe that these three verses provide more

details about this event. I will list below what I believe to be the primary facts within these verses:

- 1) **“There was a war in heaven.”** I think this makes it very clear that there was a war and it was in heaven. However, I think the real issue is why was there a need for this war? It took place because Satan rebelled against God and caused or convinced one third of the other angels in heaven also to rebel against God. I think Isaiah 14:12-14 makes this point very clear, **“How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, and son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations. You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’”** Also see Ezekiel 28:12-18 for a similar description of what happen when Satan sinned/fell. Again I believe that from the scripture above we know ‘why’ the war happened, it was because of the sin within Satan and his angels. However, I think the real question is, ‘why did the war happen at this point in time’. Based on my understanding of verse 9, the war happened because God the Father decided that Satan and his fallen angels were no long allowed to have a place in Heaven and they, Satan and his angels, decided they did not want to be removed from heaven. Thus, a war started. This seems to me like the reasoning behind any other war, someone wants what someone else has—Satan wanted what God had? It would appear to me that Satan lost track of the fact that there is only one “creator”, Gen. 1:1, and everything else is the ‘created’. Does this sound like the same issue that has arisen many times between God and men since the creation of the world?
- 2) The next portion of this verse makes it very clear ‘who fought in the war’, **“Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.”** Again from this verse we see that there were four participants involved in this war:
 - a) **“Michael”**, which is the leader of the army/angels of God the creator. Note: remember Michael is an archangel, Jude 9, **“But even the archangel**

Michael...” He is also one of the chief princes, Dan.10:13, “Then Michael one of the chief princes came to help me.” Michael is also considered to be the prince of the nation of Israel, Dan. 10:21, No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.” Again, Dan. 12:1, “At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise.” It appears that where ever “Michaels” name is mentioned it has something to do with the nation of Israel.

- b) “...and his angels fought against the dragon,” I would assume that this is part of or all of the angels in heaven that did not rebel against God but remained faithful.
 - c) “...and the dragon...” this is Satan which is leading the army of the rebellious angels.
 - d) “...and his angels fought back.” I would assume that this is the rebellious angels, which is one third of the angels in heaven. This is verified in verse 4.
- 2) Verse 8 or the next portions of these verses make it very clear ‘who won’ this war. “But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.”

There are five points which I believe these verses makes clear:

- a) Satan and his angels lost the war.
- b) Satan and his angels were not as strong as Michael and his angels. Because Satan and his angels were not as strong as Michael and his angels, therefore, they were expelled from heaven. This is confirmed in Rev.12:4 and in Rev.12:9 and again in Rev.12:13. I think we could say that Satan is no longer the ‘Prince of the air’, Eph. 2:2, “...in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air...”
- c) I also think we can conclude from verse 8 that the power supporting Michael was the power provided by God, and was stronger than the power of Satan.
- d) Within the participants of this war **NONE** were killed, as they are ‘eternal beings’ and because they lost → they were expelled from heaven. I have no idea how this would actually work. The only scripture that would provide us with some idea is in Gen. 3:23-24, which speaks about how God prevented Adam & Eve from re0entering the Garden of Eden, “So the Lord God

banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove him out, he placed on the east side (placed in front) of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.” Again, just my opinion!

e) Last, I think it is worth noting the heights from which Satan came and the depths to which he has fallen:

- Came from → Ezek. 28:12-17, which uses God's words against Tyre symbolically to describe Satan.
- Fell to → Isa. 24:21.
- We can read the above scriptures in class, as well as, 1 Sam. 16:13-15 & 1 Kings 22:19-23 to gain a better understanding of Satan and his relationship to God the Father.

3) Verse 9 tells us where Satan and his angels went, when they lost the war and were expelled from heaven. “The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.” I think it is clear that when Satan and his angels were expelled from heaven they were sent to the earth. Also, I believe they are confined to only the earth. Again I believe that there are five facts contained within this verse, which are as follows:

- The dragon was expelled from heaven.
- The dragon is in fact Satan.
- When Satan was cast out of heaven, it was to the earth.
- Satan is the one who continues to lead the whole world astray.
- Satan's angels were also cast out of heaven and to the earth with Satan.

Note: some scholars believe this event is the same event recorded in Rev. 8:10-11. This would obviously require a symbolic interpretation of Rev. 8:10-11. Seems like a big stretch to me.

I have two other points which I would like to make relating to the issue of Satan:

- 1) My opinion is that Satan currently has access to heaven and therefore, God. This direct access will last until the middle of the seven year tribulation

period at which time this war will take place (Rev. 12:7-9) and Satan & his fallen angels will be expelled to the earth. This event also corresponds with healing of the fatal wound of the Antichrist in Rev. 13:3 as I believe Satan takes over the Antichrist, body, mind and soul at this point in time, which is the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period. Remember during the last three and one half years of the seven year tribulation period the Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel and places himself on the seat of God in the rebuilt temple of God and actually proclaims himself to be God. Does this sound like what Satan has always tried to obtain all down through time. I have provided the scripture to support these views in previous verses → best scripture, 2 Thess. 2:4.

- 2) Based on many verses within the Bible and specifically Revelation Chapter 12 we know that Satan and his fallen angels have infected heaven and earth with sin. My opinion is that this is the primary reasons why God the Father will create a new heaven and earth, Rev. 21:1, **“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and earth had passed away...”** It is my opinion that at this point in eternity the ‘beings’ that populate heaven will not be able to sin. The test will be over and all will remain sinless for all of eternity. Just my opinion!

VERSES 10-12:

Verses 10-12 will be analyzed together as they are discussing or describing the same event or action. These verses are like a mini-interlude within chapter 12. The events and actions that are taking place within heaven as it relates to two events or actions, which were already described in Rev. 12:1-9 and completed in Rev. 12:13-17. One as of this point in time will be history and one will be future:

- 1) History → Satan and his fallen angels no longer have access to heaven.
- 2) Future, the second coming of Christ is very close.

Verses, (10) **“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: ‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his**

Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. (11) They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. (12) Therefore rejoice you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows his time is short.”

I believe that these verses contain the response of heaven because of the two primary events or actions listed above. I will list what I believe to be the key highlights of these verses below:

Verse 10:

“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: ‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.’”

- 1) “Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:”
 - a) Again the word “Then” indicates that this is the next thing to take place in John’s vision.
 - b) The word “loud” is better translated as “great”; however, either indicated that this is a major or very important announcement in heaven.
 - c) The announcement is in heaven.
 - d) There are scholars who believe that the “voice” is that of the dead/martyred saints. They reference Rev. 6:10, “They called out in a loud voice, ‘How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood.’” To me the way the verse is constructed and the tone makes this interpretation seem reasonable but again this would only be an assumption.
- 2) “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ.”
 - a) The “voice” is telling all of creation (men & angels); straight out that God the Father is again going to make another major entry into the events of

man. God has not made a 'physical entry' (this would not include events like the Reformation or the discovery of America so Gods church could flourish or the Seal & Trumpet Judgements) into the physical existence of man since the birth, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. This event, in terms of importance, will be on par with this type event. These words are telling heaven and earth that God is getting ready to make good on his promise to his saints and he is getting ready to reclaim his creation.

- b) God the Father is going to make good on the promise of "salvation" to those who believed and were saved.
 - c) God the Father is going demonstrate his "power", the power of creation.
 - d) God the Father is now going to implement or restore or better word is cleanse of sin rebellion and sin his "kingdom". I believe this is the new heaven and new earth described in Revelation chapters 21 & 22.
 - e) God the Father is announcing the "authority of his Christ", which is actually a two part announcement: One→ Jesus Christ will rule the earth for 1,000 years; Two→ Jesus Christ will rule the 'New Heaven & Earth' as part of the Trinity. I think it is also worth noting again at the end of Jesus Christ millennial reign on earth he; Jesus Christ will function as both savior and judge. Savior→ 1 John 2:1-2, "my dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have one that speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One." Judge→ John 5:22, "Moreover, the Father judges on one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son..." Also, 2 Cor. 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ..." And rev. 19:11b, "with justice he judges and makes war."
- 3) The next part of this verse states, "For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down." meaning:
- a) The "...accuser of our brothers..." which means the "accuser" is the dragon or Satan and "our brothers" are all of the saints, which could be either dead or alive.

- b) “...who accuses them before our God day and night” Remember up until this point in time Satan had direct access to God to point out our every sin. Remember the story of Job.
- c) “...has been hurled down.” From this point on Satan does not have access to heaven, therefore, cannot stand before God and accuse the saved. Remember Satan was cast out of heaven in Rev. 12:7-9. For the last 3 ½ years of the seven year tribulation period Satan and his demons will be limited to the earth and ‘direct temptation’ of men.

Verse 11:

“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”

I think this verse lists three ways that the saints, “overcame him” with “him”, being Satan and sin in general and obtained the “salvation” God promised in verse 10.

- 1) **PROVIDED by GOD**→ “...by the blood of the lamb” As you know the **‘ACTUAL’** redemption of sins required the shedding of Holy Blood. Mans nor animals blood could meet the permanent requirement for the payment of sin.
- 2) **MANS OUTWARD DEMONSTRATION OF THEIR FAITH OR ACCEPTANCE**→ “...and by the word of their testimony;” The payment for sin was a free gift and could not be earned but it did have to be accepted. To me this means that man has to acknowledge that he is a sinner and that the blood of Christ is the only way to redemption.
- 3) **THE ULTIMATE DEMONSTRATION OF MANS FAITH**→ “...they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.” I know that these are the same words used in much of scripture to indicate how ‘martyrs’ live their lives. However, I think in this case we should also keep in mind how all saved people should live their lives, which is; love God/Christ more than anything in life, even life itself.

Verse 12:

“Therefore rejoice you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

I believe that verse 12 summarizes the situation that now exists in heaven and will exist on earth from this point forward:

- 1) **Conditions in Heaven**→ “Therefore rejoice you heavens and you who dwell in them!”
- 2) **Conditions on Earth**→ “But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.” The last part of this verse tells us that the time Satan has to roam freely on planet earth has been set→ “short”.
- 3) Many scholars believe that the last part of verse 12 describes the ‘third woe’, “But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you!” I am not sure about this view but it does have some merit. So you will need to read and decide for yourself.
- 4) Again the last part of this verse confirms that Satan knows his time, prior to judgment, is short, “...because he knows his time is short.” This is one of my main reasons why I believe that the last three and one half years of the seven year tribulation period will be very, very bad for all men on earth.

Remember John's vision of the ‘woman’, the ‘dragon’ and the ‘male child’ ended with verse 9. John then provided the reader with specific details of what was going on in heaven and what was going to happen on earth in verses 10-12. Verse 13 picks up the story line about the three characters being talked about in the first nine verses.

Verses 13-17 provide more details about verses 1-6 or you could say; What is happening on earth with the arrival of Satan.

VERSE 13:

“When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.”

I believe that there are two important facts which we can learn from this verse, which are:

- 1) The dragon/Satan now realizes or acknowledges he is now confined to the earth and no longer has access to heaven: “When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth...”
- 2) We need to keep in mind that the dragon/Satan has always ‘pursued’ or tried to harm Israel or anything that was of God, “...he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.” However, after the birth, resurrection and ascension of Christ Satan’s I believe Satan’s hatred of God’s people intensified greatly. Just look or remember their history for the last two thousand years. Also, remember Jesus Christ came from the Jewish nation of Israel. Last, Satan now knows his time of freedom is limited to → 3 ½ years as of his removal from heaven; and again for a little while after the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ.
- 3) Last Satan knows that he no longer has the ability to harm the “male child” and “...his time is short” therefore, all he has left is to try to destroy Israel, which is the “woman” and I think it is implied that he also wants to kill all of humanity before they can be saved and if they are saved for sure kill them to! Sounds like a great time to live → Just kidding!

VERSE 14:

“The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach.”

This verse does contain a lot of symbolic language. However, it is language that has been used in Israel’s past and therefore, I think we can use past scripture to interpret this scripture. I will list below the key points and scriptural references used to interpret these points.

- 1) **“The woman”** Remember in verse 1 the “woman” in this chapter was defined as the nation of Israel.
- 2) Now we are told that ‘the woman/Israel’ **“...was given the two wings of a great eagle...”** This same description was used in the Book of Exodus to describe the exodus of the nation of Israel from Egypt. Exod. 19:4, **“You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.”** Not only is the description the same but the circumstances are actually the same. God will be protecting Israel from a demonic/human force that is intent on destroying Israel as a nation. I also believe that the ‘eagles wings’ speaks to the swiftness in which God can move to protect his own. Just an opinion!
- 3) The next part of this sentence tells us why the nation of Israel is being swiftly moved, **“...so that she might fly to a place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of...”** To me there is no question that God is telling Israel and the world in general that he has prepared a place of safety in advance for his people, Israel. Again this same process has already taken place with the nation of Israel. To see the entire story about how God provided for Israel’s every need after he saved them from the Egyptians during their journey through the wilderness read, Exodus chapters 13-20 with a special focus on chapter 15 which is ‘The Song of Moses’. Again this process has already taken place and it was more commonly known as a ‘wilderness’. I also believe Jesus was talking about this same time period in Matthew 24:15-16 when he made the following statement about the last half of the seven year tribulation period, **“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”** Please take notice where Jesus tells the people in Judea to flee, **“the mountains”**. Jesus is referencing Daniel 9:27. The exact location of where Israel will go during this period is not stated in this verse; however, many scholars believe that it is the ancient city of Petra because in the past this was known as a city of refuge or safety. However, as I have already stated, because of modern weapons I

do not believe this would be a practical location, **unless God elects to use his power to make this happen.**

- a) Also, there are some scholars who believe that this verse is talking about the same events that are described in Zechariah Chapter 14. I do not agree with this interpretation of Zechariah 14 as I believe it is talking about the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- 5) Then this verse makes it very clear how long this Israel will be under this threat, **"...for a time, times and half an time,"** This time period has been defined as three and one half years in Daniel 9:20-27 when the angel Gabriel came to Daniel and interpreted Daniel vision about 'The Seventy Weeks' of Gods dealing with the nation of Israel.
- 6) The last part of this verse tells us from whom Israel had to be protected, **"...out of the serpent's reach."** The serpent being identified as the dragon/Satan.

I think it is imperative that we understand that symbolism is very heavily utilized in verse 14; however, the meaning of this verse is very straight forward when previous scripture is used to interpret this verse.

Verses 15 & 16 are equally thick with the use of symbolism; however, in these verses the interpretation is a little more of a stretch in terms of specific scripture to back up our opinions.

VERSE 15:

"Then from the mouth of the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. "

I believe that there are five key symbols used within this verse and if we can interpret the meaning of each of these symbols, then interpreting the verse will become much simple. I will list below each symbol and the interpretation:

- 1) **"Then from the mouth of the serpent..."** Scripture in general and especially in the Book of Revelations the **"mouth"** is a symbol for power or aggressive action. It is specifically used in conjunction with armies and even taking over the entire world government. Revelation 13:5-7 specifically talks about the Antichrist and the power of his mouth, **"The beast was given a mouth**

to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty two months. He opened his **mouth** to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.” Then in Rev. 19:15 we see this same word, “**mouth**” used in conjunction with the return of Christ and his armies to conquer and reclaim the earth for God the Father, “Out of his **mouth** comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter.’ He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.” Based on these two examples and others if we take the time to look them up, I believe that in verse 15 God is telling us the reader that the word “**mouth**” is symbolism for the armies of the Antichrist. Remember at this point in time, which we have defined as the beginning of the last three and one half years of the tribulation period, the dragon/Satan/the serpent has been expelled from heaven and confined to the earth. And it is my opinion that at the mid-point of the seven year period when the Antichrist is mortally wounded Satan heals and takes over/indwells his body. Also remember at this point in the tribulation period, the mid-point, Satan is in control of the entire world, see rev. 13:7b above.

- 2) The next part of this verse actually uses three forms of symbolism to make the intended point, “...spewed water like a river,” 1) the words “spewed” and “water”, 2) the word “like”, 3) the word “river” are our symbolic words.
 - a) I believe that the lead in word “spewed” indicates something with great force. Then Rev. 17:15 makes it very clear that the word, “water” refers to ‘people’ and a large amount of people. “Then the angel said to me, ‘The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.’” Also our verse states that the, “water is like a river” with “like a river” meaning a lot of water. Note, the verse uses the word, “like” meaning it is not a real river but refers to the word “water”, which I believe means—a lot of water.
 - b) I believe that Isaiah 8:7-8 is a good example of how scripture ties all three of these words together. This chapter in Isaiah is talking about

how God used the Assyrians to bring judgment on Israel and how his words utilizes the concepts of—water—rivers— armies, to indicate the same thing Satan has in mind for Israel, “...therefore the Lord is about to bring against them the mighty flood waters of the River—the king of Assyria with all his pomp. It will overflow all its channels, run over all its banks and sweep into Judah, swirling into it and reaching up to the neck. Its outspread wings will cover the breath of your land, O Immanuel!”

- 3) The verse now indicates Satan’s intension toward the ‘woman’ or Israel with his world army as defined above, “...to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent.” To me Satan’s intensions are very straight forward, he want to completely destroy all of Gods people. This concept is reinforced throughout the bible therefore; I will not take the time to quote scripture on this issue.

Conclusion:

My opinion is that there is no question about how to interpret this verse which is: The Antichrist/Satan will attempt to destroy all of Israel/the Jews, and Christians during the last half of the seven year tribulation period. For further evidence of this fact read the Book of Daniel focusing on chapters 7 & 9 also Zechariah as well as many other Major and Minor Prophets. Next verse 16 makes it very clear why this will not happen.

VERSE 16:

“But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.”

Again I will analyze the symbolic words within this verse and provide scripture to back up my opinions.

- 1) This verse opens up with the following, “But the earth helped the woman...” indicating that verse 15 or the dragon/Satan might have been successful in his effort to destroy the woman/Israel except for the actions

which will now take place. The KJV translation uses the words, “And the earth helped the woman...” which combined with the remaining word means the same thing as ‘But’. It seems very clear to me that ‘the earth’ or nature or some type of physical event intervenes and helps the woman/Israel. And guess who created and controls all of nature/creation? Gen.1:1, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” There are many places within the scripture where God controls nature and the laws of nature, 1) parting of the Red Sea, 2) water out of a rock for Moses, 3) Joshua and Israel crossing the Jordan, 4) the route (Jordan) to the battle of Jericho. Also, go back and look at how God used nature in the Seal & Trumpet Judgments. The point is God created & controls nature. And he will do so again in this situation!

- 2) The next part of this verse indicates how the earth helped the woman, “...by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.” The symbolism used here seems to be the same as in verse 15. I will translate, ‘the earth/nature will use its mouth/power to consume or destroy the armies that the dragon/Satan sent after the woman/Israel.’ Keep in mind the following when reading this verse:
- a) God created the earth and nature and controls them.
 - b) The woman is Israel Gods chosen people.
 - c) The word, **“mouth”** is used to indicate power and authority.
 - d) The word, **“river”** is used to indicate a large army.
 - e) The dragon/Satan/the Antichrist is in control of the world government at this point in time.
 - f) God is controlling or limiting or even guiding Satan’s and the Antichrist movements during this period.

Conclusion:

God will intervene through his control of nature and/or through the minds of men to stop Satan’s attempt to destroy Israel. He will demonstrate his supernatural power through specific events to accomplish his will. You ask has this ever happened before, the answer is yes it has happened in the past and has been prophecies to happen in the future. I will list some of the more notable below:

- 1) Past: Gen.19:24, Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the Lord out of heaven.”
- 2) Past: 1 Sam. 14:20, “Then Saul and all his men assembled and went to the battle. They found the Philistines in total confusion, striking each other with their swords.”
- 3) Past: 1 Kings 18:38-39, “Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.”
- 4) Past: 2 Chron. 20:22-23, “as they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. The men of Moab rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another.”
- 5) Past: Isa. 29:5-6, “But your many enemies will become like fine dust, the ruthless hordes like blown chaff. Suddenly, in an instant, the Lord Almighty will come with thunder and earthquake and great noise, with windstorm and tempest and flames of a devouring fire.”
- 6) Past: acts 16:26, “suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose.”
- 7) Future: Ezek.38:22, “I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him.”
- 8) Future: Rev. 9:18, “A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke, and sulfur that came out of their mouths.” This is another good example of scripture using the ‘mouth’ to demonstrate power.
- 9) Future: Rev. 16:21, “from the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. “

These are just a few examples that I could find with about 5 minutes research. My point is that there can be no question that God the Father will be in full control of ALL end times events including how it will affect all of creation.

However, I would like to make it clear that this verse does not specifically tell us the reader how God intends to use nature to provide this protection for Israel. The only thing I could point to is it appears that it will be an act of nature that will protect Israel. The only thing I could point to it could be one of the many 'earthquakes' that God will use in his judgments. And the one closest to this time period is the one in the 'Seventh Trumpet Judgment', Rev. 11: 19. There are other earthquakes mentioned in the seven year tribulation period, however all of these appear to be incorrect in terms of timing; Rev. 6:12, 8:5, 11:13 & 16:18. I think this is one of those verses that we just have to take on faith!

Verse 17:

“Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obeyed God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

I think verse 16 makes it very clear that once again God is one step ahead of Satan and his effort to destroy God's chosen people. Satan has made this effort many times before in the past → Examples would be: Pharaoh's Egypt, Haman's gallows (Book of Ester), Herod's death edict for Hebrew children under the age of 2, Hitler's attempted destruction of the Jewish people and now Islam's attempt to completely destroy the Jewish race.

Many scholars believe that this verse is just adds more details about Satan's attempt to destroy God's chosen people; the Jewish nation. Satan's efforts are recorded in verses 4b, 13, 15 and now 17. In my opinion there can be no question that they are correct → All of these verse record Satan's attempt to destroy God's chosen people.

However, in my opinion there is more information within this verse and that this verse should be split into two sections, to better understand all it has to say. I will provide additional details, as follows:

- 1) **“Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring...”**

- a) **“Then the dragon was enraged at the woman...”** I believe if you back and read the entire Bible and look at all the times Satan has tried to destroy Gods people/saints, none of which were successful. Then combine that with the facts in Revelation Chapters 11 & 12:
- Satan’s remaining time before being sent to hell for all eternity is 1,260 days plus a short time period after the millennial reign of Jesus Christ,
 - Satan is expelled from heaven,
 - In every effort Satan has attempted to destroy Gods people in chapter 12 God was one step ahead of him. Satan never seems to be able to **‘GET THE JOB DONE’**.
 - I think Satan has now come to the realization that his dream of beating God is on a short leash and his desire of becoming God may **‘FAIL’** and therefore, he is striking out and **“enraged”** at anything that is of God.
- b) **“...and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring.”** I believe that there are three key elements within these words:
- Satan at this point is **“enraged”** at his continued inability to win any of the major events with God. Note: Actually if you look at the details of Satan’s attacks on any of God’s creation you will find that he only wins or harms Gods Creation when God lets him and that is when God uses Satan to discipline his people or creation. **AGAIN, SATAN IS ONLY ALLOWED TO HARM ANY OF GODS CREATION WHEN GOD ALLOWS IT AND THIS IS ALWAYS FOR DISCIPLINARY REASONS.**
 - Satan has been at **“war”** with God and the **‘beings’** that serve God since the day **‘SIN ENTERED SATAN’**. This war started before the creation of this earth & universe. It will not be concluded until the end of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ on planet earth. Therefore, I think we should expect Satan to continue his ‘war’ against anything that is of God. This would include: the past, today & in all of the future. However, keep in mind there is a time limit on Satan → the end of Jesus Christ millennial reign.

- I believe the rest of the words in (b) above, “...against the rest of her offspring...” begins the definition of who Satan is seeking out to destroy “war”. I think # 2) below completes the description of who Satan is attempting to destroy.
- 2) “...those who obeyed God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Again I believe that these words complete the description of who Satan is targeting; in terms of ‘things of God’. The reason I specify ‘things of God’ is it is my opinion that Satan has always divided the ‘beings’ that God created that have ‘Free-Will’ into two groups: 1) **those who serve God** and, 2) **those that do not serve God.** Again the group that is being identified in our verse is ‘thing of God’. I would also like to point out that the other group **‘those that do not serve God’** are the ones that Satan uses to help him destroy **‘those who serve God’**. This has been the equation that has existed since the creation of the world. If you are looking at it from Gods side it would be defined as → **THOSE THAT SERVE GOD & THOSE THAT DO NOT SERVE GOD,** and if you are looking at it from Satan’s side it would be defined as → **THOSE THAT SERVE SATAN & THOSE THAT DO NOT SERVE SATAN.** The equation is simple; you are either **‘OF GOD’** or you are **‘OF SATAN’!** By the way this equation has never changed!
- a) Now we will look at the actual words of this section, “...those who obeyed God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus Christ.” To clearly understand these words I think we need to look back at the previous words, “...against the rest of her offspring...” It is my opinion that the words, “...those who obeyed God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Is a further or more complete definition of the people or groups being defined in the words, “...against the rest of her offspring...” Again, this appears to me to be God through John’s words providing the reader with a ‘general definition’ and then coming right back with a more definitive definition. Many scholars believe that this more definitive definition is specifically speaking about the Jewish and saved people living during the last 3 ½ years of the seven year tribulation period. And I agree there is no doubt that Satan will be very intent on destroying this group of people. I also think the words used in this section also support

this view: 1) "God's commandments" I think would speak to the Old Testament or Jewish nation and 2) "testimony of Jesus Christ" would speak to the New Testament or the people being saved during this seven year period. Not sure any of this makes any difference in the outcome of this verse but I think understanding the intent of these words helps with our overall understanding of the Book of revelation. Again, just my opinion!