



“The War That Rages.”

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Revelation 12

¹ And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ² She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴ His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. ⁵ She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, ⁶ and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

⁷ Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

¹³ And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. ¹⁵ The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. ¹⁶ But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the

dragon had poured from his mouth.¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

SUMMARY

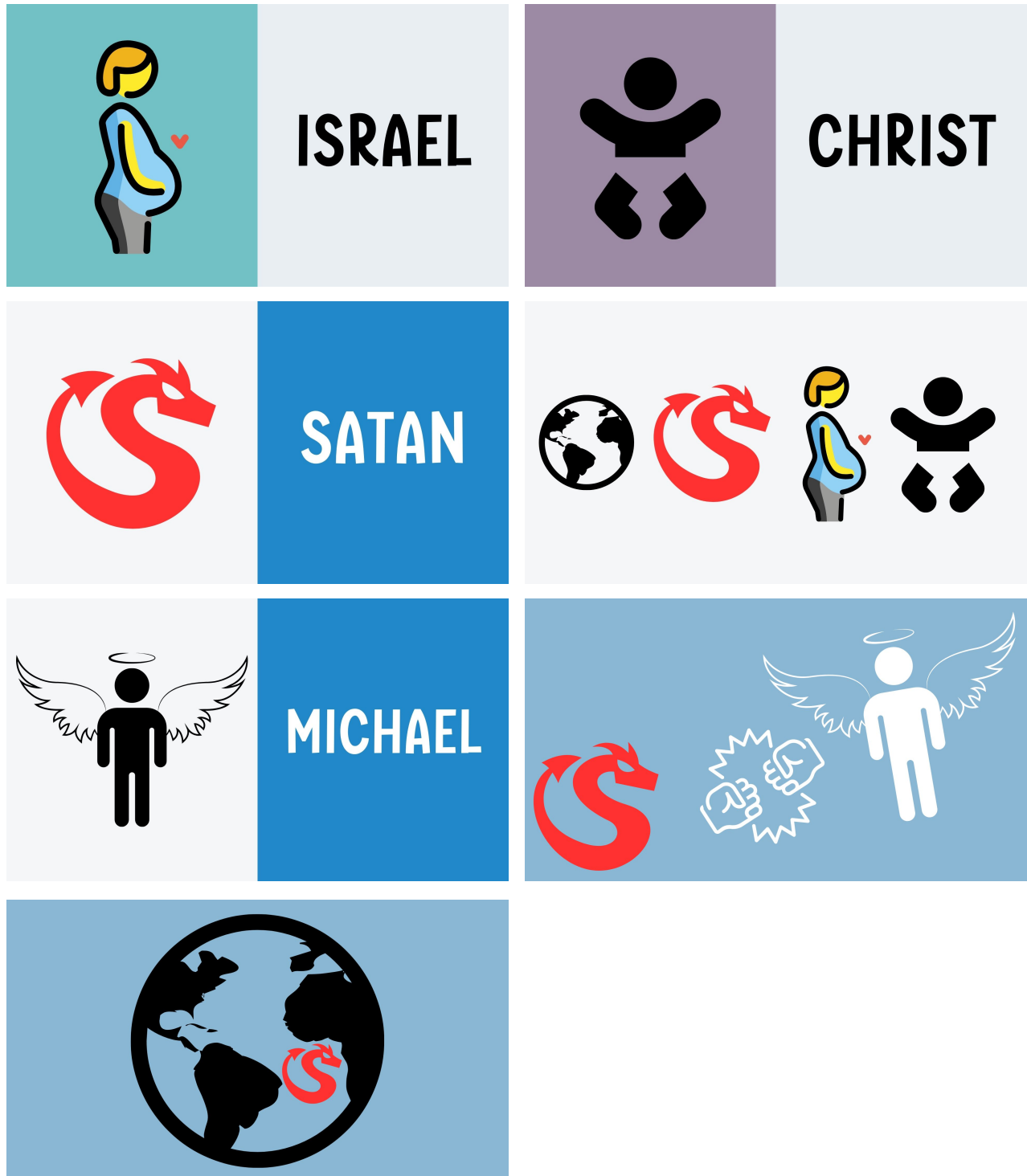
Revelation 12 is often called the most symbolic chapter in the most symbolic book of the Bible. This chapter unveils the primary enemy of God, Satan, along with his plan to destroy God's covenant promises to redeem His people for His glory. While our enemy has a battle plan, his ultimate defeat is certain. Until that time, God has revealed how His people will always overcome through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

PASSAGE OUTLINE

Prelude to War - 12:1-6

War in the Heavens - 12:7-12

War on the Earth - 12:13-17



Genesis 37:9

⁹ Then [Joseph] dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, “Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”

Genesis 3:15

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.

We have an enemy who only wants to defeat us.

“Satan hates us. Never forget those three words if you love and follow Christ’s teachings. Satan wants nothing more than to sabotage our love for God and for others, to tempt us into a moral catastrophe, and to see us choose a lifestyle of sin rather than a walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. When we falter, he stands ready to accuse us before God. When we pass the tests of temptation, he looks beyond that and is already strategizing his next attack. Satan’s hatred of us is relentless.”

Chuck Swindoll, Living Insights: Revelation, p. 179

Christ our Savior has defeated our enemy.

³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. John 16:33.

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him. With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said.” 2 Chronicles 32:7-8 NIV.

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS BY FAITH

- Trust Jesus When You’re Afraid.
- Tell Others About Jesus.
- Train Your Family In Faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Revelation 12 is described as “the most symbolic chapter in the most symbolic book of the Bible.” What feelings or challenges come to mind when you think about reading or interpreting highly symbolic passages of Scripture?
2. The vision introduces three main figures: the woman, the child, and the dragon. What do these figures represent, and why do you think God chose such vivid imagery to reveal them?
3. Read Genesis 37:9 and Isaiah 9:6. How do these OT passages shed light on understanding Revelation 12:1-2?
4. Satan’s plan is revealed as an attempt to destroy God’s promises and His people. How does seeing the enemy’s plan in such clear terms help us better understand the struggles believers face today?
5. Revelation 12:10–11 highlights the victory believers have through Jesus’ blood, their testimony, and not loving their lives even unto death. What do these three elements show us about how God equips His people to overcome?
6. Spiritual conflict is real and ongoing. Where do you feel this battle most strongly, and how does knowing Christ has already secured the victory encourage you in those struggles?
7. What was your takeaway from this week’s passage?

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