The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 12: 1-12

~The Fourth Vision in Heaven~

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven,
Now is come salvation, and strength,
and the kingdom of our God,
and the power of his Christ:
for the accuser of our brethren is cast down,
which accused them before our God day and night.

-Revelation 12 Verse 10
The Fourth Vision, “In Heaven”

The Great Sign
Revelation 12:1-12

Chapter 12 begins the fourth set of visions in Heaven and Earth. There is something remarkable here as we have the following:

The fourth pair of visions are the central pair in the 7 visions
The 12th chapter is the literary center of the book
The subject of this fourth vision is the central subject of the whole book.

All this shows us that we are on the threshold of an important part of Scripture which relates to the actual Revelation or Unveiling of the glorious Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Beginning here, in chapter 12 and running through chapter 14 we are given an explanation of what occurred before chapter 6. We see the beginning of evil, the source of sin, and suffering on the earth in the person of Satan. We come to understand why the great battle between the forces of God and Satan must soon take place.

Chapters 6-11 give an exoteric (or outer) view of events taking place during the tribulation period. During these chapters the False Messiah is present on the earth. We know this from 11:7 where the Beast makes war against the Two Witnesses.

This shows that these Witnesses are upon the earth during the thirteenth chapter; and that the Beast is on the Earth during the eleventh chapter. The account of the rise of the Beast is postponed until chapter 13, but his actual revelation must already have taken place a long time before. The events recorded in the twelfth chapter must also have then taken place.

We must remember, therefore, that when we come to chapter 12, we are chronologically taken back and told what will have previously happened. Just as an author today takes us by one line of events up to a certain point, and then goes back, and by another line of events reaches the same point again. All through these judgments scenes, or, at any rate, the great part of them, the Beast is on the earth, and it is against him and his forces that the plagues of the Seals and the Trumpets are directed. This fact is often overlooked in the interpretation of chapters 6-11, but it must be allowed its full weight in our present consideration of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.
Up to this point in Revelation, we have not yet been told how (the False Messiah) came to be on the earth. Here in chapter 12 we are given the esoteric (or inner) view of this same period of time and told of the causes which shall lead up to the revelation of the Beast and the False Prophet.

In summary, chapter 12 tells of the war that takes place in heaven that leads to Satan being cast out into the earth. Then, in chapter 13, “he” stands on the sand of the sea and John sees these two awful beings coming up—the one from the sea, and the other from the earth.

It should be noted, that there is no record of the activities of these two beings except in chapter 13 and what we may gather from the judgments directed against them and their followers recorded from chapters 6-11, as well as other Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.
THE FOURTH VISION “IN HEAVEN”
Revelation 12:1-12

A Great Sign

The Structure below has the Woman and the Dragon as the two primary subjects of the Vision with our Lord (the “Man-child”) occupying one verse-the sixth.

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1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven;
   a woman clothed with the sun,
   and the moon under her feet,
   and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

2 And she being with child cried,
   travailing in birth,
   and pained to be delivered.

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven;
   and behold a great red dragon,
   having seven heads
   and ten horns,
   and seven crowns upon his heads.

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven,
   and did cast them to the earth:
   and the dragon stood before the woman
   which was ready to be delivered,
   for to devour her child
   as soon as it was born.

5 And she brought forth a man child,
   who was to rule all nations
   with a rod of iron:
   and her child was caught up unto God,
   and to his throne.

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness,
   where she hath a place prepared of God,
   that they should feed her there
   a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

7 And there was war in heaven:
   Michael
   and his angels
   fought against the dragon;
   and the dragon fought
   and his angels,

8 And prevailed not;
   neither was their place found any more in heaven.
Chapter Read \((KJV)\)  
Revelation 12  
Verses 9-12

9 And the great dragon was cast out,  
♀ that old serpent,  
♀ called the Devil,  
♀ and Satan,  
♀ which deceiveth the whole world:  
♀ he was cast out into the earth,  
♀ and his angels were cast out with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven,  
♀ Now is come salvation,  
♀ and strength,  
♀ and the kingdom of our God,  
♀ and the power of his Christ:  
♀ for the accuser of our brethren is cast down,  
♀ which accused them before our God  
♀ day and night.

11 And they overcame him  
♀ by the blood of the Lamb,  
♀ and by the word of their testimony;  
♀ and they loved not their lives unto the death.

12 Therefore rejoice,  
♀ ye heavens,  
♀ and ye that dwell in them.  
♀ Woe to the inhabiters of the earth  
♀ and of the sea!  
♀ for the devil is come down unto you,  
♀ having great wrath,  
♀ because he knoweth that he hath  
♀ but a short time..
Revelation 12  Verse by Verse  Verse 1

Revelation 12
1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven;
   ➔ a woman clothed with the sun,
   ➔ and the moon under her feet,
   ➔ and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

   • And a great sign was seen in heaven... it is not only a sign but a “Great” sign. The word in Greek is semeion: a sign. It is not teras: a wonder. The first mention of the heavenly bodies reveals that the stars, sun, and moon were not only created to divide the day from the night and give light upon the earth, but that they were also set, for signs, seasons, days, and years (Genesis 1:14-19). These are not for the four seasons, but for cycles of time. In addition, we find the following mention in the Psalms:

Psalm 147
4 He telleth the number of the stars;
 ➔ he calleth them all by their names.

   • Most of these names have been lost, but according to the records of the Jewish historian Josephus about 100 are still remembered and used by astronomers today who are generally ignorant of their origins. Further the writings of Josephus document that the Bible astronomy came about through Adam, Seth, and Enoch.

   • Before the first writings of the Word of God through Moses in 1,490 B.C. the stars stood as a silent witness. Their names and their grouping in signs and constellations told the story of Scripture. Romans 1:19-23 describes this and Psalm 19:1-6 emphatically professes it—that is how the invisible things of God were revealed in His creation. But man corrupted it and heathen nation put their own names and stories behind the constellations (see the Witness of the Stars by E.W. Bullinger for a further discussion and Appendix 12 in the Companion Bible).

   • The presence of the signs here in Revelation 12 tells us that God is about to reveal His own truth, write folly on all devices of the heathen, expose their false use of His own handiwork; and, as He smote "the gods of Egypt" when He delivered Israel from thence (Jeremiah 43:12, 13; 46:20), so, when He is about to deliver Israel again, He will execute His judgment on the gods of the heathen, by showing that their perversions of His primal promise will not affect its fulfillment; but all their mythological gods shall be helpless and useless to deliver them out of His hand.
Revelation 12  Verse by Verse  Verse 1 continued

Revelation 12
1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven;
   • a woman clothed with the sun,
   • and the moon under her feet,
   • and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

• The understanding of the heavens on the previous page make the reader aware that one is not to take this wonder literally, but to see in it a sign that points to something remarkable in itself and spiritually momentous in its teaching. We see that the book itself, that is, ‘The Revelation of Jesus Christ’ is to be taken literally, the events and the facts as presented, unless we are so directed by the Holy Spirit that the description of events is other than literal as we are here told here. God’s Word and His works are perfect, confusion in the Word arises through man’s traditions and through man inputting symbols into God’s Word.

• ‘A woman clothed with the sun… upon her head a crown of twelve stars…’ this sign takes us back to Genesis 37. It is the only Scripture in the whole Bible that corresponds with this sign. There we read of Joseph telling his father Jacob of the following dream:

Genesis 37
9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

• This was a prophetic Divine sign revealed to Joseph of the bondage that Jacob’s family, Israel, would endure in Egypt. Joseph is the 12th star, his brothers are represented by the other 11 stars. They did bow and pay him homage when he became Pharaoh’s 2nd in command. The sun and the moon signified Jacob and his wife Rachel. Joseph’s dream was fulfilled as Scripture attests, Genesis 37 to Genesis 45.
Revelation 12  Verse by Verse  Verse 2

2 And she being with child cried,
   ✔ travailing in birth,
   ✔ and pained to be delivered.

• “And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.” This is the birth of the new nation Israel. The birth pains are the sorrows that Israel will undergo. This is foretold by our Lord: when He unveiled ‘end time events’ as noted below

Matthew 24
8: “All these are the beginning of sorrows.”

• Israel the nation, as a whole, is continuously compared to a woman and a married woman in the Old Testament (Isaiah 54) and to a widow (Isaiah 47, Lamentations 1:1; Luke 18).

• The "sign" of the travailing woman, and her being in pain to be delivered, signifies the expectant attitude of Israel. The promised seed was meant to be the one great hope of the nation; to which everything pointed and of which everything testified.

• The figure of the woman points to the nation and that promise was delivered through Blessed Mother and the birth of Christ.
Revelation 12  
Verse by Verse  
Verse 3

Revelation 12 KJV
3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven;
   ṭ and behold a great red dragon,
   ṭ having seven heads
   ṭ and ten horns,
   ṭ and seven crowns upon his heads.

• And there appeared another wonder in heaven...should be read: ‘And another sign was seen in heaven’ This 2nd sign seen by John in Spirit ‘in heaven’ points to the evil source of the conflict of the ages (verse 4) and is revealed by God herein in the guise of THE dreaded dragon.

• Our Father leaves no doubt to what this ‘great red dragon’ signifies. In verse 9 He explains to us that the dragon is ‘that old serpent (in the Garden of Eden, Gn.3) that is called the devil (the slanderer) and Satan (the adversary).’

• The dragon used 13 times in revelation is antichrist and in Biblical numerics means rebellion, apostasy, defection, disintegration, revolution - all appropriate Biblically activities that describe the archangel lucifer as the insidious, evil, enemy of God’s children.

• He, the Satan, the old serpent, the devil, the dragon has ‘seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.’ These are ‘signs’ of the universality of earthly dominion. Wherein the satan is the “prince of the power of the air”, Ephesians 2,2; ‘the prince of this world’, John 12,31; 14,30; 16,11. And our Lord did not dispute his claim to this evil dominion, Luke 4:5-7.

• His color is the color of fire, and of blood. This is a ‘sign’ of his cruelty and blood-thirstiness, John 8,44; 1 John 3,12.

• And a sign of war, that has been continuous in this Earth Age: “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”, Ephesians 6:12; Genesis 3; Dan 10,13; 10,20.

• And war that took place in the ‘First Earth Age’: Ezekiel 28; Isaiah 14.;Jeremiah 4:18-31; Rev. 12:4’... and its consequence Genesis 1 verse 2.

• And war that will take place during The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Dan 8,11; 8,25; 9,26; 11,18; 11,22; 12,1; the 2nd Seal, Rev 6,4.

• The heads and horns and crowns are manifestly the ‘sign’ of earthly power that satan is gathering to himself: for to whomsoever he will he gives or delegates it; Luke 4:6-7; Rev 13,2. - and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations, Rev 13,7.
Revelation 12 Verse by Verse Verse 3 continued

Revelation 12 KJV

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; ✧ and behold a great red dragon, ✧ having seven heads ✧ and ten horns, ✧ and seven crowns upon his heads.

• Herein is the evil authority and evil power of the ‘woman’s ‘enemy that God has detailed for His servants. The ‘woman’ is the sign of the Jewish nation, Israel, as a whole. Four women are unveiled in Revelation, two are of God, and two under the dominion of Satan, the antichrist.

• Israel, the woman in Revelation 12 verse 1, embodies God’s chosen people and within her peoples 144,000 will be sealed by God with the specific mission to stand and witness against the antichrist.

• King Ahab’s evil wife, Jezebel will again be manifested within the Christian community represented by the Church of Thyatira: “thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.” Revelation 2 verse 20.

• The harlot of Rev. 17 with whom the whole world commits apostasy...”the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.” (verses 2,3,5).

• The fourth woman Revelation19:7-8,the bride of the Lamb, the body of Christ... “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

• The Jewish peoples, the woman, Israel is the primary target of the Antichrist’s hatred and destructive attacks. The 70th Week of Daniel’s prophecy, Dan. 9:24-27 concerns Israel. just as the first 69 Weeks embodied Israel’s captivity unto Israel’s statehood as a nation in 1948.

• Israel’s presence during the 70th Week of Daniel’s God given vision, the tribulation periods of antichrist and Christ, is in keeping of His promise to her of a kingdom. (Isaiah 65: 17-25; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Daniel 2,44). And national salvation, His chosen people. (Zech. 12:10-13,1.)

Romans 11

26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob

27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.
Revelation 12

Verse by Verse

Verse 4

Revelation 12 KJV
4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven,  
   and did cast them to the earth:  
   and the dragon stood before the woman  
   which was ready to be delivered,  
   for to devour her child  
   as soon as it was born.

Verse four gives us a further description regarding the sign mentioned in verse 3.

- And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven…we are again taken back to the beginning of things and given a reference to Satan’s first rebellion. That he did rebel is certain from Isaiah 14:12 and Ezekiel 28:15 and we know it was on account of pride as the books of Timothy and Ezekiel indicate:

1 Timothy 3  
6 …lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

Ezekiel 28
17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness

- and the dragon stood before the woman…the moment God spoke the prophecy in Genesis 3:15 and the word went forth that the seed of the woman should one day finally crush the serpent's head, that old serpent, the Devil and Satan, took his stand before the woman in order to destroy her seed as soon as it should be brought forth.

- Satan's object, from the going forth of that prophecy, was to prevent that "seed of the woman" from ever coming into the world (see Appendix 25).
4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth:

The ‘tail’ belongs to the dragon who is Satan, the supreme evil agent against God’s kingdom. The ‘stars of heaven’ are not heavenly bodies but God’s children, His creation. This reference is to the ‘Fall of Lucifer.’ The spiritual event is one third: one third of God’s children were deceived by Lucifer, they fell and followed him.

Lucifer, now Satan, is referenced as the dragon thirteen times in Revelation. His activities are likened unto a dragon. Herein one must step back through Holy Scripture before ‘time’ began to understand why the most perfect creature that God created is called a dragon, and now, the most evil being in creation.

Satan’s rebellion against God and his fall is detailed in God’s Word in Ezekiel 28, and Isaiah 14. The first and only reference to his original name Lucifer is Isaiah 14:12: “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!” he was known as the “anointed cherub who covers,” Ezekiel 28:14.

Lucifer forfeited his place as the highest created being and became the supreme enemy of God. His rebellion caused a cosmic war throughout God’s Kingdom - a spiritual war that resulted in devastation (see appendix 27).

This first rebellious act against God continued among mankind wherein satan destroyed the earthly paradise of the Garden of Eden,

Since the ‘Fall’, the Earth and mankind has been the primary theater in which this war continues. As children of God, every individual faces the same choice to fight on God’s side or join Satan’s. Remaining neutral is not an option, in Matthew 12 verse 30 Jesus declares: “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”

There is a traditional belief that our adversary, Satan, is a spiritual force unto himself, not so. Satan is only an instrument, a tool that is being used by our Holy Father just as Pharaoh was an instrument used in the deliverance of God’s people in Egypt.

Many Biblical expositors maintain that the ‘stars’ within this verse: “his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven,” are God’s angels. There is no indication of Satan’s singular deception of angels only (in reference to “stars, see appendix 26, stars not only refer to heavenly bodies but to Christ, to Satan, to humans, and to Biblical prophecy).
Revelation 12  Verse by Verse  Verse 5

Revelation 12 \textit{KJV}
5 And she brought forth a man child, 
\begin{itemize}
  \item who was to rule all nations
  \item with a rod of iron:
  \item and her child was caught up unto God,
  \item and to his throne.
\end{itemize}

\textit{NAB}
5 And she gave birth to a son, a male child, 
\begin{itemize}
  \item who is to rule all the nations
  \item with a rod of iron;
  \item and her child was caught up to God
  \item and to His throne.
\end{itemize}

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{She brought forth a man child…} this man child is the Lord Jesus Christ in His human incarnation as the Gospel of John testifies
\end{itemize}

\textit{John 1}
14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth

\begin{itemize}
  \item As noted in appendix 25, Satan’s efforts to destroy Israel and the seed line of Christ failed and the Word of God in Genesis 3:15 along with His Words through the prophets succeeded regarding the coming of Christ as Isaiah prophesied below:
\end{itemize}

\textit{Isaiah 7}
14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

\textit{Isaiah 9}
6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
Revelation 12  Verse by Verse  Verse 5 continued

Revelation 12 KJV
5 And she brought forth a man child,
   ➢ who was to rule all nations
   ➢ with a rod of iron:
   ➢ and her child was caught up unto God,
   ➢ and to his throne.

• *who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron…*this is said in anticipation of what Christ will do upon His return to the earth in His Second Advent. This description coincides with what is written in the whole of Psalm 2. It speaks of those upon the earth who seek to oppose God and His Christ and the coming of our Lord to destroy such peoples and rule the nations; note a few of the verses below:

Psalm 2
7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

• *her child was caught up to God…*this is a description of Christ’s ascension into Heaven. When Christ ascended into Heaven, He sat down on the right hand of God and is expected to return as professed in the Nicene Creed recited in Mass and as found in Acts 2:33; Hebrews 1: 1-3; 12:2 and the following Scriptures below:

Acts 1
9 And when he (Christ) had spoken these things, while they (disciples) beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Revelation 3
21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

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Revelation 12  Verse by Verse  Verse 6

Revelation 12 KJV
6 And the woman fled into the wilderness,  
   ✧ where she hath a place prepared of God,  
   ✧ that they should feed her there  
   ✧ a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

NAB
6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness  
   ✧ where she had a place prepared by God,  
   ✧ so that there she would be nourished  
   ✧ for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

• And the woman fled into the wilderness… We must note that this fleeing of the woman (symbolic of the nation of Israel) is mentioned here in anticipation of the war in Heaven described in verse 7. The war in Heaven is what leads to the flight

• where she hath a place prepared of God…. the wilderness is a place of spiritual and physical refuge (Hosea 2:14).

• That they should feed her there… This feeding of those persecuted and brought to refuge in the desert brings us to recall how God historically nourished that nation of Israel in the desert once they had left Egypt. The entire chapter of Exodus 16 describes this event noted in verse 4 below:

Exodus 16
Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.
Revelation 12  Verse by Verse  Verse 6 continued

Revelation 12 KJV
6 And the woman fled into the wilderness,
   ✶ where she hath a place prepared of God,
   ✶ that they should feed her there
   ✶ a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

- They should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days… It is well known - as noted in Daniel 9 below - that Antichrist will confirm a covenant with Israel for one week (each day of the week represents one year therefore 1 week = 7 years). At the midpoint of the week (3 ½ years) Antichrist breaks the covenant with Israel and sets up the abomination of desolation and precedes to devastate Jerusalem. At this time many flee Jerusalem. God preserves them during the 1,260 days / 3 ½ remaining years of the week.

- Below and continuing onto the next page is a brief Biblical narrative of these events as they were summarized in the paragraph above.

Daniel 9
7 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Daniel 11
40 …he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.
41…He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown:

Matthew 24
15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand;)

16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

6 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.
Revelation 12  
Verse by Verse  
Verse 6 continued

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

25 Behold, I have told you before.

26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Revelation 12
6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

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Revelation 12
Verse by Verse
Verse 7

Revelation 12 KJV
7 And there was war in heaven:
☞ Michael
☞ and his angels
☞ fought against the dragon;
☞ and the dragon fought
☞ and his angels,

NAB
7 And there was war in heaven,
☞ Michael and his angels
☞ waging war with the dragon
☞ The dragon and his angels waged war,

• And there was war in heaven…at the outset of this verse we must make note of an important point. It is Michael and the Angelic beings that go forth and initiate the war with Satan and his angels AND NOT as some believe, Satan initiating the battle. The initiative is taken by Michael (acting under God’s orders) because the time has come for this great event of the ages and for Satan to be expelled from the heavens.

• Although ejected from his place of glory during his prideful rebellion (see appendix 26) Satan has had access to the heavens as noted in Job 1:6; 2:1, Appendix 9, and Ephesians below:

Ephesians 6
12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

• This accessibility of the heavens by Satan and his forces comes to an end with the war waged by Michael. He will be cast out. Regarding the heavens one scholar describes them as such:

“We are not to think of Heaven as consisting of one place. The word is so often used in the plural…we are to think of many (it may be) different spheres. As the heavens are "higher than the earth," so we may look on them as being larger than the earth. And as the earth is divided into various countries and states, so may heaven have its various divisions. In one of them these mighty spiritual forces set themselves in battle array.”
Revelation 12 Verse by Verse Verse 7 continued

Revelation 12 KJV
7 And there was war in heaven:
   ☞ Michael
   ☞ and his angels
   ☞ fought against the dragon;
   ☞ and the dragon fought
   ☞ and his angels,

- Various Biblical scholars have lent their description of what this war may look like. However, such descriptions are limited to what we know from earthly wars. The war of angelic beings with their weapons is altogether a different scene and therefore is beyond the scope of human perspective.

- We do know, however, that on the one side of this war we have Michael who has been described in the following ways:

  One of the chief princes Daniel 10:13
  Your Prince (Israel’s defender) Daniel 10:21
  The Great Prince which standeth for thy (Daniel’s) people Daniel 12:1
  The archangel Jude 1:9

- On the other side of this war we have Satan. Who does not make war against Michael or even Christ (described as the man-child in this chapter). Satan makes war against the woman (Israel). Satan attempts to destroy the woman as the Beast manifested upon the earth and mentioned in chapter 13 and 17.

- In Daniel 2 we read of the earthly powers that have historically and presently carried on Satan’s activities. These powers will climatically consummate in the False Messiah and the one world system he will bring upon the world.

- Satan’s dominion covers all the powers and governments of the world as Satan asserted to Christ in the gospel of Luke:

  Luke 4
  5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

  6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.
Revelation 12  Verse by Verse  Verse 7 continued

• The sovereignty of these kingdoms at present belong to Satan. However, in verse 15 of chapter 11, we read of the great voices in heaven proclaiming that the kingdoms of the world would soon become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ forever and ever.

• This is why the prophecy in chapter 11 is briefly suspended at that point. It is so the Holy Spirit can explain to us through chapter 12 onward where this sovereignty is, where it comes from, and where it is going.

• When we ask ourselves when exactly will this war in heaven take place that leads to Satan ejected to the earth and his rise as the False Messiah, we find that Scripture tells us: it will happen at an appointed season.

• In 2 Thessalonians 2 (noted below) we are given further information as to the rise of Satan in the person of the Antichrist. There we are clearly told that the revelation of that awful being has an appointed season. He cannot rise before his time. We are told why and how this is.

2 Thessalonians 2:
1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,

2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

• Again, 2 Thessalonians tells us the False Messiah has an appointed season to be revealed. Here in Revelation 12 we read of the events which lead up his revealing and in chapter 13 we have the actual manifestation of Satan upon the earth as the Beast.
• 2 Thessalonians therefore forms an important link when studied in connection with Revelation 12. As noted in 2 Thessalonians below, we learn that Satan cannot be manifested as long as he holdeth fast (to his place in the heavenlies). He will hold his place until he is cast out.

2 Thessalonians 6
6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

The casting out of Satan is described in Revelation 12 there we are told exactly how it will take place and what will be its causes and consequences.

• Both Saint Paul and John wrote how worldly power was then being used, and has been used all along by Satan for the accomplishment of his secret purposes (this can be seen from appendix 25 and the temptation of Luke noted above).

2 Thessalonians 2:
7 …the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

1 John 2
18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many Antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

• Upon Satan’s expulsion from heaven he becomes openly manifested on the earth in the person of the Antichrist (chapter 13).
Revelation 12  Verse by Verse  Verse 8

Revelation 12 KJV
8 And prevailed not;
☞ neither was their place found any more in heaven.

NAB
8 But he was not strong enough,
☞ and they lost their place in heaven.
☞ *And prevailed not...* this is a certainty. The darkness cannot overcome the forces of God. For God is light as noted in *The Gospel of John.*

John
1 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

• On March 22, 2009 Pope Benedict, delivered a sermon to the people of Luanda in Africa, describing the light of God and its power to overcome darkness even in this present time:

Only the light of God can overcome the great "darkness" present in "many parts of our world," the evil represented by wars and tribal violence, but also by the egoism of men who exploit other men, leading to that hedonism which is at the source of escape into drugs, "sexual irresponsibility," destruction of families and innocent human lives through abortion.

Our prayer," he said at the Angelus, "rises today from Angola, from Africa, and embraces the whole world. May the men and women from throughout the world who join us in our prayer, turn their eyes to Africa, to this great Continent so filled with hope, yet so thirsty for justice, for peace, for a sound and integral development that can ensure a future of progress and peace for its people."
Revelation 12 Verse by Verse Verse 8 continued

Revelation 12 KJV
8 And prevailed not;
❖ neither was their place found any more in heaven.

❖ *Neither was there any place found any more in heaven…* the great object for which the war in heaven is raised will be accomplished according to God’s purpose. For God’s purposes will be accomplished as he has said in His Word:

Isaiah 14
24 The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:

❖ Here in verse 8, Satan is cast to the earth and will not have access to the heavens. Satan’s ejection to the earth occurs just before the Lord’s second advent at which time he will destroy the False Messiah he Lord’s second advent will soon take place

2 Thessalonians
8 then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming

❖ At the Lord’s First Advent it was announced, “peace on earth and goodwill toward man” but here at His Second Advent it’s war in heaven and woe to the inhabiter of the earth. Zechariah 3:2 gives us some indication on Satan’s motives. At the return of the Jews from Babylon, he was present to resist their restoration. Undoubtedly, he has been working behind the scenes attacking their present restoration in the land today and during his advent on earth it bring forth an open assault.
Revelation 12 
Verse by Verse 
Verse 9

Revelation 12 $KJV$
9 And the great dragon was cast out,
   ➔ that old serpent,
   ➔ called the Devil,
   ➔ and Satan,
   ➔ which deceiveth the whole world:
   ➔ he was cast out into the earth,
   ➔ and his angels were cast out with him.

*NAB*
9 And the great dragon was thrown down,
   ➔ the serpent of old
   ➔ who is called the devil
   ➔ and Satan,
   ➔ who deceives the whole world;
   ➔ he was thrown down to the earth,
   ➔ and his angels were thrown down with him.

- *That Old Serpent called*…there is no doubt as to whom this sign refers to. By four names Satan is defined, so that the Bible reader will make no mistake. Why, is Satan referred to by many names, one may ask. It is to give deeper insight into his character and person—see appendix 28.

- *Who deceives the whole world*…Satan stands for everything that is against God. Since God is truth and Satan is against God, anything he professes is deceit. Satan will deceive the world with the exception of those that have the Seal of God in their foreheads (Revelation 7:3).

- How is it that Satan will succeed in deceiving the whole world? Given the greatness bestowed upon him in the day he was created (Ezekiel 28) and the description of him in Genesis 3:1 as the most subtle (wise) of any living being, we learn it is not a matter of him deceiving the world, but a matter of God saving even the chosen from the cunning lies that would deceive even the elect if it were possible (Matthew 24:22).

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Revelation 12  Verse by Verse  Verse 10

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven,
   ✔️ Now is come salvation,
   ✔️ and strength,
   ✔️ and the kingdom of our God,
   ✔️ and the power of his Christ:
   ✔️ for the accuser of our brethren is cast down,
   ✔️ which accused them before our God
   ✔️ day and night.

- *And I heard a loud voice…in heaven…* the visions in heaven always include heavenly voices speaking. In this vision the voice is described as, “loud” meaning a ‘great voice.’ It is a song of victory sung by all those who overcame and found there place in the Kingdom of Heaven. Notice how they speak of, “our brethren.” At this point, the fruits of the victory against Satan are being reaped in Heaven—for he will no longer have access to them. Thus the song commemorates that victory.

- When the fruits of victory are reaped on earth, then new songs will be sung at that point, which, have already been written down for the singers to sing in Psalms 92-98; 149

- The heavenly voice declares *NOW is come salvation...* the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ... This is the central verse in ‘The Revelation of Jesus Christ.’ It must be noted this shout of triumph, is in anticipation of the events that lead up to our Lord’s 2nd Advent.

- Now is come salvation… is the shout of triumph which celebrates the results of Satan being cast out of heaven. The first step arising out of Heaven’s declaration of war.

- Now is come salvation,... the redemption of God’s children through Christ, the deliverance of all creation from the ravages of sin’s curse, Romans 8:16-22.

- Now is come salvation and strength...strength is the inherent power of God. Here, it is emphasizing His power to destroy all evil.

- The rule of Christ is by the authority from God, Psalm2:8; Matthew 28:18; John 17 verse2: “As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.” The establishment of the kingdom of God and the rule of Christ though future to this 4th vision in heaven is spoken of in the past tense as if it has already occurred (this is known as proleptic future prophecy) meaning the prophecy is spoken of as if has already happened.

- *for the accuser of our brethren is cast down…* The heavenly worshipers rejoice knowing that the heavens are cleansed of the presence of the devil and the horde of his evil angelic advocates.
Revelation 12 Verse by Verse

**Verse 11**

Revelation 12 KJV

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

- *They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb…* The enemy may accuse us day and night (as noted in verse 10). All his accusations will not stand against believers whose sins have been forgiven because of our Lord’s sacrifice (Romans 8:33-39). There should be no fear in facing the daily (or future) battles with Satan or his adversaries. At the present these battles take place in our society and in the manner in which we stand (or haven’t stood) for what is right. In this future time the battle will be outright against Satan himself (v.12 the devil is come down to you) against his angelic followers (v. 9 his angels were cast out with him) and against those that choose to believe in him (Matthew 24:3 if anyone should say to you…Lo! Here is the Christ, believe it not).

- Spiritually, we are to put on the Gospel armor (see Ephesians 6:10-18 and appendix 9), the helmet of salvation in Christ eliminates confusion. The unshakable foundation of all spiritual victory is Christ’s purchase of redemption at Calvary. A God given battle plan is found in the book of Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 10

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

- And by the word of their testimony; God’s saints overcome Satan’s assaults during the tribulation by testimony, their faithful witnesses that are sealed in God’s word. This testimony will never wavier even unto death...and they loved not their lives unto the death. It is the ultimate sacrifice bearing the ultimate reward back home in the eternal bliss of presence of God and Christ.

- In his epistle the Apostle John gives us the only basis for victory over Satan; “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” (1 John 4:4) It is only through God’s power that any believer in any age can defeat Satan.
Revelation 12

Revelation 12 KJV
12 Therefore rejoice,
   ✪ ye heavens,
   ✪ and ye that dwell in them.
   ✪ Woe to the inhabitants of the earth
   ✪ and of the sea!
   ✪ for the devil is come down unto you,
   ✪ having great wrath,
   ✪ because he knoweth that he hath
   ✪ but a short time..

NAB
12 For this reason, rejoice, O heavens
   ✪ and you who dwell in them
   ✪ Woe to the earth
   ✪ and the sea,
   ✪ because the devil has come down to you,
   ✪ having great wrath,
   ✪ knowing that he has only a short time.

Verse 12 discussed two succinct subjects:

1) Rejoicing in heaven
2) Woe to the earth

And between them there is a call for universal rejoicing

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Revelation 12  Verse by Verse  Verse 12 continued

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   ✦ and of the sea!
   ✦ for the devil is come down unto you,
   ✦ having great wrath,
   ✦ because he knoweth that he hath
   ✦ but a short time..

• woe to the inhabitants of the earth… this “woe” is the last of a series of three. It must have occurred before the first two (which would have already taken place 11:14). The third woe of course consists of the casting down of Satan.

• Having great wrath…Satan’s wrath has been compared to that of a roaring lion.

1 Peter 5
8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

• He knoweth that he hath but a short time…the devil intensifies his efforts knowing his time is short. In our present time, the events that lead up to Satan’s open manifestation on the earth have not yet occurred. However, we are living in the last days and Satan’s work has become more intense as we can see by the condition of the world.

Even though the devil is our great adversary, he is always under God’s control and his temptations and activities help filter out true believers. Satan knows the great confrontation with our Lord is near and his wrath and deception are his efforts to recruit as great an enemy force as possible for the final battle.