

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Chapters 12-14 – The *Third* Journey Through the Tribulation Period

THE GREAT RED DRAGON, THAT OLD SERPENT – REVELATION 12:3-14

In our last expositional message we began our study of chapter 12, a narrative that unfolds during the last 3½ years of the 7 year tribulation period. This remarkable chapter focuses on the final _____ between the woman, the man child, and the great red dragon—characters that need to be properly identified in order to comprehend the details of these *end times* events.

It was clear from our previous message that the woman is none other than the nation of _____ and the man child is the _____ _____ _____. Today's study will reveal other relevant issues and an ominous identity that will enlighten us as we seek to rightly divide the word of truth.

1. The great red dragon – Revelation 12:3-4, 7-10

a. Who he is

- He is called the _____ and _____ – verse 9

He is that old serpent

The Devil

Satan

b. Characteristics and aspects of his personage

- He is great – He is a person of renown

A powerful adversary of evil who has tried to usurp God throughout the ages of time

- He is red – Red is the color of blood and represents bloodshed. He is a _____ and has been from the very beginning – Jo. 8:44

He abode not in the truth

He is the father of all lies and liars

- He is a dragon – A mythological fire-breathing reptilian monster. The things legends are made of—designed to _____ mankind into thinking he is _____ real...

- He has seven heads with seven crowns upon his heads – These are the seven corrupt Gentile kings and kingdoms that Satan has used to control the world before and after the first coming of Christ. They have been described throughout scripture by Moses, Daniel, and the prophets:

- 1) Nimrod and the kingdom of Babel (2300-1800 BC) – Genesis 10:8-10
- 2) Pharaohs and the kingdom of Egypt (1800-1500 BC) – Exodus 5:2; Ezk. 29:3
- 3) Sennacherib and the kingdom of Assyria (720-625 BC) – 2 Kings 18:13
- 4) Nebuchadnezzar and the kingdom of Babylon (625-536 BC) – Daniel 1:3; Jer. 51:34
- 5) Cyrus / Darius and the Medo-Persian empires (536-330 BC) – Daniel 5:31
- 6) Alexander the Great and the Greek kingdom (330-100 BC) – Daniel 8:21; 10:20; 11:2
- 7) Caesars / Popes and the Roman empire (100 BC-second advent) – Luke 1:68-71; 2:1

Note: During this time of tribulation God is dealing with the nation of Israel, the church age is over, the church has been raptured

- He has ten horns – These are likely ten devilish _____ who will get their rulership directly from the antichrist sometime during the last 3½ years of the 7 year tribulation period – Esther 9:10, 14; Eph. 6:12

They are represented by horns, a symbol of masculine power and authority. It seems that the earth will be divided up into ten regions or kingdoms where they will rule and reign.

- He has a tail – And with his tail he drew the third part of the _____ of heaven

He also has angels – Stars are representative of angels throughout scripture – Job 38:7; Ps. 147:4; Is. 14:12-13; Rev. 1:20; 12:4; 9:1

This third is the part of the angels in heaven – After Satan's rebellion these angels exercised their free will and were corralled into the devil's fold. As their master he led them to battle with the angels of God (fights that have been going on for a long time – Jude 9).

2. Deception is his standard operating procedure – 2 Cor. 11:14

- a. He is the greatest _____ of all time

Genesis 3:13 – he beguiled Eve

John 8:44 – he is the father of all lies and liars

2 Corinthians 11:14 – he disguises himself as an angel of light

2 Thessalonians 2:7-12 – his deceptions have been at work all throughout history

Revelation 12:9 – he deceiveth the whole world

Revelation 20:10 – he has deceived every lost person in human history

- b. He is _____ in plain sight – Ps. 74:13-14; Is. 27:1; Rev. 12:3, 9; Job 41:1-34

- He is none other than the _____

- Our defense against him – James 4:7-10