

Revelation 12

John sees an interplay between a woman and a dragon, symbolizing the nation of Israel and Satan.

I. Satan's Former Hatred for God and His People (12:1-5)

A. His sin at the beginning (12:3-4): This seems to refer to his original fall.

B. His sin at Bethlehem (12:1-2, 4-5)

1. Satan's persecution of God's nation (12:1-2)
2. Satan's persecution of God's Son (12:4b, 5b)
 - a. The birth of Jesus (12:4a, 5a)
 - b. The ascension of Jesus (12:5c)

II. Satan's Future Hatred for God and His People (12:6-18)

A. The woman in the wilderness (12:6, 13-18): The woman here is the nation of Israel.

1. Israel will be persecuted by Satan during the Great Tribulation (12:13, 15, 17-18).
2. Israel will be protected by God during the Great Tribulation (12:6, 14, 16).

B. The war in the heavens (12:7-12): Some believe this will occur in the middle of the Great Tribulation.

1. The results (12:7-9)
 - a. The defeat of Satan (12:7-8): Michael the archangel will defeat him.
 - b. The dismissal of Satan (12:9): He will be cast down to earth.
2. The reaction (12:10-12)
 - a. Satan will be filled with wrath (12:10bc 12c).
 - b. Saints will be filled with joy (12:10a, 11-12a).
 - c. Sinners will be filled with fear (12:12b).