

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

REVELATION 12

The toughest job in the news business is that of war correspondent. It's reporting on steroids, special-ops journalism. A reporter is embedded with the troops. He wears military fatigues and a flack jacket - works in the line of fire. His job is risky. It takes nerve. Yet his *courage* provides us unprecedented *coverage*. Through a *war reporter* we get a view from the battle!

And in this section of Revelation, John acts as **God's war correspondent**. He reports on a spiritual battle, in fact *THE spiritual battle*, the battle of the ages - the war between God and Satan, and its culminating conflicts.

In Revelation 11 John was in Jerusalem, embedded with God's two witnesses. Remember they're the olive branches of peace God extends to a rebellious world.

And their miracle ministry is convincing... *until Satan's madman, the Antichrist, wars* against them. He kills both witnesses and for three-and-a-half days their corpses lie in the streets of Jerusalem. Finally God resurrects them and the witnesses ascend to heaven.

In our next chapter, Revelation 13, again John goes behind enemy lines to bring us an up-close expose' on the emerging tyrant who slaughtered God's witnesses. Satan's agent is ominously called *the Beast*.

And Revelation 13 is a chilling chapter. When all the animosity against God, alive in the world today, gets embodied in one man the evil is intense and terrifying.

But of all John's journalism Chapter 12 is his most important. For he knows what's playing out in Chapters 11 and 13 are the result of a long-running conflict. The battle he's covering didn't start with the two witnesses. This war has been brewing since Earth's earliest days.

And John realizes for us to understand what's happening we need some **background on the battle**.

In the scope of John's writing the Earth is in peril. Life as we know it is threatened. Israel is the focal point of the conflict... **And the question that begs to be answered is, *how did we get here?*** This is where John takes a step back, and lays out an overview of this war.

And verse 1 reveals the struggle of the ages began with *a woman*. **"Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and**

on her head a garland of twelve stars.” Here’s a prestigious lady, a spiritual debutante, a star with twelve stars. And she’s pregnant. “Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.” *And the million dollar question... who is this woman?*

Keep in mind, John wrote Revelation not just in the midst of a *spiritual battle*, his physical circumstances were also conflicted. He’s a POW in a penal colony. The evil Emperor Domitian had tried to kill John - boil him in oil. The elder John miraculously survived. Thus, Rome had banished him to the rock island of Patmos.

And as he writes this Revelation of Jesus he’s surrounded by Roman guards. Prisoners had no rights to privacy, so their letters were subject to censorship.

John doesn’t want anything he writes to be seen as subversive, so he disguises his message in symbols. John is Hebrew. He’s fluent in the Hebrew OT, so the best way to encrypt his symbols is in OT references. *And where in the OT do we find this woman?*

Genesis 37:9 quotes the Hebrew forefather, Joseph, “I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.” That’s when Joseph’s dad - the Patriarch Jacob or “Israel” as he’s later named - asks Joseph, “Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed bow down to the earth before you?” Joseph had eleven brothers, and obviously in his dad’s mind, they were all “stars.”

Jacob rightly saw the sun, moon, and eleven stars as a reference to his own family. Biblically, it’s crystal clear that the woman in Revelation 12 is **Israel** - *the Jews*.

I’ve heard it said, “You can learn a lot about someone’s entire theology by how they interpret the woman in Revelation 12.” I agree!... There are folks who see this woman as **the virgin Mary**. Since her child is Jesus it’s understandable that Mary gets mis-identified. But the pregnant woman in Chapter 12 occupies Heaven. Mary was never pregnant in Heaven. She was an earthly mom, not a heavenly one.

Roman Catholics refer to Mary as “**the mother of God**.” But the Bible never bestows such a title. Mary was Jesus’ earthly mom, but now in Heaven she’s one of many believers - *a child of God, not the mother of God*. Mary was a godly lady, but never make more of her than the Bible does... *She would be embarrassed!*

Other people see this woman as **the Church**. But this can’t be. The Church didn’t birth Jesus. Just the opposite, Jesus birthed the Church!... Well, I believe strongly, that this woman is none other than **the people of Israel!** John couches her in unmistakable symbolism. Joseph’s dream affirms her identity.

It's interesting, humans are pregnant 9 months, rhinos 15 months, and elephants 21 months. *Ladies, be glad you're not an elephant!* But realize, the nation Israel was pregnant with promise for 4000 years. God promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and then later to King David - that through their collective lineage a Savior would be born. Thus, Jesus was born of Jewish stock. He was the child of Lady Israel, a promised son.

Over the years I've noticed it's not too hard to tell if a woman is carrying a child. An expectant mom will radiate. She shines. She has a motherly glow about her. *She certainly deserves to be **handled with care.***

In fact, if I were President my first executive order would be special treatment for all pregnant women! *Expectant moms could park in handicap spots... Go to the head of all check-out lines... All OB-GYN waiting rooms would be required to have chairs with extra padding... pregnant women would get control of all TV remotes (As long as it wasn't football season!)...*

If you know a pregnant mom I hope you treat her with extra special care... But that's not the case with the woman in Revelation 12. When she's ready to deliver she gets threatened by a devouring dragon.

Verse 3, **“And another sign appeared in heaven; behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.”** This appears to be something out of a Jurassic Park movie.

Oh, what Steven Spielberg could do with a seven-headed dragon! This woman attracts scary company.

As you well know, God has a triune nature. He is **one God in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

The true God is the great originator. But Satan is a copy cat. He's an imitator - an impersonator. Satan's Kingdom tries to come off like God's Kingdom, so he seeks to fulfill his ambitions through **a trio** of leaders. And in the next two chapters they're introduced to us.

Chapters 12-13 present the **“Unholy Trinity”** - **“the dragon,”** or Satan... **“the beast rising up out of the sea,”** or the Antichrist... and **“the beast coming up out of the earth,”** the Antichrist's evil minion, the false prophet...

Notice, **“Seven heads and ten horns”** are associated with this unholy trinity - especially **the Beast,** or *Antichrist.* In Revelation 17:7 we'll learn **“the seven heads”** represent a **geographical place,** or seven hills. And in the writings of antiquity, the city of Rome was almost always referred to as **“the city on seven hills.”**

This means the political entity in the last days that Satan seizes and uses for his purposes will be a revival of the Old Roman Empire - a reunified Europe.

The “*Ten horns*” represent a **political base**. These horns were also seen by the Prophet in Daniel 7. This revived Rome will stretch out and become Satan’s end times power block consisting of ten nations or sectors.

Then the “*seven diadems,*” or laurel wreaths, refer to the victor’s crown. The authority and power won by Satan and the Beast will be wrestled from the nations.

In verse 4 John gives us a glimpse of this dragon’s history. “*His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.*” If you’re still having trouble identifying the dragon drop down. John refers to him in verse 9 by name, “*So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan.*”

The first time in Genesis we see the devil he appears in the Garden of Eden to Adam and Eve as a snake. Later, the snake is cursed to crawl on his belly and eat dust. The implication is that the snake once had legs. *And a snake with legs is... a dragon!* This is why Chinese Restaurants creep me out. They’re decorated with dragons - a biblical and ancient symbol of Satan.

Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14 provide biblical background on Satan. He was formerly an angel - *the archangel, Lucifer*. He was a beautiful, musical creature. Many people believe Lucifer was Heaven’s worship leader. Until pride entered his heart. At some point he stopped worshipping God and began to worship himself.

And that’s when God booted him off Heaven’s worship team. In Luke 10:18 Jesus reveals His own pre-existence by saying, “*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*” Jesus was there at Lucifer’s demotion.

And it wasn’t just Satan that fell, according to verse 4 he took “*a third of the stars of heaven*” with him. The “*stars of heaven*” is an idiom for angels. Reference Revelation 1:20 and Job 38:7. When Satan fell from heaven he took a third of God’s angels with him. And today, those *fallen angels* are the *devil’s demons*.

What a cast of characters for this battle of the ages: a dragon - a beast - the angels... and a pregnant lady.

It is true a pregnant woman *glows*, but she also *grows*. Her legs and feet swell. She can’t tie her shoes. She waddles like duck. This is why after nine long months with child, the delivery can’t come fast enough.

But ladies, be glad you’re not Mother Israel. She stayed pregnant with promise for 4000 years. And when the due date came it was a high-risk delivery.

John tells us in verse 4, “**And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.**” This evil dragon had stalked this lady her entire pregnancy, in order to pounce on her child the moment He was born!

The Bible actually teaches this conflict between the dragon and the woman began as far back as the Garden of Eden. In Genesis 3:15, when God cursed the serpent, He said, “**And I will put enmity between you and the woman.**” *And to this day, there are very few women who like snakes...* But here’s where the plot thickens, “**and between your seed and her Seed...**”

Now what’s this? A woman doesn’t have a seed. The seed comes from the man. This is why many Bible scholars interpret “**her Seed**” as Jesus’ virgin birth.

Jesus was to be born without male agency. He was uniquely *the woman’s seed*. And there’ll be perpetual “**enmity**” or *hostility* between Jesus and this serpent.

In fact, Genesis 3 predicts the climax of this long-running and bloody battle, “**(Jesus) shall bruise the serpent’s head, and he shall bruise (Jesus’) heel.**” The serpent, that is the devil, will wound Jesus. There’ll be a bruise, but it won’t be fatal. It’s nothing but a heel bruise... Rather it’s the risen Lord Jesus who will wield the decisive blow. Our Lord will throw down His heavy sandal, crushing the serpent’s head, or his authority.

And knowing the outcome in advance, this is why Satan has tried so hard to wipe out Messiah before the woman could give birth. Immediately after mankind’s expulsion from Eden, Satan went to work corrupting people’s hearts so that God regretted creating humans.

I’m sure the dragon squealed with glee when he heard of God’s plan to destroy the world with water. The devil thought he had drowned out all hope of a Savior... But God spared a man of faith named Noah, and kept hope alive for a world shrouded in darkness.

When God narrowed the promise of a Deliverer to a branch of Noah’s family - *Abraham’s heirs* - Satan again went to work on the destruction of the promise.

And he thought he’d succeed... The Red Sea on one side - the revenge-filled Egyptian army on the other. Surely, this time the people of the promise will be annihilated. But again God worked a miracle and rolled back the waters. Israel walked to safety on dry ground.

After the promise narrowed further to the lineage of David multiple attacks were launched on the royal family. A wicked queen, Athalia, nearly canceled the promise.

She tried to kill all of David's heirs. Yet a godly gal, Jehosheba, hid one of the boys. Later, the secret son, Joash, came to rule in a priestly coup d' tat.

Jewish history is checkered with numerous near-misses, where Satan attempted, but failed to keep the woman from birthing the Messiah and fulfilling God's promise of salvation. By the time we get to THE birth in Bethlehem the battle had seen its share of casualties.

On my Israel trips I've bought all my family Nativity sets. *How cool is it to have a Christmas nativity carved of olive wood from Bethlehem?* Most Nativities come with a Mary, a Joseph, an angel, some shepherds, and a couple of barnyard animals. If you're a good haggler you can even get a camel or two thrown in.

But I'll bet you've never seen a Nativity display with a dragon? Yet, it's biblical. [This is the real nativity scene!](#)

If you'd been in Heaven, looking down on the first Christmas, here's what you would've seen, verse 4, *"The dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born."* The battle of the ages had no Christmas cease-fire. Messiah was born, as a dragon with seven horns. Seven sets of sharp, vicious teeth licked their chops.

Satan couldn't stand the thought that one day he'd bow to this baby. One author pens, ["The dragon wants to eat the Child so he doesn't have to kiss His feet."](#)

And sadly, it was this dragon who inspired the evil King Herod to slaughter the town's toddlers. He'd failed to stop Messiah's birth, but now His goal was to kill Him before He can complete *His mission of salvation*.

Ironically, the first Christmas-inspired song - the inaugural Christmas carol - was sung by Bethlehem's grieving moms. Matthew 2:18 records their mourning, ["A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."](#)

As John overviews the spiritual war of the ages, he correctly identifies the birth of Jesus as the pivotal battle. Certainly, Satan sensed it as well. That's why he was there in full dragon-mode to resist Jesus' coming.

This was the one victory that signaled a turning point in the whole war. Think of Christmas as a beachhead. [Christmas is Christianity's Normandy](#). As one author put it, ["The nativity was an all-out invasion on enemy-occupied territory. Every gun in the arsenal of darkness was aimed in the little baby's direction, yet He still triumphed."](#) The Baby slipped behind enemy lines.

If Satan could've thwarted Jesus' birth - if he'd kept God from invading his turf - if Jesus hadn't entered the world all of Satan's gains would've been assured.

Surely there were more skirmishes to come. The battle raged on after His birth. *A mob of angry legalists try to push Jesus off a cliff in Nazareth... Demons stir up a storm at sea attempting to drown Him... Jealous religious leaders plot ways to kill Him... Jews and Romans conspire to flog and crucify Jesus... They even seal His grave with a stone and a Roman guard...*

But as John sees it, when the **“male-Child”** was born at Christmas, it was the beginning of the end for Satan.

With Jesus in the world it was only a matter of time. The dominoes had started to fall... *Jesus' sinless life, His miracles, His teachings, His sacrifice, His resurrection, His ascension, the establishment of the Church...* It all led to Jesus' inevitable triumph!

Verse 5, **“She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron (a reference to Psalm 2). And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.”**

The Child promised to Israel, and born in Bethlehem will rule the nations. All history is barreling toward this end - **Christ's kingdom!** When Jesus returns it'll be *His way or the highway*. Allegiance will be mandatory.

Jesus won't be running for office or campaigning for votes, He'll be sitting on God's throne. As I've said, **Our world is a jungle, but Jesus is the King of the Jungle!**

Ultimately, **the male-Child** will rule all the nations of the world, *but what about the woman who birthed Him? What will happen to the Jews?* The Apostle John informs us in verse 6, **“Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there 1,260 days.”**

John fast-forwards from the time of Christ to the end of the age. If this were a movie, between verses 5 and 6 the caption would read, **“Thousands of years later...”**

The timeframe **“1,260 days”** refers to the scene we studied in Revelation 11. The Hebrew Prophet Daniel saw a final period of 7 years in which God will wrap up His plans for His people Israel, and the world at large.

Daniel 9 tells us the seven years starts with a treaty. A Roman leader strikes a deal with Israel. At that point you can mark off to the very day of Messiah's return.

Daniel 9 also tells us that a terrible deed will occur at the midpoint of the seven years, at the **1,260 day** mark. The leader Israel trusted will enter the Temple and desecrate God's altar. This violates the treaty he made with the Jews. His betrayal

scares Lady Israel. She flees to the desert to a refuge God has prepared for her. She'll be fed and protected for a final 42 months.

Recall after the Hebrews exited Egypt, God fed them in the desert for 40 years. *He can handle 42 months.* It'll be like Elijah, when he was a fugitive from King Ahab. God hid him in the wilderness, and catered him two meals a day. If God can take care of Israel and Elijah, He can protect and provide for the future Jews.

At the midpoint of this final seven years, whatever crime this evil Roman leader commits it not only scares the lady on Earth, but causes huge turmoil in Heaven.

Verse 7 reads, **“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.”** *Michael is one of God's archangels, and he's training for this moment even as we speak..* He's a warrior angel. Don't think of angels as cute, chubby cherubs. Michael is a bad hombre. Daniel 12:1 says he's fiercely loyal to the Jews. And he's tangled with the devil on two other occasions - *check out Daniel 10 and Jude 9.*

On top of that, imagine Michael having to stand down and listen to Satan whenever he's approached God's throne. According to Job, Satan still has access, and I'm sure Michael wearies seeing Satan boast and bully folks. Michael is biding his time, waiting to rumble.

And it's at the midpoint of this final seven years that Satan will go too far. Revelation 13 tells us his partner, **the Beast**, sets up his own image in the Temple - and claims to be god. He requires the world to worship him.

This is when war breaks out in heaven. Michael and his angels loyal to God have Satan and his demons outnumbered two to one. *And what this war looks like, who knows? How do angels and demons do combat?*

It'll probably make modern warfare look like toy guns and water pistols. All I know is in 2 Kings 19 **one angel** kills 185,000 Assyrian troops in a night. Angels have serious swag. Here, galactic heavyweights go toe-to-toe. It'll make a Star Wars movie look like a dart throw.

In the end Michael's troops defeat Satan's hellish forces, and bar him from heaven once and for all.

Verse 9 records the aftermath, **“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”** This is just the beginning of the Deceiver's demise. For centuries he's lied, manipulated, and kept people blind.

And if you've not been immersed in God's Word chances are you too have been deceived. This is why we need to challenge our every assumption with biblical truth. Ephesians 4:23 encourages all followers of Jesus to "be renewed in the spirit of your mind."

There is a verse in Isaiah 14 (16-17) that speaks of Satan when he's cast out of heaven, and we finally lay eyes on who it was we were fighting, "Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities...'" We'll look on with astonishment, *Is this the man?* When we see a defeated, puny Satan, it'll dawn on us the only power he ever had was *the power we gave him!* We let him bully us with his lies.

In verse 10 no one in Heaven is crying over Satan's banishment. Heaven erupts in joy and praise, "Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down." The name "*Satan*" means "adversary." "*Devil*" means "accuser." Thus, Satan is "*the accuser of the brethren.*" He works to condemn us.

God is rich in mercy, whereas the Devil wants to bury you and me under a mound of guilt and criticism. But remember, Jesus was buried so we don't have to be. He died in our place so God could pardon us forever.

Hang your hopes on Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ..." Don't let Satan use *your failure* to destroy *your faith*.

Here's a quote to memorize, "Whenever the devil reminds you of your past, remind him of his future."

Verse 11 are our keys to victory. "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death." Here's how you maintain a strong faith that overcomes Satan's lies. You cultivate three attitudes...

First, trust in "*the blood of the Lamb!*" God's power is in the blood! An OT Jew would know this instinctively! When you sinned you brought a lamb to the Temple. You watched the priest confess your sins over that lamb, then slit its throat with a butcher knife. The lamb was innocent. *You sinned, not the lamb.* Yet you watch it whimper, its knees buckle, it collapse in a pool of it's own blood. Its sinless blood is what earns your pardon.

A Jew raised in the Temple would never take his sin lightly. He was aware of the necessity of blood. The same is now true of Jesus' blood. By His blood we're forgiven, accepted, freed from guilt, and empowered.

The second attitude that helped them overcome was *"the word of their testimony."* It's been said, "A man with an experience is never at the mercy of a man with an argument." I remember the day, the time, the exact place... when I knelt and committed my life to Jesus.

I was there! I know it was real. There's no denying a testimony. But without a time and a place, you have no landmarks. You'll **wander** from *where you've been*, and **wonder** about *who you are* without a salvation story.

This is why all Christians should nail down their testimony. Stake a claim to God's ultimate promise.

And the third attitude that makes for a strong faith is selflessness. *"They did not love their lives to the death."* Some things are more important than life itself.

Pleasing Jesus, glorifying God, treasure in Heaven, the truth of God's Word, the eternal souls of people are of greater worth than anything this life can give. It's said, "You don't start living until you are first ready to die." Knowing what matters most helps us overcome.

In light of Satan's demise in verse 12 John has a word for both heaven and earth. *"Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."* This is not a good time to be alive on the Earth. From here on Satan will be on the warpath. You think the Devil is vile and vicious now, just wait when he's booted out of heaven. He'll act like a death-row escapee with nothing to lose!

Seething, frothing with resentment, Satan will strike back at God as viciously as he can. He'll try to hit God where it hurts Him most... *and guess where he aims?*

Hey, if you want to hurt me go after my kids! I would rather die a thousand deaths, before I'd see any harm come to my children. And this is Satan's vengeful strategy. He goes after God's kids on Earth - **the Jews**.

I believe all forms of prejudice and bigotry are sinful, but in my opinion there's something especially sinister about Anti-semitism. *Satan hates whoever God loves...*

The Devil once crucified **Jesus**, but at this point He's out of his reach in Heaven... the devil persecuted the **Church**, but the rapture has taken us out of his grasp... Now

that the Lord and His Church are no longer vulnerable, Satan zeroes in on the people God chose in the past, and will again in the future - **Israel**.

Satan will try to destroy *“the woman”* who birthed the *“male-Child.”* Satan is no gentleman. He’ll try to rough up Lady Israel. *He’s never learned you don’t hit a girl.*

This is what we’re told in verse 13, *“Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.”* His evil reflex is to attack God’s people, Israel. Remember what Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 24:16. When you see the Antichrist defile the Temple *“let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”* *Run for the hills...* Terrible persecution is on the horizon.

Verse 14, *“But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place...”* God will give her wings to protect herself. With speed and agility the Jews will vacate Jerusalem.

Some people identify *“a great eagle”* as a first century description of a modern day military transport. Perhaps the Jews in Jerusalem will get airlifted out.

And there is an OT passage that may identify the location of *this end times wilderness hideout* God has for the Jews. Isaiah 16:4, *“Let My outcasts dwell with you, O Moab; be a shelter to them from the face of the spoiler. For the extortioner (or Antichrist) is at an end.”*

In Isaiah 16 the prophet is pleading with a Moabite city, *“Sela”* or *Petra*, to *“hide the outcasts.”* You’ve saw this city if you watched *“Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.”* Petra was the backdrop for the final scenes.

The city covers an area of over 100 square miles. It’s mammoth, but its canyon entry-way is just a mile long, by a few feet wide. Its narrowness makes it easily defensible. This may be where God keeps the Jews out of Satan’s reach in the last half of this terrible time.

I’ve now been to Petra twice, and both times we’ve read Isaiah 16 and Revelation 12 inside a cave in the mountainside. What a thrill to read Bible prophecy in the exact location God promises it will take place.

And in Petra the woman *“is nourished for a time and times and half a time...”* Here’s a third way John earmarks this same timeframe: 1,260 days, 42 months, 3.5 years... *A time (one), then times plural (or two), then for a half a time that’s 3.5 times, or 3.5 years* God protects the Jews *“from the presence of the serpent.”*

Yet after the Jewish evacuation, Satan opts for Plan B. Verse 15, *“So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her*

to be carried away by the flood.” “A flood” is at times a biblical idiom for an military invasion. A massive movement of troops can feel like a flood.

And this could be the Antichrist's hit squad sent to Petra to exterminate the Jews who dared to flee there. We'll talk about the Antichrist in Chapter 13, but he comes to power claiming to befriend the Jews - instead He turns into a Hitler-type bent on Israel's genocide.

In verse 16 God again rescues the Jews. “But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.” Sounds like a well positioned Middle East earthquake delivers the Jews.

“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” As we've mentioned, there will be Gentiles saved during the Great Tribulation. But along with the Jews, they'll be targeted for harsh treatment. After the dragon fails to destroy the Jews, he'll go after anybody who embraces Jesus as Lord.

And this is John's point, until Jesus returns there'll always be a battle raging. The spiritual war that's being fought today is nothing new, *and it's over soon enough.*

Right now, let's overcome our enemy *by trusting in the blood of Jesus - by standing on our testimony - and by settling the priorities that matter most.* It's a jungle out there, but Jesus is the King of the Jungle!