

Revelation 11-12: The Seventh Trumpet

Revelation 11:15-19

- Marks the fulfilment of the great judgment event that the prophets foresaw and saints down the ages longed for (Psalms 3:7; 7:6; 35:1–8; 44:26).
- Also marks “the time for the dead to be judged.”

Revelation 12

“portents” (something that fore-shadows a coming event; an omen or sign)

I. THE CAST (12:1–6)

A. The Woman

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; and she was with Child; and she cried out, being in labour and in pain to give birth. (12:1–2)

4 symbolic women in Revelation.

- Jezebel (Rev 2:20) - paganism of church of Thyatira.
 - Harlot (Rev 17:1–7) - the apostate church.
 - Bride of the Lamb (Rev 19:7–8) - the true church.
 - Woman (Rev 12:1-2) – Israel
- Israel described often in Old Testament as a woman in labour (Isaiah 54, Isaiah 66, Jeremiah 3, Ezekiel 16, Micah 4 and 5)
 - Woman gives birth to the ‘man child’ - can’t be the church
 - Reference to the ark of the covenant (11:19) = woman is Israel.

Woman was “clothed with the sun, and had the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.”

Joseph’s dream (Gen 37:9–11)

Crown of 12 stars = 12 tribes of Israel.

She was with child - imagery describing Israel (Isaiah 26:17–18; 66:7–9; Jeremiah 4:31).

B. The Dragon

³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. ⁴ Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he

was born. ⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” (12:3–4)

Red dragon = Satan.

“seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven crowns.”

represent seven consecutive world empires operating under Satan’s dominion: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and Antichrist’s future empire (17:9–10).

The final kingdom, ruled by Antichrist, will be a ten-nation confederacy ruled by ten kings under Antichrist (17:12).

“the dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born.”

During the tribulation, Satan will increase his efforts to destroy Israel, so that she cannot be saved as Bible promises (Zech 12:10–13:1; Rom 11:25–27).

II. THE WAR IN HEAVEN (12:7–12)

Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. (12:7–8)

There has been war in heaven since the fall of Satan (Isaiah 14:12–14; Ezekiel 28:11–18).

Satan and his evil angels have actively opposed both the holy angels and God’s people since his fall (Daniel 10:12–13; 1 Peter 5:8).

Paul reminds us to be vigilant against schemes in 2 Corinthians 2:11, not to give him any opportunity (Ephesians 4:27) and James tells us to resist him (James 4:7).

Michael and his angels will wage war with the dragon.

Who was Michael?

- an archangel
- the defender of Israel (Daniel 12:1) and leader of the angelic army loyal to God (Daniel 10:13, 10:21; Jude 9).
- Also conveys heavenly mysteries and explains their meaning to a visionary like Enoch (1 Enoch 9:1; 10:11; 20:5; 24:6).

“But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.” Daniel 10:13

The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. (12:9)

- Satan’s second and permanent expulsion from heaven.

Revelation 12:10-12

Ways tribulation believers overcame Satan

- through “the blood of the Lamb” (Rev 7:14)
- through “the word of their testimony.”

“But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

III. THE WAR ON EARTH (12:13–17)

Three onslaughts Satan’s forces will mount against Israel during the tribulation.

- i. The First Onslaught (12:13–14)
- ii. The Second Onslaught (12:15–16)
- iii. The Third Onslaught (12:17).