

Revelation 12-14 forms what many have called the heart of the book of Revelation. In these three chapters, John presents a condensed narrative of the redemption for the people of God achieved by Jesus Christ's victory in the ancient, though not eternal nor even-sided, conflict against Satan.

Vision Three: The Second Exodus (12:1-22:5)

- The Dragon vs. The Lamb and His Army (12:1-14:20)
- The Purifying Wrath of God (15:1-20:15)
- Going Home (21:1-22:5)

This section forms a subset of John's larger vision that details the second Exodus of the people of God from this current world into their home in new Jerusalem in the new earth.

¹⁴ *The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."* ¹⁶ *To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children."* (Genesis 3:14-16a ESV)

The seed of the woman has conquered the ancient serpent. (12:1-10)

- 1. Satan is futile in thwarting the promises of God.**
- 2. The salvation, power, and kingdom of God have come for Christ has taken his rightful place on the throne.**

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (Matthew 28:18 ESV)

- 3. The accuser can make no more charge against God's elect people for they have been justified.**

²¹ *But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it-- ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:21-26)*

¹ *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ... ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died--more than that, who was raised--who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. (Romans 8:1, 33-34 ESV)*

We share in Christ's victory by virtue of his blood through our confession and lives of faith in the gospel that treasures Christ and his kingdom above all else. (12:11)

Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (John 12:25 ESV)

Three Views on the Timing of this Battle

- 1. Before creation.**
- 2. At the cross and resurrection.**
- 3. Before the seven-year tribulation.**

I believe the second view to be the case on the basis of...

- The connection between verse 5 and 7.
- The announcement of the angel regarding the coming of the salvation and kingdom of God and the connection to the blood of Christ. This occurred during Jesus' first coming, after his work was finished.
- The connection between verse 12 and 1st Peter 5:8-10.

Nevertheless, while the timing of the battle might be debated, the outcome is not.

Satan is roaring about like lion, waging war against the people of God, but his time is short and his power limited. (12:11-17)

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 5:8-11 ESV)

The Full Armor of God

The Belt of Truth
The Breastplate of Righteousness
The Shoes of Gospel Peace
The Shield of Faith
The Helmet of Salvation
The Sword of the Spirit

¹⁰ Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. ¹³ For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. (Ephesians 6:10-13 CSB)

This section is not a call to pull up your bootstraps and storm hell with a water pistol. Paul is calling us to humble ourselves, recognize our inability to stand firm, and be strengthened by Christ, who alone stands in victory over and against the enemy. This means that we are not strong enough. That's ok. Jesus is. We need to lay hold of his strength, not muster up our puny and insufficient best. We need to be made strong. We need Jesus.

How does this conflict against Satan change the way we view others, particularly those we are in conflict with?

Having been saved from the dominion of darkness, we are being nourished in the wilderness as we journey toward our promised land. (12:14-17)

¹ "The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. ² And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. ³ And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴ Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. ⁵ Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶ So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, ⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹ a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. ¹⁰ And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. (Deut. 8:1-10 ESV)

Living Nourished in the Wilderness:

1. Live by the word of the God and his provision.
2. Receive the Lord's discipline.
3. Fear the Lord and walk in his ways.
4. Keep your eyes on the promised land.

How is the church as a whole nourished by God?

What is the importance of being nourished by God in both times of peace and trouble?

Symbols in Revelation 12

Woman: Covenant People of God (OT and NT)

Dragon: Satan

1/3 Stars: Demons

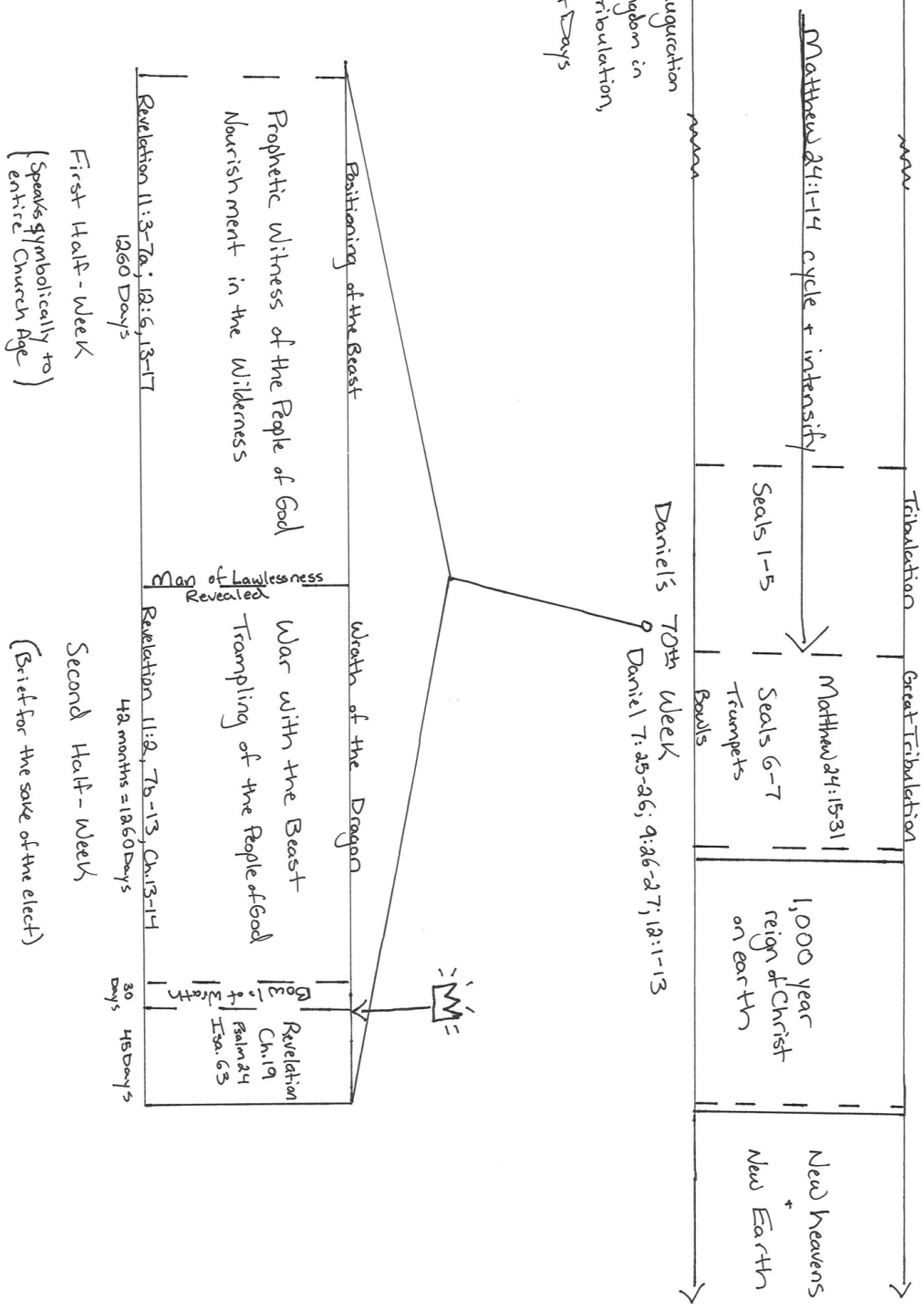
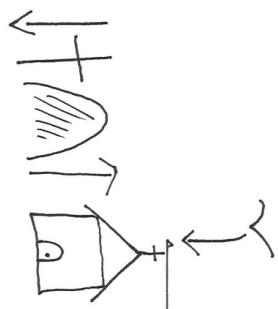
1260 Days: 1st Half of Daniel's 70th Week

(Speaks symbolically to the entire church age).

Two Eagle's Wings: Image of Exodus (Exo. 19:4)

Life, Death
+ Resurrection
of Jesus
Week 69
Rev. 12:7-12

Pentecost: Inauguration
of Spiritual Kingdom in
the Church, tribulation,
and the last days



First Half-Week
(Speaks symbolically to
entire Church Age)

Second Half-Week
(Brief for the sake of the elect)

ISRAEL in OLD COVENANT

Deuteronomy

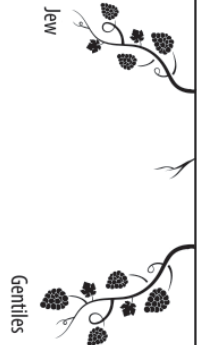


Inauguration of New Covenant
"The Gathering of the Bride of Christ"
Isaiah 52-54



ISRAEL in NEW COVENANT

1 Peter 2; Galatians; Ephesians 2; John 8; Romans 2
Sons of Abraham through Faith



Synagogue of Satan
Ethnic Jews who reject Messiah
(partial hardening veil of Moses)

Revival among Ethnic Israelites
Romans 11

Great Tribulation
Kingdom

Purifying Tribulation
Daniel 12:1,10