

SATAN SHOWS HIS HATRED FOR ISRAEL

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First, let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

INTRODUCTION:

A study of Revelation 12 shows that Satan is the arch enemy of Israel because this is the nation that God has chosen to save the world through His Son (Jn 4:22; Gal 4:4-5). Since Satan hates Israel, Paul prayed to God that Israel might be saved (Rom 10:1).

AIM OF THE LESSON:

Challenge every true believer to love Israel and to pray for Israel to be **saved**.

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee" (Ps 122:6).

Outline OF THE LESSON (use the Study Notes to add to this lesson plan as the Spirit leads you):

I. Satan's Affliction against Israel (12:1-6)

The "woman" in this chapter refers to Israel (12:1-2); Mary was the specific woman in Israel that God used (see Study Notes). The "dragon" is Satan (12: 3-4) and the "child" is Jesus (12: 5-6). Satan has afflicted Israel through the ages because he knows God has chosen to send His Son through Israel to defeat him so He could rule the world in righteousness. When God sent Jesus into the world through Israel, Satan immediately tried to destroy Him through Herod (12:4), but he failed. After that he tried to corrupt Jesus by tempting Him to sin or kill Him by mobs or storms, but failed until he aroused the Jewish leaders to have Him crucified. He thought he finally succeeded in removing his only rival to rule the world, but once again he was defeated when Jesus arose from the dead and ascended to Heaven (12: 5).

Now Satan turned his attention back toward Israel as the means by which he can maintain his control of the world. He knows that God made a promise to His Son after He raised Him from the dead that He would rule the world from Mt Zion, which is Jerusalem (Ps 2:4-9). Now Satan's plan is to destroy Israel by enemy nations or keep Israel in unbelief so they do not receive Jesus as their Messiah. Then God will not be able to keep His promise and he will remain the ruler of the world. He has been successful in keeping Israel hostile toward Jesus as their Messiah. He has stirred up nations to hate Israel, but they have not been able to destroy her. When Antichrist breaks his covenant to protect Israel in the middle of the Tribulation, he will attempt to destroy Israel, but many Israelites will flee to the wilderness to be protected by God during the last 3½ years (1260 days) of the Tribulation (12:6).

APPLICATION: Psalm 122:6 encourages believers to pray for the peace of Jerusalem; those that love Israel shall prosper. God loves those that love Israel. Pray that Israelites will accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and Messiah-King. This is only way that they will have true peace in their lives and in their land.

II. Satan's Attack against Heaven (12:7-9)

When the sixth seal was opened, a great earthquake rattled the people on earth and they tried to hide from God and the Lamb (His Son). They cried out, "Who can stand against them?" (6:12-17). Satan heard their cry and determined that he would stand against God and His Son. He gathered his angels and formed them into an army to attack Heaven. This shows His desperation in trying to stop Jesus Christ from taking away his rule of the earth, which he has maintained since he took it from Adam. Satan will lead this attack against God and the Lamb near the middle of the Tribulation. His objective is to kill Christ. If he succeeds, he will remain the ruler the world. However, Michael and his angels will defeat Satan's army and cast him and his angels out of Heaven to the earth (12:7-9; cf Dan 12:1).

APPLICATION: Your confidence in God's promises should remain strong. He will keep His promise to save Israel and He will keep His promise to save you. Satan is not strong enough to destroy God's promises.

III. Satan's Assault by Martyrs (12:10-12)

Not only will Michael and his angels defeat Satan in heaven, but the martyrs will defeat Satan on earth during the Tribulation. They will tell how they overcame his assault against them on earth. **First**, they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb. Christ's death on the cross delivered them from the power of Satan (Heb 2:14-15), so they would be able to defeat him. **Second**, they did it by the word of their testimony. These martyrs were faithful witnesses of Christ's death and resurrection, so others could be delivered from Satan's hold on their lives. **Third**, they were victorious because they refused to deny their faith in Christ, even in the face of death (cf. Rev. 2:10). Satan cannot win when believers practice these three principles. After Satan's defeat they praise God and the Lamb with a loud voice for their salvation and for casting Satan down to the earth (12:10-11; cf 7:9-10). This is the end of Satan's access to Heaven. No longer can he accuse the believers day and night before God as he has done in the past.

APPLICATION: You should encourage all believers, Israelites and Gentiles, that they can conquer Satan's temptations and accusations by the blood of Jesus and by their witness for Him when they refuse to deny Him, even unto death.

IV. Satan's Anger against Israel (12:13-17)

During the last half of the Tribulation Satan will severely persecute Israel. Many will flee to the wilderness to escape his wrath when they see his image in the holy place (12:6, 13, 14; cf. Mt 24:15ff). Satan along with Antichrist will try to destroy them when they flee, but God will protect them by an earthquake (12:15-16). Then Satan will turn back and viciously attack the Israelites that remain in Jerusalem, especially those who keep the commandments of God and trust in Jesus Christ (12:17; cf. Zech 14:1-2). Many will be killed, but God will not let all of them be destroyed. Some will survive the Tribulation and enter into Christ's Kingdom without experiencing death (Mt 25:1-13).

APPLICATION: Pray for Israel that her people will be saved. First, pray that they will be saved from their sins; then pray that they will be saved from their sufferings.

PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF ISRAEL.