



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

"Maybe the Devil Ate Your Baby"

12:1-5

The history of the human race is littered with attempts to exterminate many groups of people. Religious and racial hatred has inspired unimaginable evil through the centuries.

If you carefully study history from the point of view of these all too frequent atrocities, one particular group of people emerges as an almost constant target of hatred and violence. That group of people are the Jews, the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Is it a coincidence? Or is it a conspiracy? That the Jews have always faced, and are yet facing, extermination.

I know it's a prophecy! Listen to what Moses declared all the way back in the Book of Deuteronomy:

Deuteronomy 28:64 "Then the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known - wood and stone.

Deuteronomy 28:65 And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.

Our text in the Revelation reveals that the attempted extermination of the Jews throughout the centuries is indeed a conspiracy - a Satanic conspiracy - that underscores all of human history.

The bottom line is this: The Savior and Sovereign of the world, Jesus Christ, came **through** the nation of Israel, and is coming **to** the nation of Israel. Thus Satan's continual and continuing attempts to interfere by exterminating the Jews.

God explains the failure of Satan's efforts against the Jews using signs and symbols. People claim that the Revelation of Jesus Christ is a difficult book because of the many signs and symbols. Signs and symbols are presumed to make the book impossible to properly interpret.

Think about that for a moment. Aren't signs and symbols normally used to *clarify* communication?

The use of signs and symbols in the Revelation is to make certain that you don't miss the proper interpretation!

Most, if not all, of the signs and symbols used are defined for you, either in the book itself or elsewhere in the Bible. The signs and symbols of chapter twelve are no exception. Their biblical meaning is clear.

Revelation 12:1 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.

There is only one other place in Scripture where you see the sun and the moon and twelve stars. It is in Genesis, chapter thirty-seven. Joseph tells his family about a dream, saying,

Genesis 37:9 "...Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

The "sun, the moon, and the eleven stars" represent Joseph's father and mother and brothers, the patriarchs of the tribes of Israel. Joseph is the twelfth star. The sun, the moon, and the twelve stars thus represent the nation of Israel. We know this is the correct interpretation because of the very next verse in Genesis thirty-seven, which says,

Genesis 37:10 So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

Jacob immediately saw the symbolism. He interpreted it for us. The woman of Revelation Twelve is the nation of Israel. If you still have any doubt, look at verse five for just a moment:

Revelation 12:5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

The "woman" gives birth to Jesus. He is the male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. He was the one caught-up to Heaven in His ascension forty days after His resurrection from the dead.

There is no doubt as to the identity of the woman. It was through the nation of Israel that your Savior came as God and man.

Revelation 12:2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

God promised Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior into the world. He would be born of a woman from the human race. As the Bible unfolds, God continually narrows down the lineage of the promised Savior. God chooses Abraham to establish a new nation, the nation of Israel. The Savior would be born to a descendant of

Abraham's. He would be born to a Jewish woman. Jesus came through Israel.

Revelation 12:3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

There can be no doubt as to the identity of this person. He is identified in verse nine as "that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan." When we get to chapter seventeen we'll see that the description of heads, horns, and diadems refers to Satan's past and future attempts to rule the kingdoms of the earth.

Revelation 12:4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

"Stars of heaven" is an Old Testament designation for angels. When Satan fell into sin he took with him one-third of the angels in heaven. The phrase "threw them to the earth" means that Satan and his fallen angels operate on the earth against the human race.

The grotesque imagery of the Devil standing before the woman seeking to devour her Child is a symbolic summary of Satan's continual interference with the birth of the promised Savior. Satan knew that the Savior would be born of a Jewish woman and so he has tried throughout history to thwart that birth.

His interference began with Cain killing Abel. It's possible that Adam and Eve thought Abel might be the promised Savior. Satan may have thought so, too. At any rate you're told that the Devil was involved in Abel's death. First John 3:12 says "Cain... was of that wicked one, and slew his brother." When Cain killed Abel, Satan was attempting to cut-off the line through which the Savior would be born.

Later on in the book of Genesis you read how Satan tried to pollute the whole human race and its offspring:

Genesis 6:4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

The “sons of God” is a reference to fallen angels. While scholars disagree on exactly how fallen angels “came in to the daughters of men,” this was another Satanic attempt to thwart the birth of your Savior.

When God began to reveal His plan to establish a new nation using Abraham through whom your Savior would be born, Satan’s efforts became focused on destroying the Jews. Biblical history is full with his diabolical schemes:

- At the birth of Moses, Pharaoh ordered the death of all male children born to Jewish women.
- During the days of David, King Saul and others repeatedly attempted to kill David, through whom your Savior was promised to come.
- The book of Esther records the attempts of a man named Haman to exterminate the Jewish race.
- When Jesus was born, King Herod issued a decree to slaughter the Jewish babies.

Any of these attempts would have nullified God’s promise to Adam and Eve and to Abraham.

Extra-biblical history is full with extermination accounts. While none threatened to wipe-out the Jews as a race quite like the Biblical accounts, they are severe in the tradition of Satanic hatred:

- In 70AD the Romans who seiged and sacked Jerusalem killed over one million Jews.
- Another half million Jews were killed in 132 after a failed revolt against Rome.
- In 1298 100,000 Jews were killed in Austria, Bavaria, and Franconia (a region consisting of parts of Germany and Bavaria).
- Six million is the number killed during World War II.

Despite all of the Devil's diabolical designs to "devour" Jesus, He was born through Israel:

Revelation 12:5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

Jesus ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. He was victorious as your Savior in His birth, life, death, and resurrection.

There is a long time gap between verse five and the next verse. It includes our own day and looks further still. The rest of the chapter leaps time and is set in the Great Tribulation, specifically the last half of it.

God is not through with Israel. You're probably tired of hearing me say it. It's important you keep being reminded. Replacement theology teaches that the Church is the replacement for Israel and that the many promises made to Israel in the Bible are fulfilled in the Christian Church, not in Israel. So, the prophecies in Scripture concerning the blessing and restoration of Israel to the Promised Land are "spiritualized" or "allegorized" into promises of God's blessing for the Church.

Israel appears some seventy-five times in the New Testament and always refers to physical Israel - never to the Church. There is one reference in Galatians that replacement theology points to as the Church:

Galatians 6:16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

Those who study and understand the original Greek grammar show that "the Israel of God" is an entity separate from the Church in that passage.

There are major problems with a replacement view, three of which are:

- Many of God's promises to Israel were unconditional physical promises, e.g., those regarding the inheritance and boundaries of the Promised Land.
- Romans 9, 10, & 11 were written to stress and explain to Jews that God is not through with Israel.
- Probably the biggest problem is the existence of Israel today in her homeland - a literal fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

As I've often stated, if replacement theology is true, then we might be next to be replaced! There is nothing to keep God from applying His promises to us to another group.

The Church is completely different and distinct from Israel and the two are not to be confused or used interchangeably. We are taught from Scripture that the Church is an entirely new creation that came into being on the Day of Pentecost and will continue until it is translated to heaven at the Rapture. The Church has no relationship to the curses and blessings for Israel. The covenants, promises, and warnings are valid only for Israel.

We're living in very interesting times. How far will Israel allow Iran to go towards completing its nuclear program? A nuclear Iran means the extermination of Israel.

How will an Israeli strike on Iran affect the delicate relationships in the Middle East?

Israel is not the 'little Satan' and the US is not 'the great Satan.' Satan is Satan and he is bent on destroying Israel one way or another.

He's trying now; he'll try again in the Great Tribulation. But our God reigns.