



# *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*

*"There Goes the Neighborhood"*  
12:10-17

Ever have bad neighbors?

When we lived in Running Springs we had a situation. The neighbors were alright but they had two dogs, Irish setters named Amos and Andy. They were crazy and would lie in wait to terrorize me every night.

In the middle of the Great Tribulation the inhabitants of earth, and especially the Jews, get the ultimate bad neighbor as Satan is cast down to the earth.

Revelation 12:10 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.

A "loud voice" makes a proclamation in Heaven. We know it is a human voice because he or she says Satan is the accuser of "our" brethren.

**Heaven has an announcer!** Whoever it is he lets all the inhabitants know that Satan and his demons will not be allowed access to Heaven ever again.

The word “salvation” should be translated “*the* salvation.” It refers to the total, final, complete redemption of all the fallen creation.

Although still three and one half years away, it is so certain that the voice can proclaim “the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ, have come.” The end is inevitable and is seen in the victory of Michael the archangel throwing down Satan to the earth.

Satan’s primary activity through the ages is described. He is “the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night.” Read Job chapters one and two and you see exactly how this plays out. In the New Testament Jesus told Peter the devil accused him before God in that he wanted to sift him like wheat.

Whether the devil himself has ever had your name on his lips the idea is that you are going to be tested. God will decide the boundaries and limits. Thus nothing can come your way that you cannot handle in His strength. The test isn’t to see you fail but to watch your faith keep you in the love of God.

Job is a good reference but we want to add something more. When Satan accuses us we are said to have an advocate in Heaven. Jesus stands up for us and defends us before His Father.

Satan’s accusations mean nothing because our sins are forgiven by the Lord. We are “in” Him and when the Father sees us He sees Jesus.

Revelation 12:11 "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.  
Revelation 12:12 "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."

Revelation 12:13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.

- In verse eleven, believers are in view.
- In verse twelve, unbelievers.
- In verse thirteen, the Jews.

Believers during those days will overcome him, many through martyrdom. Unbelievers will be overcome by him. The Jews will be severely persecuted.

Let's talk first about believers. It will be difficult to be a believer during the Tribulation and especially towards the end. The language used in verse eleven describes the defense of a martyr. Secure in the "blood of the Lamb," he or she won't waver from giving a "testimony" of the grace and forgiveness of God through faith in Jesus Christ. The threat of death will not dissuade a martyr because his or her life belongs to Jesus. They do not love their lives so much that they are afraid of death.

By the way, we do not regard the "blood" of Jesus in any superstitious manner. I've heard messages that ascribe all manner of weird properties to the genetics of the blood of Jesus.

"Blood" is a word that summarizes Jesus' death on the Cross. He literally, physically died. It wasn't anything about His 'magic' blood but the fact He died.

The fact He is called the "lamb" reminds us that His death was as a substitute for the human race.

Nonbelievers will fare no better during the last days of the Tribulation. The devil is not just an accuser of Christians. He is a murderer.

Think Stalin in Russia. The consensus figure for how many people Stalin murdered is twenty million.

Satan will be a world-class Stalin. Because he only has a “short time” he will act as a cornered animal.

Verse thirteen continues the Old Testament symbolism of Israel as the woman through whom the Messiah was born. Satan will turn his wrath upon exterminating the Jews. If he can kill every last Jew on planet earth he can defeat the Word of God.

Revelation 12:14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

The “eagle” is **not** a reference to the United States! That’s wishful thinking. The only reason anyone thinks it is because the eagle happens to be our national symbol. Truth is, the eagle has been used by many nations, past and present. Wikipedia lists at least twenty-four nations which presently use an eagle.

A Scripture often mentioned as referring to the United States is found in Ezekiel 38:13 where there is a mention of “the young lions of Tarshish.” Tarshish is associated with the West and is said to be the colonies that emerged from Europe - including the United States. It’s possible but unlikely.

God is the “wings of the eagle,” not any nation on the earth. In Exodus 19:4 and Deuteronomy 32:11-12 the Lord compares His protection of Israel to eagle’s wings. Speaking of Israel you read,

Exodus 19:4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

Deuteronomy 32:11 As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young,  
Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings,  
Deuteronomy 32:12 So the Lord alone led him, And there was no foreign god with him.

Like a mother eagle carrying her young to safety, so God will protect a remnant of the Jews.

We talked a little last time about Jews in the vicinity of Jerusalem being kept safe for the last half of the Great Tribulation in a place like Petra. God will guard them.

So what about the United States? I think the best reasoning is that the rapture of the church will decimate our nation's leadership and infrastructure. The rapture will be far more devastating than any depiction I've ever seen. It will be a disaster on a national scale. There will be no place in our nation unaffected by not just the absence of Christians but by death and destruction of property.

Post-rapture there are any number of scenarios. One is that we join with Canada and Mexico in a North American Union.

Revelation 12:15 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.

Verses fifteen and sixteen could refer to a literal "flood," and to a supernatural event that swallows the water. "As a flood," though, alerts us that this is figurative language.

The devil's attack will be sudden and terrifying, like the bursting of a dam threatening a city in its path.

The figure of the flood is used elsewhere in the Bible to represent seemingly overwhelming powers of the enemy against God's people. It's probably a reference to Psalm 124, where persecution is referred to as a "flood" and escaping persecution like being given the wings of a bird.

In a passage we are more familiar with, Isaiah 59:19, you read,

Isaiah 59:19 So shall they fear The name of the Lord from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.

It's been pointed out that Isaiah was prophesying this very event in the Revelation because it is immediately followed by a prophecy of the return of Jesus:

Isaiah 59:20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," Says the Lord.

Always bear in mind that the Old Testament is the key that unlocks the symbols and figures of the Revelation.

This "flood" will most likely be in the form of manpower and weaponry as the antichrist is empowered by Satan to go after the Jews.

Revelation 12:16 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.

We've already seen that the Jews in and around Jerusalem will flee into the wilderness where God has a place prepared for them. If Satan's attack is compared to a flood, God's protection will be like a drain that "swallowed up the flood."

If the flood is manpower and weaponry, it is not beyond comprehension that the ground underneath them literally opens up and swallows them. God has done that before.

Revelation 12:17 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.

The "rest of her offspring" are believing Jews. It may be a concerted effort against the 144,000 witnesses we met earlier in the book.

Satan will kill many Jews. Scripture indicates that two thirds of the Jews alive during that time will be killed. But one third survive. Listen to these words from Zechariah 13:8-9,

Zechariah 13:8 And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one- third shall be left in it:

Zechariah 13:9 I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"

Satan will fail in his interference with God's plans. Jesus is coming to Israel. He will return to rule and reign over the earth with a rod of iron.

Satan hinders but he cannot separate us from God's love. The Lord will complete the good work He has begun in us. We might have to suffer, even be martyred. But in the end our lives are His to use to bring glory to His name.

Let's not love our lives to the death but rather commit them to the One Who is faithful and true.