



Life More Abundant Bible Study

Bible Prophecy: Revelation Chapter 12C

Our verse-by-verse study of Revelation chapter 12 continues where we see the dragon [Satan] angered for having been kicked-out of heaven; unsuccessful in thwarting Jesus' mission and therefore seeks to persecute the woman [church] who brought forth the man-child. The woman flees from the dragon into the wilderness where a place is prepared for her by God for a time, a times, and dividing of time (1260 literal years). The conclusion of our study of chapter 12 highlights the war throughout time staged against the woman in white, the pure church, by the dragon.

V12-13: "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child."

1. *At what point did Satan realize he had a short time? Consider the following: Genesis 3:15; John 12:27-31; Hebrews 2:14, 15*
2. *Satan was unsuccessful in destroying the male child of the woman so in turn, he pursues the woman. What are the results of his efforts? Read Revelation 13:7; 17:6; 18:24; 19:13.*

V14:"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent."

Here, the bible employs the technique of *Repeat-and-Enlarge*, where it repeats a specific message previously given, so there is no shadow of doubt of the meaning. The Lord is attempting to draw our attention once again, to a specific time frame of vital importance to world and Christian history. The message being conveyed is of a 1,260 year period of religious persecution where the dragon, Satan working through the medium of the *little horn* of Daniel 7, pursues the woman [God's true church] who in turn with the wings of an eagle, swiftly flees into the wilderness for the same time period, 1,260 years. This verse marks the third instance of this specific message and time frame mentioned in the bible.

V15: "And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood."

1. *What does overflowing waters symbolize? Read the following: Isaiah 59:19, Jeremiah 47:2-4; Revelation 17:15*

The flood of water spewed-out of the mouth of the dragon was a besiegement of armies, sent to destroy the true church, commonly known as the Crusades. The Crusaders were a church sanctioned militia of mercenaries, hired guns by the Pontiff of Rome, to persecute God's true church. They bore the cross of Christ on their clothing and weapons of warfare, suggesting their efforts were of holy origins, while vowing upon their own lives to exterminate the very one's for whom Christ gave His life to save. Being promised by the Pontiff himself absolution of all past, present, and future sins, a right to the Tree of Life, as well as being granted pardon for any financial burdens or obligations they bore, the impoverished, destitute, grossly indebted, warmongering, and the socially marginalized all found a calling as part of the military might of the *little horn*.

2. *Where else in scripture do we see a reference to this flood? Read Daniel 9:26*

Daniel 9:26 describes the transition of Pagan Rome, the desolator that would destroy the city of Jerusalem and its temple [sanctuary], to Papal Rome, the second desolator that would, as a flood, seek to destroy the people of God by force and deception. The 1,260 year period of Papal supremacy, known as the "Dark Ages" (538AD-1793AD) is called *dark* because of the removal of the Bible, the one source of light and truth (Psalm 119:105), by the Bishop of Rome and the promotion of men's doctrines and dogmas over the teachings of God (Mark 7:6-8). Darkness covered the earth and gross darkness covered the people as men were led to forsake the simple faith and promises taught by Christ and His Apostles for a man made religion of rituals, rites, and ceremonies, all of pagan origin. In truth the devil, through the medium of Papal Rome, sought to eradicate the pure Church of Christ by both a flood of military force, but even more dangerous, a flood of error and deception (Matthew 24:4; Colossians 2:8-10).

V16-17: "And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

1. *Since waters/seas are a symbol of peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues, or in other words, a densely populated area (Revelation 17:15), what then would the earth symbolize?*
2. *How might the earth [a sparsely populated area] have aided the woman [church] from the flood spewed out by the dragon?*

Foiled in his attempt to thwart God's plan of having Jesus redeem the lives of mankind, the devil now wages war and vows to destroy the object of God's love, the

woman and the remnant of her seed. A remnant is that which remains of the original; it looks and has the same characteristics of the original. Throughout the bible there are references to a remnant of God's original church, prophetically referenced in Genesis 3:15, in comparison to the masses who profess God's faith but whose lifestyles and works show otherwise. Here the bible gives definitive characteristics of the remnant of the woman's seed (Jesus and His original church) for the Last Days, namely those who "keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

The existence of all 10 commandments, before written on tablets of stone by the finger of God on Mt. Sinai, is clearly seen in the book of Genesis. They have always existed and will always exist since they are a written transcript of the character of the eternal God of Creation. In essence, the commandments are as marriage vows the woman, the bride of Christ, offers to Jesus her groom. Therefore, the remnant sees the commandments of God not as burdensome or something to be dreaded (1 John 5:3), but as a solemn commitment that Jesus, the groom will help her to uphold by His grace.

For a view of the characteristics of the original church of God and therefore those of the remnant, consider the table below.

God's Original Church in Eden had...	God's Remnant Church must have...
1. A prescribed diet (Genesis 1:29)	God's original diet of fruit and grains will be the diet of the redeemed (Daniel 1:8-12; Isaiah 65:25)
2. An imparted dress - Covered in Christ's righteousness (Genesis 2:25)	God's remnant will be covered in Christ's righteousness and will keep their garments clean (Matt 22:11-14; Rev 6:11, 7:9, 16:15)
3. A prescribed day of worship (Genesis 2:3, 4)	The remnant keep the commandments of God which includes the observance of the 7 th day Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11)
4. The mind and character of Christ (righteousness by faith)	The remnant are said to be just before God and live by the faith of Jesus Christ (Revelation 14:5, 12)
5. Dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:26-31)	The meek will inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5, Revelation 21:1-8)

1. How does the bible define the spirit of prophecy? Read Revelation 19:9

The Holy Spirit Who is given to lead men into all truth, is the One who moved through holy men to author the bible and is also the One who will bring understanding to the written word (2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 2:14). Bible prophecy more specifically is the revelation of past, present, and future events, giving understanding and counsel to the recipient of God's purposes. The faithful throughout bible history have treasured the prophetic Word as God's direct instructions and warnings to preserve life (Hebrews 11:7). In similar fashion, those today who diligently pray and search the scriptures for

God's truth, will experience the same saving grace as the patriarchs.

For a better understanding of prophetic imagery, terms and symbols used in this bible study, refer to the study, [Interpreting Bible Prophecy](#), also located on the Life More Abundant Bible Study website.