



THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Vision 3, Part I (12:1-12) - The Dragon, the Woman, and the Child

"Christian" Rome	Trumpet 5	7:1-12	"Golden Age"	512-702
	Trumpet 6	9:13-21	Judgment against Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman Empire); successive bids to conquer Constantinople by Muslim powers; Byzantine Empire falls in 1453 to the Ottoman Empire	1056-1453
		10	More prophecy to come – this is not the end	N/A
		11:1-14	Word of God testifies for a period of 1,260 years; French Age of Reason and attempt to "kill" the Bible	536-1796
Trumpet 7	11:15-19	Final Judgment, Conclusion of Vision #2	?	

- Change to "Word of God testifies for a period of 1,260 years; the suppression of the Bible by the church of Rome which led to the Reformation."
- ~ Mid 3rd Century - Early 16th century

SUMMARY OF 11:7-18

- For a millennium, Latin was the only language permitted for Bible translations
 - The Roman church used the secular powers of Europe to suppress minority sects who appealed to the Bible as their authority
 - With the invention of the printing press and the growth of translations into other languages, God freed and preserved the Bible
 - The widespread availability of the Bible led to the Reformation which shook the apostate church and broke its hegemony in Europe
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A NEW VISION

- Vision 1, Revelation 1:12, “Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,
 - Vision 2, Revelation 4:1, “After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me...”
 - Vision 3, Revelation 12:1, “Now a great sign appeared in heaven...”
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VISION 3 IS SET UP BY TRUMPET #6

- Revelation 10
 - John sees an angel with an open book, seven thunders respond,
 - John eats the book and is told to “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.” (Revelation 10:11)
 - Revelation 11 introduces
 - The beast who oppresses and attempts to eliminate the two witnesses
 - The period of 1,260 years.
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MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE BEAST

- Chapter 12
 - Depicts Satan as a seven-headed, ten-horned dragon
 - Satan manifests his power in the beast (seven heads, ten horns)
 - Chapter 13
 - A more detailed description of the beast and his objectives
 - Introduced to a second beast who works together with the first beast.
 - Chapter 14 - judgment day, assurances to those who resist the beast
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12:1-2: THE WOMAN

A WOMAN WITH CHILD

- In the OT, a woman is used to represent either Israel's
 - Faithful relationship with God (Isaiah 54:5)
 - Or her unfaithfulness (Jeremiah 3:20)
 - Contrasted with the harlot in chapter 17 — a symbol of apostasy
 - Two cities and two women
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SHE IS ARRAYED WITH HEAVENLY GLORY

- “...clothed with the sun” - superior light
 - “...moon under her feet” - inferior light
 - “...garland of twelve stars” - 12 tribes, 12 apostles
 - Sun, moon, and stars — a nation, a people (recall Genesis 37:9-10)
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THE FAITHFUL OF GOD FROM ALL TIME

- Prior to birth, she represents faithful Israel (“the moon under her feet”)
 - After the glorification of the male child, she represents the church (“clothed with the sun”)
 - Ephesians 2:13-15, Hebrews 12:22-23, Romans 11:17
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12:3-6 - THE DRAGON AND THE MALE
CHILD

THE DRAGON

- “...fiery red dragon” - Satan, the Devil according to verse 9
 - “seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads” - more in chapter 13
 - “a third of the stars of heaven”
 - Individuals either human or angelic — Job 38:7, Revelation 1:20
 - Represent fallen angels — 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6
 - “dragon stood before the woman...to devour her Child as soon as it was born”
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THE MALE CHILD = CHRIST

- He will “rule all nations with a rod of iron” (verse 5) — see Psalm 2:9, Isaiah 11:4, Revelation 19:15
 - Jesus was the seed of woman — Genesis 3:15, Galatians 4:4, Isaiah 7:14
 - Jesus is the seed of Abraham through David — Galatians 3:16, Isaiah 11:1, Revelation 5:5
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SATAN ATTEMPTS TO KILL JESUS

- “dragon stood before the woman...to devour her Child as soon as it was born” – Matthew 2:1-19
 - The crucifixion was orchestrated by Satan - Luke 22:3, Luke 22:53, John 14:30
 - “And her Child was caught up to God and His throne”
 - Resurrection and glorification of Christ
 - Ephesians 1:20-21
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SANCTUARY IN THE WILDERNESS

- “where she has a place prepared by God” - a sanctuary to commune with God
 - “that they should feed her there” – the church will be nourished while in the wilderness
 - She flees when the dragon persecutes her — see verse 13
 - She finds refuge for 1,260 days = 1,260 years
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BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY DISAPPEARS

- Changes in the eldership
 - Infant baptism
 - Latin becomes the language of the church
 - Transubstantiation
 - Monasticism
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12:7-9: WAR IN HEAVEN

WAR IN HEAVEN = CRUCIFIXION

- 12:5-6 describe how things played out on earth
 - 12:7-9 describe how things played out in heaven
 - Spiritual conflicts parallel earthly conflicts — e.g. 2 Kings 6:8-23
 - Ephesians 6:11-12
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MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

- He is an “archangel” according to Jude 9
 - “Arch-“ comes from the Greek word *arche* which means prince or ruler
 - Michael is a prince or ruler of angels
 - Typically associated with God’s people — Daniel 10:13, 21 and 12:1
 - Equivalent to Satan in authority and power — John 16:11, Jude 9
 - In both Revelation 12:7-9 and Jude 9, Michael prevails over Satan
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THE GREAT DRAGON

- A dragon, a serpent — how he appeared in the garden of Eden
 - “...Devil” - Gr. *diabolos*, false accuser, slanderer (see Job 1:9-10, 2:4-5, Zechariah 3:1, Revelation 12:10)
 - “...Satan” - Gr. *satanas*, adversary
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HE “DECEIVES THE WHOLE WORLD”

- John 8:44 - the “father of lies”
 - Works through human agencies to deceive the world (Revelation 13:14, 18:23, 20:3)
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12: “...power, signs, and lying wonders”
 - 1 John 5:19, “the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one”
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EXILED FROM HEAVEN

- Satan and his demons could have an audience with God (e.g. Job and 1 Kings 22:19-23)
 - John 12:31, “Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.
 - John 16:11, “of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”
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12:10-12: VICTORY OVER SATAN

FOUR RESULTS OF THE CROSS

- Salvation - Revelation 7:10, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”
 - Strength and power - Revelation 5:12, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”
 - The kingdom of our God: Revelation 1:9, “I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ...”
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HE CAN ACCUSE US NO LONGER

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

~ Romans 8:31-34

THREE KEYS TO VICTORY

- “by the blood of the Lamb” - Revelation 14:1-4
 - “by the word of their testimony”
 - Separate from the word of God - Revelation 6:9, 12:17, 1:9
 - I Timothy 6:13
 - They did not recant when faced with death
 - “they did not love their lives to the death” - Acts 21:13, Philippians 1:21
 - Jesus shows us the way to this victory - Revelation 1:5
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DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS

- “Rejoice” and “Woe”
 - “...inhabitants of the earth” - those outside the kingdom of God
 - Revelation 8:13 and 17:2
 - Those who “dwell on the earth” - 3:10, 6:10, 13:8, 13:14, 14:6, 17:8
 - “...earth and sea” - all of creation would be affected by Satan’s exile
 - “because he knows that he has a short time”
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SUMMARY OF 12:1-12

- God preserved a remnant of faithful Israelites who brought His Son into the world
 - Satan opposed Jesus and sought His life
 - The resurrection conquered Satan's ultimate attempt at stopping Jesus
 - A heavenly battle paralleled the crucifixion; Satan lost and was cast to the earth
 - Jesus gives the faithful a strategy to overcome Satan
 - But Satan's exile will mean trouble for those outside God's kingdom
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