

**Prayer:**

**History is His Story** – that is God’s story! Redemptive history revolves around two major hubs – that is, Israel and her Messiah. Prophecy has two major themes – Israel and her Messiah. The Church is a parenthesis program, very important, but a KEY reason for the Church is that it is to provoke Israel to jealousy (cf. Rom. 10:19; 11:11, 14).

The whole of history is headed to a God-ordained conclusion. Revelation from God was progressive, and it shows how it all ends in the book of Revelation. Revelation presents the consummation of all things. But it does so in a chronological fashion as seen in the inspired outline of Revelation 1:19.

**Slide # 1**

**Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline**

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you **have seen**, and the things **which are**, and the things which will take place **after this**.”

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- **“after this” – Future (Post-Church Age) –Ch. 4-22**
  - - Scene in heaven –Ch. 4-5
  - - **Tribulation – Ch. 6-18**
  - - Second Coming – Ch. 19
  - - Kingdom – Ch. 20
  - - Eternal State – Ch. 21-22

The next great event on God’s prophetic calendar is the Rapture of the Church. The Church began suddenly and signlessly and it will conclude in the same manner. Specific prophetic signs relate essentially to Israel.

Following the Church Age, the Bible teaches that there will be the worst of all times for Israel, but Israel will be preserved and saved out of it (cf. Jer. 30:7). This climactic time of trouble will conclude with the Second Coming of Christ.

**Slide # 2**

This climactic time of Tribulation involves God’s judgment of the world in which God brings Israel to repentance. It involves a series of judgments that come with increasing frequency and intensity. These judgments are the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments. They are presented in chronological order, but there are interludes between them that provide more background information to enhance what is yet to be presented.

**Slide # 3*****JUDGMENTS and INTERLUDES***

Rev. 6 – Seal Judgments

Rev. 7 [Interlude]

Rev. 8-9 – Trumpet Judgments

Rev. 10 – 11:14 [Interlude]

Rev. 11:15-19 Announcement of 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet

***Rev. 12-15 [Interlude – development of sub-plots]***

Rev. 16 – Bowl Judgments

Rev. 17-18 - Epilogue

Revelation 12 is the development of one of the subplots. What it does is give an overview of redemptive history from the perspective of spiritual warfare. Behind the scenes of history, there is this reality of spiritual warfare. Here in Revelation 12, the curtain is pulled back, and we are given a glimpse of this reality. It just touches on the high points – giving us an overview, and showing us where it all ends.

This overview in Revelation 12 is presented with symbolic language, and yet it portrays literal reality. In view are five key players in the drama of spiritual warfare.

**Slide # 4*****Revelation 12 - Figures***

**God** (Sovereign)  
**Woman** (Israel)  
**Dragon** (Devil/Satan)  
**Child/Lamb** (Jesus)  
**Brethren** (Christians)

As Revelation 12 draws a broad sketch of redemptive history from the aspect of spiritual warfare, there are shown to be TWO key FOCAL points. They are the FIRST coming of the Messiah and events leading up to it, and the SECOND coming of the Messiah and events leading up to it. Everything swirls around these two great events. The Messiah is ultimately the leading character!

### Slide # 5

#### *Revelation 12 – Spiritual Warfare*

Events Surrounding 1 <sup>st</sup> Coming	[Church Age] Not Addressed	Events Surrounding 2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming
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Israel was under duress (in pain) at the time of Christ's first coming (Rev. 12:2). When the Christ-Child was born, Satan made an all-out effort to destroy Him, but alas, He could not, and Christ ascended victoriously into heaven.

The devil then focuses his attention upon Israel in a concentrated way, seeking to destroy Israel, which comes to a climax in the last days before the second coming. This is the focal point of the last part of Revelation 12, as it deals with the very end before Christ comes.

But leading up to the end, we are given some insight into the devil's activities. He has been busy in heaven as well as on earth. On earth, he deceives the whole world, but in heaven, he is busy day and night accusing the brethren. But the brethren (overcomers) overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of their testimony, being willing to die for their faith.

But then, about midway through the Tribulation Period, Satan and his demons will be cast out of heaven completely and confined to the earth. Heaven will rejoice, but WOE to the inhabitants of the earth because the devil has come down to them, having great wrath, realizing his time is short.

**Slide # 6****7 Year Tribulation Period**

[ 3 and ½ years \* 3 and ½ years ]  
 Great Tribulation  
 Devil Confined to Earth

This is where we find ourselves in Revelation 12. The context is this: The devil has been cast out of heaven and being confined to the earth verse 12 says he has great wrath and realizes that his time is short. And that brings us to verse 13.

Note that in this concluding section of Revelation 12:13-17, the dragon/serpent is mentioned five times, and the woman/Israel is mentioned five times. This is about spiritual warfare involving Satan and Israel.

Verse 12 says WOE to the inhabitants of the earth because the devil has come down to them. This is part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final woe judgment (the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet) that ushers in the climactic bowl judgments (cf. 8:13; 9:12; 11:14; 12:12). WOE in the Bible signifies deep grief or anguish, often associated with the calamitous judgment of God.

The word used here for Satan is the term “Devil,” which literally means slanderer. The Devil does some of his most dastardly work through slander. Now being confined to the earth, he is going to employ this with a passion.

Previously, he was busy accusing the brethren before God day and night, but now his slanderous activity is confined to earth (cf. 12:10, 12). And who do you suppose he is going to go after with slanderous passion? Well, that would of course be Israel!

**Slide # 7**

Rev. 12:6 – The Woman (Israel) fled into the wilderness.

Rev. 12:7-12 WHY the Woman fled... (Satan confined to earth).

Rev. 12:13-17 Resumption of the thread of thought from verse 6.

**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.**

Immediately upon being confined to the earth, the dragon (Satan as so defined in verse 9) goes about to persecute the woman (Israel) who gave birth to the male Child (Christ).

The idea of “dragon” is that of a terrifyingly powerful and vicious beast. It denotes his ferocity and destructive, beastlike nature. Verse 12 says that he has been cast down in great wrath. And in his wrath, he goes after Israel.

All anti-Semitism is Satan inspired and will finally culminate in Satan’s making a supreme effort to destroy the nation of Israel. From the brickyards of Pharaoh’s Egypt, Haman’s gallows, Herod’s cruel edict, through Hitler’s purge, and to the world of the Great Tribulation, Satan has led the attack against these people because of the man child- Jesus Christ. – **J. Vernon McGee**

The devil does his dirty work largely through **HUMAN INSTRUMENTS**, whether it be Pharaoh, Haman, Herod, Hitler, or Antichrist. If you try to analyze the world’s attitude and treatment of Israel on a purely rational basis, you will never make sense of it. There is a spiritual dimension and spiritual realities that are behind all that is happening. The world is in rebellion against God, and that is demonstrated in its treatment of Israel. This reality will come to a climax under antichrist – the supreme instrument of Satan in persecuting Israel.

Satan hates God, and he hates Christ, and therefore, he hates Israel that brought the Messiah to the world. He hates everything that has to do with God’s plan of redemption, and of course, Israel and her Messiah are central to that plan. Satan understands that if he can destroy Israel, he can thwart God’s plan and thus defeat God. Thus, he has relentlessly gone after Israel through the centuries.

Satan tried to stop Christ in relation to His first coming, and now he is trying to stop Christ in relation to His Second Coming, and the way he goes about it is by trying to destroy Israel. God’s plan clearly has Israel as the centerpiece nation in the kingdom, so if he can destroy Israel, he has defeated God.

The word “persecuted” (Gk. dioko) means to pursue, to hunt, to chase with hostile intent. It is the idea of seeking to destroy (cf. Mt. 23:34; Acts 26:11). Satan’s target at this point is clearly Israel.

The Jew has always been a target for Satan’s bitter attack. There is no nation in history whose people have been hated and persecuted as has been the Jew. - **Lehman Strauss**

And this reality comes to a climax in history here at the end of the Tribulation Period.

### **Slide # 8**

#### **Jeremiah 30:7 (NKJV)**

7 Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And **it is the time of Jacob’s trouble**, But he shall be saved out of it.

What is pictured in verse 13 is the devil’s last and greatest wave of antisemitism in pre-kingdom history. This is the devil’s last stand, and with all the wrath he can muster, he goes against Israel.

**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.**

Again, the whole context of Revelation 12 clearly shows that the WOMAN is shown to represent Israel, who brings forth the Messiah (v. 5).

At this point, Israel is given two wings of a great eagle that she might fly to her place in the wilderness. Some have tried to explain this by saying that the “two wings of a great eagle” might represent the United States Air Force because the eagle is a symbol for the United States.

This shows just how far one can stray when they begin to let speculation lead in the matter of interpretation. Admittedly, all the way through here in Revelation 12, we have a lot of figurative language. However, the symbolism in view throughout is constantly grounded in OT terminology and type. The same is true here!

In the OT this is the very same language used of God’s supernatural deliverance of Israel from Egypt (cf. Deut. 32:11-12; Isa. 40:31).

### **Slide # 9**

**Exodus 19:4 (NKJV)**

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

“**Wings**” in the Bible often symbolize strength, speed, and protection (cf. Deut. 32:9-11; Ps. 17:8; 36:7; 57:1; 61:4; 63:7; 91:4).

Most in our camp agree that flight in view relates to Christ's command in Matthew 24.

**Slide # 10****Matthew 24:15–16 (NKJV)**

15 “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),

16 “then let those who are in Judea **flee to the mountains**.”

Though Revelation 12:6 and 14 refer to “the wilderness” and Christ referred to “the mountains,” there is no contradiction because the wilderness area was also a mountainous area.

Israel will at this point be helped by God to make a speedy transition to a special place God has for her in the wilderness, where God will provide for her.

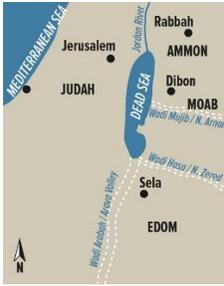
It does not say exactly where this place will be, as “the wilderness” is general and makes up a large area. Generally, this is the area south and east of Jerusalem. We are not told precisely where it will be, but there are some prophetic clues.

**Slide # 11****Daniel 11:41 (NKJV)**

41 He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: **Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon**.

The area corresponds to modern day Jordan.

**Slide # 12**



Furthermore, Isaiah 63:1-6 presents the Messiah at His Second Coming returning to Bozrah, which is the same general place called “Sela” in the OT times and Petra in NT times (cf. 2 Kings 14:7 and Isaiah 16:1, 42:11). This place is located about 125 miles South of Jerusalem.

### **Slide # 13**



Today, there are a few nomads living in Petra, but it is essentially a vacant place with all manner of caves and rock dwellings that, in years past, were occupied. Many think that this is the place referred to here in Revelation 12 as “her place,” meaning the special place of God’s refuge and provision for Israel during the Great Tribulation Period (cf. Isa. 33:13-16; 41:17-20; Jer. 49:13-14; Micah 2:12).

Note that Israel will be nourished here for a time (that is, 1 singular) and times (that is, 2 plural) and half a time, which calculates to a period of 3 and ½. The Jewish year was a 360-day year, so this corresponds exactly to the 1,260 days mentioned in verse 6. These verses are bookends regarding the last 3 and ½ years of the Tribulation.

### **Slide # 14**

#### **Revelation 12:6 (NKJV)**

**6** Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there **one thousand two hundred and sixty days.**

#### **Revelation 12:14 (NKJV)**

**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 formula of a time, times, and half a time is also referenced in Daniel 7:25 and Daniel 12:7, telling us that by the time this period is completed, Israel will be broken and repentant. Thus, this speaks of climactic crubible of the Tribulation Period (the Great Tribulation) that will break Israel and bring her to repentance.

### **Slide # 15**

#### **Daniel 12:7 (NKJV)**

**7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.**

All throughout the time of the 7-year Tribulation is spoken of in reference to two halves, whether it be in terms of 42 months, 1260 days, or a time, times, and half a time – all refer to a period of 3 and ½ years (cf. Dan. 7:25; 9:27; 12:7; Rev. 11:2, 3; 12:6, 14; 13:5).

In this special place of refuge prepared by God, Israel will be supernaturally protected by God from the very presence of the serpent, who is Satan (Rev. 12:9).

### **Slide # 16**

#### **THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS**

Dan. 7:25 “a time and times and half a time”

Dan. 9:27 “in the middle of the week” (7-year period)

Dan. 12:7 “a time, times, and half a time”

Rev. 11:2 “forty-two months”

Rev. 11:3 “one thousand tow hundred and sixty days”

Rev. 12:6 “one thousand two hundred and sixty days”

Rev. 12:14 “a time and times and half a time”

Rev. 13:5 “forty-two months”

Note the consistency all the way through, marking off the last 3 and ½ years of the Tribulation Period as the climactic severe ending of the 7-year Tribulation Period – especially in relation to Israel. Christ called this time the “great tribulation” in Matthew 24:21.

**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.**

We noted back in verse 9 that Satan is described in 5 different ways, namely as the great dragon, serpent of old, the Devil, Satan, and the one who deceives the whole world. Each title has a very specific descriptive nuance. The idea of Satan as a “serpent” presents his character as that of being a cunning, malicious deceiver. Hence, he is called the “serpent of old,” going back to Genesis 3 and his deceiving of Eve.

Here in verse 15, it says “the serpent spewed water of his mouth”. The whole surrounding context is filled with symbolism, and this would appear to be the case here, too. Clearly, the action here is intended to destroy the woman (Israel). But is this talking about an actual flood of water, or is it symbolic of something else?

The contour of the holy land, and the ability of Israel to flee in every direction makes it seem like actual water is unlikely. Although we can't be dogmatic, I think that a figurative description here is more plausible.

The imagery in Revelation constantly draws on OT symbolism and so consistent with that reality, we note that the language of “a flood” is often used metaphorically in regard invading armies (cf. Isa. 8:7-8; Jer. 46:7-8; 47:2-3; Dan. 11:26), or to overwhelming power of destruction in general (cf. 2 Sam. 22:17; Job 27:20; Ps. 18:16; 32:6; 69:1-2, 13-14; 124:2-5; 144:7; Nah. 1:8).

Since the serpent is in view, who did his great damage through deceitful words in Genesis 3 (verse 13), and since this flood comes out of his mouth, it seems probable that what is in view here is deceitful propaganda that arouses a great stir of antisemitism, resulting in a great military effort to destroy Israel.

**Slide # 17**

**Psalm 124:1–5 (NKJV)**

**1** “If it had not been the LORD who was on our side,” Let Israel now say—

**2** “If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, When men rose up against us,

**3** Then they would have swallowed us alive, When their wrath was kindled against us;

**4** Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, The stream would have gone over our soul;

**5** Then the swollen waters Would have gone over our soul.”

A very convincing argument that a military campaign with the goal of consuming Israel is probably in view is the text of Isaiah 59:19-20.

### **Slide # 18**

#### **Isaiah 59:19–20 (NKJV)**

**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.

**20** “The **Redeemer will come to Zion**, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,” Says the LORD.

Note this prophecy in Isaiah uses this exact same language (“like a flood”) and is set in the immediate context of the Redeemer coming to Zion, which is a reference to His Second Coming. Thus, the Isaiah 59 prophecy relates to the time right near the end, as does the text here in Revelation 12.

Therefore, I tend to think that what is in view here is the Devil (slanderer), full of anger, as the serpent stirs up deceptive propaganda against the Jews in an all-out effort to lead an overwhelming military effort to destroy them once and for all.

**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.**

Whatever is involved here, God will supernaturally cause the earth to open up and swallow this flood which the dragon spewed out of his mouth. If this great flood represents an overwhelming army of people (which to me seems likely) then we may be talking about a Korah-like situation in the OT where the earth opened up and swallowed the rebels.

### **Slide # 19**

#### **Numbers 16:30–33 (NKJV)**

**30** But if the LORD creates a new thing, and the **earth opens its mouth and swallows them up** with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the LORD.”

**31** Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the **ground split apart under them**,

**32** and the **earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up**, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods.

To further argue that something like this may be in view is the language that was used in reference to the destruction of Pharaoh's army.

**Slide # 20**

**Exodus 15:11–12 (NKJV)**

**11** “Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?”

**12** You stretched out Your right hand; **The earth swallowed them.**

They actually all drowned in the Red Sea, but the language here is that the earth swallowed them, showing that the destruction of Pharaoh's army is described with this very language (cf. Num. 26:10; Deut. 11:6; Ps. 106:17). The same may well be true here in Revelation 12.

Whatever the specifics involved, this earthy intervention will stop this onslaught against Israel cold in its tracks. Even the devil will realize he cannot get at Israel, who is hidden away in her place of safety.

His response is seen in verse 17.

**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.**

Since the dragon (Satan) can no longer get at Israel directly, as she is supernaturally protected in her safe place, the devil, passionately inflamed with anger against Israel, now goes after “***the rest of her offspring.***”

The dragon officially makes war with these people, just as he made war with the two witnesses in Revelation 11 (11:7). This means that he officially targets them for death. He intentionally seeks to overcome and kill them.

There is a considerable difference of opinion over who these “offspring” are.

Some believe that “the rest” refers to Gentiles who have become believers in the Jewish Messiah (cf. Jn. 10:16). Thus, they are thought to be the spiritual offspring of Abraham as Paul describes in Galatians 3 (v. 7, 29). In short order, we read in Revelation 13 that the Antichrist declares war on all saints everywhere in the world, so this would fit.

**Slide # 21****Revelation 13:7 (NKJV)**

**7** It was granted to him to **make war with the saints and to overcome them**. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

However, some think these are part of the Jewish remnant that did not seek shelter in the safe place in the wilderness, but rather are hiding in various other places. From the whole counsel of God, we do know that two-thirds of the Jews in the land are going to die, while one-third, as converts to Christ, will survive.

**Slide # 22****Zechariah 13:8–9 (NKJV)**

**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:**

**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.’**”

Perhaps “***the rest of her offspring***” are these believers who will survive in the land, but outside of the designated hiding place. We do know that some will survive even in Jerusalem (cf. Zech. 12:8-9).

**Slide # 23****Zechariah 14:2 (NKJV)**

**2** For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, **But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.**

So perhaps “***the rest of her offspring***” involves the scattered remnant of Jewish believers like those seen here in Jerusalem.

However, there is a third view that takes this in a general sense that would include both Jew and Gentile believers in Christ. In this view, at this point, Satan declares open season on all who are proclaimed followers of Christ.

I would tend to hold to this view because they are described not merely in terms of ethnicity but rather in terms of being those “**who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**” That defines true believers, whatever their background.

But I do think that the whole flow of thought is essentially Jewish, and therefore “**the rest of her offspring**” may well have a pronounced emphasis on Jewish believers, but then also include any and all believers. It is doubtful that Satan will only go after Jewish believers. Yes, they are a major target, but not the only one as seen in Revelation 13:7. Note the same language where in 12:17 it says Satan makes war with “her offspring” and then in 13:7 it says he makes “war with the saints”.

In Revelation 13, the Antichrist is given authority for 42 months (the last half of the Tribulation Period), and during this time, he will declare war on the saints universally. That would seem to match up with what we have here in 12:17.

Note how these believers are described in verse 17. First, they are said to be those “who keep the commandments of God.” For John, this is indicative of true believers. We are not saved by keeping the commandments, but it is the fruit of true saving faith. John is not fuzzy about this.

#### **Slide # 24**

**1 John 2:3–4 (NKJV)**

**3** Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

**4** He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

A desire to obey God is evidence of true salvation. Now we know we are not saved by works. Texts like Ephesians 2:8-9 are emphatically clear – “by grace you have been saved through faith...not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

However, it is as the Reformers were known to say: “**We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves does not remain alone.**” A true saving faith is seen in the fruit of obedience, and that is the emphasis here.

Furthermore, these are those who “**have the testimony of Jesus.**” In other words, they hold to the truth of Christ as taught by Him (cf. Rev. 1:2, 9; 6:9; 14:12; 19:10; 20:4). The great emphasis in Christ’s ministry was WHO He was.

One day, Christ asked his disciples who people thought He was. They gave various answers, but Peter said, “***You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.***” Jesus then said it was on this ROCK truth that He would build His Church (cf. Mt. 16:13-18). John wrote his entire gospel to prove this very same point, namely that “***Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.***” (Jn. 20:30-31)

This is the testimony of Jesus Christ – it's all about who He is as Jesus Christ. Jesus means God-Savior, and Christ means the chosen One who fulfills all the prophecies concerning the coming deliverer and ruler.

These people that Satan declares war on believe in Jesus for who He claimed to be as Lord and Savior, and they, as true followers, keep His commandments.

In Revelation 12 there are two verses that emphasize the nature of a true saving faith.

### **Slide # 25**

#### **Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)**

**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 12:17 (NKJV)**

**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 basis of salvation is the same in all dispensations, namely, on the basis of a saving faith. God is no respecter of persons.

### **Slide # 26**

#### **Acts 10:34–35 (NKJV)**

**34** Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.

**35** But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.

This is the nature of a true saving faith. It demonstrates itself in life. And that is the emphasis here in Revelation as well!

There is total harmony throughout the entire Bible. We are saved by faith alone, but a true saving faith demonstrates itself in the life, not perfectly, but certainly.

Revelation 12 is KEY to not only understanding the book of Revelation but the whole of redemptive history. In many ways, redemptive history swirls around the spiritual warfare outlined here in Revelation 12.

Satan decided to take on God. He led humanity astray in the fall of mankind. God so loved the world that He gave His Son to provide salvation. The great prize is the souls of people. God has chosen the nation of Israel to be His special instrument to bring salvation to the world.

The Scriptures are Jewish, the Messiah was Jewish, the apostles were Jewish, prophecy is largely Jewish, the end times are largely Jewish in orientation, and the Jews are prominent in the Kingdom.

No wonder Satan is relentless in trying to destroy the Jews. God's whole plan hinges on them and the fulfillment of what He has promised. In fact, God's most sacred name, YHWH, is forever attached to His covenant promises to them. If Satan can somehow thwart the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel, then he wins. But alas, "I have read the back of the book, and Satan loses!" He will not succeed, but he will not give up until confined to the fires of hell. And we see this reality even in our world today.

**Voltaire** was a French "Enlightenment" writer (1694-1778). He was a God-hater and an infidel. He once sarcastically asked: ***"Why should the world be made to rotate around the insignificant pimple of Jewry?"***

The reason is that the Sovereign God of the Bible has chosen to orchestrate His entire program of redemption around the Jew. Israel is significant because of God's sovereign plan, which cannot be thwarted. The Jews figured prominently in relation to Christ's first coming, and they will figure prominently in relation to His Second Coming. Thus, a heightened level of spiritual warfare is seen in reference to both comings.

What we see in the world today is the worldwide rise of antisemitism, which is the buildup to the Second Coming. This will continue to intensify until the end, when Satan and his antichrist will be put down forever.

**Slide # 27**

A Jew once said to a Christian...

How odd of God  
To choose the Jew,  
But not so odd  
As those who choose  
The Jewish God  
And hate the Jew.

To be on the wrong side of Israel is to be on the wrong side of God. God promises to bless those who bless Israel and to curse those who curse Israel (cf. Gen. 12:3).

I don't endorse everything Israel does, but they are still God's chosen people, and just as God loves them in spite of themselves, we as God's people are to love what He loves and love as He loves.

**Jeremiah 31:3 (NKJV)**

**3** The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

What we see in Revelation 12 is the reality of spiritual warfare that is playing out behind the scenes of history. Satan is constantly trying to derail the plan of God concerning His people. The great issue in history is the issue of spiritual warfare surrounding God's people. The great issue in history is the souls of people and where they stand – either with God or with Satan.

Satan tried to destroy Christ, but even in death, Jesus was victorious. Then Satan tries to destroy God's chosen people, Israel, but he will not succeed. Then he tries to destroy any and all Christians, but he will not succeed.

Spiritual warfare defines history. And Satan's people have always sought to destroy God's people. Satan's people are his tools, and God's people are His tools. Ever since Cain killed Abel, this spiritual warfare has raged.

Jesus said, that just as the world hated Him it would also hate us (Jn. 15:18-20). Paul in Galatians 4:29 said those born according to the flesh persecute those born of the Spirit; and again in 2 Tim. 3:12, all who will live godly "will suffer persecution." It goes with being on God's side.

One of the great evidences of salvation is that we are persecuted for our stand with Christ. In the end, there are two sides! There are those who are on Satan's side – they are the devil's children, also known as the world.

And then there are those who are on God's side through faith in Jesus Christ.

Everyone is on one side or the other? Whose side are you on? That is the ultimate issue! To side in with God is to side in with His people!

In repentance, we have a change of mind/a change of heart in which we decide to change sides. We go from the devil's side to God's side, and we do this by putting our faith in Christ as our Lord and Savior!

As true believers, we overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of our testimony, being willing to die for Christ. As true believers, we keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus Christ.

There is an old song titled: "***Who is on the Lord's side?***" That is the ultimate question! And to be on the Lord's side is to join in with a whole family of believers who are willing to suffer for the cause of Christ. This is our calling, but even in death, we are more than conquerors through Him who lives us (Rom. 8:37).

"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." – **C.S. Lewis**

In Joshua 24:15, Joshua told the people, "Choose this day whom you will serve?" In the NT, Paul pleaded with people to be reconciled to God, saying, "receive not the grace of God in vain... Behold now is the accepted time..." (2 Cor. 5:17-6:2). The Scripture says, "Today if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts" (Heb. 3:7-8). And the last invitation in the Bible says, "Come...Whoever desires, let him take of the water of life freely." (Rev. 22:17).

Are you on the Lord's side – do you side with God's people? It all comes down to where you stand with Jesus!

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved!