

Divine Parenthesis & Spiritual Warfare ... Past, Present & Future
Revelation 10:1-12:12

We might think from the progress and development of evil that Satan is going to preside over this earth forever. **BUT** this **DIVINE PARENTHESIS** reminds us that ...

- (1) **God is still SOVEREIGN LORD,**
- (2) that He has **NOT FORGOTTEN HIS OWN**, and
- (3) that **ULTIMATELY THEY WILL BE VICTORIOUS**.

I. DIVINE PARENTHESIS (Revelation 10:1-11).

- Each **BRIEF INTERMISSION** allows the reader to ...
 - (1) **PAUSE** ...
 - (2) **TAKE STOCK OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED** ... and
 - (3) **PREPARE FOR WHAT IS TO COME**.
 - **FIRST INTERLUDE** ... Revelation 7:1-17 – It occurs between the 6th and 7th **SEALS** revealed two groups of redeemed believers who will be saved during the Tribulation.
 - **SECOND INTERLUDE** ... Revelation 10 – Interrupts the sequence between the 6th and 7th **TRUMPETS**. In this interlude, we see a change of emphasis **FROM** the outpouring of wrath on unbelievers **TO** the consolation and encouragement of believers.
- A. The **MESSENGER** from Heaven (Rev 10:1-3a).
 - This is **NOT A FALLEN ANGEL**.
 - This is The **ANGEL OF JEHOVAH** ... the Lord Himself.
 - B. The **MESSAGE** from Heaven (Rev 10:3b-7).
 - C. The **MANDATE** from Heaven (Rev 10:8-11).
 - John is asked to **eat the book** which is in the angel's hand.
 - **Sweet and bitter** ... There will be **JOY** in preaching God's truth, but **SORROW** in contemplating the rejection of that truth by those who hear.

II. The TWO WITNESSES (Revelation 11:1-14).

- A. **PRINCIPLES** For **UNDERSTANDING** (Rev 11).

FOUR ESSENTIAL UNDERLYING PRESUPPOSITIONS that make this passage understandable.

 1. It is **JEWISH** in nature. **NOT the CHURCH, BUT ISRAEL.**
 2. It is **PROPHETIC**. Anticipates a time in the future.
 3. Interpret it **LITERALLY**.
 4. Consider its **SETTING**. Rev 11 is a **continuation** of Rev 10.
- B. The **TWO WITNESSES** (Rev 11:3-12).

FIVE AREAS we need to look at ...

 1. They are **PEOPLE**.
 2. They are **PROPHETS**.

- a. The argument for **ELIJAH**.
- b. The argument for **MOSES**.
- 3. They are **POWERFUL**.
- 4. They are **PERSECUTED**.
- 5. They are **PRESERVED**.
- C. The **EARTHQUAKE** (Rev 11:13).
 - For some reason, it seems that **God SHAKES THE EARTH when He WANTS TO GET OUR ATTENTION**.

III. The **SEVENTH TRUMPET** (Revelation 11:14-19).

- Rev 11:14-19 is **God's merciful PREVIEW** of the final victory to come and the **ASSURANCE** of **God's faithfulness during times of extreme trial**.
God gives us hope in a small fore view of His wonderful future plans.
- They are **FOUR KEY EVENTS** which are a **PREVIEW** of what is to come, and **NOT what is ACTUALLY HAPPENING AT THIS TIME**.
- A. The **ANNOUNCEMENT** of the Kingdom (Rev 11:15).
 - This is **simply saying that the coronation of the King is not far in the distance**.
- B. The **ACCLAMATION** of the King (Rev 11:16-17).
 - Here is the **ANSWER to the QUESTION in Revelation 6:10 ...**
"How long, O Lord, holy and true, until you judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"
- C. The **ANTICIPATION** of the End (Rev 11:18).
 - **NOTE ...** The events described in verse 18 are more than 1,000 years apart.
 - There are **FOUR MAJOR EVENTS** that are mentioned.
 1. **God's WRATH** Against the Nations.
 2. **God's JUDGMENT** of the Dead.
 - Reference to the **GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT** (20:11-15).
 3. **God's REWARDING** of the Saints and Prophets.
 - Reference to the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**.
 - **Keep in mind that this is NOT the order which it will take place**.
 4. **God's DESTRUCTION** of Those that Destroy the Earth.
 - **Revelation 11:18 is a general statement of what will happen** and the rest of the Book of Revelation fills in the details.

CONCLUSION ...

1. God's unchanging plan remains in **MOTION** and on **TARGET**.
2. God transforms **TRAGIC SITUATION** into **TRIUMPHANT EVENTS**.
3. The heroes of The Bible and the saints of history who accomplished great things for God, accomplished them **BY GOD'S POWER** and **NOT THEIR OWN STRENGTH**.
4. The image of the open Temple in heaven (Rev. 11:19) reminds us that we have **UNLIMITED ACCESS** to God by His grace.
5. We can draw a powerful and reassuring truth from Revelation 11:18 that our Sovereign King will **REIGN** and **REWARD** us.

Spiritual Warfare ... Past, Present & Future Revelation 12:1-17

The spiritually sensitive are aware that an unseen war between God and Satan has been going on since Creation. Often they are able to see the visible expression of this war in actual history. This holy war will reach its climax during the last half of the Great Tribulation.

I. FOUR SYMBOLIC CHARACTERS That Point To Real People Or Events In History (Revelation 12).

- A. The Sun-Clothed Woman = ISRAEL** (Rev. 12:1-2).
- The **WOMAN** represents the nation of Israel as the channel through which the Messiah-Redeemer would come.
 - The **SUN** refers to Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel.
 - The **MOON** refers to Leah (Jacob's wife).
 - The **TWELVE STARS** refers to the twelve tribes of Israel.
 - The **BASIS** of this **INTERPRETATION** is one of **Joseph's dreams** (Genesis 37:5-10 & Genesis 3:15).
- B. The Great Red Dragon = SATAN** (Rev. 12:3-4).
- Satan is seen here as the great red dragon (12:9; 20:2), symbolic of his **power, ferocity** and **murderous character** (John 8:44).
- C. The Male Child = THE MESSIAH** (Rev. 12:5-6).
- The man-child is definitely Jesus Christ (Rev. 19:15; Psa. 2:9; Luke 1:30-33; Rom. 9:4-5).
- D. Michael = THE ARCHANGEL** (Rev. 12:7-12).
- In the middle of the Tribulation, a war will occur between Michael and Satan and their respective angelic armies. Satan will lost and be forced to earth.

II. TWO GREAT CONFLICTS (Rev. 12:7-12)

- A. Conflict IN HEAVEN** – Clash Between Satan and The Archangel Michael (12:7-12).
- B. Conflict ON EARTH** – Clash Between Satan and The Saints (Israel) (12:13-17).

APPLICATION – A Few Practical Points That Will Help Us To Stand On The Promises Of God In Our Everyday Lives ...

1. Revelation 12 teaches us that – Israel may be **BLIND** and **DISOBEDIENT** as a nation, **BUT God has NEVER FORGOTTEN HER.**
2. Revelation 12 teaches us that – **Although Satan is a POWERFUL and AGGRESSIVE foe – he will NOT TRIUMPH.**
3. Revelation 12 teaches us that – **We may be OPEN and ASSAULTED TARGETS today, but WE NEED NOT FEAR.**
 - **In the face of spiritual attack**, the following passages of Scripture can help your **stand firmly and fearlessly**:
 Luke 22:31-32; Ephesians 6:12-13; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 Peter 5:8-10;
 James 4:7-8; 1 John 4:4

The Antichrist and His Kingdom

Revelation 13:1- 19:6

- **How do “you” think the world will end?**
 - Many people believe, the Book of Revelation DOES TELL US how the world will end.
 - Revelation 13 introduces us to **TWO FRIGHTENING BEASTS ...**
 - (1) The **BEAST** out of the **SEA** = The **ANTICHRIST**.
 - (2) The **BEAST** out of the **EARTH** = The **FALSE PROPHET**.
- I. The **ANTICHRIST** and **HIS KINGDOM** (Revelation 13-14).
- A. The **ANTICHRIST** – The Beast Out Of The **SEA** (Rev. 13:1-10).
 - B. The **FALSE PROPHET** – The Beast Out Of The **EARTH** (Rv 13:11-18).
 - C. The **PREVIEW** Of Their **DEFEAT** (Rev. 14:1-20).
- II. The **SEVEN BOWL JUDGMENTS** (Rev. 15-18).
- A. **PAINFUL SORES** (Rev. 16:1-2).
 - B. **SALT WATERS POLLUTED** (Rev. 16:3).
 - C. **FRESH WATERS POLLUTED** (Rev. 16:4-7)
 - D. **OPPRESSIVE HEAT** (Rev. 16:8-9).
 - E. **INTENSE DARKNESS** (Rev. 16:10-11).
 - F. **PREPARATION FOR ARMAGEDDON** (Rev. 16:12-16).
 - G. **MEGA EARTHQUAKE** and **THE FALL OF BABYLON** (Rev. 16:17-21).
 1. The **GLOBAL EARTHQUAKE** and **STORMS OF GIANT HAIL** (16:17-21).
 2. The **FALL OF BABYLON THE GREAT** (Rev. 17-18).
 - “*Mother of Prostitutes*” = the source of ALL FALSE RELIGIONS.
 - “*Babylon the Great*” = a great world religion who is supported by the influence and power of the Antichrist and seduces and unites the world in a great pluralistic amalgamation of all religions.
 - “*Seven kings*” =
 - **FIVE PAST** = Gentile Empires that have ruled over Israel (Jews).
Egypt ... Assyria ... Babylon ... Medo-Persia ... Greece.
 - **ONE PRESENT** = In the first century – Rome.
 - **ONE FUTURE** = The future Kingdom of The Antichrist.
 - “*Babylon*” = the name is used metaphorically – NOT SPECIFICALLY of a particular city or country – BUT as representing a final godless, humanistic, and worldwide religious system.
 - In the same way that we refer to “*Wall Street*” to describe the entire American financial system; so Revelation uses “*Babylon*” to refer to the Antichrist’s end-time religious / political / economic empire.
- III. In the light of God’s revelation of the end of the world ...
WHAT should we do? ... and ... HOW should we live?
1. **BELIEVE** In God’s Story!
 2. **COMMIT** To Jesus Christ’s Church / New Community!
 3. **LIVE** Christ’s Mission In The World!