

Wednesday Teaching Series  
Revelation 8:2-12:17

The Book of Revelation  
Lesson #13-The Seven Trumpets (Part II)

**Review:** Still in that period of time in the last 3-1/2 years of Tribulation where the wrath of God is being poured out.

- Already seen the 7 seals unloosed.
- Now the 7 trumpet judgments (4 on land; 3 on people; 4 are physical and 3 are spiritual forces).
  1. Hail mingled with blood (1/3 of the trees and grass are destroyed).
  2. Mountain burning with fire thrown into the sea (1/3 of the sea creatures are killed).
  3. Star falls from Heaven (wormwood) water becomes bitter.
  4. 1/3 of the sun, moon, and stars darkened.
  5. Demonic locusts sting for 5 months (sting those without the seal).
  6. 200 million horsemen from Euphrates (demonic; kill 1/3 of the earth's population).

Still did not repent!

*But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. 21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. Revelation 9:20, 21 NKJV*

Parenthetical passages: (Like chapter 7, they do not advance the narrative).

## I. The Little Book (Chapter 10)

### Overview

- Angel out of heaven, robed in a cloud and a rainbow around head.
- Face glows like light, legs like pillar of fire and planted solidly on land and sea (1 on each).
- When he shouts; 7 thunders respond but before John can record what they say he is told to seal up the message.
- Angel promises there will be no more delay; but God's plan will be fulfilled with the sounding of the trumpet.
- John told to eat the scroll.
- Sweet to mouth; but sour to the stomach.

#### A. Little Book and Seven Thunders

*I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. 2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, 3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. 4 Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them." Revelation 10:1-4 NKJV*

1. John has watched visions unfold from his position in heaven but now he is back on earth because the angel comes from heaven.
2. Angel coming with a crucial message for the persecuted church:

##### a. Robed in a cloud:

*"I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Daniel 7:13 NKJV*

*Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Matthew 24:30 NKJV*

- b. Rainbow above his head:

*And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. 27 Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. 28 Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. Ezekiel 1:26-28 NKJV*

NOTE: May be a natural result of light from angels fall.

- c. His legs (feet) like pillars of fire.

(Exodus always in background; pillar; protection, guidance to the children of Israel; bow recalls God's promise that Noah, the pillar of fire in the wilderness and the scroll, the tablets of stone).

- 3. This scroll is open (not sealed like the big scroll).

- a. Angel puts one foot on land one on sea.
- b. Symbolic authority over earth in its entirety.
- c. Little scroll deals with the lot of God's people during final days; not the judgment of God.

- 4. The voice and the thunders:

- a. Voice calls forth in response from the 7 thunders.
- b. John is going to write it down but is prevented from doing so, "seal it up!"

- B. No more delay:

*The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, 7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets. Revelation 10:5-7 NKJV*

1. Swears that delay is nearly over (oath taking; right here).
2. Will happen at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet.
3. No more delay would be welcome news.
  - a. Martyrs under the altar (6:9-12)
  - b. Satan and God will meet in a final conflict and Christ will win.

*"At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. Daniel 12:1 NKJV*

- c. The period of the end is irrevocably set in motion.
  - d. NOTE: The integrity of the one who makes promise (lives forever and ever; Lord over all; comfort to the martyrs; to be).
4. The mystery (hidden promise) will be revealed.

QUESTION: What is that mystery?

Simply the purpose of history that could have only been known and realized had God revealed it with the sounding of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet that which God purposed in creation and made possible only through the blood of the Lamb.

*And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." Revelation 5:9-10 NKJV*

Will be brought to its fulfillment this is the promise!

*Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" Revelation 11:15 NKJV*

Been prayed for:

*Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10 NKJV*

NOTE: Taking his stand between heaven and earth; the announcement NO MORE DELAY!

*I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed. Deuteronomy 4:26 NKJV*

Probably knew it:

John eats the book:

*Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth." 9 So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." 10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. 11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings." Revelation 10:8-11 NKJV*

1. Voice and the command.
2. John obeys.

NOTE: The prospect of no further delay in the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose is sweet indeed! That it will involve a bitter prelude is hard to swallow." (Robert Mounce)

## II. The Two Witnesses (11:1-14)

NOTE: Universally recognized as difficult to interpret.

IMPORTANT: Over the next 3 chapters (11-13), we will read about 1260 days or 42 months.

*But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. 3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." Revelation 11:2-3 NKJV*

*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 12:6 NKJV*

*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. Revelation 12:15 NKJV*

*And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Revelation 13:5 NKJV*

NOTE: Time (1 year); Times (2 years); half-time (1/2 year) = 3-1/2 years

- Literally 3-1/2 years or 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Tribulation.

At least 4 things will happen during this time:

1. Gentiles will trample the outer court and the holy city.

*But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. Revelation 11:2 NKJV*

2. Witnesses will testify.

*In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. Revelation 11:13 NKJV*

3. Woman (Israel) will be persecuted while being pursued by the Dragon.

*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 12:6 NKJV*

*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. Revelation 12:14 NKJV*

4. Beast will blaspheme

*And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Revelation 13:5 NKJV*

IMPORTANT: The background for this:

*Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven. 9 And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land. 10 And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them. 11 He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down. 12 Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered. 13 Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, "How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?" 14 And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed." Daniel 8:8-14 NKJV*

Antiochus Epiphanes

- A Syrian, brutal ruler that emerged after Alexander the Great (167-164). Alexander mid 4<sup>th</sup> Century.
- Note also Elijah's drought 3-1/2 years.

*Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. James 5:17 NKJV*

- Symbolic for limited time evil would be allowed free reign.

TRUTH

Periods of final witness, divine protection and pagan antagonism are simultaneous.

A. Measuring of the Temple

*Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. 2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. Revelation 11:1-2 NKJV*

1. John's passive spectator role gave way in chapter 10 when he takes the scroll and eats it.
2. Now, given a rod and told to measure the temple, the altar, and count the people.

NOTE: Old Testament Prophets often counted as a symbolic action to dramatize their message.

- Isaiah walked stripped and barefoot as a sign of Egypt's impending captivity to Assyria (Isaiah 20:2-5).
- Ezekiel dug through a wall and carried out his belongings to speak of coming exile (Ezekiel 12:1-7).
- New Testament Agabus tied feet and hands with Paul's belt to show them Paul would be bound in Jerusalem.
- Measuring of temple is a way to declare that the temple would be preserved (background is Ezekiel 40-42).

3. Various futuristic views:

- a. Most see this pretty literally (time periods; 3-1/2 years; 3-1/2 days; 7,000 slain; death of witnesses; resurrection; temple.
- b. Temple to be rebuilt by Jesus for re-institution of Old Testament sacrificial system.
- c. Measuring seems to signify that it belongs to God and though it will become Anti-Christ's headquarters for 42 months; it belongs to God.
- d. Mounce sees temple as the church; the people of God, preserved and protected during this time.

*Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 NKJV*

*And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." 2 Corinthians 6:16 NKJV*

*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJV*

## B. The Witnesses Themselves

*And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. Revelation 11:3-6 NKJV*

### BIG QUESTION:

Who are the witnesses?

- Two individuals?
- Representatives of the witnessing church?
  1. Moses and Elijah (similar miracles, appearance at Transfiguration and represent the law and prophets).

*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse." Malachi 4:5-6 NKJV*

2. Some say Elijah and Enoch

*And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. Hebrews 9:27 NKJV*

NOTE: What about the whole raptured church?

3. Some say symbolic of witnessing church; in the last days.
4. Two who have some power as Elijah and Moses.
5. Two prophets who turn to Christ after the rapture.

C. Defeated by the Beast

*Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Revelation 13:1 NKJV*

1. First of 3 references to the beast (Same beast?)

Walwood says "no."

- Out of pit is Satan.
- Out of sea (13:1) is world dictator.
- Out of land (13:11) is false prophet (False Trinity).

Others see it as world dictator.

2. No ability to harm until God is done with them.
3. Finally kills them (see a relief to godless world they celebrate).

NOTE: No burial; great indignity in the East

- a. Probably Jerusalem
- b. Sodom represents moral depravity
- c. Egypt represents oppression

D. Witnesses Resurrected

*Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. 13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly. Revelation 11:11-14 NKJV*

1. Rejoicing of world cut short.
2. Breath and life enters; in front of the world, they resurrect.
3. Great fear on all who see.
4. Raptured; world gives glory to God (not redemption).
5. 3<sup>rd</sup> woe is on its way.

### III. The Seventh Trumpet

*Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" 16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. 18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth." 19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.*  
*Revelation 11:15-19 NKJV*

**NOTE:** Not another plague but rather voices in heaven declaring the eternal sovereignty of God.

#### A. The Kingdoms belong to Christ

1. Earlier resulted in exchange for worship.

*Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Matthew 4:8-9 NKJV*

2. 24 elders join in the song.

#### B. Hymn of Thanksgiving

#### C. Response to the Heavens

1. Sanctuary in heaven opens.
2. Great cosmological acts; end is near; delay is over.

#### IV. The Woman and the Child and the Dragon

Chapter 12: Serving 2 purposes

1. Goes behind the scenes and unveils the age-long conflict and the underlying cause for the hostility about to be poured out. This age long conflict between God and Satan accounts for the persecution the church is about to experience.
  - a. By lying bare the root cause of persecution John is able to encourage believers to hold fast in the coming tribulation.
  - b. The death struggle of a defeated foe will bring severe tribulation; outcome is certain!
2. Stage is set for the final confrontation and chapter 12-14 introduces the actors who play the major roles.

##### A. The Woman, Dragon and the Male Child

*Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. 2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. 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 12:1-6 NKJV*

1. The Woman (v. 1, 2)
  - a. Catholics say Mary (Queen of Heaven). NOTE: Later persecuted in wilderness; would not fit Mary.
  - b. Some see it as confessing church (spiritual issue).

*He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' — as I also have received from My Father; Revelation 2:27 NKJV*

c. Israel (my view)

*Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." Genesis 37:9 NKJV*

NOTE: Child would be Christ

*You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel." Psalms 2:9 NKJV*

*Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. Revelation 19:15 NKJV*

B. The Dragon; Clearly Satan

*So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Revelation 12:9 NKJV*

1. 7 heads; university of his power.
2. 10 horns; 4<sup>th</sup> beast of Daniel 7:

*"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. Daniel 7:7-8 NKJV*

*The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings. Daniel 7:24 NKJV*

3. Like the beast:

*Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Revelation 13:1 NKJV*

(Emissary of Satan has same power)

4. Act of his tail.

- a. What are stars? (Luminaries or angels)

*And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; Jude 6 NKJV*

*For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 2 Peter 2:4 NKJV*

- b. Angels is hard to connect with futurist view (so is birth of Christ).
- c. May just be cataclysmic action of the cosmos (1/3 darkened)

5. Preparedness to devour the child:

- a. Herod trying to kill Jesus
- b. Crucifixion

NOTE: Could man-child be 144,000?

- Principle of giving birth to like-kind.
- Sealed in chapter 7
- In heaven in chapter 1

*Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. 3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. 4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. 5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God. Revelation 14:1-5 NKJV*

C. Male-child and the Woman

1. Ascension of Christ

NOTE: Evil desire of Satan was foiled by God.

## 2. Woman flees to the wilderness

- a. God preserves and provides in the wilderness.
- b. Place made necessary by God.
- c. Israel flees for refuge.

### D. War in Heaven

*And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 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. 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. 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 12:7-12 NKJV*

NOTE: This is not a look back, but a picture of the final heavenly conflict. Satan is trying to regain his position in the presence of God.

- He is now "prince of power of the air"
- This too probably parenthetical; beginning at mid-tribulation point. Part of the reason for intensity on earth.
  1. Heavens overcome; Michael and angels.
  2. Believers overcome by Blood of the Lamb.
  3. Woe to inhabitants of earth; days running short.
  4. He will go all out!

### E. War on Earth

*Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. 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. 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. 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. 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. Revelation 12:13-17 NKJV*

1. Flight to the wilderness
  - Imagery of Exodus

*You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Exodus 19:4-5 NKJV*

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

2. For 3-1/2 years
3. Flood and Sons of Korah metaphor (Nile-babies drowned, Exodus 1:22; Sons of Korah; Numbers 16:31-33).

NOTE: The persecution by Satan on the people of God has as its origin Satan's hatred for Christ.

*But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. John 15:21 NKJV*

4. Israel in the wilderness
5. Dragon's inability to destroy; goes after the seed.

NOTE: Why this is the time of Jacob's trouble.

**Conclusion:** Beyond the specifics of this text, the visions in chapter 12 form the theological heart of the entire book. In Christ, God engaged Satan in the ultimate battle of the Holy War. The redemptive triumph of Christ in his death and resurrection was the crucial defeat of Satan and the forces of evil. Yet, for a time the dragon vigorously pursues the people of God. (Robert Mounce p. 230).