

# SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Program 49

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the NKJV and KJV.

## THE WAR STUDY GUIDE

### THE WAR

The great act of God's love manifested on Calvary is designed to cast the devil out of the hearts and sympathies of humanity forever. The life, death, and resurrection of Christ is the great Gospel message that accomplishes God's design. This message is at the center of a war waged by the devil for this earth. This war is the focus of Revelation 12.

Here in the very center of the book of Revelation we find the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the essential message of Revelation 12. It opens with two great wonders: one of a "woman" and the other of a "dragon" and a war taking place between them.

From the very beginning, God has used the woman as a symbol of His church (Genesis 3:15). In fact, the woman is used consistently through the Scriptures to represent God's church—even at times, an apostate church (Revelation 17:3-6). The woman in Revelation 12 represents God's faithful church.

**Ephesians 5:23-27** "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

**2 Corinthians 11:2** "For I am jealous over you with godly jeal-

ousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

**Jeremiah 6:2** "I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman."

As mentioned before, the Old and New Testament church is represented by a woman. Initially the woman is the Old Testament church from which the promised Messiah, Christ the man-child, is born. Eventually the woman flees into the wilderness, pointing to a time after Christ's ascension when the woman transitions to the New Testament Christian church that would be forced to flee to the remote places of safety due to persecution.

**Revelation 12:5, 6** "And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days."

These two verses in Revelation 12 take in the transition of the woman from the Jewish church to the Christian church, from the 12 tribes to the 12 apostles. Jesus is the "man child" born of the woman, who is the Jewish church. After His birth, life, death, and resurrection, Jesus

is "caught up unto God." Before His resurrection, Jesus gave all authority to His disciples on earth, establishing the New Testament Christian church. The 70 weeks given to the Jewish nation was fulfilled shortly after the death of Christ by the stoning of Stephen (Daniel 9:24). At this point, the woman transitions from a Jewish identity to a Christian identity. Yet



"...Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought."

**REVELATION 12:7**

### KEY SCRIPTURES

**Eph. 5:23** CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

**2 Cor. 11:2** I HAVE ESPOUSED YOU TO ONE HUSBAND

**Revelation 12:6** WOMAN FLED TO THE WILDERNESS

**Revelation 12:7** AND WAR BROKE OUT IN HEAVEN

the woman—church—remains the same as far as truth, faith, and promise. This is brought out in the following texts:

**Galatians 3:29** “And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

We are part of the woman, God’s church, if we are in Christ. In Christ we are Abraham’s seed and heirs of the promise given to the Jewish nation.

**Romans 2:28, 29** “For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”

We are part of the woman, not by our outward appearance, but by an inward heart experience.

## THE WOMAN — GOD’S CHURCH YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER

The Scriptures reiterate that we are the woman by the promise, not by the outward identity. The woman, the seed, and the remnant are only identified in Christ and in His name, not outwardly in the flesh. This is the identity of the woman past, present, and future.

The woman—the church—does not change, but is always the same; never shifting in its character of truth, faith, and promise. It is not identified ethnically, but are all those who are in Christ. They are “not all Israel” the church, “which are of Israel”—the nation. Those who are Jews inwardly, circumcised in the heart, are not identified by the flesh, that is ethnicity, but by the promise.

## JOURNEY AND DESTINATION

Revelation chapters 1-11 are primarily speaking of the journey through prophetic history that has taken us to our present time. Revelation chapters 12-22 are primarily talking about our arrival at the destination for God’s end-time people. It lays out what we are about to see happen as prophetic history closes, Christ returns, and the earth is finally made new.

## THE FOUR DECEPTIONS OF THE SERPENT

The idea that the literal nation of Israel is still to be the focus of unfulfilled prophecy is one of four major deceptions brought out in Revelation 12.

**Revelation 12:4** “And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”

**Revelation 12:7-9** “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth

the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

At this point in Revelation 12, there is a special focus on the deceptive work of the devil, highlighting four main deceptions:

1. Deception of the angels in heaven, symbolized as the stars who were deceived by the devil’s tail. A tail represents lies (Isaiah 9:15; John 8:44).
2. Deception of the Jewish people, who like Herod, sought to destroy and eventually rejected Jesus Christ as the Messiah.
3. Deception of the woman in Eden, who allowed the devil to come down to this earth by accepting his falsehoods about God’s character (Genesis 3:1-6).
4. Deception of the entire world, who still look to the Jewish nation and the Middle East as holding a central part in the fulfillment of Bible prophecy (Matthew 23:37-39).

## PROPHETIC PARALLELS TO DANIEL

**Daniel 8:10** “And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them.”

**Daniel 7:8** “I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.”

There is a parallel between the books of Daniel and Revelation. And we see here in Revelation 12 and the stars being cast to the ground, a correlation in Daniel chapters 7:8 and 8:10. This shows us that the little horn is doing the same work as the devil as his representative on earth. The little horn also casts stars to the ground and also uproots three of ten horns which is approximately one third.

## MICHAEL WITHSTANDS THE DEVIL

Michael means “one who is like God.” In Revelation 12 Michael shows us how to fight against the devil. We are to fight by being like God. The devil’s lie is that we can be like God without obeying God’s Word (Genesis 3:3, 4). The little horn claims to be the representative of God on earth and yet changes God’s Word/law (Daniel 7:25). We are to fight the devil by following God’s Word. We will be like God by being in harmony with God’s Word, instead of fighting against it.

Deception has been central to the devil’s game plan from the beginning. He has perfected it. In the final crisis that comes upon the entire world, deception will be the key player. Our only refuge is holding closely to the Word of God. We pray that you will resist the devil and his deceptions by holding fast to the Word of the living God. Amen. ★

## Questions for Review

1. What does a woman symbolize in the Bible prophecy? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the church of the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the church of the New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_
4. The fourth and final cycle is focusing primarily on what—past history or the end-time prophetic events? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. What does the name Michael mean? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the central strategy that the devil uses in his war against God and mankind? \_\_\_\_\_  
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