

A HISTORICAL LOOK AT THE LEADERS

Scripture: Revelation 12:1-17

Introduction:

- A. The seventh seal has been opened and the seventh trumpet has sounded. The seven vials of God's wrath are yet to be opened.
- B. Before the action contained in the last trumpet begins, the Lord causes us to look back to more clearly identify the two major players in this war.
- C. This view not only takes us back to the beginning of time but into eternity itself.

I. A LOOK TO THE ORIGIN OF THE TWO MAJOR PLAYERS

Verses 1-4

- A. Verse 1 takes us back to Genesis 37:9 to the dream Joseph dreamed concerning the future of Israel and their being ruled over by him. This verse refers to the making of Israel; the twelve tribes out of which the Christ, the little Lamb of God would come.
- B. Verse 2 refers to Israel being prepared to give birth TO THE HUMAN BODY in which God would dwell and in which He, as the little Lamb, would engage and defeat the enemy.
- C. Verses 3 and 4 look back past time into eternity past to the fall of the arch angel Lucifer. (Isaiah 14:12-17)
- D. In his fall he drew the third part of God's created angels and cast them to the earth. After this fall, Lucifer still had access to heaven and the throne room of God where he accused God's people before God. (Job 1:6; 2:1)
- E. After his fall he began a campaign to destroy the One he knew would come to engage him in battle.
- F. The devil, as the great red dragon, stood ready to destroy Israel's man child as soon as He was born. (Genesis 3:1-6; 4:8; Matthew 2:16; Matthew 4)

II. THE LITTLE LAMB OF GOD IS BORN.

- A. Verse 5 looks back to the birth of Jesus Christ who was born the King of the Jews (Matthew 3:2; born to rule all nations with a rod of iron. (Rev. 19:15)
- B. Jesus fulfilled the Father's will – He died to pay the sin debt of the world, was buried, rose again the third day and ascended into heaven to sit upon His own throne at the right hand of God the Father.

III. THE WOMAN, ISRAEL, FLED FROM THE RED DRAGON.

- A. Israel flees to the wilderness where God will take care of her for three and one half years.
- B. This seems to be the last half of the seven year covenant the Antichrist made with Israel. (Daniel 9:24-27)
- C. It is generally conceded that in the end time "the prince that shall come" shall confirm a covenant with Israel, let her rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.
- D. Then in the midst of the covenant he shall cause the sacrifices and the oblation to cease and bring on abominations and desolations even until the end.

IV. THE RED DRAGON IS FINALLY CAST OUT OF HEAVEN.

Verses 7-9

- A. Michael and his angels fight against the dragon and his angels.

- B. Michael and his angels win this battle and the great dragon is cast out – that old serpent, called the devil and Satan which had deceived the whole world.**

V. HEAVEN’S LOUD VOICE OF APPROVAL OVER THIS

VICTORY (verses 10-12)

- A. Loud voices were heard in the opening of the fifth seal. They asked, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?”**
- B. And it was said unto them that they should rest yet a little season until their fellowservants also and THEIR BRETHREN, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.**
- C. That time has now come – the devil knows that he has only a short time and he will make the time count for evil.**
- D. God’s people, fellowservants and our brethren, shall suffer and die – Jews and Christian brethren. The antichrist beast accuses these, even to death. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and they loved not their lives unto the death.**
- E. There is rejoicing in the heavens over Satan’s fall.**

VI. EARTH’S INHABITERS SHALL SUFFER SATAN’S WRATH.

VS. 12 – 17

- A. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea because the devil is come down unto you having great wrath, because he knows that he has only a short time. Three and one half years.**
- B. The people of God are still on earth and are about to suffer some very hard times. Verses 10 and 11 speak a preview of this.**
- C. The Jewish nation, the woman who gave birth to the man child, will be helped by God Himself during these years.**
- D. But even then Satan will make war on the remnant of her seed which seem to be separated from the main body because they have the testimony of Jesus Christ – Christian Jews.**

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. With all this on the horizon, let us ask self again – Am I prepared for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ?**
- B. If you do not know for sure, you need to make sure.**
- C. Are there others we need to speak to about their need? Let us do all we can to bring them to know Jesus in the free pardon for sin.**