

## #33 The SEVEN Personages (Part Two)

### Personage Three: Man-Child

*“And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days [3 1/2/ years]” (Revelation 12:5-6, brackets added).*

During the time period of His First Coming, Israel gave birth to none other than Jesus Christ. At His Second Coming, He will be the King of kings and Lord of lords. As He sits on the throne of David – the exact place of the Holy of Holies - He will *“rule all the nations with a rod of iron”* and we (the Church, His Bride) will reign with Him.

The woman (Israel) will flee into the wilderness where she will hide in a place God has prepared for her. She will be, as usual, well-taken care of the last 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation. Please remember that all those who are born-again during this time will be in good hands. Most Christians panic when they think about the last 3 ½ years of Satan’s rule. Worry not! God is in full protective mode by this point. In fact, when all these horrific things occur, the children of God will have front row seats in the skybox of Heaven. Just as a reminder, we will have been raptured out *before* the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation.

Let’s review Christ’s First Coming: It was 30 years from the physical birth of Jesus until His release into ministry. The start of His ministry until the Ascension was 3 ½ years. As usual, God keeps to His numeric coding and communication. In the first half of the Tribulation, there will be “peace – peace” and the second half will be “hell on wheels.” Jesus’ First Coming was for “peace on earth.” In parallel, the Second Coming of Jesus will be a bit different - His next arrival will be for judgment and revenge. Those “believers” hunting for a “Jesus” filled with “peace and prosperity” will be quite surprised! In fact, Satan will take advantage with this “seeking.” The emergent, feel good, “Christians” will be hunting for a “Mr. Nice Guy” Jesus and certainly, will find him. But the “him” will actually be Satan dressed in his Antichrist sheep clothing. He will be more than willing to offer peace - peace. About half way through this fake peace period, the tide will begin to turn. Satan will turn to annihilate all those who love the God of Abraham, as well as those married to the Lamb of God - Christians. This is why Israel will be forced to flee into this “God-prepared place” in the wilderness.

What about this wilderness? As in the first exile release (out of Egyptian slavery), God sent the sons of Israel into the wilderness devoid of natural resources to create complete dependence on Him. Israel will be cared for by her leading man – God, the Father. Most likely, He will feed her as He did in the early days with manna and quail from Heaven. This will be *the time of Jacob’s trouble, Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week, and the Abomination of Desolation*. This is what Jesus said about this time:

*“Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in*

*Judea must flee to the mountains. Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him" (Matthew 24:15-23).*

**The ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION** is a Hebrew expression meaning an abominable (offensive) or hateful destroyer. The abomination of desolation means the global (Roman) army, and is so explained by Luke 21:20. The Roman (global) army is further called the “abomination” because of the images of the emperor and the eagles carried in front of the legions, and regarded by the Romans with divine honors. So, when we see the one-world armies standing in the Holy city encamped around the newly rebuilt Tabernacle, and the Roman/World emblems or standards in the Temple, then the Christians and Jews will know the end has come and should seek a place of safety. Destruction will not only visit the “city,” but will extend to the surrounding part of Judea.

The mountains Jesus is referring to have been a favorite place of refuge throughout all ages for robbers and men of God alike. Many scholars believe this place of “prepared wilderness” will once again be Petra – the city of rock. Many Western Christians don’t realize this, but the rock Moses struck over 5,000 years ago is still springing forth water at the base of Petra. That rock was, and still is, symbolic of Christ. This is why Moses was not granted entrance into the Canaan land – for he struck the rock (Christ) instead of speaking to it (Him). The Hebrew word for *water* in this passage (Num. 20:9-12) is *living* – like the Holy Spirit.

The time of this abomination of desolation is going to happen so briskly that anyone who is on the *housetop* when it comes upon the city *should flee without delay*, not even taking the time to secure any possessions from his house. Things have to be pretty intense to not even have five minutes to grab a few personal items for one’s journey. Worse yet is being in the field working and knowing you can’t even reach for your jacket. And those pregnant women - as the Scriptures warn, pray for good weather!

Jesus said what this tribulation (meaning calamity or suffering) would consist of: *“They will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led away captive into ALL the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled”* (Luke 21:24, emphasis added). Folks – we are in the *times of the Gentiles*.

This will make the Jewish Wars of AD 70 look like child’s play. Josephus (a first-century Jewish historian) said this about those days:

*“All the calamities, says he, which had befallen any nation from the beginning of the world were but small in comparison with those of the Jews.”<sup>1</sup>*

*“And now, rushing into the city, they slew whomsoever they found, without distinction, and burned the houses and all the people who had fled into them; and when they entered for the sake of plunder, they found whole families of dead persons, and houses full of carcasses destroyed by famine, then they came out with their hands empty. And though they thus pitied the dead, they had not the same emotion for the living, but killed all they met, whereby they filled the lanes with dead bodies. ‘The whole city ran with blood,’ insomuch that many things which were burning were extinguished by the blood.”<sup>2</sup>*

A horrible instance of the distress of Jerusalem is related by Josephus in the first Roman led genocide. These were just birth pangs to what is coming in the end. In fact, Jesus said, *“Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved”* (Matt. 24:22). That’s bad!

Regarding those most turbulent times, Jesus said, *“If anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him”* (Matt. 24:23). People will be begging for someone, somewhere, to rescue and save them – anyone. Guess who steps up? You guessed it – “Mr. Nice Guy” with his perfect peace plan.

Needless to say, this will be a time of sorrow and desperation. The indwelt Christians believers will not need to worry, as they won’t be here. This is “the time of the Gentiles” to be fulfilled. This part of the Tribulation has to do with Israel and God will *shorten those days* for the sake of Israel.

One amazing fact is the infinite mind cannot conceive in thought of God having all of this perfectly timed and circumstanced according to His WILL, even *before* man was conceived. I think all of us can be certain that God has everything under control and nothing is going to happen that is not managed by the hand of God Himself.

#### **Personage Four: The Archangel**

*“And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angel’s waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time”* (Rev. 12:7-12).

**Wars in heaven?** I didn’t think there could be wars in Heaven! Well, you’re right. The word “heaven” here is *ouranos* (Greek) = sky or extension of Heaven. This is critical to understand as it would be easy to confuse this time with the point in time when Satan was thrown down to the ground, after attempting to take the throne of God. Another critical factor here is that in this fight, Satan, AND his angels, are at war with Michael, the Archangel - not with God directly. From what we can see from the Scriptures, God deals with Satan face-to-face only twice - once when Satan stood up against God as Lucifer (Ezekiel 28), and the other when Satan came before God on account of Job. Some theologians even believe the second encounter was not with God directly, but with the Son. All the other encounters are with angels, humans, and Christ Jesus, Himself. And here, we have another case of Satan (the Dragon) not being able to get to God personally, but having to deal with Michael, the Archangel.

**Who is this Michael, anyway?** He is the angel in charge of warfare. Many believe he is THE Archangel (the one who leads *all* angels). Even though he plays an active role 24/7, he is only mentioned in the Word five times (Daniel 10:13; Daniel 12:1; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7; and 1 Thess. 4:16). He certainly seems to be the highest (arch) of all angels.

*“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first” (1 Thessalonians 4:16).*

*Another important note:* Michael is the leading angel personally assigned to the Jewish people and for the preservation of the Hebrew culture, land, and customs. He is probably the chief guardian over all of God's elect - past, present, and saints to come (Daniel 12:1). Now we see him about to stand up for the "Woman" (Israel) during the time of the Great Tribulation. Without question, Michael is the warring angel who fights on the side of God's elect and all they own.

Up until now, Satan has been under the impression that he is the owner of the entire earth. Remember when he attempted to negotiate with Jesus?

*“Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go, Satan! For it is written, “YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY”” (Matt.4:8-10).*

You and I can look upon this scene and clearly see the deception Satan is under. The devil actually thinks he could have "swung a deal" with Jesus by using the very land that belonged to Jesus. As my old friend says, "Sin makes you stupid." Satan continues to make a clear case of that!

*"You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end” (Matt.24:6).*

When Jesus said this, He was speaking about human to human or human to demon wars in the opposing powers in the lower heavens. The war Revelation 12 is referencing is THE war - Michael and his angels against the devil and his angels. Don't worry - if you are a Christian of the Word, you know who wins.

Since the day Lucifer was cast out of Heaven and renamed Satan (the devil or deceiver), he has been throwing a temper tantrum beyond all temper tantrums. God knows it is in His plan to clear the earth of all evil, demons, and sin (all which summarize the curse).

*“For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now” (Romans 8:22).*

Everything groans for this final war to be over - everything, even the earth. God's creation is out of sync because of what the devil did. It all needs to be made straight, in Heaven and on earth. Colossians openly tells us how all this is to be done.

*“For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven” (Colossians 1:19-20).*

This will be done only by the hand of Jesus Christ, Himself. The blood of Jesus is about to reveal its most potent element. Without Jesus shedding His blood, there would be no remission to finish the task at hand. Oh, dear Jesus - come quickly!

*Please keep in mind that the enemy has four primary names:*

1. **The Great Dragon** - due to his relentless acts of vengeance

2. **The Old Serpent** – This is the not-so-affectionate term God gave Him after He put him on his belly in the Garden after deceiving Adam and Eve. He is like a serpent – crafty, forever cunning, and full of empty deception. Yes, Satan is a SNAKE.
3. **The Devil** – This seems to be one of God's favorite names for him, as it is used more so than all the other names for him. The devil is a personal, historical name given.
4. **Satan** – This appears to be the name that brings more negative reactions to man, beast, and the spirit world, because it formalizes his political aspirations and goals - one ruler over the earth.

There are other biblical references, or names, used (13 in total), but these four are the primary names used in the book of Revelation.

*As we look at verses 13-16 of this passage, we find details of Satan and Israel in the Tribulation.*

*“And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth” (Rev. 12:13-16).*

**Once Satan was shaken to the core** with the reality that he had been thrown down to the earth – again - he began persecuting the woman (Israel) who brought the Man-Child Jesus). Interesting as it is, the Woman was given two wings of an eagle, so she might fly into the wilderness into her place. Will Satan know where she is? Does Satan have that kind of supernatural omni-sight? This is one of those passages revealing the fact that Satan does not have the type of power the "Christian" church is used to giving him. The answer to these questions is NO! Even IF he did know where this secret hiding place was, which I doubt, he still could not touch them. We need to remember that deception makes us blind to Truth. I believe God, the Father, blinds the enemy from more of His reality than any human or demonic being can possibly imagine. Indwelt believing Christians are the only created beings who can understand Truth – thus, understanding portions of the future that God deems appropriate for us to understand. Neither Satan, nor his followers (demonic or human/unsaved) have ANY ability to understand Truth; therefore, they have no ability to look passed the ends of their selfish desires.

**Israel, once again, is exiled into the wilderness** and hidden in Christ Jesus. This time, they are NOT to be abused as slaves, but to be protected by God directly. He cares for the Israelites and nourishes them for 3½ - the worst portion of the Antichrist's rule in the Tribulation. Be assured that the enemy, Satan, can do nothing to get at her. She is completely protected from the Antichrist. I personally believe this place is Petra - shelter of the rock.

**Moments before the planned protective exile of Israel**, the snake makes his last attempt to destroy the Woman and her Man-Child. What does he do? Believe it or not, he spits out a flood in an attempt to drown the Woman. Hmm - now we have Satan trying to replicate the flood. I think not. In fact, if we look at the details of this passage closely, we will see this is the total OPPOSITE of the miracle of the Red Sea. Before, Satan (Pharaoh) was chasing the Woman (Israelites/Hebrews) by backing them into the Red Sea. God opened the waters, parted them, formed dry land, walked the Woman through, and closed the waters (flooded) on the enemies (Satan and Pharaoh). In Revelation 12, Satan attempts to do the flooding and drowning! This guy is a big grudge carrying fool! He is so predictable and easy to figure out. He uses what God did to him in the past to formulate his reactions

in the future. Since he is NOT an originator, he uses techniques and ways of God, twists them, and conducts revenge with the same way(s) God disciplines him. Sin really does make you stupid.

**As expected, God defends the Woman** (Israel), opens the earth (earthquake), and swallows up the water. Does Satan think God is just going to sit back and do nothing? When does he finally get it? He doesn't! He thinks he is the Great I AM all the way to the very end. Even as he will be cast into the lake of fire, his tail will be snatching as he goes. He is as sin makes you - you've got it - stupid.

### **Personage Five: The Jewish Remnant**

The evidence of his "stupidity" is found in what he does after realizing he cannot touch Israel. Look at verse 17:

*"So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus" (Rev 12:17).*

**As usual (just like a pouty kid)**, he goes and picks a fight with the underdog, the life of a typical "bully." A message most difficult for Satan is God is NOT easily mocked and will not be controlled by the means of any man, beast, or angel. He is the Great I AM.

**Who are these "rest of her children" the passage is referencing?** They are none other than the 144,000, the Jewish remnant. Satan knows he is unable to touch the Messianic Jews and the gentile Christians (any race who receives Jesus Christ as their indwelt Savior). For those are the ones hidden in the recesses of the wilderness (Petra). This group Satan is about to unleash his wrath upon are the remaining Jews who have not yet accepted Jesus Christ. Bad news for Satan though; because of his attack, 144,000 of them become Messianic Jews. This poor devil just can't win!

**I hate to say it, but the hard-core suffering for these folks** (their darkest hour), still lies ahead. Amazingly, it will be followed by a shout of joy in the morning. These 144,000 become an elect few who are able to glorify God in ways in which none of us in the past have been able. This group is truly a special group of body members.

**Take comfort in this little pilgrims** - the God of the Woman (Israel/Bride of Christ) is not lazy, does not sleep, never changes, and is 100% committed to His own Word. If He said it, He will do it. If you have not been completely sold out to the sovereignty of God, give yourself time; at least you won't be like Satan (unless you're unsaved when all this happens), who NEVER gets it.

In the next two articles, I will discuss personages six and seven: The Beast (Antichrist) and The False Prophet.

<sup>1</sup> *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes (1834) quoting *Jewish Wars* by Josephus, book i preface, section 4. [www.sacred-texts.com/bib/cmt/barnes/index.htm](http://www.sacred-texts.com/bib/cmt/barnes/index.htm)

<sup>2</sup> *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes (1834) quoting *Jewish Wars* by Josephus, b. 6 chapter 8, section 5; chapter 9, section 2, 3. [www.sacred-texts.com/bib/cmt/barnes/index.htm](http://www.sacred-texts.com/bib/cmt/barnes/index.htm)

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