

Revelation 12 – The Great Conflict Part 3

We are continuing our study through the book of **Revelation**.

And we left off in chapter **12** verse **9** in our last study. So let's roll back and start walking forward from verse **7**.

There's a battle that takes place that's going to have an outcome that affects two realms.

It's always great to ask questions – You read a passage – And as you're looking at it, it begs for certain questions.

The questions to ask –

When is this battle fought?

Well, this battle occurs at the mid-point of the seven-year period of the last years of God's dealings with the nation of Israel, the last seven years of the seventy weeks or the seventy seven-year periods that God determined on the nation of Israel as told by the prophet Daniel in **Daniel 9**. And verse **6** gives us that timeframe.

So that's when this battle is fought.

The next question that we would ask is - **Where is this battle fought?**

And our text tells us that this battle was waged in Heaven.

Who are the combatants?

Well, the text tells us that Michael and his angels were fighting against the dragon.

And we learned in our second study that the dragon is Satan.

Michael and his angels are fighting against Satan and his angels.

What is the outcome of this battle?

Well, again our text answers that question. Satan, the great dragon, was defeated.

And there was no longer any place for them in Heaven.

So a heavenly outcome has happened.

So that tells us that up until this happens, up until the mid-point of Daniel's 70th week, Satan has access to Heaven. And there he accuses God's people before the throne of God.

We see that actuated in **Job 1:6-12**.

And then we also see it in **Revelation 12:10**.

We closed out our time together in our last study in verse **9**, looking at some of the names given to the great dragon. And we said that those names give us tremendous insight into the nature and tactics of our adversary the devil.

“⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent,”

That's a reference to Satan in the garden tempting Eve all the way back in **Genesis 3**.

Jesus said in **John 8** that Satan is the father of lies, and that he is a liar from the beginning.

Satan does from who he is. He's the father of lies. He's a liar from the beginning. So what's he going to do? – lie.

His tactic in the very first temptation – we walked around in it a bit in our last study – **It was a three-fold lie.**

First – In **Genesis 3:1** he says, **“Has God said?”**

In other words, *“Did God say anything? God hasn't really spoken.”*

And he uses the same lie today.

He says, *“God hasn't spoken. This isn't the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God. God hasn't spoken at all.”*

The next lie – In **Genesis 3:4** he tells Eve, **“You will not surely die.”** –

“If God did speak he didn't mean what he said.”

And he uses the same lie today.

“There's really no deadly consequence to sin.”

Did God say that the wages of sin is death? He doesn't really mean that. Even if he said it, he doesn't mean it.

When he says something like, “You're not to commit adultery”, he didn't mean that for all people at all times.”

And then thirdly – He lied about the character of God.

He insinuated to Eve –
that God was unfair,
that God was unloving,
that God was keeping some good thing from her.

He says in **Genesis 3**: **“⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it”** – that fruit that God forbade them to eat –
“God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God.”

And that translates into our lives – the same lie is said today to each of us on countless occasions –
“Well, if God really loved you why is he letting this happen to you?”
“If God really loves you why won’t he give you this thing that you so desire? It’s such a good thing.”
“How could a good God and loving God withhold something so wonderful from you?”

And the point of all those lies is the lie of lies – that you can have life without God.
That was the whole end game of that three-fold lie.

Now don’t miss this, Metro – We are up against the father of lies.
He is a deceiver so beyond anything we know that he can transform himself into an angel of light.

We simply cannot rely upon our own fallen wisdom and our own fallen emotions to discern or fight against his lies.
We just can’t go there.
We just can’t function there.

That’s why we must know the truth. You and I need to know the truth.
We need to know the truth about who God is.
We need to know the truth about who we are in him.
We need to know the truth about why we should be trusting him.

And that’s why the Word of God is essential to us, Christians, because the Word of God says this –

“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

We can only know truth from the pages of Scripture.

Jesus said in **John 17**: **“¹⁷ Father, sanctify them in the truth, your Word is truth.”**

Psalm 119: **“¹³⁰ The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.”**
The **King James Version** says – **“¹³⁰ The entrance of thy words giveth light.”**
But I love the **ESV**’s reading of it - **“¹³⁰ The unfolding of your words gives light.”**

Because I believe –
That is the point, the purpose of God-Jesus giving to the Church pastors.
That is the whole point of the gift of teaching – is to unpack the truth of Scripture.

And so as we come week after week, and by God’s grace & the anointing of the Holy Spirit the Word of God is being taught, the truth is unfolded before us, and it gives light to us. It imparts understanding to us, who, in our fallen wisdom and fallen emotions we’re so simple. We need wisdom outside of us. The self-informed, self-defined, self-directed man or woman, who is trying to figure out up from down, right from wrong, truth from lies, they are dead in the face of this adversary, this liar. Satan’s lies are exposed when we are informed, defined & directed by the Word of God.

We actually walk in the truth when, by faith, we refuse to lean on our own understanding.
I hope that little phrase rings a bell. It's in –

**Proverbs 3: “⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and don't lean on your own understanding.
⁶But acknowledge him in all your ways, and he will direct your paths.”**

Satan's trying to lay landmines all over the place so that you'll step on them and be –
trashed by them,
misdirected & misinformed by them.

We actually walk in the truth –
when, by faith, we refuse to lean on our own understanding,
when we refuse to be informed by our own wisdom,
when we refuse to be informed by our own emotions.

I would venture to say that all of us can confess that at one time or another we have felt so strongly that something was right; and we were dead wrong; because you can't trust what you feel. It doesn't matter what we feel. Here's a motto born by the god of this world, Satan, the one who is directing the course of this world.

If it feels good it can't be wrong.

Well, you can't trust that; because –
The Bible says that the pleasure of sin is just for a season; but the end of it is death.
The Bible says that there's a way that seems right to man.

In your own understanding – you're doing the math; you're connecting the dots;
And you're thinking, '*Surely this and this and this – this is the right way; this seems right to me.*'
And God says, "*No, that's not the way.*"

We actually walk in the truth when, by faith, we choose to live and act as though we really do believe –
that God is true,
and that his Word is true.

You see, that's what faith is. It's actually living as though when God says something he is true.
That was the constant recurring theme of [our study through the book of Proverbs](#) –
to be informed, defined and directed by the wisdom of God.

So here's Satan, that old serpent, the liar – **“who is called the devil”** – We learned in our last study the word **“devil”** comes from a Greek word that has the meaning of defaming & slandering. The devil is the master accuser of the brethren. In verse **10** he is called **“the accuser of our brothers.”** That's his business. One of Satan's greatest devices is condemnation. I think we're short-sighted in our view of sin; Because we think, '*Okay, Satan He wants to get us to sin.*' And that's as far as we see it. Well, surely –

He loves to get us to sin;
He loves to get us to not glorify God;
He loves us living for our kingdom and for our glory;
He loves for us to fall short of the glory of God.

But he's looking way past the sin to the countless opportunities that he will have to bludgeon you with condemnation,
where you are broken over your sin;
and you are remorseful over your sin;
but you begin to think, '*Now what – between me and God?*'

He rails on you.
He accuses you.
And he tries to keep you from God.

Now God says to the Christian that – **“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”**
And it’s so important that we know the difference between conviction of sin and condemnation.
Condemnation drives you away from God, keeps you from moving to God for restoration.
Conviction – it’s not pleasant.

We know from the life of David that when he was covering his sin, and he was trying to hide his sin that he had committed, his adultery with Bathsheba, and then the murder of Bathsheba’s husband to cover up the adultery, and how while he was holding that – There was just two people in all of Israel that knew what David had done – one was David, and the other was Joab, the man who actually led the husband of Bathsheba into the battlefield to have him deliberately killed in the heat of battle by the command of King David. But God knew.

And David says, *“Your hand was so heavy on me day and night.”*
He says, *“All of the moisture in me was dried up. My bones were burning.”*
He was a wreck.

Conviction is not a happy moment. But it’s a beautiful thing from the Holy Spirit to convict us from sin; because, you see, he doesn’t want to just have us feel guilty, and hold us back from the restoration that belongs to us because of the finished work of the cross. No –

He wants to move us to the cross.
He wants to reveal to us what Jesus did on the cross so that we can receive forgiveness of sin.

Because the Bible says that –
If we cover our sin we shall not prosper;
But if we confess our sin and forsake it we will obtain mercy.

Conviction is the work of the Holy Spirit,
moving you to God,
moving you to the cross,
moving you to the throne of grace where, as it says in the book of **Hebrews** –

“you may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Your adversary the devil, he wants to accuse you, condemn you, and keep you from going to the throne of grace, where he knows if you go there you’ll receive mercy and find grace to help in this moment of failure – not because you deserve it, but because God paid for it in his Son.

If you are being hammered by condemnation you need to understand that it’s a tactic of the great dragon.
He **“is called the devil and Satan”** – The name **“Satan”** carries the meaning of **“adversary”**.

1 Peter 5: “⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful.

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ”

And we talked about that picture in our last study.
But here’s something else – this is where we’re moving forward from in this study.
Christians, know this – We are living our faith in Jesus in a very hostile context, in a very adversarial context.
Your adversary the devil, along with one-third of the angelic beings who joined him in his rebellion against God, opposes you as you seek to love, worship and serve your great Redeemer and King, the Lord Jesus. He constantly, incessantly opposes you.

Now you need to understand this, Christian – The moment you give your heart and life to Jesus you are saved. No one can take that from you. You can't lose it.
Jesus said in **John 10:10** that he came that we might have life and have it abundantly.
Once Satan loses you to Jesus, from that moment forward –
All of his efforts are to the end of keeping you from living in the abundant life that Jesus died for you to have.
That is the opposition now. That is his adversarial posture.

He has lost you to Jesus.
You are now longer blinded by him and held captive to do his will in the kingdom of death and darkness.
You have been called out of darkness into light.
You have been translated out of the kingdom of this world into the kingdom of God's beloved Son.

Now you are living as an adopted child of God – forgiven, cleansed, washed from your sin, born again by the Holy Spirit. You need to know that all of Satan's efforts from the moment of your conversion forward are to the end of keeping you from everything Jesus died for you to have. And he will relentlessly oppose all of God's gracious and redeeming purposes for you that are wrapped up in Jesus - relentlessly. He will lie to you. He will oppress you. He will relentlessly oppose you so that he can prevent you from exalting Jesus and enjoying Jesus and enjoying the abundant life that Jesus died for you to have. In our study on the Holy Spirit on mission we saw that the great goal of God on mission is Jesus forever exalted and Jesus forever enjoyed by the men and women that have been saved out of every nation, every tribe, every kindred, every tongue. But, you see, that begins on this side of forever.

We should be enjoying Jesus right now.
We should be exalting Jesus right now.

Satan is going to oppose you exalting Jesus with your time, talents and treasures.
Satan is going to oppose you constantly, relentlessly from enjoying Jesus and enjoying the abundant life that Jesus died for you to have.

“⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down,”

It says that he is the deceiver of the whole world – again emphasizing the nature and the tactic of the great dragon.

“he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”

So the outcome of the battle now has an impact on the earth.

**“¹⁰ And 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 brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.””**

So this passage is looking forward to an event yet to happen.
And as we look at the times that we're living in I believe it's in the not too distant future at all.
Presently Satan still has access to Heaven. And he also goes about the Earth.
But from this moment recorded in **Revelation 12** forward he's cast out of Heaven to the Earth.
At that point he has only one arena in which he can spend his dark destructive energies. And that explains the violent and fierce nature of the conflict that takes place upon the Earth during the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation.

**“¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony,
for they loved not their lives even unto death.”**

Wow! That is such a mountain in such a small place!
If you want to know the way to victory in the Christian life look at **Revelation 12:11**.
The accusations of Satan against you are overcome **“by the blood of the Lamb”**.

You see, it's the blood of Jesus that makes you pure before God.

In **Ephesians 1** it talks about how in Jesus Christ –
we are made acceptable to God,
that we are holy and without blame in his presence.

Doesn't that blow your mind! Think of our sins of just today.
How about our sins just from the time we walked in the doors of our church building?
I doubt if any of us have been sinless since the time we walked in the doors.

My moment was right before worship was about ready to start. And I was trying to put together the slides for the text. And because I'm such a paranoid weird guy about doing my notes, about every slide that I create when I'm putting my notes together I hit Ctl-S after every slide, because I don't want to lose the file. The only problem was I made a copy of all my notes to put the slides in. So I hit Ctl-S; and it saved over my notes. Now here I am. I'm getting ready to teach the Bible to you. And if this thing didn't cost so much money I might have been examining its aerodynamics.

Now it says we are holy and without blame in his sight – how? – **“by the blood of the Lamb”**.
When your adversary the devil and his minions come and condemn you and accuse you –
When they lie to you and tell you that God is through with you, that you have sinned one too many times –
You overcome his accusations with **“the blood of the Lamb”**.

Would you write these in the margin of your Bible there –

1 John 1: “⁷ ... the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Revelation 1: “⁵... To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.”

We're the sinners.
Yet he frees us from our sin with his blood.

There is a lot of modern church culture that is absolutely bloodless.
Much is said about biblical principles that can help us have a successful life, helps us have a better life.
But so little is said about the blood of Jesus. And that in and of itself has been a successful tactic of the devil.

When he couldn't get churches to just toss the Bible out, he couldn't get people to totally buy into the –
“Has God said? God doesn't speak. This isn't in the Bible.”
Although you can go to a lot of churches and sit in a pew and listen to somebody teach who absolutely does not believe the Bible is the inspired, infallible and inerrant Word of God – They are all over the place –
For the churches that don't deny that the Bible is the Word of God, Satan has convinced some of them that the only way to keep people in the doors / in the pews of the church is to reduce the Bible to an encyclopaedia of spiritual remedies and principles for living.

This book is the redemptive story of God.
It's about God at work in human history to redeem rebels.
There is a scarlet thread that runs through the Scriptures.
That scarlet thread is the theme of redemption by the shedding of blood.
And that theme culminates in the cross of Jesus.

I want you to write these down –

Mark 10:45

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

His life was given to redeem / ransom / buy with a price, rebels, out from under the penalty and power of sin.

Ephesians 1:7

**“⁷ In him (Jesus) we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,”**

Ephesians 2:13

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

1 Peter 1:18-20 – I want to read this from the **New Living Translation** –

**“¹⁸ For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors.
And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver.
¹⁹ It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.
²⁰ God chose him as your ransom long before the world began,
but he has now revealed him to you in these last days.”**

Satan loves it when the church is silent on that which God is so vocal about.

God is so vocal about redemption through the blood of Jesus.

All of the shedding of blood in the Levitical sacrificial system in the Old Testament was not pointless barbaric stuff. It was a shadow. It was all pointing to Jesus and his sacrifice for our sins on the cross.

God says so much about **“the blood of the Lamb”**;

Because it's the one and only thing that redeems rebels from the penalty and power of sin.

Satan has forever lied about that. He is the inventor of every false religion.

He has posited in every false religious system the lie –

that a religious system can save you,

that a religious system can redeem you.

God says there is no system of redemption that works.

Fallen man needs a redeemer. If he didn't Jesus would have never died on the cross.

The night before Jesus died he said, *“If there is another way to do this, let's do that, Father.”*

And within hours they nailed him to a cross.

You overcome the railing accusations and condemnation of the devil **“by the blood of the Lamb”**;

Because the work of Jesus on the cross for us is the ultimate demonstration of God's love. When Satan says,

“That's it – one too many times; God's done with you; God doesn't love you; You can never earn his favour again” –

The blood of the Lamb is the ultimate demonstration of God's perfect one-way constantly relentlessly pursuing rebels.

The shed blood of Jesus means that every fear-provoking thing Satan whispers into your mind is an absolute lie.

And then there's victory over temptation. We overcome temptation **“by the blood of the Lamb”**.

You see, Jesus bleeding on the cross for our sins reveals the real nature of sin.

Charles Spurgeon said –

“Satan makes sin seem pleasurable. But the cross reveals its bitterness.

If Jesus died because of sin, men begin to see that sin must be a murderous thing.”

How do you overcome temptation? You see sin for what it is – that it is so murderous that it murdered Christ.

“He was wounded for our transgression. He was crushed for our iniquities.”

Then it says they overcame Satan **“¹¹ ... by the word of their testimony,”**

What was their testimony?

They were testifying to the Gospel.

They were testifying to the truth of God's love, God's mercy, God's grace and God's justice.

And that opposes the deceiving power of Satan.

“¹¹ ... for they loved not their lives even unto death.”

They loved Jesus more than they loved their own soul.

There are times when I am preparing to teach the Word of God to you that I find places on that day where I think, ‘*How do I teach about this?*’ They loved Jesus more than they loved their own soul – *What do I know about that?* I’d like to think that I love Jesus more than my own soul. But there are just a number of things in my life that say, “*Really?*”

Because a lot of us think about the ultimate part of that, right? Would I die for him?
Would I overcome the lies and the work of the devil in this world by being willing to lay down my life for Jesus?
But long before you get there it’s – Do I love Jesus enough to live for him, let alone die for him?

And, again – I’ll speak for me; I don’t want to presume this upon you.
I can so easily find myself thinking of Jesus in terms of me.
How is Jesus going to help me today?
How is Jesus going to give me what I want in life today?
How is Jesus going to solve all of my problems today?

And think about it –
We are most defeated when we’re stuck in the mire of self-concern. Isn’t that when we just get wrecked?
We can be so wrecked; we can be so totally defeated because we’re worried about what people think about us.
We are so self-important; we are so self-absorbed, that –
If somebody doesn’t look at us the right way,
If somebody doesn’t acknowledge us in the way that we think they should acknowledge us –
 we get defeated, we get wrecked; we fall apart.
We can be so wrecked and totally defeated because we look at circumstances or adversity as being all about us.
Everything is wrong. The whole world is against me.
The way to victory is to be so in love with Jesus that you really don’t care about you.

You see, that’s not living in the theoretical.
That’s not living in the – ‘*What if today our whole culture and society turned murderously hostile against Christians?*’
Because that is life for a lot of our brothers and sisters in Jesus around the world.

When you love Jesus more than anyone or anything the opinions of people can’t wreck you, can’t rob you.
Again, how many of you have been wrecked and robbed by somebody else’s opinion of you?

But, you see –
If you love Jesus more than anyone or anything;
If Jesus is everything;
If you love Jesus more than you love your own life –
 What does anything matter?
 What does it matter what somebody thinks about you?

When you love Jesus more than you love yourself you have nothing to lose in any circumstance or any adversity;
Because you look at those circumstances, you look at those adversities, as being about –
 Jesus and his glory,
 not you and your glory.

And when Jesus is big, the smaller the problem is.
And when we love Jesus more than we love ourselves we have nothing to lose in any circumstance, in any adversity;
Because we see them as being about Jesus and his glory.
And when Jesus is the love of our life, his glory becomes our joy.
Thus the way to victory is to love Jesus more than you love yourself.

And then you get out to the hypothetical.
At least in our culture it's a hypothetical.
It's reality in a lot of places around the world.

If I really believe that **“to live is Christ and to die is gain”**, as Paul says in **Philippians 1:21**;
Then even Satan's violent attacks against me can only bring victory.
What are they going to do? – Get me to Heaven.

May the Holy Spirit show us Jesus in such a life-changing way that we'd love Jesus more than we love our own soul.

“¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!” ¹³ And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.”

Now in our last study we established from the Scriptures that –
The woman signifies Israel;
The male child is Jesus.

God's plan and purpose for Israel, his plan and purpose for calling Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees, Abram, who would later be called Abraham, who would become the father of Isaac, who would become the father of Jacob, whom God would rename as Israel, and he would have these sons who would become the heads of the tribes of a nation – from one man a nation so that through the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob the Saviour would come into this world. And said that Satan has always hated the Jews because of that.

Dr John Walvoord said – *“The persecution of Israel is part of the satanic program to thwart and hinder the work of God. Israel is hated by Satan, not because of any of its own characteristics, but because she is the chosen of God and essential to the overall purpose of God for time and eternity.”*

And Satan inspired genocidal efforts against Israel prior to the birth of Jesus, hoping that could thwart the entrance of the Messiah into the world. God thwarted all of those genocidal efforts. Jesus was born. And then we saw in our last study in this chapter how once the child was born Satan was going to try to destroy the child. And hence Herod the Great tried to kill all the male children who were two-years old and younger in Bethlehem.

But why this all-out attack by Satan against Israel at this point in history, that point of history in **Revelation 12**? This is all transpiring in the last seven-year period of God's dealings with Israel as foretold by Daniel in **Daniel 9**. Satan seeks to destroy Israel as the time draws near for the Messiah to return to the earth. And he is going to come back. And when he comes back he's coming back to rule and to reign. When Jesus ascended into heaven in the book of **Acts** there was an angel that stood there, and said, *“Why are you standing there looking? This same Jesus is going to come back the same way he left.”* He is going to come in clouds of glory. And so at this period of time the Messiah's return to the earth as promised in the Scriptures is drawing near. In the plans and purposes of God Jesus is going to be seated on the throne of David. And he will rule the world in righteousness from Jerusalem. And according to **Zechariah 12:9; 14:21**, a Jewish remnant must be ready to receive him and form the nucleus of his kingdom.

“¹⁴ But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness,”

Now there are those people who think this pictures a mass evacuation by way of modern super transport planes. I don't think we have to look at this in a literal way; Because God uses this very imagery in the Old Testament when God intervened to deliver Israel from Egypt.

Exodus 19: “⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians,
and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.’”

God cared for the Israelites in the wilderness, as an eagle would care for her young.

Deuteronomy 32: “¹¹ Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions, ¹² the LORD alone guided him, no foreign god was with him.”

Israel’s return from captivity in Babylon is likened to an eagle.

Isaiah 40: “³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.”

So this is figurative language, speaking of God making a way for Israel to be delivered.

“¹⁴ ... so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness,”

And Jesus spoke of this very thing. Write these down in the margin of your Bible there.

Mark 13: “¹⁴ “But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”

Luke 21: “²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²² for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written.”

Matthew 24: “¹⁵ “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.”

Now just a note in passing about the importance of prophecy in Scripture –

If you have a red-letter edition of the Bible whether it’s electronic or in print, the words of Jesus are in red there.

Jesus is quoting Daniel’s prophecy. That prophecy of Daniel is so important that Jesus quotes it.

And it’s yet future as Jesus is in this world in his public ministry. It’s yet out in front in the history of the world.

Revelation 12:6 & 14 refer to the refuge as a desert. The Gospel passages refer to them as mountains.

There is no contradiction. Both desert & mountains are the wilderness.

If you’ve ever been to Israel, that is the deal, especially as you look across to Jordan.

“¹⁴ ... to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.”

“a time” is 1 year

“times” is 2 years

“half a time” is six months.

This is the most documented period of time in the Bible.

Daniel 7:25; 12:7 reference this specific time.

Revelation 11:2; 13:5 refer to those same 3 ½ years as forty-two months.

Whether you’re looking at it as time, times, and half a time –

Or whether you’re looking at it as 42 months –

It’s the last 3 ½ years of the 70 weeks of **Daniel 9**.

“¹⁵ The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood.”

Now some have taken this as a literal flood.

But, again, we see this same language used in Scripture to describe armies.

This is from a commentary on **Revelation** by **Joseph Seiss**. It's a great book. He was writing in the 1800s. And, by the way, the thing I love about these old guys, a lot of these dead guys, is when you read their commentaries, almost all their commentary is just referencing other Scriptures. If you read **Matthew Henry's** commentary, he has any Scripture reference in italics. And you read his commentary on a passage; and almost the whole comment on the passage is italicized, because he's just using Scripture. So here's what **Joseph Seiss** says –

“When Pharaoh-Necho went up with his armies against Babylon, Jeremiah exclaimed: “Who is this that comes up like a flood, whose waters are moved as the rivers? Egypt rises up like a flood, and his waters are moved like the rivers.” (Jeremiah 46:7, 8) When Nebuchadnezzar came with his Chaldean forces against Tyre and Sidon, the Lord said, “Behold, waters rise up out of the north, and shall be an overflowing flood, and shall overflow the land, and all that is therein; then the men shall cry, and all the inhabitants of the land shall howl.” (Jeremiah 47:2) So here, John beheld, “And the serpent cast forth from his mouth after the woman water like a river, that he might cause her [to be] carried away by the river.” The interpretation is evident. Soldiers are despatched to assail and overwhelm her in her retreat, and to destroy her there where God is nourishing her. It is not “a flood” or a vast and universally devastating army, but “water like a river”, a smaller expedition for one definite purpose, which keeps within its own track to the one end; to wit, the destruction of these fugitives lodged in the wilderness. It would sweep her away—quench her existence in blood—if no help came to her relief. But man's extremity is God's opportunity. What does the record say? “The earth helped the Woman””

Verse **16** says that - **“¹⁶ But the earth came to the help of the woman,”**

Now whether it's the very topography of where they're going to be on the other side of Jordan that made it impossible for the military forces that were coming, or whether somehow somehow – we know in the Old Testament that the earth actually opened up and swallowed the adversaries of Moses when they were in the wilderness.

“the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.”

The ultimate thing is God is going to do this.

The passage describes God's ultimate protection of Israel from the fury of Satan in the great tribulation.

**Isaiah 59: “¹⁹ ... When the enemy comes in like a flood,
The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.”**

**“¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring,
on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.
And he (the great dragon) stood on the sand of the sea.”**

So when Satan is unable to get to the Jews who fled to the wilderness he'll turn against those who didn't flee.
And he is going to seek to exterminate them.

When Jesus was talking with the Jews who had rejected him, he said in –

**Matthew 23: “³⁹ For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say,
‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”**

Jesus is speaking about the very time that we just read in this chapter.

Israel is going to go through this time of great tribulation.

At the end of 1,260 days Jesus is going to come again to this earth.

He's going to set his feet on the Mount of Olives.

The Mount of Olives is going to split in the middle, we're told in **Zechariah 14:4**.

And he is going to establish God's rule on the earth.

And the nation of Israel is going to be saying, "**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**"

In our next study we're going to dive into chapter 13.

And we're going to be introduced to the Anti-Christ.

I'm going to leave you here with a quote from **Joseph Seiss** concerning this Anti-Christ.

Here's a little tease for our next study.

*"Through all the ages of our world, there has been –
a Cain for every Abel,
a Jannes and Jambres for every Moses and Aaron,
a Babylon for every Jerusalem,
a Herod for every John the Baptist,
and a Nero for every going forth of God's consecrated apostles,-
all the types and precursors of the ultimate heading up of all evil in one final foe, which is the Antichrist."*

That's a pretty formidable introduction to the man we're going to learn about in our next study.

There is now a whole lot for us to respond to, especially as it comes to victory –
overcoming our adversary the devil,
understanding his tactics,
the need to know Jesus,
loving Jesus more than we love ourselves.
There is so much for us to respond to.

If you don't know Jesus you need to understand that we are presently living in the same reality of this conflict that is seen in such ferocity in **Revelation 12**.

And right now you are in one of two camps.

There's the kingdom of life & light, ruled by the King of righteousness, the Prince of peace, Jesus.

There's the kingdom of death & darkness, ruled by the father of lies, who –

Jesus says, all he wants to do is steal, kill & destroy.

And here's the good news. The good news is the record that God loves you. It's not advice. It's a report of what God has done to save you in the sending of Jesus that God became man in order to redeem you and deliver you from that kingdom, the kingdom of death and darkness, and make you a citizen of his kingdom. The means of your salvation – God became man and died on a cross - the only way you could be saved from your great enemies of sin and death. And you need to know this if you're not a Christian. Those are your enemies. They are very real. At this moment you live under the power of sin and death apart from Jesus Christ. But we read time and again that you can be redeemed from the penalty and power of sin by the blood of the Lamb, the Lord Jesus.

Father, thank you for the Gospel that's in this chapter. Thank you, Lord, that the book of Revelation reveals Jesus to us. Thank you, Father. Holy Spirit, we thank you that it's your great passion to reveal and exalt Jesus. And I pray if there is anyone who needs to know you that in the hearing of the Word of God that they would know that they need a Saviour, and that they would believe on the Lord Jesus with their heart and be saved

These moments of decision are appointed by God.

They are the mercy of God to bring you to a place where you can hear the good news of Jesus.

Don't miss the moment.

I'm going to lead you in a prayer.

It's a very simple prayer.

And I want you to pray this prayer out loud after me.

Lord Jesus,

*I confess that I'm a sinner.
Please forgive me of my sin.*

*Come live in my heart.
Cause me to be born again.
Make me a brand new person from the inside out.*

*Give me the strength to live for you.
Give me the strength to love you.
Give me the strength to serve you until I meet you face to face.*

*Thank you for loving me.
Thank you for dying for me.
Thank you for the gift of eternal life.*

In you wonderful name I pray, amen.

That is a thank you Jesus moment.