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A STUDY OF SATAN AND HIS ULTIMATE DOWNFALL

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION
REVELATION 12:1-6
NUMBER 19

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REVELATION 12:1-6 "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 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. 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 three-score days."

For a preliminary study of Satan let us turn to Ezekiel 28.

EZEKIEL 28:11-12 "Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty."

"Son of Man" is simply a title for the prophet. The phrase of "King of Tyrus" simply refers to a king who was possessed with Satan, and the things that are said to this king are really said to Satan.

"Thou sealest up the sum" means that Satan was created with perfect proportions. It refers to beauty in terms of symmetry. Satan was the most beautiful creation that ever came from the hand of God.

"Full of wisdom" means that Satan was a perfect genius. Satan is the smartest creature God ever created.

"Perfect in beauty" refers to the fact that Satan was the most beautiful one God ever created. Satan is almost beyond human comprehension in beauty. Satan was the most beautiful of all the angels. (Satan is not as we usually picture him--dressed in red with horns and with pitchfork in his hand.)

EZEKIEL 28:13 "Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created."

This refers to a garden that existed long before the Garden of Eden in Genesis 1. This is a description of the clothing of Satan. These are the same stones as found in the breastplate of the High Priest. They will be found in the building of the New Jerusalem and are found here in Satan's headquarters. "Tabrets and pipes" refers to the fact that Satan has the most beautiful voice of all God's creation. Satan was possibly the best public speaker of all time and in this way he persuaded one-third of the angels to side with him.

EZEKIEL 28:14 "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire." Satan is called "The Messianic Cherub". He was originally the guardian angel of Jesus Christ. He had access to the throne room of God. Christ personally appointed him to this high office. "Walking up and down" means Satan had access to Heaven. He lived in the presence of God.

EZEKIEL 28:15 "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee."

"Thou wast perfect in all thy ways until". The "Until" explains that there came a time when the relationship was broken. "Iniquity was found in thee" explains Satan's sin. The five "I wills" of Satan are described in Isaiah 14.

So this is the first fall of Satan and described his negative volition. Please notice Satan was created perfect and fell.

EZEKIEL 28:16 "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire." Here we have the second and third falls of Satan outlined.

"Multitude of thy merchandise" refers to the fact that Satan had a plan for destroying man and the universe. "I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God" refers to the second fall of Satan and it occurs in the middle of the Tribulation. This is why the second half of the Tribulation is called "The great Tribulation". Revelation 12:7-9 describes this second fall of Satan. "I will destroy thee" refers to the third fall of Satan, and this comes at the end of time at the great judgment throne of God.

EZEKIEL 28:17 "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee." In this verse we are given an explanation of why the falls occurred. Satan fell the first time because of pride and because of mental attitude sins. This is a summary of that fall. This verse also explains that angels and Satan were clothed with light.

EZEKIEL 28:18 "Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee." Here is the third fall of Satan. Millions of angels bought Satan's plan and fell with him. Revelation 20:10 describes this final act of Satan being cast into the final hell.

Let us turn now to Isaiah 14

"Lucifer" is a Hebrew word meaning bright and shining. This indicates angelic beings are dressed in light.

ISAIAH 14:12 "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" This is describing the second fall of Satan. (Also in Rev. 12:9-11) Please notice--one thing Satan does is to weaken the nations. He does this by Internationalism and by Socialism and Communism. Satan is against nations and he does his best to destroy them.

In verses 13 and 14 we have the five "I wills" of Satan and please notice that it is mental attitude sins that started all the trouble. Each time Satan said, "I will" it was negative volition.

ISAIAH 14:13-14 "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High."

1. "I will ascend into Heaven" and this means to take over God's throne.
2. "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God". Stars of God are angels and Satan was planning to take all the angels away from God.
3. "Sit upon the mount of the congregation" refers to ruling the world.

4. "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds" refers to ruling all mankind.
5. "I will be like God" means that he will take God's place.

This is the description of the first fall of Satan.

ISAIAH 14:15 "Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."

This is the third fall of Satan.

So in these verses in Isaiah 14 we have a short explanation of Satan's attempt to take over the universe.

THE THREE SOURCES OF EVIL

1. The world. This refers to the mental attitude of the person who has human viewpoint.
2. The flesh. This is the old sin nature.
3. The Devil. This is the person called the Devil.
Satan tries to exalt self and control God. He tries to counterfeit God. Satan tries to get men to act independently of God. He is the ruler of this world. He took it away from man.
JOHN 12:31 "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out."
JOHN 14:30 "Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me."
JOHN 16:11 "Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."
He is the prince of the power of the air.
EPHESIANS 2:2 "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" Satan is the God of this age.
2 CORINTHIANS 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."
Satan tries to disrupt the dispensational pattern of God. He is the chief enemy of the Christian. He is the first creature that ever rebelled against God. He rebelled and took one-third of the angels with him.
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."
He is a liar from the beginning.
JOHN 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."
We have already seen that he weakens the nations.
He causes war and strife.
REVELATION 20:2 "And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years"
REVELATION 20:7 "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison"
REVELATION 20:8 "And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea."
He blinds the minds of the lost.
He indwells certain people, like Judas and the Dictator of the Revived Roman Empire.
He takes the Word of God out of the minds of the unbeliever so they will not believe.
LUKE 8:12 "Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved."

LOOK AT THE DEVIL'S STRATEGY

2 CORINTHIANS 2:11 "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

1. HIS STRATEGY WITH REGARD TO BELIEVERS.

Since Satan can no longer attack Christ he contents himself with attacking believers. He seeks to accuse all Christians and he keeps a complete card index file on all of our sins.

REVELATION 12:9-10 "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. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."

JOB 1:6-11 "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face."

ZECHARIAH 3:1-2 "And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?"

Christ is our Defense Attorney and when in the Court of Heaven Satan accuses us Christ steps forward and defends us. It is thrown out of court and it becomes a family matter with God and he administers discipline according to his perfection.

1 JOHN 2:1-2 "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

2. HIS SECOND STRATEGY IS TO GET PEOPLE TO IGNORE THE WORD OF GOD.

He encouraged Adam and Eve to ignore the Word of God in Genesis 3.

GENESIS 3:4 "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:" He encouraged David to ignore the Word of God.

1 CHRONICLES 21:1 "And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel."

He encourages believers to worry.

1 PETER 5:7-9 "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

Satan doesn't want people to believe the promises of God.

3. THE THIRD STRATEGY OF SATAN IS TO DISTORT SCRIPTURE.

Satan misquoted and misapplied Scripture from Psalm 91 when he quoted it and tried to get Jesus to jump off a cliff and commit suicide. Satan's platform is called Doctrine of Demons.

1 TIMOTHY 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"

Satan's plan is called Satan's Communion Table.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:19-21 "What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."

Satan's work is called Satan's evangelism.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:13-15 "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

4. THE FOURTH STRATEGY OF SATAN IS TO HINDER CHRISTIANS CONCERNING THE WILL OF GOD.

He hinders the operational will of God.

GALATIANS 5:7 "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?"

He hinders Christians in the geographical will of God.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:18 "Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us."

5. THE FIFTH STRATEGY OF SATAN IS TO TRY TO GET BELIEVERS TO TAKE THEIR EYES OFF CHRIST.

Satan tries to get people to center their eyes on themselves and others.

GENESIS 3:5 "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

Satan tries to get people so involved in his work that they will have no time to witness for Christ.

6. SATAN HAS A STRATEGY TOWARD NATIONS.

Nationalism is a divine institution and Satan tries to destroy nations.

Satan is a great internationalist.

REVELATION 12:9 "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."

REVELATION 20:3 "And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."

REVELATION 20:8 "And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea."

7. SATAN HAS A STRATEGY TOWARD UNBELIEVERS.

Satan tries to blind the minds of unbelievers.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-4 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

LUKE 8:12 "Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved."

2 THESSALONIANS 2:9-10 "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

Satan is a counterfeit.

COLOSSIANS 2:8 "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

So in Revelation 12 and 13 we have the Unholy Alliance. It is made up of Satan, The beast out of the sea who is the ruler of the Revived Roman Empire, and the beast out of the Land, who is the Dictator of Palestine.

Revelation 12 depicts the period of Anti-Semitism, the worst period of Anti-Semitism the world has ever known.

Anti-Semitism is Satanic in nature. In Genesis 12:1-3 there is a warning against Anti-Semitism. So this principle has a very definite bearing on the rise and fall of nations.

In the Encyclopedia Britanica (Edition 14) there is an article about the Jews. Here is one paragraph from that article--

"It is a noteworthy fact of history that great conquerors like Alexander The Great, Caesar, and Napöleon have always treated the Jews well. Nevertheless lesser endowed men with narrow outlook have failed to recognize the Jews and have sought to crush them. But such methods of tyranny are contrary to nature. The Jew has survived and has lived to see their opponents disappear."

We know that Assyria was destroyed because of Anti-Semitism. The Inquisition in Spain was organized to crush the Jews and because of this Spain went down and England rose up, reaching her greatest height under Queen Victoria.

WE SHOULD JUDGE THE JEW ON THESE FIVE PRINCIPLES

1. A Jew should be evaluated as an individual.
2. We have to evaluate a nation of Jews today called Israel. Under Zionism many Jews have returned to their land but not as believers. Zionism is a Satanic project.
3. An American citizen who is a Jew should be evaluated just as any other individual American.
4. Certain Jews are Internationalists--Like Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, German Jews who founded Communism. They should be evaluated just like any other Gentile Internationalist.
5. A Jew who becomes a believer ceases to be a true Jew and becomes a member of the body of Christ and should be evaluated as such.

Look at Revelation 12:9 "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." The great dragon was cast out--This is the second fall of Satan and the unbelieving angels were cast out with him. The Bible has much to say about angels. Most of the Christian world smiles when you mention angels. But angels play a very vital part in the understanding of the Bible record and the Devil and his angels don't like exposure.

REVELATION 12:1 "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:"

In this passage we will see Anti-Semitism briefly summarized and we will see how it existed in the Tribulation.

The words "And there appeared" refers to the fact that this was exactly the right moment in history for these things to happen. That is always true with God. His clock is never one minute off. "A great wonder" means a great sign, a great miracle.

"A woman clothed with the sun". The woman is Israel in the Tribulation.

"Clothed" is in the perfect tense and means she was clothed in the past and has retained her clothing. The clothing to which this refers are the genes of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Remember, these three men were all born again. Israel, regardless of the Satanic attempts to destroy her, will always remain. "The sun" refers to Jacob and "The Moon" to the wives of Jacob, Rachel and Leah. The twelve stars refers to the twelve patriarchs, the twelve sons of Jacob.

REVELATION 12:2 "And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered." "She" is a reference to the seed of the woman concept we have in Genesis 3:15, but specifically this "She" refers to Israel. Israel has a child and that child is Jesus The Messiah. "Cried" here refers to the pressure from Satan that has always been upon Christ and the Jewish nation. "Travailing in birth and pained to be delivered" refers to the virgin birth of Christ. Satan made many attacks, first to prevent the virgin birth, and then after the virgin birth was promised by God, Satan tried to infiltrate the human race and destroy it, according to the story in Genesis 6.

REVELATION 12:3-4 "And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 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." This is the second sign. Now we meet the great red dragon. The Greek word for dragon is "Drakon". It was used by Homer and the word means to see clearly and means to be smarter than anyone else. This dragon is a super-smart demon. He is a genius. Satan is the one to which this refers. He is more beautiful than anyone else and was able to deceive nations. "Rahab" is the Hebrew word for dragon and it means exactly the same as the Greek word. Red is used here to describe rulership. The "Seven heads" refers to the seven empires who have defeated Israel in the past--Egypt, Assyria, Chaldea, Persia, Macedonia, The Roman Empire, and the Revived Roman Empire of the Tribulation. We will meet them and study them in great detail in Revelation 17:8-13.

The ten horns are the ten nations that make up the Revived Roman Empire. Evidently the United States will be one of these nations. Daniel 2:41-45 and Daniel 7:20-22 describe these ten horns. The seven crowns will be studied in Rev. 17:8-13.

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." The tail of the great red dragon represents Satan's intelligence in action and includes one-third of the angelic creation. They were all thrown out because they believed as Satan believed. "Ready to be delivered" means that Satan kept an eye on Christ every moment, in his birth and afterwards. This is a very important part of the Christmas story as you know

REVELATION 12:5 "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." This refers to the First Advent of Christ. Christ hasn't yet ruled all nations but one day he will. The Child being caught up to God refers to Christ's ascension.

Between verse 5 and verse 6 the whole Church Age takes place. It is not mentioned here.

REVELATION 12:6 "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 three-score days." This is Israel's flight in the Tribulation. She fled into the desert where God had prepared a place for her in the mountains of Edom, Moab and Ammon. To understand this read Matthew 24:13-26.