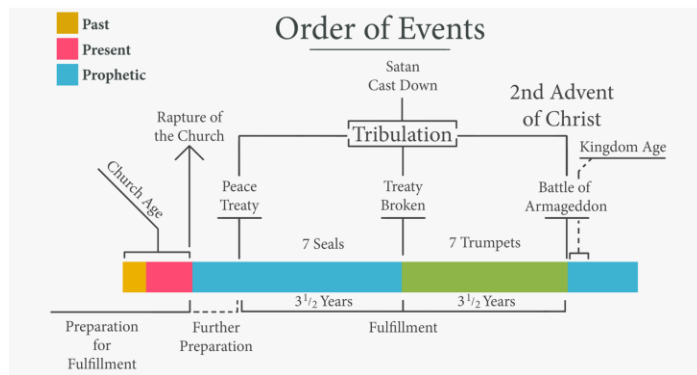


Revelation 12:13-13:10 – Persecuted Woman And Beast From The Sea



Rev. 12:13-17: *“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. But the woman was...”*

- Vs. 13, when the dragon is cast out, he goes after Israel. This could be pointing to the armies of Eze. 38. During supposed peace, the antichrist will turn on Israel, and other nations will also come against the Jewish people.
- Vs. 14 notes that Israel heads into the wilderness where she is protected for 3 ½ years (Mt. 24:15-22). God will protect Israel no matter where they flee to.
- “Eagle’s wings” and God’s leading and protection is found in the OT (Ex. 19:4; Jer. 38:40; Deut. 32:11-12). Some say this is the U.S. Air Force. I do not.
- Vs. 15 is a picture of the enemies’ attempt to destroy Israel. There is no water source in Israel that could make this occur. Is the river a military attack? Note the word “like” a flood.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary notes regarding vs. 15, *“Some have taken this as a literal flood, but since Israel could flee in every direction the contour of the Holy Land does not lend itself to such a flood. Probably the flood represents Satan’s effort to exterminate Israel. This is thwarted by the rough terrain which provides hiding places. In some way God assists the Israelites so that they are not completely destroyed, though Zechariah 13:8 indicates that “two-thirds will be struck down and perish.””*

- Vs. 16 shows the care God has for His people. If there is an attempt to destroy Israel militarily (the flood), God protects His people by using an earthquake or the ground opens up to destroy them. Some see Eze. 38, and armies attacking Israel at a time of peace, which is not the case here, as prophetic of what we are reading in Rev. 12.
- Some believe the flood of vs. 16 are lies and deceit aimed at destroying Israel or attempts to destroy Christians in the last day.
- Vs. 17 tells us that the enemy, not able to completely destroy those of Israel who have not escaped into the wilderness, goes after “her children.” There is the thought that at this time in Israel’s history they have turned to the Messiah. Some think this verse is a reference to the rest of the Jews who had not escaped

and now are attacked by the enemy. Zech. 13:7-9 tells us two-thirds of these believers are killed.

- The “offspring” of vs. 17 could also refer to martyred believers, since the Messiah came through Israel, and salvation is through Him. People are saved during the tribulation. These would be tribulation saints.

Rev. 13:1-8: *“And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. And the beast...”*

- Vs. 1 introduces us to the beast. Is it an individual or a group of nations? Some say that Dan. 7:7-8; 19-28 indicates that this represents an unholy alliance, yet of the context of Rev. 13 seems to point to an individual who is the leader of this kingdom. It probably represents the empire led by the little horn of Daniel.
- The sea (vs. 1) may represent people (Rev. 17:15), literal oceans, or the abyss or pit.
- Vs. 2 gives a description of the beast. These are a reference back to Dan. 7:3-7. This beast, this empire, has all the power of these previous empires and more.
- Vs. 3, the mortal wound to the head, has led a few to speculate that John F. Kennedy was going to be brought back as the antichrist, the world leader. What about this wound?

A) J. Dwight Pentecost believe that it represents the restoration of a former method of government that ceased to exist.

B) Scofield explains the healing of the head in that fragments of the Roman government have ceased to exist, and this is the restoration of the Roman form of government with one emperor (the beast).

C) If the beast of vs. 1 represents an individual, it does not mean that they were raised from the dead. Only Christ can raise the dead (Jn. 5:28-29; Rev. 20). There is the view that it is a fake death and resurrection or that it is an individual who died and came back to life.

D) We do know counterfeit miracles will take place in the tribulation (2 Thess. 2:9-12). The wound must be important for it is mentioned three times (Rev. 13:2, 12,14).

E) Look closely at vs. 3. Though the same word for “wound” in vs. 3 is used to describe the death of Christ in Rev. 5:6, John clearly states that the beast did not die. I believe either they make a miraculous recovery from the wound, or it was a ploy to get people to follow them. Note the word “seemed” (similar) to a mortal wound. I do not believe they die but recover from a wound that should have killed them. Or they make it appear that the antichrist died and was raised to life.

- I do not think that vs. 4 is telling us that people openly worship our spiritual enemy, but by worshipping this false leader they are worshipping the one who empowers them. No one can fight against him.
- At this point in the tribulation period he has incredible authority, more than at the beginning of the seven years.

- In vss. 5-6 we see the antichrist blaspheming God, the temple (abomination of desolation), heaven, and it is given authority to rule for the last half of the tribulation (see Dan. 7:25). He openly blasphemes God.
- Keep in mind that God is allowing this to take place. God is still in control.

** Note the comparison chart here from Chuck Swindoll:

Daniel 7:25; 9:27; 12:7 Revelation 11-13	
7 years	
3½ years 2 Witnesses Temple Restored Israel Flees Saints Protected Trumpets	3½ years 2 Beasts Temple Desecrated Israel in Wilderness Saints Martyred Bowls

- In vs. 7 the antichrist makes war on the saints. Some think this is the Jews who have turned to Christ who were unable to flee to the wilderness. He does persecute the Jews and I believe, any remaining tribulation saints or any that come to Christ during this period of time. He is allowed to do this by God (Dan. 7:25; Mt. 24:15-22). God is still in control.
- This world leader has power over all people.
- Vs. 8 says the world will worship the antichrist, thus our spiritual enemy (2 Thess. 2:9-12). The unbelieving world will buy into this great delusion.

Practical Application:

- God's prophetic timetable is perfect and will be completed. We can trust that God's way of doing things is the best way, whether we fully grasp it or not. This is where faith comes in.
- We must pray for those who need Christ and reach out to them the best that we can. The tribulation period will be horrible.