

# Book of Revelation – The Great Controversy Chapter of the Bible (Revelation 12)

Series REV-24

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## The Great Controversy Theme

We have come to the most comprehensive chapter, possibly in all the Bible. What a privilege we have that God has given us this picture, like none other in His word.

We are told to read and study Revelation 12:

*There are only two parties upon the earth—those who stand under the bloodstained banner of Jesus Christ and those who stand under the black banner of rebellion. Those who stand under Christ's banner bear the sign of obedience spoken of in Exodus 31:12-18. Please read this Scripture carefully. **In the twelfth chapter of Revelation is represented the last great conflict between the obedient and the disobedient.** {14MR 161}*

*There is need of a much closer study of the Word of God; especially should Daniel and the Revelation have attention as never before in the history of our work... we should call attention to what the prophets and apostles have written under the inspiration of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit has so shaped matters, both in the giving of the prophecy, and in the events portrayed, as to teach that the human agent is to be kept out of sight, hid in Christ, and **the Lord God of heaven and His law are to be exalted.** {CW 45,46}*

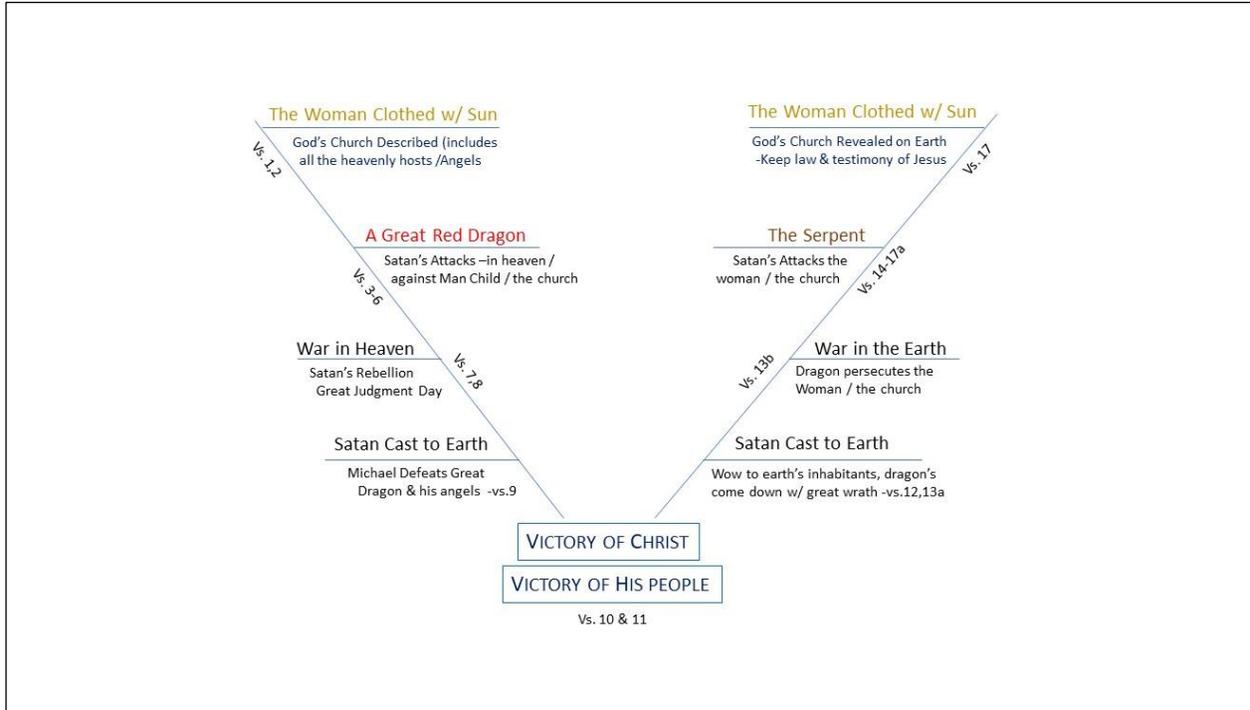
Here are some points for consideration re. this chapter:

- Revelation 12 is a new prophecy dealing with God's church in conflict with the powers of evil (darkness) till the end of chapter 19.
- It is the most comprehensive chapter in the entire Bible—taking us from the war in heaven (beginning of evil) all the way down to the last generation.
- The Great Controversy (the theme-main them) between good and evil is a controversy between Christ and Satan.
- It is a controversy over Satan's rebellion – contesting the authority of the Son of God, particularly over the law of God. [Note 11:19 & 12:17 encapsulates the entire chapter.]

**Revealed** - Ark of Covenant (housing the law of God)

**Demonstrated** - God's Remnant People (Keeping Comm of God)

We will now look at some questions for discussion about Rev 12, but first a depiction of the structure of the chapter.



➤ How would respond to the following:

- Someone on a social media post in a discussion brings up this woman of Rev 12 and says it's the Virgin Mary. What would you say to them (be wise with your reply?)
- You're out taking a walk, on your return back to the house, the neighbor is out doing some yard work and calls you over. {He knows you're a Christian, but he is an agnostic, because he cannot harmonize the picture of a loving God permitting all the evil due to all these pedophiles who do horrible things to little girls and boys.} How would clear up the misunderstanding of God's character and the origin of sin? (Be sure to bring in Rev 12.)
- From the diagram above, could you explain, to the same neighbor above (if he truly expressed interest in your ongoing conversion) the flow of this chapter and the main events as depicted above?
- In the coming crisis, God's people will be tested severely. The attacks of Satan will come early on from apostate SDA brethren in every way, shape and form—ridicule, criticism, cast doubt and discredit, etc—for the one purpose of trying to break our faith and calm trust in the Lord Jesus and His reliance on His word. Do we have the confidence today, to explain then the peculiar truths we hold dear?

Over the next few weeks, we will be studying this chapter in detail. The Lord will direct us as we seek Him for guidance and understanding in these matter. But we must be earnest and prayerful about learning and applying what we learn.

Only God's people of all people have a solid grasp on the subject matter of this Book and particularly the Great Controversy Theme.

What are the three truths which stand out as to why this may be:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Can you point to passages in the Revelation to support biblically your answer? If so, just write them off to the side on the right.

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Next week, we will get into the minutia of Revelation 12. We will also begin to look at a case study from the Old Testament. In closing this lesson, let us meditate upon this statement.

*Measuring the Church of God—The grand judgment is taking place, and has been going on for some time. Now the Lord says, Measure the temple and the worshipers thereof. Remember when you are walking the streets about your business, God is measuring you...when you are attending your household duties, when you engage in conversation, God is measuring you. Remember that your words and actions are being photographed in the books of heaven, as the face is reproduced by the artist on the polished plate....*

*Here is the work going on, measuring the temple and its worshipers to see who will stand in the last day. Those who stand fast shall have an abundant entrance into the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. When we are doing our work remember there is One that is watching the spirit in which we are doing it. Shall we not bring the Saviour into our everyday lives, into our secular work and domestic duties? Then in the name of God we want to leave behind everything that is not necessary, all gossiping or unprofitable visiting, and present ourselves as servants of the living God (Manuscript 4, 1888); 7BC 972.1,2*