

## ***Life after Death Part 13***

### ***Revelation Chapter 12***

#### ***Christ Second Coming - the Tribulation***

We will continue in this message our discussion about life after death and the events at the second coming of Christ from the book of Revelation.

**Revelation 12**, speaks about the war for the Kingdom of God. It is a spiritual and a real war between the Kingdom of God and Satan and its demons. **Revelation 12** reveals the supremacy of Christ and His Kingdom over Satan and the kingdom of darkness; for He is the beginning and the end and has the power, potency and supremacy over Satan inspite of all the perils during the period of tribulation. **That would also encourage us today and make us realize that inspite of all the spiritual battles and real impacts of those evil events on reality, we still need to have confidence in the victory that every day we are receiving in Christ Jesus, as well as, the victory that Christ will gain for us in the coming future and the victory that He will get in the period of tribulation.** Let us read and meditate:

***“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:*** (A great wonder that is something amazing took place in Heaven. The first character was a woman of splendor, perhaps representing Israel, or the church today. God is the husband and we are His church, the wife. The Church of God today on earth is a wonderful thing that God is doing in the midst of His people. The majesty or the glory of the Israel of God or God’s church is represented by being clothed by the sun and her authority represented by the moon being under foot. We as God’s church has great authority, represented further by wearing a crown with 12 stars representing the 12 tribes of Israel in the Old Testament and the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ in the New Testament, sharing in the authority and victory that God had given to His church. **Here it is very clear, even we are in trials and tribulations, we are not alone, but God is with us and He had given us power and authority and He will fight for us and with us against the power of darkness.**) ***2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.*** (The woman also can be Mary, and she is pregnant with a child. The child represents Jesus Christ our Lord. The woman is ready to deliver the child. Here the church is in mission: The woman can be the church and the child, are the disciples that the church is called to go and make. The woman can be a Godly woman or the Godly parents that wants to raise their children in a Godly way. The process of raising Godly children or the process of making disciples is a painful and travailing process; the same and as painful as the delivery of the pregnant woman. **\* Therefore, we as God’s church, we as Godly parents, are in toil, travail, till that child or those disciples mature, grown and become perfect in Christ. \* Christ had already come, did His part, He died on the cross, His blood was shed on the cross for the atonement for our sins, and here we are, need to be responsible to go on to live for Christ and to go and make disciples for Him and to raise our children in a Godly way.** This kind of mission will be opposed by the devil and all its demons as we will read in the next verses.) ***3 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.*** (Here a spiritual being in Heaven appears; which is Satan, represented by a great red dragon, a symbol of evil, and had come to oppose the woman and her child. Peter described Satan as

a lion. John saw him here as a dragon. Many times you see the symbol of dragon, this is the sign for Satan. The dragon has knowledge represented by, ***“having seven heads”***. And the dragon has, power represented by, ***“ten horns”***. And the dragon has authority represented by, ***“seven crowns upon his heads.”*** **\* You see now that the Kingdom of darkness had knowledge, power, and has authority, therefore we should not underestimate the power of darkness. \* In regard to knowledge when we hear people in their profession as doctors, engineers, scientist, archeologist, or others, then we might be seeing that we are so much lack behind. But we don’t live based on knowledge, instead we live based on our faith on God and what He can do and will do for us. \* In regard to power and authority, true that we can cast demons, therefore we need to use the name of Jesus and the blood of Jesus to do that, otherwise we are under estimating them.)** ***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 dragon’s power is represented by its tail being able to cast upon the earth the third part of the stars of Heaven. ***“the third part of the stars of heaven”***, can be represented by the third of the fallen angels or evil spirits that were casted upon the earth after the fall of Satan. ***“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 dragon here is in opposition to the woman, and is threatening her child. Christ from the time of His birth was threatened by Herod to kill Him, but Herod did not succeed. The dragon’s purpose is to devour the child as soon as it is born. **Devil’s purpose is to devour our disciples, our children and our spiritual children; therefore we need to be aware of its evil schemes and putting on the full armour of God to stand against the devil, in the day of the battle.)** ***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.*** (The following events unfolded as the woman brought forth the child: **A.** The child is born with authority indicated by, ***“who was to rule all nations”***, that he will take the nations from under the dragon and put them under His care. Christ is the child that born to the woman and he is ruling the nations. **B.** The child is born with power indicated by, ***“with a rod of iron”***, that His power is greater than that of Satan. **C.** The child was not devoured, but it was recognized to have divine authority, indicated by, ***“and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne”***, that He was taken unto God and to His throne. This can describes also the death of Jesus on the cross and His burial, followed by His resurrection and ascension to Heaven. **\* Every child born, the Lord has a plan for him, and the Lord would use that child for a great purpose. Therefore every child needs to be trained well by the Godly parents and the church to achieve the purpose and the plan of God in his life. \* Revival in the Scriptures usually starts with the birth of the new born child; therefore, the devil will try to oppose every new born child. The devil will try its best to oppose the Godly parents from raising Godly children; therefore we need to be aware and stand firm in faith against Satan and do the work of God faithfully and in full confidence on Him that we will have the victory.)** ***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 threescore days.*** (The scene of the vision continued as the woman fled for safety for three and half years to a place God had prepared for her; perhaps this is in the second half of the Tribulation. **\* The woman fled into the wilderness, and this will help us to understand that the more we go away from worldliness toward the wilderness then we are protected and we will be under God’s care and under God’s provision. We need to understand that in our battle against Satan we need to adopt this paradigm in moving toward the wilderness. \* Moving away from the worldliness; away from the Media, news, games, away from friends, idols of the world that**

people worship and adorn, away from immoralities, away from the lust of the eyes and the flesh; all that will enable us to be prepared and ready for Jesus to come and take us. And that also will work for us to be protected from the schemes of the devil and ready to resist and fight against it, as we are living and residing in the safe places that God had prepared for us as we are living His plans for us and doing His will in full. \* So what we can conclude here that in the second half of tribulation God still will protect those who will be saved during that period and spare them troubles.) **7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,** (once the woman, the church, or those who are willing to follow God, moved to the wilderness, then the spiritual battle will be starting from the victorious perspective. Listen here church: If you are still in the worldliness there is no battle because you are in devil's hand and will end up in hell. But once you decide to move toward the wilderness, devil will wage his war against you trying to frighten you so you will change your mind and go back to him. But listen God will protect you fully and preserve you as you determined to serve Him. **"Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels"**, here the scene soon turned to the spiritual warfare being waged and the defeat of the dragon who is the devil, Satan, will be soon as we will read in the coming verses. Here in verse 7 Michael, the archangel and the angels of God fought the dragon and its angels, the demons. Michael is the same angel that fought with the Son of God against the power of darkness at the time of Daniel, and was mentioned that He will fight for Christ and the people of God in the coming tribulation days. The following are the Words of the Son of God to Daniel about Michael: **"13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. (Daniel 10:13 KJV)** Here Michael, stood and fought with the Son of God, against Satan. Here what the Son of God testified about the angel Michael: **"21 But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince." (Daniel 10:21 KJV)** The Son of God declared that Michael will stand during the period of tribulation to defend the people of God and to fight Satan who is fighting against them. **Revelation 11** speaks about the wide spread of God's judgments and the salvation of those who repented. Here, in **Revelation 12** speak how God would defend them and protect them, even through Michael His angel: **"1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." (Daniel 12:1 KJV)** The meaning of Michael is **"who is like God"**. Michael is the first of the chief princes or archangels who is supposed to be the guardian angel of the Israelites, and it seems Michael is the one appointed by God to contend with the devil and its demons as we read here: **"9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee." (Jude 1:9 KJV)** In our spiritual battle God will send us angels in our fights and struggles to serve us and minister to us. For the angels of God are sent to serve those who are saved, as we read here, **"14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14 KJV)** \* We who are saved by the blood of Jesus don't depend on ourselves neither on others nor on our resources to pass through the hardships of this life or to handle our battles against the kingdom of darkness, but we depend on God, the Holy Spirit, and the angels of God who goes before us to fight the

battles against the power of darkness. \* We who are saved and inherit eternal life, are not alone; God is with us, and His Mighty host of angels to fight against Satan for our sake. The devil will not prevail against us since God is fighting against him, and God's angels encamping around God's people to protect us.) **8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 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.** (Here, the scene of the vision goes to the defeat of the dragon and his angels, which were casted out of Heaven to the earth for they have no place for them to stand in Heaven – which means they were in great loss and defeat before the Kingdom of God. **As we stand with God and God is with us then no power of darkness can stand before us.** The dragon is identified here as the **"Devil"** and **"Satan"**; names which characterize his essential nature as a deceiver; the primary tool of Satan during the end times and the tribulation being deception. Deception by telling lies to disfigure the whole truth and confuse you by not been able to get hold on the true picture. Since the beginning Satan and the angels who followed him loss their position in Heaven and they were cast down to the earth, were man now dwell. **Therefore the more now we need to be aware about the tendency of Satan's attacks against us, and how much essential for us to be ready and prepared putting on the full armour of God, being saved by Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit to go through the spiritual battles. Therefore the more we need now to fully submit to God, to resist the devil, so he will flee.) 10 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.** (The scene here breaks out into a declaration announcing the salvation, authority and the power of Christ in being victorious over Satan, the deceiver and the accuser of God's people. The other weapons of Satan is to tell lies and to accuse us to God and to one another, **"for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night"**, and in this way he is deceiving and give us wrong impression and wrong thoughts about what is going on around us. \* **Therefore we need to be careful and discerning about how we handle such war against lies and deceptions. \* When the devil is accusing us before God, the Lord will allow us to pass through the narrow gate in order for His Word not to be blamed, so the devil will not say that God is favoring us over His Word. \* One way that the devil will accuse us to God by charging us to God that we are serving God because He is giving us good things; therefore God in certain situations will withhold from us certain privileges so the devil will not use these privileges to accuse us to God.) 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.** (The people who experience Christ's salvation are characterized as overcoming Satan, the deceiver, through the blood of the Lamb; because only by the blood of Jesus we can stand against Satan and we can tell him, Satan the blood of Jesus is against you. **"and by the word of their testimony"**, the people who experience Christ's salvation overcome Satan as they testify about Christ the Lamb. **"their testimony"**, is the example of their lives; therefore we need to live in such a way to attract others to know Christ. **When we live the Word of God we are testifying more effectively about Christ, and we are more effective in dealing with all the accusation of the devil. "and they loved not their lives unto the death"**, the people who experience Christ's salvation are characterized as having a love for Christ greater than the love for themselves. The opposite of that, is one of the devil's main deceptions, which is self-centeredness, that is to love ourselves. **If we love ourselves more than Christ then we loss ourselves, but if we love Christ more than ourselves, then we gain ourselves as Jesus told us, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and**



*whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.” (Matthew 16:25 KJV)* **12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.** (“Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them”, because victory was made and the devil thrown down. Therefore when we deny ourselves, then we are moving and passing through the narrow gate, and victory are given to us. Those who are saved experience Heaven in their hearts, but the unsaved are characterized as being under the wrath of Satan that is why it is said, **“Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”** The devil is the prince of this world, therefore to avoid being injured by the devil we need to live in holiness, covered by the blood of Jesus, inviting Him in our lives, and hating worldliness and moving toward the wilderness.) **13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.** (Satan, the dragon is endeavoring to persecute the believers in God as he is doing here with the woman, who is perhaps, Israel, the Church of God, or those who are converted, even during the tribulation. Persecution is another form of how the devil will fight against us. Even today we as church will be persecuted by Satan, as we endeavor to go and make disciples and raise men and women of God to serve Him and live their lives for Him.) **14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.** (The woman was carried to a safe place for the second three and half years, that is the second half of the tribulation. The woman was equipped with two wings to make her fly and reach to the safe place, into the wilderness. In the same way, as we determined to follow God and move away toward the wilderness, even during the most terrible stages of trials, the Lord shall help us and provide for us facilities to rescue us and spare us the troubles of temptations and the work of the devil. When the Word of God says, **“where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent,”** it means to be well provided as she decided to go to the wilderness. She will be provided for three and half years; the whole period of the second half of the tribulation. In the same way, when we decide to move away from worldliness toward wilderness, we will be well nourished and well provided during the period of persecution.) **15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.** (The dragon here tries to capture the woman, though she is hidden, by means of a flood. Certain times the devil gives a plenty of things, like this flood which indicate plenty, in order to deceive us, trap us to be with him, or to sweep us away, therefore we need to be careful.) **16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.** (The woman was spared from that sweeping flood when the earth opened her mouth and swallowed the flood that came from Satan. God will always find means to help us and to spare us the attacks of Satan. God will spare us Satan’s attacks that would overwhelm us in order to engulf us.) **17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”** (Satan, the dragon, here turns with anger against the woman, the church, or the Godly parents, and starts to fight the disciples, and the Godly children, who do their best to keep the commandments of God and to live according to the testimony of Jesus and keeping good example to others. Therefore today we need to do our best to protect our children and our disciples and direct them to do what

is right and just and warn them to be aware of Satan’s tactics, and we need to continue to pray for them for their protection and for their deliverance from the vices of Satan.) (Revelation 12:1-17 KJV)

**My dear and beloved:** God is in full control over our lives and on the circumstances around us. Even there are trials and troubles, and there are attacks from the devil who is pressing hard against us, but they cannot prevail against us; against the Church of God, as we determined to stand firm with God and go along His plan and His will.

God had called us to live for Him and for His cause and purpose. Therefore we need to persevere in moving away from worldliness and from all the temptations in this world, and move toward the wilderness where we enjoy reading the Bible, meditating on God’s Word, praying and fasting, and in serving God.

Let us persevere, while we are waiting for Him to come and take us to Heaven. Let us persevere in doing the task and the assignments that He entrusted to us in serving Him by training our children in a Godly way and in making new disciples.

Let us pray . . .

**My prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your encouraging message to us. Lord we thank you for the protection and the security that we have in you and the clear path that you had outlined for us to follow.

Now confess and renounce your sins. Renounce all your worldliness, being yoked with non believers, and wasting your time on the Media, news and games. Renounce your immoralities and the lust of your flesh. Renounce your lies, cheating, and dishonesty. Renounce your selfishness, your bad stewardship and your non willingness to serve God. Renounce your laziness and your non willingness to suffer for Christ and being bad example to others. Renounce your non willingness to discipline your children and to raise them in the fear of God.

Lord I repent, forgive me all the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I commit myself to live according to the Word that I received in this message. Lord I commit myself to live in holiness and in the fears of you. Lord I commit myself to move with my family and the ministry that you entrusted to me away from worldliness, toward the wilderness to be in the safe place that you prepared for us to live until you come to take us to Heaven. Lord I commit myself to discipline my children and to raise them in the fear of you. Lord I commit myself to go and preach your Word and make new disciples and to proclaim your will, and your coming and the period of tribulation to the people around me.

Lord I trust you that you will deliver me fully from the following problem \_\_\_\_\_, and from the following enemy \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord thank you for my Brethren and Sisters who repented and committed their lives to live in holiness and to serve you and to proclaim your Word and to set good examples to others.

*Lord protect them from all persecutions and provide for them so they will continue to serve you.*

*Lord bless us as your church, refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize to reach to new people with the gospel of Jesus and to make new disciples. Lord leads us to train new workers and to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. The grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

Life after Death Part 13. Revelation Chapters 12. Christ Second Coming - the Tribulation. Revelation 12:1-17. Daniel 10:13. Daniel 10:21. Daniel 12:1. Jude 1:9. Hebrews 1:14. Matthew 16:25.

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