

# The Explanation of Anti-Semitism

📖 Revelation 12:6-17

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Alright, we're going to finish Rev 12 today. And that will be pretty easy because we've already identified the woman, the dragon and the son. This chapter, recall, is the key to understanding history and the conflict of the ages. In 12:1 we said that the woman is a sign, meaning she is not a normal woman but representative of something else. She is seen clothed with the sun, the moon is under her feet and on her head she has a crown of twelve stars. This has nothing to do with Sept 23, 2017 and the astronomical speculations made by so many sensationalists on the internet. This has to do with Joseph's dream in Gen 37:9-11. In that passage the sun was Jacob, the moon was Rachel and the twelve stars were the twelve tribes. In this passage the woman is the nation Israel that comes from the twelve tribes. In 12:5 the nation Israel gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. Since Messiah is to rule all the nations of the world with this rod of iron, then the son is the Messiah. Backing up then to 12:2 John saw the nation Israel pregnant with the Messiah and in the throes of labor. This is a picture of Israel under the Roman Empire at the time of Herod the Great. In 12:3 John saw another sign appear in heaven, a great red dragon. Again, since it's a sign it's not a normal dragon. 12:9 tells us the great red dragon is Satan. He is depicted as having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems, or crowns. The description of the dragon in 12:3 reminds us of parts of the fourth beast that Daniel saw in vision in Dan 7:7-8 and 19-25. That beast had ten horns and an eleventh little horn that grew large and pulled out three of the ten horns. From history we know that this beast was Rome. Daniel wanted to understand this beast and the angel told him that the ten horns would be ten rulers of Rome and that the little horn would be another ruler that grew strong and then defeated three of the ten rulers. Some of the fourth beast was fulfilled in ancient Rome, but the ten rulers and the little ruler that arose after them and defeated three of them, was never fulfilled. Therefore, they will be fulfilled in a future Rome. From Daniel all we can know is that this future Rome will have ten rulers who are followed by an eleventh ruler who arises to rule the whole earth and persecute Israel.

Fourth Beast (Daniel)		Great Red Dragon (Revelation)	
1 Head	= 1 Kingdom (7:20)	7 Heads	= 7 Kingdoms (12:3)
10 Horns	= 10 Rulers	10 Horns	= 10 Rulers (12:3)
1 Little Horn	= 1 Ruler	7 Crowns	= 7 Kings (12:3)
Conclusion	= The Future Kingdom of Rome will have 10 Contemporary Rulers and then an 11 <sup>th</sup> Ruler will arise	Conclusion	= 7 Consecutive Kingdoms will persecute Israel. 7 Kings, one from each of the 7 Kingdoms, will persecute Israel. The Seventh Kingdom (Rome) will have 10 Rulers

But what John was shown in Revelation was that the persecution of Israel is a much bigger picture than final Rome. Satan is behind an ages long conflict against Israel. This is shown by his depiction with seven heads and seven crowns. Each head depicts a kingdom that persecuted Israel and each crown a king in one of those kingdoms that persecuted Israel to a great degree. In history the first head, or kingdom, that persecuted Israel was Egypt and the first crown, or king, who persecuted Israel was the king “who did not know Joseph” (Exod 1:8). That king subjected the Hebrews to slavery and building his kingdom and tried to kill all the Hebrew baby boys. But ultimately what we learn in Rev 12 is that it was Satan who was behind the kingdom of Egypt and the king who did not know Joseph. Satan was trying to kill the Messiah at his birth in order to stop the covenant promises of God. But God was watching over them in Egypt and grew them into a nation. The second head, or kingdom, that persecuted Israel was Assyria and the second crown, or king, who persecuted them was Sennacherib. Sennacherib defeated Samaria, the capital city of the northern kingdom in 721BC and sent them into exile. He then went south and surrounded Jerusalem, the capital city of the southern kingdom of Judah. But on that night the angel of death went through the Assyrian army and killed all 185,000 of them. Satan was behind Sennacherib trying to destroy the Messiah but God protected the tribe of Judah because the Messiah was to come from that tribe. The third head, or kingdom, that persecuted Israel was Babylon, and the third crown, or king, was Nebuchadnezzar. He attacked Jerusalem and took many of the youth and nobles from the tribe of Judah captive and into his administration. He tried to train them to be good Babylonians. Satan was working through Nebuchadnezzar to destroy the identity of the Jewish people. But God gave Daniel and his friends wisdom so that they were able to work on behalf of the Jewish people and maintain their identity while they were in Babylon. The fourth head, or kingdom, that persecuted Israel was Medo-Persia, and the fourth crown, or king, that persecuted them horribly was Haman. Haman was not the king but he did work through the king, he was controlling the king and making policy. He made it policy that on one day everyone in the kingdom of Persia could kill Jews. It was Satan who was working through Haman to destroy the entire Jewish race, which would have eliminated the Messiah. But God had raised up Esther to be so beautiful that the king would choose her to be his wife and she would expose this Haman so that he hung on the gallows built for Mordecai and the Jews

could defend themselves on that day. The fifth head, or kingdom, that persecuted Israel was Greece, and the fifth crown, or king, that persecuted them was Antiochus Epiphanes IV. He deceived the Jews and went into the temple and committed the abomination of desolation, sprinkling the blood of swine all over the temple area and then setting out to destroy the Jewish people. At that time God raised up the Maccabees to defend and fight off Antiochus. But it was Satan who was working through Antiochus to destroy the Jews. That is what the dragon's heads and crowns teach us. The sixth head, or kingdom, that persecuted Israel was ancient Rome, and the sixth crown, or king, that persecuted them was Herod the Great. When the wise man came looking for the Messiah at his birth, Herod the Great deciphered the location from the scribes and set out to find and destroy Him. This was not simply Herod, this was Satan working through Herod to destroy the Messiah at his birth. But God sent an angel to warn Joseph in a dream and they took Jesus to safety in Egypt until Herod was dead. These then are the first six heads, or kingdoms of Satan, and the first six crowns, or kings that Satan used to either try to destroy the Jews by loss of identity or annihilation or to try to destroy the Messiah by murder. But God outmaneuvered him every time. The sixth one, Rome, and Herod the Great, is in 12:4b where we see **the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child**. That's Satan standing before Israel in the person of Herod the Great in order to murder the Messiah at his birth. And verse 5 says, **she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron**. So Israel gave birth to the Messiah. But the end of the verse shows that Satan was unsuccessful through Herod the Great because **her child was caught up to God and to His throne**. The verse moves all the way from the birth of Messiah to the ascension of the Messiah, skipping over the details of His life, death and resurrection. The word **caught up** is from the Greek *αρπαζω* which is the word used for the rapture in 1 Thess 4:17, and it shows that the word does not always refer to a violent catching up. The Messiah was caught up to God in Acts 1:9-11 where the apostles saw Him "lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight." It was a gradual lifting off of the earth, not violent. When He disappeared from sight He went **to God**, who is in heaven, **and to His throne**, which is the Father's throne. Presently Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the Father on the Father's throne and not David's throne. In the future He will sit on David's throne when He comes in His kingdom (Matt 25:31). So there is a distinction between the Father's throne and David's throne. The Father's throne is a heavenly throne; David's throne is an earthly throne. You don't want to confuse those thrones (Rev 3:21).

The conclusion of verse 5 is that Satan was unsuccessful and the Messiah reached safety away from the threat of Satan and human rulers like Herod, whom he works through. Why are we told all this? Rev 12 explains all this in order to explain Rev 13 and what is happening there, because that is where we meet the anti-Christ and he is a part of that seventh head, or kingdom, and he is the seventh crown, or king, who Satan will work through to destroy the Jewish people. So the dragon in Rev 12 is background to the anti-Christ in Rev 13. That's why I've taken a little more time than usual in Rev 12, otherwise we won't understand Rev 13.

Now in Rev 12:6, after the ascension of Messiah to God in heaven and to the Father's throne, we are told, **Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.** The mention of the **one thousand two hundred and sixty days**, which is exactly half of the seventieth week of Daniel, places this fleeing in the seventieth week of Daniel. The seventieth week of Daniel is divided into two halves by three time expressions which are first found in the Book of Daniel; one thousand two hundred and sixty days, forty-two months and a time, times and half a time. Each of those expressions equates to exactly three and a half years of 360 days each, or half of Daniel's seventieth week. This period of three and a half years refers to the second half of the Tribulation for four reasons. First, because according to Daniel 9:27, Israel is enjoying relative peace under the anti-Christ during the first half of the Tribulation. Second, because according to Revelation 11:1-14, the two witnesses will be controlling the Temple so Israel can offer sacrifice and Daniel 9:27 told us that it would be at the midpoint that the anti-Christ would put a stop to sacrifice by committing the abomination of desolation. Third, because according to Dan 11:44-12:1, Michael the archangel will arise for war in heaven preceding Israel's most difficult time of distress. Fourth, Jesus said in Matt 24:15 that the abomination of desolation would be the sign that Jews in the land would need to flee to the mountains. These evidences all add up to indicating that Israel will flee into the wilderness at the midpoint and remain there for **one thousand two hundred and sixty days**. A further reason is now stated in vv 7ff. It's at the midpoint that Satan and his angels will be defeated in heaven and will be kicked down to earth. This all begins at the midpoint.

Now we need to make an observation about the identification of **the woman** because she is the nation Israel, but in verse 6 she becomes the remnant of believing Israel living in the land rather than the entire nation because only the believing remnant living in the land will obey Jesus' words in Matt 24:15 and flee Jerusalem. There would be no need for believing Jews living in China to flee Jerusalem. So John did not see the entire nation fleeing into the wilderness, nor the 144,000 witnesses, but the believing remnant. And where did they flee too? To a **place prepared** for them **by God**. What is this place? At least four different OT passages describe the place as "the sheep pen," which in Hebrew is *botsra* (cf. Isa 34:1-7; Isa 63:1-6; Hab 3:3; Mic 2:12-13). A sheep pen in the ancient world was where shepherds would place their sheep at night in order to keep them safe from danger. God is going to put His sheep of Israel in the sheep pen to keep them safe from Satan and his man the anti-Christ during the second half of Daniel's seventieth week. Where is this sheep pen? Many scholars think that the city of *Bozrah* is Petra, the ancient Nabatean rock city that is enclosed like a sheep pen and so difficult to access. The ruins of this ancient city are in modern day Jordan in ancient Edom and meets the criteria of being a mountainous region that is a desert wilderness. Most likely they will flee to Petra.

Not only will **God** have this **place prepared** for them, but he will also supernaturally **nourish** them there for the **one thousand two hundred and sixty days**, which is the entire second half of the Tribulation. During that time, it will be dangerous for them to venture outside of Petra because the anti-Christ will have his emissaries looking for them and trying to draw them out. As Matt 24:23 explains, "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the

Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him." And what is so interesting about this place God has prepared for them is that it's the same area the wilderness generation wandered around in for 40 years after the Exodus and enjoyed supernatural protection and nourishment from God. So in the same place that God gave them water out of the rock, manna to eat, shoes that did not wear out and many other things then, He will do the same things. The conclusion of Rev 12:6 is that John saw the believing remnant of Israel that lived in the land of Israel fleeing into the wilderness area of Edom where they were supernaturally provided for by God during the second half of the Tribulation. This will not include all the other believing Jews, such as the 144,000, since they will be other places on earth. But the believing remnant in the land will need to flee to Petra.

Now in 12:7ff John saw a **war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon** is Satan, so this is a war in heaven between Michael and the good angels and Satan and the fallen angels. The war will take place at the midpoint of the Tribulation. Apparently what Satan and the fallen angels are trying to do is take over God's throne in heaven. However, in 12:8 we're told that Satan and the fallen angels **were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.** Ever since the fall of Satan, he and the evil angels have had access to heaven to accuse believers. But at the midpoint of the Tribulation he and the fallen angels will no longer have access to heaven, but will be cast to the earth.

In 12:9 we read, **And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.** What John saw was **the great dragon thrown down**, the one that was red and had seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns. This verse describes the dragon four ways. First, he is **the serpent of old.** This clearly refers to the serpent in Gen 3 who deceived Eve, giving him the first opportunity to accuse them before God. The moment he is cast down marks his last moment to accuse believers before God. Second, he is **called the devil.** The name devil comes from the Greek word *διαβολος* and refers to a diabolical one, one who falsely accuses and slanders believers. Third, he is **called...Satan.** This is the Greek word *σατανας* which means "adversary." He is the adversary of God and all those aligned with Him. Fourth, his primary function is described as one **who deceives the whole world.** The dragon is primarily a deceiver. The **whole world** lies in the power of the evil one and is under his spell of deception. Lastly we are told in verse 9 that **he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.** This is a forced to exit. They had access to heaven for thousands of years, but at this point they will no longer have access.

Immediately in 12:10-12 there is a voice that bursts forth in praise exhorting those in heaven to rejoice while those on earth are warned of great woe. The **great voice** in heaven is unidentified, but it is heard **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 brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. <sup>11</sup>"And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. <sup>12</sup>"For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you**

**who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time.**" In verse 10 the great voice proclaims that the moment of **salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down.** These are all descriptions of a kingdom change on earth. The casting of Satan and his angels out of heaven is a step toward the establishment of the kingdom of **God and His Christ** on earth. The English reads that the kingdom has come, but it really will not come until the last three and a half years have expired. The reason it is translated as has come, is because it is a proleptic aorist. A proleptic aorist speaks of something accomplished before the fact because of the certainty of it being accomplished. The voice is certain it will be accomplished because he has just seen Satan and the evil angels cast out of heaven. So the kingdom has not come yet, but the anti-Christ is about to come and the fleeing of the believing remnant of Israel and the false prophet and Armageddon and all of that. Then the kingdom will come in Rev 20. But it's so certain to come at this point that it is said to have come. What Satan is doing until the midpoint is **accusing our brethren.** Again, we don't know whose voice this is, but **our brethren** is most likely Jewish **brethren.** The reason is because this chapter is about Satan's persecution of Israel, and especially the Jewish remnant during the second half of the tribulation. So while it's true that Satan accuses all believers, in view here are his accusations against Jewish believers. A further confirmation of this is verse 13 which shows that he sets out to persecute **the woman who gave birth to the male child,** not all believers. Israel is his primary target because Jesus told Israel in Matt 23:39 that they would not see Him until they said, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." That verse is a quotation of Psalm 118:26, and is known in Jewish theology as "the Messianic Greeting." Thus, Israel will not see Jesus until they issue "the Messianic Greeting." And if Israel will not see Him then the whole world will not see Him. So Satan's plan is to destroy Israel so that they cannot utter this greeting.

In verse 11 the great voice continues by proclaiming the victory of these Jewish believers in the coming second half of the tribulation. This is another proleptic aorist, they haven't even died yet, but **they** already **overcame** Satan **because of the blood of the Lamb.** How will they overcome him? In two different ways. First, they overcome him because of **the blood of the Lamb.** The Lamb of course is Jesus, the Messiah. **The blood** is what He shed on Calvary. These Jews believed in Jesus as the Messiah and were therefore justified before God. Justification is a legal crediting of Messiah's righteousness to their account. This is how these Jews overcame Satan, by faith in Jesus the Messiah whose righteousness is credited to their account. The second way they overcome Satan is **because of the word of their testimony.** Satan wants to stop the believer from making an impact by destroying his testimony. But these justified Jews maintained the **word of their testimony** even in the face of certain death and enjoy another victory over Satan. As a result, they will be martyred for their testimony, **and they did not love their life even when faced with death.** So they will stand strong after they become believers and even though they are killed in the second half of the tribulation, they are not really defeated. Now these are obviously not Jewish believers who fled at the midpoint, but Jews who did not flee and

became believers during the second half and had to undergo Satan's assault against Jewish believers who did not escape.

In 12:12 the voice now proclaims, **For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea.** Those in heaven are told to **rejoice** because Satan has been cast down. But because he has been cast down those on earth are warned with the words; **Woe to the earth and the sea. The earth and the sea** refer to those who inhabit the earth and the sea. **Woe is** a word that means "pain." The reason the inhabitants are warned of "pain" is stated to be **because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.** Here we see Satan's final assault against the Jewish people, and especially Jewish believers. This is what the chapter has been leading up to. The first six heads and crowns of Satan have all been fulfilled. Only the seventh head, the future kingdom of Rome, and the seventh crown, the anti-Christ, have not been fulfilled. Satan's being cast out of heaven and **coming down to** earth with **great wrath** for a **short time** is stated so that we understand who animates the anti-Christ in Rev 13. Satan knows at this time that he has only a short time because he knows the prophecy of Daniel's seventy weeks and that he only has three and a half years. So he will have **great wrath** in order to try to destroy every Jew on the planet. And why? Again, because Jesus will not come back to earth and establish His kingdom unless they utter the Messianic Greeting. Matt 23:39, "You will not see Me until you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." It's simply the words of Ps 118:26 which Jews consider the Messianic Greeting. And they are necessary for Jesus to return in His kingdom. So Satan's **great wrath** is particularly aimed at destroying all of Israel.

And so verse 13, **And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.** Again, the **woman** is the nation Israel, and you can see that Satan's wrath is directed against Israel. The Church did not **give birth to the male child**, the male child gave birth to the church, so the Church cannot be the object of His wrath. In fact the Church will not be here at this time, but Israel will be here.

In verse 14 we see their escape. **But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.** Of course, this is the believing Jewish remnant in the land of Israel. They are the ones who will **fly into the wilderness.** The **two wings of the great eagle** given to the Jewish remnant in the land have often been interpreted erroneously by sensationalist prophecy teachers as the United States Air Force coming to Israel's rescue. But that is incorrect because by this time in history every nation on earth will be opposed to Israel. In Matt 24:9, Jesus said, "You will be hated by all nations for My sake." America is one of the "all nations." America will not be pro-Israel at that time, nor will any nation on earth. Only individuals from within nations will be pro-Israel. These individuals are the sheep at the sheep-goats judgment in Matt 25:31-46. So the **two wings of the great eagle** are not the Air Force. Instead, the expression was used in Exod 19:4 when God said to Israel, "You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and

brought you to Myself." Bearing Israel on eagles' wings is God's way of depicting His protection of Israel so they could escape the Egyptians and the Amalekites on their way to Mt Sinai. In the future Tribulation God will protect Israel so they can escape the anti-Christ and his armies. They will most likely fly to Petra. So he's returning to the theme of verse 6 where Israel fled into the wilderness to a place prepared by God, so that she would be supernaturally nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days, which is the same period of time described in verse 14 as, **a time and times and half a time**. Both expressions refer to the three and a half years of the second half of the Tribulation. Also in verse 14 she will be taken to **the wilderness**, and there she will be **nourished**, which is identical to verse 6 where she is taken and nourished. The only thing new we are told here is that she will be kept in this place **from the presence of the serpent**, who we know is Satan. So you can see that Satan is limited, he's simply not able to do anything he wants, he has to work through his man the anti-Christ revealed in chapter 13. And when we study his military movements in Dan 11:41 it says that three areas will be kept secure from the anti-Christ, and they are; Edom, Moab and Ammon, all three together make up modern day Jordan, and Petra is in modern day Jordan, in ancient Edom. So they will be kept there **from the presence of the serpent**.

Verse 15 depicts how Satan will try to destroy the Jewish remnant in the land as they are escaping, but verse 16 how God will bear them on eagles' wings to safety. Verse 15, **And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood**. The pouring out of **water** is an image of total destruction by military might through Satan's man, the anti-Christ, **But** verse 16 says, **the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth**. So Satan's efforts to destroy this believing remnant of Israel through the anti-Christ will be thwarted.

This makes him really mad, verse 17, **So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus**.

This verse is interesting for a number of reasons. First of all, why does Satan become **enraged with the woman**, obviously a reference to the Jewish remnant who escaped to Petra? Because if he can't kill them then they will be left on earth to call on Jesus to return by issuing the Messianic Greeting, Ps 118:26, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." So he realizes he can't be ultimately successful. As a result he becomes **enraged**. **Second**, his rage is now spilled out against less important targets. He goes **off to make war with the rest of her children**, defined as those **who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus**. The identification of **the rest of the woman's children**, are other Jews. He already made war with the believing remnant in the land, and he was unsuccessful, so now he is making war with the Jewish remnant outside the land of Israel. This will include the 144,000, but it is not limited to the 144,000. So **the rest of Israel's children** are Jewish believers living outside the land, since those who were inside the land already escaped on eagles' wings. Now, with that said, it's not correct to say he won't kill believing Gentiles too. Matt 25:31-46 shows that Gentile



believers who help Jewish believers during this time will be putting their lives in great danger, and I'm sure that many will die. It's just that **the children** here are not Gentile believers.

Now because some things here are looking back in history and other things are jumping ahead, here is the sequence as I see them taking place. Satan has dominated six consecutive world kingdoms beginning with Egypt and worked through six major kings within those kingdoms in order to annihilate Israel or murder the Messiah. He was unsuccessful and the Messiah was born and caught up to God and His throne at the ascension. For the last two thousand years Christ has been building His church from heaven by means of the Holy Spirit. When the Church is removed at the rapture the seventh kingdom will come and its seventh king, the anti-Christ. At the midpoint Michael and his angels will defeat Satan and his angels and Satan and his angels will be cast out of heaven to the earth. At that time all heaven will rejoice but woe is pronounced for those living on the earth. The reason is because Satan will then indwell the seventh king, the anti-Christ, who will kill the two witnesses in the Temple precinct and throw their bodies in the streets of Jerusalem. Then he will enter the Temple and commit the abomination of desolation, making himself out to be God. The believing Jews will see this and obeying Jesus' command in Matt 24:16, will flee to Petra. Satan through the anti-Christ will try to destroy them with military might as they escape but God will supernaturally protect them and supernaturally nourish them for the last three and a half years of the Tribulation. Satan will turn his rage against the rest of the believing Jewish remnant outside the land during the second half.

Now what this chapter is all about is explaining why there is so much anti-Semitism in the world and why it will only get worse. Anti-Semitism is not the mere work of men, it is the work of Satan behind Gentile kingdoms and kings. And without this piece of the puzzle, world history cannot really be understood. So the explanation of Anti-Semitism and the conflict of history is that Satan hates Israel.