

**THE BOOK OF REVELATION**  
“Satanic Mobilization Against Israel”  
Revelation 12:13-17

**Introduction**

1. This is one of the most exciting chapters in the Bible. It provides a summary of the history of Israel and the Messiah from the time of Abraham (the first Jew) right up to the birth of our Lord (12:1-5). All of this is a sign ( ) that God does have a plan for the nation.

2. The past conflict (12:1-5) between Satan and the Jewish nation is followed by a prophetic gap between verses 5 and 6. Christ, the Messiah, is raptured (v. 5). Then the Church Age commences (Acts 2) at which time the Jewish nation is set aside (Mt. 23:37-39). God’s dealing with the Nation is taken up again (v. 6). This is the Tribulation Period (Dan. 9:24-27). Israel is protected during the first half of the seven year Tribulation.

3. Following the prophetic gap, the account shifts to the conflict in heaven (vv. 7-12). It is a reference to the war between Michael and his angels and Satan, the Great Dragon, and his angels. Satan loses the battle and is cast out of heaven to earth (v. 9). An incredible confession is given about God (v. 10), Satan (v. 10), brethren (v. 11), and the world (v. 12).

4. With this background, the scene moves to the earth. Israel is still the opponent of Satan. The death struggle is recorded in a dramatic way. Three future battle campaigns are delineated (vv. 13-17).

1. **EARTH CAMPAIGN BATTLE** v, 13

a. **Precipitated**

The verb saw ( ) points to the acknowledgment of the Dragon (Satan) of his expulsion from heaven into the earth. The aorist passive verb was cast ( ) indicates the expulsion was not Satan’s choice.

b. **Purposed**

“Persecuted” ( ) is an historical statement. It may well have reference to the despicable treatment of the two witnesses (11:1-12) and the breaking of the covenant with Israel (Dan. 9:27). Whatever, there is great hostility for the Nation.

c. **Predicated**

The focus is on the woman (Israel) which ( ) meaning “which very one,” hence no mistake is to be made! It is this woman who bears a male child ( ).

2. **WILDERNESS CAMPAIGN BATTLE** vv. 14-16

a. **Involves a Flight**

Apparently the populated areas have so much persecution and are bottled up that many Jews flee to the wilderness. So Satan energizes his military Antichrist to marshal his armies and might against the fleeing Jews. Providentially, the woman (Israel) is given wings of a great eagle. This is God’s divine intervention to provide rapidity of escape and guaranteed protection (cf. Ex. 19:4; Deut. 32:11, 12).

b. **Involves a Place** v. 14

The nation “flies” into the wilderness “into her place” ( ). This points to something prepared of God where divine care is provided. A number of passages suggest that God will care for Israel in this time of need (Is. 26:20; 37:1; 59:19). There were cities of refuge (cf. Deut. 4:41-49) so God may do the same in the future and some have identified the place as Petra in Edom (Dan. 11:41).

c. **Involves a Protection** v. 14

This is most precious. Israel will be nourished or positively protected on the one hand ( ) by God. On the other, the nation will be untouched by Satan, being kept “from the face of the serpent” ( ).

d. **Involves a Time** v. 14

Significantly, Israel is protected for a time (one year), times (two years) and half a time (half a year). This all adds up to 1260 days, 42 months, or half of the 7 years of Tribulation (cf v. 6; 11:2).

e. **Involves a Problem** v. 15

Satan moves against the nation in full fury. While this may be a proper flood of waters, most likely the thought is that the armies of Satan came as a full tide to destroy the nation. This purpose is clearly stated (v. 15b).

f. **Involves a Solution** v. 16

What an enormous miracle is recorded here. Despite the overwhelming odds in favor of Antichrist, the earth “helps” the woman and the earth “opens” her mouth to overcome the hordes (or water) of Satan. Apparently this is a reference to some sort of physical disturbance on the earth. It might be an earthquake or being a desert area, a sand storm. The bare fact is God has intervened and Satan’s power is broken.

3. **REMNANT CAMPAIGN BATTLE** v. 17

a. **It is Identified**

The woman is still Israel. The verse explains the final rampage of Satan (under Antichrist) against Israel’s remnant (Zech. 14:1-4). Fortunately at this final clash the Jews become like David when he fought with Goliath (Zech. 12:8, 9). This is the battle of Armageddon with the final victory coming at the second Advent of our Lord with the armies of heaven (Rev. 19:11-21). The sword out of Messiah’s mouth is the only weapon necessary for victory (Dan. 8:25; 11:45). The Deliverer has come out of Zion (Ro. 11:25, 26).

b. **It is Characterized**

There are two marks of the remnant given: 1) Keeping the commandments of God. This is probably a reference to the O.T. and the practice of a godly life. 2) Having the testimony of Jesus Christ. This may refer to the N.T. and the prophetic witness of Messiah Jesus. In substance, the double characterization has reference to the “remnant” of Israel as “completed Jews” (Ro. 2:17-20) for not all Israel are true Israel (Ro. 9:6).

**Conclusion**

All the events outlined here are sure to come to pass for God has said so. Likewise, God’s promise is sure to save from sin the one who believes on His Son the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn 3:36). Have you believed personally? Do it now.