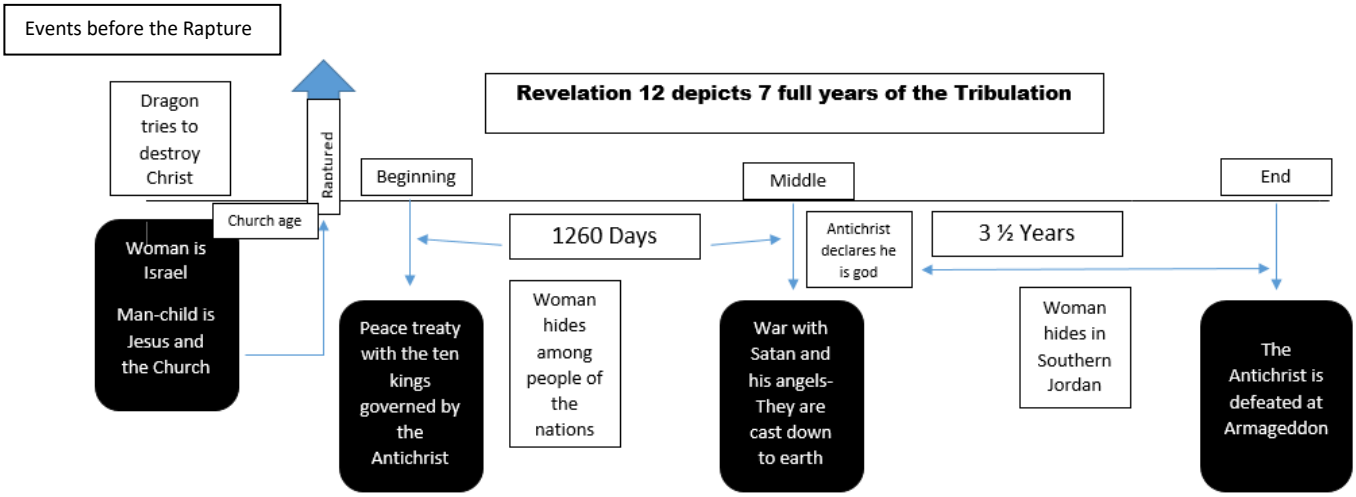
PART TWO



Verse 5

1. These verses speak of <u>the whole seven years</u> of the Tribulation, not just the middle.

Traditionally folks have interpreted these verses as if they were about Satan's original fall before Adam and Jesus rise into the heavens. But, because I knew this event in Revelation 12 is an event for John that falls under "things to come," I knew <u>it wasn't about Jesus past rising up into the clouds</u>, and the *Harpazo* here was a future group.

Secondly<u>, I had assumed that all these verses had run together</u> and spoke of only <u>the middle of the tribulation</u> and attributed them as a mid-Trib. rapture scenario aside from the pre-Trib. Rapture of the Church. This is what I used to believe, I assumed like **Finis Dake**, that these were the 144.000 male Jews taken up in the middle, but I had added in previous teachings of mine, that this "rapture" should also include any other mid-Trib. saints who were ready to go at that time. I still believe that is possible based off of other chapters (Rev. 7 & 14), but I feel different now about the interpretation of Revelation 12 here.

Keys

2. <u>The mention of two time pieces prove it.</u> "1260" days are the first half, and "a time, times and a half" represents the second half (Dan. 12:7). Before the first half is mentioned Satan cast his angels down to the earth and the Rapture of the man-child occurs. In the second half of time mentioned, Satan himself is cast down to the earth.

3. **Key:** <u>The events that happen *before* the war in heaven, and what happens *after* the war in heaven are key to understanding this passage.</u> They are not the same event.

If the woman which is Israel<u>, flees *before* the war and is secure,</u> and is fed, then how is Satan <u>at the same time</u> chasing her *after* the war, until the earth then protects her? Because, it is two different events. Israel is somewhat safe during the first half of the Tribulation. At peace with the Antichrist many will hear the truth and leave the country seeking shelter in the world among the wilderness of peoples.

<u>Some, as I previously did, want to see this as *one event* altogether</u> mainly as she flees Jerusalem, after the Antichrist desecrates the Temple in the middle of the Tribulation as

spoken of by Daniel and Jesus Himself. But it appears to be two events, one *before* the war, and one *after* the war with Michael and Satan.

The time *after* the war is obviously her flight to Petra, Southern Jordan, and the rest of the world to be protected until the 3 ½ years are up. The flight *before* the war would have to be Israel running from Jerusalem after 70 AD to the nations of peoples, and later to be protected by the covenant she makes with the kingdom of the beast for one week of years. This would proceed great danger of attack from some sources. Some say this would be an attack from the North and the Antichrist steps in to protect and trick Israel.

Before the Rapture is mentioned Satan is casting his demons down to the earth to destroy the man-child, then the Rapture happens. Doesn't this describe today when greater and greater demonic activity is happening around the church? After the middle point it is Satan himself being cast down to the earth because he has only a short season he goes now after the woman which is Israel God's chosen during the Tribulation period.

(Point 4-6 is very detailed, skip to point F, if your brain starts to hurt).

4. The Old Testament speaks of the time of Tribulation as a time of travail like childbirth and calls it Jacob's trouble. Isaiah 26, 66; Micah 5.

Jeremiah 30:6-9 (KJV)
6 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?
7 Alas! for that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it: it *is* even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.
8 For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, *that* I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him:
9 But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.

a. The Old Testament speaks about a man-child born *before* labor: Jesus

Isaiah 66:6-9 (KJV)
6 A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence to his enemies.
7 Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.
8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? *or* shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.
9 Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut *the womb*? saith thy God.

Zion here is Jerusalem. Isaiah seems to agree with my interpretation: Notice "BEFORE she travailed," or before her future time of travail (a normal time of labor) for Jerusalem, that will come upon her which is the Tribulation period of seven years, she was delivered of a man-child. This is Christ and the birth of the church His body! The

man-child is delivered BERORE the Tribulation starts. Isaiah says she delivers *Christ* without travail or even a time of labor. The church comes next but comes with some pains. Afterwards out of Jerusalem came the Church, but God does this without her help (Acts 1:8). Most of Israel wanted nothing to do with Jesus. Revelation 12 tells us what happens to this man-child. He is caught up and Raptured! Jesus rose up, but was not raptured like the church will be. So Rev. 12 has to be about both Jesus and the church if we add Isaiah's passage to be about the same thing. Rev. 12 finishes the body of Christ being caught up and concluding what Paul called "first fruits"- Christ and the church (1 Cor. 15:23). This *harpazo* (Rapture) finishes the man-child as first fruits being taken from the earth. V. 8- More children come afterwards.

> Isaiah "66:7 The subject of this prophecy is Zion (v. 8). As a pregnant woman, Isaiah pictured Zion delivering a baby without pain. She would give birth to a boy before she began experiencing labor pains. This is, of course, the opposite of what usually happens. This may be a prophecy of Messiah's appearing before the Tribulation, the time of Jacob's trouble (Jer. 30:7; cf. Gen. 3:16). It may also be a prediction of joy and delight coming to Zion in the future."— **Tom Constable's Notes on the Bible**
>
> **Matthew Poole**: "The prophecy therefore seems rather to refer to the coming of Christ, and the sudden propagation of the gospel. The popish interpreters applying it to the Virgin Mary bringing forth Christ, is like other of their fond dreams."[1]
>
> **Matthew Henry:** Believed that this prophecy was fulfilled when Israel was released back from captivity in Babylon, but also believed that it referred to a "type" of the church.
>
> > "But this was a figure of the setting up of the Christian church in the world, and the replenishing of that family with children which was to be named from Jesus Christ. When the Spirit was poured out, and the gospel went forth from Zion, multitudes were converted in a little time and with little pains compared with the vast product."[2]

Isaiah 9:6-7 (KJV)
6 For unto us (LB- Israel) **a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**
7 Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

As **Ironside** states:

[1] Matthew Poole, *Matthew Poole's Commentary on the Holy Bible*, (Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 1985), WORD*search* CROSS e-book, Under: "Chapter 66".
[2] Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible*, WORD*search* CROSS e-book, 391.

"The church did not give birth to Christ. He founded the church. He, as the last Adam, slept in death that the church might be taken from His wounded side. But He did come from Israel.**"**[3]

Micah 5:2 (KJV)
2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.

b. The nation in trouble cries out like a woman in pain to be delivered, but produces nothing but wind. This describes the woman *during the Tribulation up to the end*.

Isaiah 26:15-21 (KJV)
15 Thou hast increased the nation, O LORD, thou hast increased the nation: thou art glorified: thou hadst removed *it* far *unto* all the ends of the earth.
16 LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer *when* thy chastening *was* upon them.
17 Like as a woman with child, *that* draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, *and* crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD.
18 We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen.
19 Thy dead *men* shall live, *together with* my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew *is as* the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.
20 Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.
21 For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

c. More *children* born after she travails

Isaiah 66:6-9 (KJV)
6 A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence to his enemies.
7 Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.
8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? *or* shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

Notice that there are *two types of offspring* mentioned here in Isaiah's passage. The man-child without pain, and her other offspring when she is in pain. V. 8- When Zion does travail, she will bring forth offspring in the future, which speaks of the Tribulation period when Israel's remnant offspring will be finally saved. The "man-child" that he mentions here which is Christ's birth *BEFORE* the travail. This is Jesus. Part two of the man-child is the church His body, being taken out before the Tribulation starts.

[3] Ironside, H. A. (1920). *Lectures on the Book of Revelation* (pp. 210–211). Neptune, N. J.: Loizeaux Brothers.

The church *and* Israel's children come AFTER she travails, which follows by the "nation being born at once," (Micah 5:3) on the day of Christ's return to the earth. Obviously she travails more than once to have more offspring. At the time of the Rapture and then, after the Rapture, during the Tribulation. This begins with the two witnesses and the 144,000 preaching, and spreads to the true remnant of Israel, who will all be born again on the final day of travail (Rom. 11:25-29; Jer. 30:6-9; Zech. 12:10; 13:8-9; Hosea 6:1-3).

Micah 5:3-5 (HCSB)
3 Therefore, He will abandon them until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of His brothers will return to the people of Israel.
4 He will stand and shepherd [them] in the strength of Yahweh, in the majestic name of Yahweh His God. They will live securely, for then His greatness will extend to the ends of the earth.
5 He will be their peace. When Assyria invades our land, when it marches against our fortresses, we will raise against it seven shepherds, even eight leaders of men.

While the last week of seventy prophesied by Daniel will fulfil their time of judgment and Israel seems to be abandoned till the end of the seven years, they are not forsaken by the Lord because he allows them to escape to be protected by him in the wilderness. Micah says they are abandoned until she who is in labor gives birth. Could this be the birth of the man-child Rev. 12 who possibly is the church, and the Rapture? This is her second birth, and then the righteous of Israel will be birthed into the kingdom which is the remnant of Israel who will follow Christ and will come in during the Tribulation.

> **Ironside:** "But it will be during that time of trouble that He will be born in the consciousness of the nation, and that they will realize that He belongs to them,—that He is Israel's Son." [4]

First child- delivered- before labor- Jesus Christ- Isaiah 66:7-8
Second child- delivered while fully pregnant- the Church who is raptured up- Rev. 12
Third child and other children- the remnant of Israel saved during tribulation pains- Micah 5:3, Rev. 12:17 HCSB "the rest of her offspring."

Zechariah 12:10 (KJV)
10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

Romans 11:25-29 (KJV)
25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

[4] Ironside, H. A. (1920). *Lectures on the Book of Revelation* (p. 211). Neptune, N. J.: Loizeaux Brothers.

[26] And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:
[27] For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.
[28] As concerning the gospel, *they are* enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, *they are* beloved for the fathers' sakes.
[29] For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance.

Daniel 12:1 (HCSB)
[1] At that time Michael the great prince who stands watch over your people will rise up. There will be a time of distress such as never has occurred since nations came into being until that time. But at that time all your people who are found written in the book will escape.

If you just read Daniel 12:1 with Rev. 12:5, you might assume a mid-Trib. position or at the very least be open to a mid-Tribulation extra catching away.

5. Could Rev. 12 all be speaking of the middle point only? I now do not believe so. This chapter is definitely speaking of at least a future 3 ½ years of time. The question at hand is: does this passage include another 1260 days of time?

Perhaps I am incorrect about this vision being about the whole seven years. If Rev. 12 is only speaking of one time period; specifically only 3 ½ years in total, then we are talking about a mid-Trib. rapture of a group called the "man-child". Therefore this cannot be the Church, for she leaves before the seven years starts. This would mean that there would be a mid-Trib. rapture event and Dake's theory *could be* partially right, that it would *include* the 144,000, because they are seen redeemed from the earth and in Heaven before the throne described in Rev. 14:1, during the Tribulation period. It does not ever say they were martyred anywhere in the book of Revelation. However this would also means that they are taken before Israel's worst part, the last 3 ½ years.

Does this make sense that the 144,000 male Jewish evangelist would leave the earth *before* Israel's "great tribulation" ever starts? Wouldn't they be there to help win Jewish people to Jesus? Many scholars place the 144,000 in the second half of the Tribulation. I'm beginning to believe that their ministry may overlap the middle and could be taken at a later time.
Following this logic that Rev. 12 is only speaking of just the middle only: the middle "man-child" group is just a mid-Trib. rapture of saints up to that time, and taken out before the worst happens. Daniel 12:1 says "all that are written in the book will escape," at the time Michael stands up, which is clearly the middle. Let's look a little closer at Dake's theory.

> **Dake:** "The man-child represents a company of all living people who will be translated without seeing death. The woman brings forth either a dead or a living child, not one partly dead and partly alive. The dragon could not kill one already dead at birth (Rev. 12:4). The child is caught up to God alive as soon as it is born (Rev. 12:4-5). The 144,000 are the only ones in all of the events of Rev. 4 -- Rev. 22 (which must be after the churches) that could possibly be the man-child whose life the dragon tries to take (Rev. 7:1-8; 14:1-5). Since the Old Testament saints and

church saints are all resurrected to immortality by this time, it would be impossible for the dragon to kill them." [5]

Some points to consider about this theory:

1. If the 144,000 are the man-child, then they will be caught up in the middle before Israel's travail of 3 ½ years. (This makes her travail now about 3 1/2 years and not 7 years).
2. Keep in mind that there is no other proof of that anywhere.
3. Their ministry could overlap the middle.
4. But to say the man-child is caught up as soon as it is born, is a little off putting because they have a ministry of preaching for a period of time, which Dake says starts at the *beginning* of the seven years.
5. The 144,000 doesn't seem to fit this middle time period. Dake even puts them being protected during the end of the sixth seal in Rev. 7, and therefore has to conclude the sixth seal ends the middle point of the Tribulation. He even then says that they are "sealed" in their foreheads and go through the first four trumpet judgments in his note on Rev 7:1.

This is Dake's note on Rev. 7:1:

"[**four angels**] These are the first 4 trumpet judgment angels who are commanded not to blow their trumpets bringing the judgments until the 144,000 Jews are sealed or marked for protection to go through these judgments (Rev. 7:1-3). The 144,000 are sealed then, before the 7 trumpet judgments.

According to Dake this would mean that now the seven seals and at least four trumpet judgments happen *before* the middle point at which time the rapture of the 144,000 happens.

Dake later goes all the way to the seventh trumpet for the 144,000 to be on earth, and still places this at the middle point.

"Rev. 7:1-8; 9:4; 12:5; 14:1-5 give a complete revelation of the 144,000 -- their number, salvation, sealing in the forehead, protection through the first 6 trumpets, rapture under the 7th trumpet as the man-child, and their destiny and position in heaven after their rapture. If one of these passages is taken away the revelation about them is incomplete. We have them on earth all through the first 6 trumpets (Rev. 7:1-3; 9:4), and in heaven immediately after the catching up of the man-child in the 7th trumpet (Rev. 1:1-5), so if they are not the man-child, who is he and how did the 144,000 get into heaven?"[6]

[5] Finis Jennings Dake, Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text, (Lawrenceville, GA: Dake Bible Sales, Inc., 1997), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: Revelation "Chapter 12".

[6] Finis Jennings Dake, *Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text*, (Lawrenceville, GA: Dake Bible Sales, Inc., 1997), WORD*search* CROSS e-book, Under: "Chapter 12".

This would mean according to Dake that the seventh trumpet judgment ends the middle point of Revelation, with only the vials left to be poured out in the last 3 ½ years. This appears not to be correct because Revelation 7 happens between the sixth and seventh seal and describes a multitude in heaven who have come out of the great Tribulation. Who are these? Those who have been martyred during *the second half* of the Tribulation which Jesus called "Great Tribulation". But the 144,000 are still on the earth according to Dake. They are there until the seventh trumpet. He states this clearly in his note on Rev. 11:15:

> "Therefore, the 7 seals and first 6 trumpets will be fulfilled in the first 3 1/2 years of Daniel's 70th week (Rev. 6:1 -- Rev. 9:21)."[7]

To me this looks like the ministry of the 144,000 are actually in the later part of the Tribulation and are taken up alive at the seventh trumpet blast with the two witnesses and the rest of the believers from off the earth. To me this all happens at the end of the sixth seal and seventh trumpet, but occurs at the very end of the Tribulation. The middle to me happens during the fourth or fifth seal. Yes they are all kept safe from God's judgment on the earth at this time because they all have the seal of God in their foreheads. But martyrdom continues. This becomes a major departure from Dake here for me.

6. **KEY:** Dake asked a very important question above asking that if he is wrong about his interpretation of Rev. 12: (see quote above).

"If the man-child is not the 144,000 then who is he? And if that is the case, how do the 144,000 get into heaven as we see them in Rev. 14 before the throne?"

Perfect questions to ask. In my opinion the "man-child" is either the pre-Trib. Church Raptured before the Tribulation, or a mid-Trib. group of believers raptured to heaven, and the 144,000 are caught up later at the seventh trumpet with the two witnesses and others at that time. This would put their ministry in the second part of the Tribulation.

Verse 6

A. The woman flees and is fed by "them." V.6

Revelation 12:6 (KJV)
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.**

She delivers and he is caught up. The woman then goes to a place prepared for her for 1260 (this represents the first half of the Tribulation). The "place" is Jerusalem and the wilderness of people, and the "they" here are the ten kings and the Antichrist who have made a

[7] Finis Jennings Dake, *Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text*, (Lawrenceville, GA: Dake Bible Sales, Inc., 1997), WORD*search* CROSS e-book, Under: "Chapter 11".

covenant with her in trickery. (Note: "they" is only in KJV translation.) This is what begins the Tribulation period (Dan. 9:27).

Daniel 9:27 (KJV)
27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (L.B.- one week of years): **and in the midst of the week** (L.B.- after 3 ½ years) **he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease,** (L.B.- the Temple seems to be rebuilt by the point) **and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.**

What is the first "wilderness" where she is fed? Perhaps those who find the Lord after the *Harpazo* of the man-child are led to hide among nations. In fact this has already happened since the first century. The gathering begin to happen in the 1940's when Israel was reborn as a nation and will go into the tribulation period. Israel will then be fed there by "them." Notice verse 35 is yet to happen. Verse 35 in Ezekiel 20 mentions a "wilderness of People" where Jesus will lead true Israel into and meet with them there. This will happen in the last 3 ½ years of Jacob's trouble. Perhaps Israel will have two groups to flee. One just after the Rapture, and one just after the abomination of desolation.

Ezekiel 20:34-38 (HCSB)
34 I will bring you from the peoples and gather you from the countries where you were scattered, with a strong hand, an outstretched arm, and outpoured wrath.
35 I will lead you into the wilderness of the peoples and enter into judgment with you there face to face.
36 Just as I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you." [This is] the declaration of the Lord GOD.
37 "I will make you pass under the rod and will bring you into the bond of the covenant.
38 And I will also purge you of those who rebel and transgress against Me. I will bring them out of the land where they live as foreign residents, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am Yahweh.

The first time period of 1260 days Jerusalem and Israel will be under the protection of the Antichrist with some type of covenant. However, all the other Jews will still be placed all around the world scattered throughout all the countries of the world (Isaiah 66:19). They are literally in the "wilderness of the peoples." This is the first "wilderness" mentioned in Rev. 12.

The wilderness of people

Revelation 12:6 (KJV)
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.

What is the "wilderness" referred to in verse 6 above? Ezekiel 20:34-35 says He brought them out from the people and nations, and now pleads with them in the "wilderness of (the) people." Could the "hiding place" where they flee to, be a wilderness of people willing to help Israel during this time of distress? Micah says the remnant will be in the midst of many people like dew. Also like a young lion among the flocks of SHEEP.

Micah 5:7-8 (KJV)
7 And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as a dew from the LORD, as the showers upon the grass, that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men.
8 And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

Again, Ezekiel says face to face he will plead with them. Dake says this is the two witnesses of Revelation pleading with them (see below.) Does he do this when he sees them and they look on him and believe, or does he finish this judgment at the Sheep and Goats Judgment? Dake again says most of this is *before* culminating with His coming:

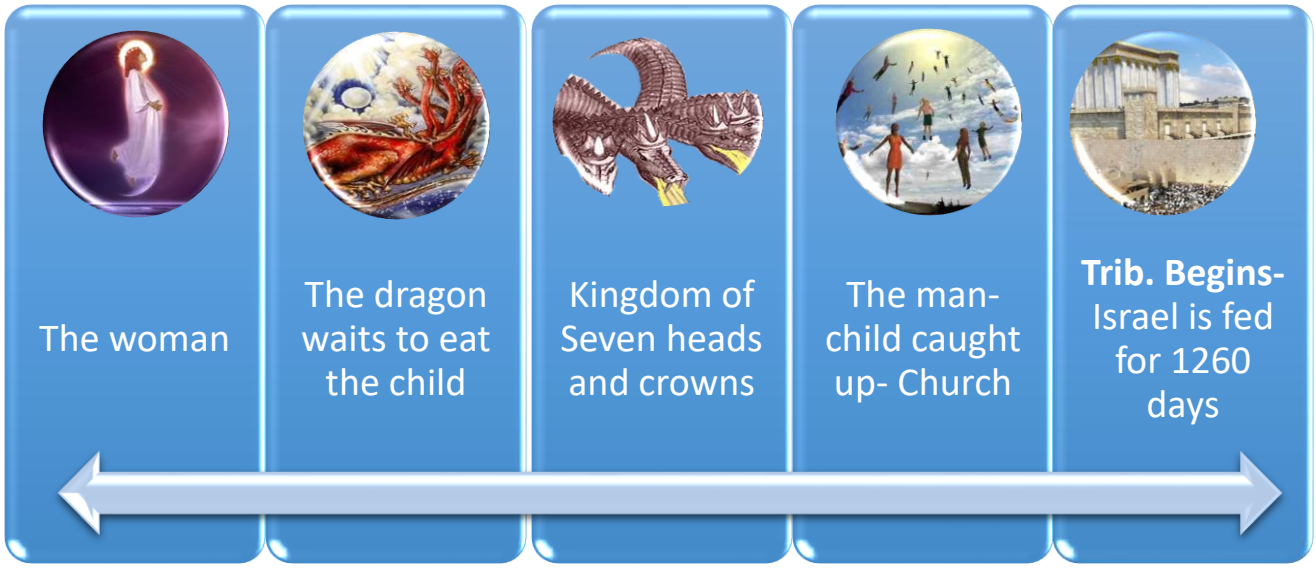
"Israel is spoken of as going into the wilderness several times, but never the Gentiles, the church, or Christendom (Ezek. 20:33-44; Isa. 16:1-5; 42:11-13; Hos. 2:14-23; Rev. 12:6,13-16)."

In this wilderness God will plead with Israel face to face as He did in the wilderness coming out of the land of Egypt (Ezek. 20:35-36). God sent Moses and Aaron to plead with them in those days, and in the future He will send the two witnesses, Enoch and Elijah, to plead with them in the coming tribulation (Rev. 11:3-11). He will bring Israel under the rod and into the bond of the covenant (Ezek. 20:37). At that time all rebels will be purged from them (Ezek. 20:38). In fact, Zech. 13:8-9 predicts that two-thirds of Israel will be destroyed, leaving only a third to accept Jesus Christ at His Second Coming (Zech. 12:10 -- Zech. 13:1; Rom. 11:25-29)." [8]

Zechariah 12:9-11 (KJV)
9 And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.
10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.
11 In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.

[8] Finis Jennings Dake, *Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text*, (Lawrenceville, GA: Dake Bible Sales, Inc., 1997), WORD*search* CROSS e-book, Under: "Chapter 20".

1st half and before- Events *before* the war in heaven-



1260 days Revelation 12:1-6-Chart by Larry Booth

Verse 7-12

B. **Next, the middle of the Tribulation there is war in the heavens and Satan is cast down- great wrath follows- Vs.7-12.**

Revelation 12:7-12 (KJV)
7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,
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.
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.
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.
12 Therefore rejoice, *ye* heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters 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.

Now is come:
1. Those in Heaven (Raptured and caught up) are told to rejoice- woe to those on Earth
2. Salvation during the last half of the Tribulation
3. Strength- Miraculous power displayed during the Tribulation
4. The kingdom of our God
5. The power of the His Messiah
6. The accuser is cast down no longer access to heaven

The "brethren" overcame during the last half:
1. By the blood of the Lamb
2. By the word of their testimony
3. By not loving their lives even to the death

Rejoice ye heavens:

Woe to the inhabitants of the Earth:
1. The devil is come down to you
2. Having great wrath
3. Because he knows he has a short time left

Verse13-17

C. Notice <u>the dragon does not persecute the woman until *after*</u> he is thrown out of the heavens at the middle of the Tribulation period-Vs. 13-17

Revelation 12:13 (HCSB)
13 <u>When</u> the dragon saw that he had been thrown to earth, <u>he persecuted the woman</u> who gave birth to the male child.

1. <u>This is proof that this event is *future*</u>- There was no "woman" or Israel at the beginning of the earth where some say this occurred before Adam and the fall of man.

2. This is happening sometime in the middle of the Tribulation period- V. 14

Revelation 12:13-17 (KJV)
13 And <u>when the dragon saw</u> that he was cast unto the earth, <u>he persecuted the woman</u> which brought forth the man *child*.
14 And to the woman were given <u>two wings of a great eagle</u>, that she might fly into the wilderness, into <u>her place</u>, where <u>she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time</u>, from the face of the serpent.
15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood <u>after the woman</u>, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.
16 And <u>the earth helped the woman</u>, and the earth <u>opened her mouth</u>, and <u>swallowed up the flood</u> which the dragon cast out of his mouth.
17 And the dragon was <u>wroth with the woman</u>, and <u>went to make war</u> with the remnant of her <u>seed</u>, which <u>keep the commandments</u> of God, and <u>have the testimony of Jesus Christ</u>.

3. In the vision already 1260 days <u>have already passed</u> and now a different phrase is used referring to the *last half* of the Tribulation. "A time, times and a half a time" (3 ½) going forward where Israel will fly into the wilderness. <u>This is not the same as the first wilderness experience for Israel mentioned in verse 6.</u> This last half period is prophesied by Jesus and called "great tribulation."

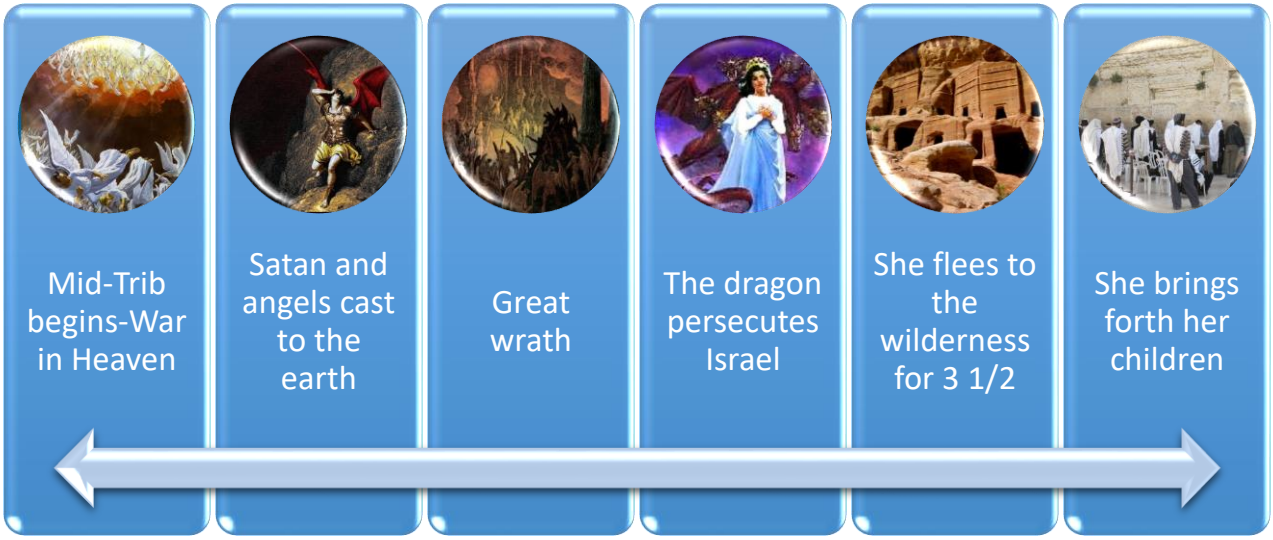
Matthew 24:15-22 (HCSB)
15 "So <u>when you see</u> the abomination that causes desolation, spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place" (let the reader understand),
16 "then those in Judea must flee to the mountains!
17 A man on the housetop must not come down to get things out of his house.
18 And a man in the field must not go back to get his clothes.
19 Woe to pregnant women and nursing mothers in those days!
20 Pray that <u>your escape</u> may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.

[21] For <u>at that time there will be great tribulation</u>, the kind that hasn't taken place from the beginning of the world until now and <u>never will again</u>!
[22] Unless those days were limited, no one would survive. But those days will be limited <u>because of the elect.</u>

<u>The second half of the Tribulation described:</u>

1. The <u>women flies into the wilderness</u> with two great eagle wings
2. The serpent sends a flood after the women
3. The earth swallows the flood
4. The dragon is wroth with the woman
5. He now goes to make <u>war with her remnant seed</u> (*more* offspring-an indicator that the man-child does not have to be only Jesus Himself)
6. Her seed here are those who keep the commandments (Jews) and those who have the testimony of Jesus- Christians during the Tribulation.

2nd half- 3 ½ years- Revelation 12:7-17 - Chart by Larry Booth



I. When I studied these verses word for word, the conclusion to me became obvious that these verses could very well be the quintessential proof of the Rapture being before the Tribulation even starts.

Dr. Chuch Missler hinted that the man-child in Rev. 12 could possibly be referring to the Rapture of the church and mentioned that Pember believed this.[9] English Theologian **G.H. Pember** stated this long ago in his book *Earth's Earliest Ages* in 1866 that the rapture of the church could be soon and would precede the Tribulation and Satan's expulsion from the heavens:

> **"The waiting Church will be removed before the fallen angels are driven down to earth.** But of far more intense interest to those who love the Lord Jesus, and long for His

[9] Missler, Dr Chuck. (2015). <u>The Rapture: Christianity's Most Preposterous Belief</u> (P. 27). Coeur d' Alene, ID Koinonia House.

appearing, is that which is signified as taking place just previously to the expulsion of the Devil and his angels from heaven.[Rev 12:1-5] For without going into details, which we have considered elsewhere,[10] we may mention our conclusion that the birth and rapture of the man child refer to the completion of the mystic Christ—of which the personal Christ is the Head and His Church the body —as manifested by the sudden translation of all waiting saints, whether dead or alive, to meet their Lord in the air. It thus appears that this long expected event will precede Satan's banishment from heaven, and, therefore, also its results, the revival of the Roman empire, and the revelation of the Man of Sin. Like Enoch, the Church of Christ will be called away before earth is for a time abandoned to the Nephilim, before the fearful woes of the end. Therefore, in all probability, the Lord is at hand."[11]

A. There are some issues with Rev. 12:

1. Some would conclude that the two mentions of "wilderness" might link the two parts together as one. This would mean only a mid-Trib. viewpoint (see above). I do not.

2. In Isaiah 66 the "man-child" is delivered *before* she is in labor and pain (HCSB), then she goes into labor (Greek lit.-sorrow) and has children. In the Revelation 12:2 she seems to be *in labor pains* consistent with full term, when she delivers the man-child. Verse 4 says "she is ready to be delivered." We understand Jesus was delivered without pain, but the church is Raptured when Israel is ready to deliver and in full pregnancy. This shows a parallel of the church and Israel.

First child- delivered- before labor- Jesus Christ- Isaiah 66
Second child- delivered while fully pregnant- the Church who is raptured up- Rev. 12
Third child and other children- the remnant of Israel saved during tribulation pains- Micah 5:3

3. Isaiah 54- She is called barren and desolate but her seed will fill the cities- In Isaiah 66 she has the man-child and then becomes barren, when she has sorrow and she brought forth children in one day after her labor pains. This speaks of the restoration of Israel in one day. Zech. 12-14.

Isaiah 54:1-8 (KJV)
1 Sing, O barren, thou *that* didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou *that* didst not travail with child: for more *are* the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD. (LB-more will be saved than are saved from the Old Testament?)
2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes;
3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.
4 Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be

[10] In "The Great Prophecies" (Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton).
[11] Pember M. A., G. H.. Earth's Earliest Ages and Their Connection with Modern Spiritualism and Theosophy . 1866. Kindle Edition.

put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.
5 For thy Maker *is* thine husband; the LORD of hosts *is* his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.
6 For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God.
7 For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee.
8 In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.

Tony Garland concerning the woman- "While it has been customary for commentators to view this as the church (spiritual Israel) quickly springing up and spreading across the world, it should rather be viewed as converted Israel who will come to faith during the Tribulation Period and quickly spread the message of the gospel around the world."[12]

Isaiah 9:6-7 (KJV)
6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

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[12] Garland, Anthony. A Testimony of Jesus P.478 quoting Jerry Falwell, Edward D. Hindson, and Michael Woodrow Kroll, eds., *KJV Bible Commentary* (Nashville,TN: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1994), Isa. 66:5-9.