

### Revelation 12:7-12

Even though there is a great emphasis on Satan and Satan worship in these days, the truth is, Satan and his forces have always been and will always be losers.

A brief history of Satan's judgment (Ezekiel 28:12-17) will be helpful here in understanding this passage. Satan has been cast down out or cast into something at least four times:

1. Satan was cast out of heaven from the throne of God and from being in charge of all of the angels who guarded the throne of God - Ezek. 28:14-16. This is what Jesus Christ was talking about seeing in Luke 10:18. He is God and He was there. There is an interesting text in Luke 22:31 which informs us that Jesus Christ was fully aware of everything Satan was doing even in heaven.
2. Satan is cast down here in Revelation from any present position he now holds in heaven - Job 1:12; I Kings 22:21; Zechariah 3:1. More than likely this is when Satan is no longer able to have any contact with heaven whatsoever.
3. Satan is cast into the abyss at the coming of Jesus Christ and he remains there for 1000 years - Rev. 20:1-3.
4. Satan is cast into everlasting fire after being released for a short while from the abyss - Rev. 20:10

In this passage Satan is cast out of the remaining position he has in heaven after losing a war with Michael; and when this happens, he will viciously attack Israel and anyone properly related to God.

To analyze these verses, we may ask and answer eight questions:

#### **QUESTION #1** – When does this event take place?

This event concerning Satan takes place approximately 3½ years into the Tribulation. We may conclude this by examining the context - Revelation 12:6, 14. We may also notice from these two references that it is perfectly legitimate to interpret “a time and times and half a time” as being 3½ years. The prophet Daniel refers to this very period of time - Dan. 7:25; 12:7. It is obviously the last 3½ years of the Tribulation when things specifically center on Israel.

#### **QUESTION #2** – Why does this war take place?

There are three reasons: 1) Satan is nearing being finished; 2) Christ is nearing being victorious; 3) God is using Satan to finish His judgment.

**QUESTION #3** – Who is this war between?

**Revelation 12:7** gives us a specific answer to this question - Michael and his angels wage war with Satan and his angels.

**QUESTION #4** – Who is Michael? **12:7**

The name Michael in Hebrew means “who is like God.” There are eleven different persons named Michael in the Bible. This Michael is the “archangel” who is described in Daniel, Jude and Revelation. In Jude 9 we learn Michael is an archangel. He is the only angel specifically identified as an “archangel” in Scripture, but we may assume there is more than one.

In Daniel 10:21 and Daniel 12:1-2 we learn that Michael is an archangel who specifically has been assigned by God to care for Israel.

**QUESTION #5** – Who is Satan? **12:7-9**

In this passage Satan is given five descriptive names and titles:

**Title #1** - Satan is “the dragon.” **12:7**

This presents Satan as a monster who is vicious and dangerous and a powerful opponent of God.

**Title #2** - Satan is “the serpent.” **12:9a**

This presents Satan as the crafty, poisonous being who slithers around secretly looking to destroy. He has been from “of old.” He started his attacks in heaven, then Eden, and now all over the world.

**Title #3** - Satan is “the devil.” **12:9b**

This title means that Satan is a false, slanderous accuser. This title gives us insight into how Satan works through false accusations.

**Title #4** - Satan is “the Satan.” **12:9c**

This name comes from the Hebrew word which means an adversary. Satan is an adversary of God. He is an adversary of God’s Word, God’s work, and God’s people. He opposes everything that God is and does.

**Title #5** - Satan is “the deceiver.” **12:9d**

This word has to do with deceptively leading something astray. Notice Satan is “the deceiver” of the “whole world.” His goal is to deceptively lead all in the world away from the true, good ways of God.

**QUESTION #6** – Who starts the war between Michael and Satan? **12:7**

It is clear that the instigator of this fight is Michael. The grammar indicates that Michael is the one who picks the fight.

**QUESTION #7** – Where does the fight take place? **12:7**

The fight takes place “in the heaven.” There are three heavens mentioned in the Bible:

**Heaven #1** - The heaven where the birds fly and the clouds are. Jeremiah 4:25 - our atmosphere

**Heaven #2** - The heaven where the stars and planets and the sun and moon are located. Isaiah 13:10 - the stellar heaven

**Heaven #3** - The heaven where God’s throne is located. Rev. 4:2 - God’s throne

Ironically, this heaven where God’s throne is located, is called by Paul as the “third heaven” (II Corinthians 12:2). This is “the” heaven where Satan appears from time to time before God (Job 1:6; 2:1). It is in this realm that this war takes place.

**QUESTION #8** – What is the outcome of this war? **12:7-12**

Notice carefully that five times in this text John stresses the outcome: **verse 9** - three times; **verse 10** - one time; and **verse 13** - one time.

There are four main results:

**Result #1** - Satan and his forces are no longer permitted into God’s heaven. **12:8**

Satan’s presence ruins harmony.

**Result #2** - Satan and his angels are confined to this earth. **12:9**

There will be no break in the action when this happens.

**Result #3** - Satan’s loss brings out a victorious praise service in heaven. **12:10-12a**

We will actually be at this service.

There are six praise themes:

**Theme #1** - God is praised when Satan is cast to the earth because of God's salvation. **12:10a**

His accuser work on earth is done.

**Theme #2** - God is praised when Satan is cast to earth because of God's power. **12:10b**

God is the one with "the power," not Satan.

**Theme #3** - God is praised when Satan is cast to earth because of God's Kingdom. **12:10c**

This clearly refutes any idea that God has already established His Kingdom. The Tribulation prayer, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" becomes very applicable at this time.

**Theme #4** - God is praised when Satan is cast to earth because of God's authority. **12:10d**

The One with all authority is Jesus Christ.

**Theme #5** - God is praised when Satan is cast to earth because of no more accusations.  
**12:10e-12a**

Satan is the accuser of the brethren (Romans 8:33-34, 38-39). Notice **verse 11** and how we overcome Satan, by the blood of the Lamb. There is power in the blood of the Lamb.

**Theme #6** - God is praised when Satan is cast to earth, but the world is pitied. **12:12b**

When the text says "woe to the earth and the sea" it does not only mean those on earth and on the sea, but the earth people or land people Israel and the sea people the Gentiles (Rev. 17:15). When Satan is confined to this earth, "woe" to those on this earth.

**Result #4** - Satan's loss means he will attempt to destroy Israel. **12:13-17**

This will be the worst form of anti-Semitism that will ever hit the world. This is the time predicted by Jesus Christ when He said concerning Israel that if He did not shorten those days, no flesh would be saved (Matthew 24:22).

Since the focus of God during the last 3½ years will be upon Israel, so Satan's final focus will be an attempt to destroy Israel. This is called the time of Jacob's trouble (Jeremiah 30:7).

**Revelation 12:13-17**

When it comes to Israel, there has been a “legacy of hatred” against her. All throughout history the Jews have been persecuted. In history many synagogues were burned, Jewish homes were demolished, Jewish books were banned, Jewish rabbis were destroyed and many Jews were killed. But of all the persecutions which have come against Israel, the worst is yet to come. It will occur about halfway through “The Tribulation” and it is called in Scripture, “the time of Jacob’s trouble.”

The last major wave of hatred that will come against the Jew will be the worst ever, and it will occur right at this point in the Tribulation, and it will be led by Satan who has been ousted from heaven. **Satan will use his final days on earth to target Israel in an attempt to exterminate her.**

This persecution will be, as one writer said, “desperate and deadly.” Satan hates Israel. Israel is God’s elect nation. Israel produced Jesus Christ. Israel gave us God’s Word. Israel is promised by God some wonderful future blessings. Satan hates her and at this point in the Tribulation he will do everything he can to eliminate her.

There are five observations we make from these verses:

**OBSERVATION #1** – When Satan is confined to the earth he will persecute Israel. **12:13**

The Greek word “persecute” is one that refers to persecuting something in a speedy pursuit that drives the thing persecuted away and puts it to flight (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 119).

The object of the persecution is the woman who gave birth to “the” male child. The male child is none other than Jesus Christ and the woman who produced Him was the nation Israel (Romans 9:4-5). **In other words, this specific persecution will be specifically aimed at Israel.**

When Satan is confined to this earth, he will speedily pursue Israel in an attempt to rid the world of the Jew. Satan will realize his time is short and he realizes that Jesus Christ is about to come back and reign for Israel. His thinking is “I’ll destroy this nation.” Any Jew, except the 144,000 who have been sealed, will be in serious danger of being destroyed.

Those Jews who reject Jesus Christ in this Age are headed to a satanic slaughter. Satan will use political forces, religious forces, economic forces to try and exterminate the Jew. His goal will be to destroy Israel.

**OBSERVATION #2** – God will sovereignly protect and preserve Israel for 3½ years.  
**12:14**

What is described in this verse is that Israel is enabled by God to quickly and swiftly escape from the satanic persecution. The imagery used is of the “great eagle.” The eagle is said to be the most powerful of birds and the most rapid in flight.

This “eagle” imagery is specifically connected to Israel and God. In Exodus 19:3-4 this is imagery of how God carried Israel out of the land of Egypt and destroyed the Egyptians. It was God who drew Israel to Himself and protected her. In Deuteronomy 32:9-12 this imagery again relates to Israel and how God cared for her and protected her and led her when she was in the desert and wilderness.

When the text says she will “fly into the wilderness,” it means a couple of things:

- 1) It means many Jews will literally flee to the wilderness area that is outside Jerusalem. This is the literal suburbia area predicted by Jesus Christ (Matthew 24:16). King David literally fled himself to this wilderness area (I Samuel 23:13-15).
- 2) It means many Jews will symbolically flee to Gentile nations who will hide her and protect her. This is also predicted in Scripture - Isaiah 11:9-12; Zechariah 10:6-12; Matthew 25:31-46.

It is interesting that some have suggested that the “eagle” imagery is specifically connected to the United States who uses the eagle as a symbol. Those who take this position believe that many Jews will flee to the United States during the Tribulation. This may or may not be true. The real emphasis of the picture is of God powerfully and swiftly protecting Israel.

We may observe that the specific time of this persecution is identified as “a time, times, and half a time.” We know that these numbers in this very chapter refer to 1260 days (Rev. 12:6). In other words, the time of this persecution against Israel is 3½ years.

This is precisely predicted by Daniel. In Daniel 7:23-28, it is stated that the Antichrist will “wear down” the saints for a “time, times, and half a time” or 3½ years. In Daniel 12:7 it is predicted that God’s nation will be “shattered” for a “time, times, and half a time” or 3½ years.

Based on what Daniel says in Daniel 12:11 the abomination of desolation will be announced and implemented 30 days before the midpoint of the Tribulation, which would make this time period a total of 1290 days. This final 3½ years will be brutal for Israel.

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**OBSERVATION #3** – Satan’s first assault against Israel will be “like” a flood of a river.  
**12:15**

Again the prophet Daniel predicted that this satanic persecution would be like a flood (Dan. 9:26). By the use of the adverb “like,” we know that this is not a reference to a literal flood of water but to a flood of severe persecution.

A river that floods, rises quickly and flows swiftly and ferociously. The prophet Jeremiah uses this imagery in reference to Gentile powers who quickly and swiftly rise against Israel (Jer. 46:7-8; 47:2-3). More than likely what this means is that Satan’s first assault against Israel will be a rise of Gentile powers who will quickly and swiftly turn against her in an attempt to completely destroy Israel.

**OBSERVATION #4** – God will not permit Satan and his forces to completely destroy Israel.  
**12:16**

God will not allow Satan to completely destroy His nation. We know from Zechariah that at least two thirds of Israel will die, but one third will not (Zech. 13:8-9).

God will offset this satanic attempt to destroy her by raising up other nations from the earth to house her and help her (Matt. 25:31-46).

**OBSERVATION #5** – Satan will realize that God is protecting Israel and he will be enraged.  
**12:17**

Satan realizes that he cannot completely destroy Israel because God is protecting her, so he will make war with any believer, not just the Jew. He will try to destroy every Jew and every believer. Any person who is committed to the Word of God and the testimony pertaining to Jesus Christ will be the target of his attack.

### Revelation 13:1-18

The term “Antichrist” (αντιχριστος) is taken from I John 2:18 which says, “Children, it is the last hour and just as you heard that **antichrist** is coming, even now many **antichrists** have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour.”

The word “Antichrist” literally means “against Christ.” The Antichrist will actually be accepted and honored in this world because he is against Christ.

As we come to Revelation 13:1, it is predicted that in the middle of the Tribulation there will be a “beast” who will come onto the scene and this beast, as we shall see, will be the Antichrist.

In Revelation 13, there are two beasts who are emphasized:

- 1) The beast of the sea . **13:1-10**
- 2) The beast of the earth . **13:11-18**

### Revelation 13:1-10 “The Beast of the Sea”

In this book of Revelation there are at least twenty traits revealed concerning the Antichrist:

**Trait #1** - The Antichrist is a beast . **13:1a**

What this word means is that the Antichrist will have a wild, untamable, uncontrollable nature. He will be vicious, not tame. He may look gentle, but he is a ferocious beast.

**Trait #2** - The Antichrist is a Gentile . **13:1b**

Notice the beast came up “out of the sea.” This expression “out of the sea” is one that would seem to suggest that **the Antichrist will be a Gentile, not a Jew**. Isaiah used this imagery of the “sea” in the context of describing the wicked - “the wicked are like the tossing sea, for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up refuse and mud” (Isaiah 57:20). Revelation 17:13-15 refers to the seas as being godless Gentile powers. Our conclusion is that the Antichrist will be a wicked, godless Gentile, not one who is Jewish.

**Trait #3** - The Antichrist is a dominate political leader. **13:1c**

The Antichrist has “ten horns.” We know from Revelation 17:12 that this means he will have dominate control of ten world leaders and their power. He will have so much world power that he will probably appoint his leaders to various world positions and they in turn will give total allegiance to him (Rev. 17:12-13). He will come disguised as a great world humanitarian. He will talk peace, prosperity, and plenty.



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**Trait #4** - The Antichrist will have complete political control. **13:1d**

The idea of having “seven heads” is not easy to interpret. Probably the safest interpretation is to connect it to the number seven which we have seen so many times in Revelation and interpret this to mean that the Antichrist will have complete authority over world leadership.

It is possible that this refers to the seven continents of the world: Africa, Europe, Asia, North American, South American, Australia, and Antarctica. There is no doubt that in John’s day Rome literally controlled the world, so it is very probable that this is informing us that the Antichrist will literally and completely control the world.

**Trait #5** - The Antichrist will have the highest position of world royalty . **13:1e**

The text informs us that on his horns were ten “diadems.” A diadem crown is the crown of royalty. The Antichrist will be viewed as having kingly royalty by the nations of the world. The world will view him as their king, but as E. W. Bullinger said, all of this is “satanic royalty.”

**Trait #6** - The Antichrist will have blasphemous names . **13:1f**

The word “blasphemous” literally means to “speak against God.” Every name or title given to the Antichrist will be a noun or appellation designed to state the reality that he is against God. Even the name “Antichrist” means he is “against Christ.” Just as names of God reveal things about God, so the names connected to the Antichrist will reveal he is against God.

**Trait #7** - The Antichrist will be a vicious political leader. **13:2a**

The beast is portrayed as being “like” a leopard, bear, and lion. This imagery comes from Daniel 7:4-6 and in that context Greece was the leopard, Medo-Persia was the bear, and Babylon was the lion. This Antichrist will have the vicious nature of all of them combined. He will be the cruelest leader ever and he will quickly rip people to shreds and devour them and no one will be able to escape from his ferocious attack.

**Trait #8** - The Antichrist will be satanic . **13:2b**

The Antichrist will be the “zenith” of satanic power. Satan is the one giving direct power to the Antichrist. Every power he possesses, including his world status, will be given to him by Satan. It is important to see that this satanic Antichrist does not wear black robes and light candles and chant weird things; he is a shrewd, smooth politician who can maneuver his way among the political leaders of the world.

**Trait #9** - The Antichrist will be resurrected . **13:3**

The Antichrist is one who receives a deadly wound to the head which will be miraculously healed.

There are three interpretive views as to what this actually means:

- (View #1) - A dead Roman Empire will be miraculously healed and revived under the Antichrist.
- (View #2) - A dead historical political leader will be miraculously brought back to life as the Antichrist.
- (View #3) - A fatal wound will kill the contemporary Antichrist and Satan will raise him from the dead.

The first interpretation makes the healing a healing of a nation, whereas the last two interpretations make the healing a healing of a human.

The first interpretation is based on the fact that just one of the heads is wounded, yet the beast does not die. In other words, even though the Roman Empire seemed to be non-existent, it has been somewhat existent for all of these years and will be resurrected.

**The second and third interpretations are the easiest to contextually defend because they make the fatal wound refer to a person.** This position is based on the following observations:

- 1) The context is discussing a particular world leader.
- 2) Other passages clearly discuss a powerful human satanic leader - II Thess. 2:8-10.
- 3) Revelation 13:12 indicates that the beast who received the fatal wound is worshipped and worship always involves the worship of some personage, not a nation.
- 4) The same word "slain" is used in Revelation 5:6 and there it refers to a literal Person, Jesus Christ, who was literally killed.

One matter that is difficult to grammatically determine is whether or not the Antichrist will be a contemporary political figure who will be assassinated and brought back to life, or whether he will be some famous previous political person from history brought back to life.

The perfect passive "as if it had been slain" (13:3) indicates that this wounding did take place sometime prior to John seeing the Antichrist. The text does not say how long prior to John seeing him that the fatal wound took place. It is grammatically possible the wound occurred shortly after the Tribulation began, and it is also possible that it occurred before the Tribulation began.

Those to take the past history view have suggested that the Antichrist could be a raised Caligula or Nero or Hitler or John F. Kennedy. Truth is, we do not know and we believe it is best to think in terms of a contemporary Tribulation Antichrist. At some point the Antichrist in the Tribulation will suffer a mortal wound to the head that will kill him, but Satan will bring him back to life.

**Trait #10** - The Antichrist will promote Satan worship. **13:4a**

This, of course, is exactly what Satan always wanted, to be worshipped as God (Is. 14:12-14). The Antichrist will see to it that Satan is given his due worship for the power Satan has given to him.

**Trait #11** - The Antichrist himself will be worshipped . **13:4b**

We know from II Thessalonians 2:4 that the Antichrist will sit himself in the Temple in Jerusalem, which is the abomination of desolation, and demand to be worshipped as God.

**Trait #12** - The Antichrist will be given a satanic, blasphemous mouth . **13:5-6**

Satan does some of his most diabolical work through words. He uses people to communicate words. He will speak through the Antichrist to the world and he will speak against God. Notice the emphasis on “arrogance.” Satanic speech is arrogant speech. He will arrogantly speak against God’s name, God’s Temple, God’s people, and even those who dwell in heaven. Someone who speaks arrogantly against God’s sacred things is satanic.

**Trait #13** - The Antichrist will be limited in time . **13:5b**

Notice his time is limited to forty-two months, which is 3½ years. It will be the final 3½ years of the Great Tribulation when the Antichrist will do his destructive work.

**Trait #14** - The Antichrist will wage a war with believers . **13:7a**

We may observe that **verse 7** says “it was given to him.” What this means is that God is the One who will permit the Antichrist to make war against His people and God is the One who will permit the Antichrist to overcome His people. Now specifically the target will be Israel, but it will also include any believer.

**Trait #15** - The Antichrist will have authority over the whole world. **13:7b**

Notice again the emphasis on the fact that this “was given to him.” God is the One who permits this evil leader to control the world, which includes all peoples, nations, and languages. He will be a world leader.

**Trait #16** - The Antichrist will be worshipped by all unbelievers. **13:8-9**

The “earth-dwellers” are unbelievers and all unbelievers will worship the Antichrist. Everyone will, except those in the Lamb’s book of life.

The “book of life of the Lamb” is God’s sovereign book of salvation which has been written by God from before the foundation of the world. Now there is something grammatical that is theologically very important to see here. The verb “has been written” is perfect passive. What this means is that God wrote all believers’ names in this book of life at a point in past time, which is from the foundation of the world, and those names are there into the present and into the future.

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From the point in time when God created the world, the names of believers were in that Lamb's book of life. This is exactly what this grammar says. Like the doctrine of election or not; agree with it or not; the fact is, it is Biblically proved right here.

We can be so thankful that our name was in the Lamb's book of life before the world was made; for had God waited until we actually got into this world, He wouldn't have wanted any of us.

**Trait #17** - The Antichrist will be executed. **13:10**

The Antichrist will eventually be executed for what he has done. This will actually happen in Revelation 19:20.

**Trait #18** - The Antichrist will be associated with a mark and a number. **13:16-18**

The mark will be placed either on the right hand or the forehead of all people. The number he will have will be the number 666. (We will discuss later.)

**Trait #19** - The Antichrist will be closely connected to a religious system. **17:3**

The Antichrist will have the full support of a false religious system. Some have suggested it will be Roman Catholicism, but we believe it will be the Islamic religion which is the Babylonian harlot.

**Trait #20** - The Antichrist will have willing allegiances. **17:13**

Many leaders have tried to gain control over the old Roman Empire, but none have succeeded (Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm, Hitler, Mussolini). The Antichrist will not have to work at getting control; nations will willingly turn their power over to him.

There have been many speculations as to the identity of the Antichrist: Nero, Judas, Catholic Pope, John F. Kennedy, Henry Kissinger, Moshe Dayan (was Defense Minister of Israel during Six Day War, and during WWII while looking through binoculars was shot in the head, lost an eye, and wore an eye-patch). Some have said Hitler will come back: 1) He hated Jews; 2) He died by shooting himself in the head; 3) He is closely connected to the number 6 - he killed 6 million Jews in 6 years (1939-45); 4) He became chancellor in 1933; 5) His swastika has 6 lines; 6) His last name has 6 letters; 7) If you take the letters of the alphabet "A"= 100; "B"=101, etc., the name Hitler totals 666; 8) Hitler was closely connected to Catholicism. Truth is, we don't really know who it will be.