



Revelation 11-16

THE CONFLICT OF THE AGES

...War has been declared. The great, governing cherub had become the malignant enemy. Our God was neither surprised nor astonished, for, of course, He knew before it happened that it would happen, and He had His perfect plan ready to be put into effect. Although the Lord had the power to destroy Satan with a breath, He did not do so. It was as though an edict had been proclaimed in heaven: "We shall give this rebellion a thorough trial. We shall permit it to run its full course. The universe shall see what a creature, though he be the highest creature ever to spring from God's Word, can do apart from Me. We shall watch this experiment, and permit the universe of creatures to watch it, during this brief interlude between eternity past and eternity future called time. In it the spirit of independence shall be allowed to expand to the utmost. And the wreck and ruin which shall result will demonstrate to the universe, and forever, that there is no life, no joy, no peace apart from a complete dependence upon the Most High God, Possessor of heaven and earth." — Donald Grey Barnhouse

We were born into a war zone. Ever since Adam's fall into sin, the earth has been under the dominion of Satan, the "ruler of this world" (John 16:11; cf. 2 Cor. 4:4). Earth's history is God's redemptive story played out in time. The book of Revelation provides the details of the final chapter.

In Revelation 10-14, the tribulation timeline is paused. John digests the judgment that is to come (10) and measures the future temple in Jerusalem that will be at the center of the conflict during the tribulation (11). In Revelation 12-14, John sees seven main characters in the final chapter of this story.

1. THE WOMAN (12:1-2, 5-6)

The woman represents _____ (Gen. 37:9). She will give birth to a Child who will rule the nations (cf. Psalm 2) and she will be hated and attacked by the dragon.

2. THE DRAGON (12:3-17)

The dragon represents _____, the serpent of old, the deceiver of the world, and the accuser of believers. He is the power behind the world empires in the past and one that will rise in power in the future (cf. 17:8-18; Dan. 7:1-12).

The dragon hates the Child and seeks to devour him but fails. He and his angels will be defeated in a heavenly battle and cast down to earth where he will unleash his wrath and seek to destroy the woman and the rest of her offspring.

It's time to vote with our feet and send a clear message to the world that we truly believe that the Temple Mount is ours and we truly hope and pray for a time of unparalleled world peace and harmony with the rebuilding of the Third Temple.

— Rabbi Chaim Richman
Director of the Temple Institute

In chapters 12 through 14 of the book of Revelation, the great actors of the tribulation time are introduced. ...About these main characters swirls the tremendously moving scene of the great tribulation. —John Walvoord

Then he had another dream and told it to his brothers. "Look," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun, moon, and 11 stars were bowing down to me." —Genesis 37:9

The world's oldest hatred is like a virus that has mutated over the ages. Jews have been reviled for being rich and poor, capitalist and communist, metropolitan and parochial, stateless and having a state. —Zaki Cooper

3. THE CHILD (12:5-6)

The Child represents _____. In a corporate sense, the Child may also represent _____ which is His body (Eph. 1:23), will reign with Him (Rev. 2:26-27), and will be “caught up” to God and to His throne (1 Th. 4:17).

4. THE ANGELS (12:7-12)

Michael, the archangel (Jude 9), and the angelic armies will fight against the dragon and his demonic forces. The dragon and his demons will be permanently cast out of heaven during the tribulation thus confining their activity to earth (Dan. 12:1-3).

5. THE BEAST (13:1-10)

The beast out of the sea represents the _____. He arises in the same image as the dragon (i.e., the serpent’s seed, Gen. 3:15), rules dominantly over a revived Roman Empire for 42 months (17:9; cf. Dan. 2:36-45; 7:1-28), speaks blasphemy, hates any who follow Christ, and receives the worship and adoration of the world (cf. 2 Thess. 2:3-12).

This future world leader is also known as the little horn (Dan. 7:8), the prince who is to come (9:26-27), the willful king (11:36), the man of sin (2 Th. 2:3), and the lawless one (2:8).

He will be revealed in the future, along with his number, 666.

6. THE FALSE PROPHET (13:11-17; 19:20)

A second beast coming out of the earth has horns like a lamb but speaks like a dragon. He is a sign-worker and a deceiver, forcing the whole world to worship an image of the beast on penalty of death and to receive a mark in order to buy or sell.

7. THE LAMB (14:1-20)

The authority of the dragon, beast, and false prophet is limited and temporary. The One who ultimately reigns is the Lamb!

They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.
—Revelation 12:11 (NIV)

I have no doubt that the “male child” spoken of in the chapter includes the church as well as Christ. But it is Christ that is principally meant, for the church would be nothing without Christ; it would be a body without a head.
—John Nelson Darby

Caught up. Greek, *harpazo*, “to snatch away.” In all its uses, *harpazo* refers to a sudden snatching, typically as a rescue out of a dangerous situation.

We must move as quickly as possible to a one-world government, one-world religion, under a one-world leader.

—Robert Muller (1923-2010)
Former Asst. Gen. Secretary of U.N.

As accuser of the brethren, he is in opposition to Christ as priest; as the one who brings forth the first beast, he is in opposition to Christ as king; as bringing forth the second beast, the false prophet, he is opposed to Christ as prophet.
—C. A. Coates

So many identifications have been made of 666 with characters of history as to make them all unreliable coincidences. When this man arises on the scene of world affairs there will be no mistake as to who he is and in some way, unknown now, the number 666 will play a principal part in the identification.

—Charles C. Ryrie

He didn’t say be watching for Antichrist, but be watching for the One whose name is above every name, before whom every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

—J. Dwight Pentecost