

The Best of Sheldon Emry



Called the Devil and Satan

Sheldon Emry

THAT OLD SERPENT CALLED THE DEVIL AND SATAN

of Revelation 12

There is a passage in the 12th chapter of Revelation, which has for centuries been used as the foundation stone for what one might call Devil Theology. I will begin by reading part of it, and then we will look at more of it later, and study the entire passage. The most often quoted verses are:

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven. 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.” Revelation 12:7-9.

Most of you are familiar with the common doctrine on the origin and the place of ‘satan’ as taught by the churches. They sometimes call him the ‘devil’ and so on; but I’ll condense church teaching on ‘satan’ and the ‘devil’ rather briefly here:

The devil is a spirit creature with awesome power on the earth to do evil, or cause men to do evil. He was once the chief angel in God's heaven, but rebelled against God and actually warred against God; and had one-third of the angels on his side. So, in the war they eventually lost, or at least lost after a fashion. God, with the help of Michael and his angels, cast the devil and his angels down to the earth where they now roam about, doing their nefarious works.

Common teaching is that the ‘devil’ is so evil he is almost indescribable. However, the Catholic priests and the Christian ministers are continually resisting him, and preaching against him, and fighting against him. And apparently, if it were not for them, the ‘devil’ would have taken over and perhaps destroyed the earth already.

Some teach that this powerful ‘spirit creature’ will eventually be destroyed, and they quote Revelation 20:10 for that. Some teach, as do the Catholics, that this wicked ‘spirit-being’ and his angels, whom they call ‘devils’ or ‘demons,’ will live forever in a burning hell, poking red-hot irons and pitch-forks into those who did not do what the priests or the ministers said they should.

The Catholics generally say that all protestants are going to be down there with the devil. Baptists think that all non-Baptists are going to be there; and many individual churches or denominations teach that everyone but their own group is going to be down there, in that 'hell,' with the 'devil' at his pleasure for ages upon end.

There, in about four paragraphs, I have preached almost every sermon being preached in Baptist churches this week. Some of you have been in Baptist churches, and you know that about half of the sermons in Baptist churches are about "the devil will get you if you don't watch out, so do what the minister says."

Such sermons are not totally confined to what is called 'Mainstream Protestantism,' nor to 'Catholicism.' I have here the January 1980 PLAIN TRUTH magazine printed by Herbert W. Armstrong. Most of you know about the World Wide Church of God. This is from the article entitled "Personal from H.W.A." The article purports to answer this question:

"What is the most universal erroneous and false belief and teaching that has caused the world's evils, troubles, sufferings and sorrows?"

Needless to say, Armstrong's final conclusion is that, it is because all the churches except Armstrong's are preaching false doctrine. But I want to quote from the article as he explains part of the reason, for what he calls "the error of the churches," and he says it is caused by the 'devil.' So I will quote just those parts where he talks about the 'devil.' He says:

"Perhaps many people do not believe in the existence of a devil anymore. Yet your Bible says the whole world, including it's religions, has been deceived by Satan the Devil." (then he quotes Revelation 12:9), 'The inhabitants of the earth have been deceived by him through deceived religion.' (Revelation 17:2). But your Bible also says, 'The time is coming when God Almighty shall send an angel from heaven and lay hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil and Satan. And bind him a thousand years and cast him into the bottomless pit and shut him up and set a seal upon him that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years shall be fulfilled.'"

That is from Revelation 20. Armstrong goes on:

"Just who is this Satan, where did he come from? Did God create a devil to deceive us? He is a former archangel who was perfect in all his ways, as God created him, (Ezekiel 28:15). But he had a mind and free moral agency with the right of free choice forming his own decisions. Just as God has given you and me and all humans that same free moral agency. Otherwise, we could have no character. This great arch-angel was named Lucifer, and God set him on the throne of the whole world, to administer the government of God over angels which inhabited the earth prior to the creation of man. But this powerful Lucifer turned his angels into rebelling against God."

There is a whole column about this same 'devil,' deceiving the churches in the world, and he asks how it could have all started. At the bottom of the page he says:

"It all started with Adam in the garden of Eden."

A little further on,

“Satan was just around the corner, so to speak, waiting for a chance to tempt Adam into rejecting God, even as he himself had rejected God, God's Law, God's way and God's government when he was the arch-angel Lucifer.”

And still further on,

“Satan tempted Adam through his wife, Eve; Adam took of the forbidden tree.”

I quoted all of that to show that although Armstrong does not teach there is a burning hell - where people are tortured for years - he does teach the same doctrine on the origin of, and work of ‘satan,’ that the mainstream churches do. I have read Armstrong's articles, and I agree with his teachings on ‘hell.’ However, I did not know until about two years ago (1978) that Armstrong is a little schizophrenic when it comes to his people being in fire.

He teaches publicly that people do not go to ‘hell’ to be tortured when they die, but once you join his church, you are taught, over and over again, that if you reject Armstrong's teachings and leave, or are kicked out of the Armstrong church, then you will be sent to the ‘lake of fire’ for ‘eternity.’ So it seems he has a ‘special hell’ for people who do not obey him. Just as the catholic church has a ‘hell’ for the people who do not obey their priests.

So, in spite of his public announcements, he frightens people into obeying him by his own private ‘hell.’ And I do know, as I have had ex-Armstrong members, especially women, tell me that they were in Armstrong's church, and literally lived in fear for years; afraid they might do something to offend Armstrong or one of the ministers, and be kicked out of the church and then be cast into the ‘lake of fire.’ They were afraid of it, and he built on that fear.

That's about it for the general teaching about ‘satan.’ As you can see, the different denominations have some variances, but they all agree on one thing: ‘the devil never deceives me, but he certainly has deceived a lot of you people out there!’ The doctrine they all agree on, and generally speaking they are almost all in agreement, is that the ‘devil’ was God's chief angel - a powerful ‘spirit-creature.’ He rebelled against God, and God cast him down to the earth. Most of their doctrine is based on the three verses we looked at earlier.

In the last few months (1980) some sermons have been preached by ministers who generally teach what we call the Identity Message. These sermons, both in printed form and on tape, have rebuked me (Pastor Emry) for my teaching about ‘satan’ and Eve in the garden of Eden. I do not agree that ‘satan’ or any creature seduced Eve in the garden of Eden and produced children. They teach that ‘satan’ seduced Eve and produced Cain. We call it the “Seed-line Doctrine.” I OPPOSE that teaching! The Mormon Church and the Jewish Talmud also teaches it. And their description of ‘satan’ is identical to Armstrong's, and to the churches’.

“He was a great fallen angel, he was cast down to the earth, he deceived Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden,” and so on.

Bear with me if this seems a little tedious and a little long. I'm going to quote one verse from Revela-

tion 1, and this one verse alone, if it is true (and if we believe the Word of God, and that God is not a liar), is enough to prove the following:

1. The war in heaven of Revelation 12 already took place, not milleniums ago, but after John saw the vision.
2. The casting out, of whatever this creature was, from heaven to earth, therefore took place after 96 AD, sometime after the vision was seen.

If the ‘devil’ or ‘satan’ of Revelation 12 is all that the Catholic church, and the Protestant denominations, and Armstrong, and some Identity preachers say he is, he would not have fallen to the earth prior to Adam and Eve being in the Garden of Eden.

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he signified it by his angel unto his servant John.”
Revelation 1:1.

Did you read that phrase? “Things which must shortly come to pass.” It didn't say, “I'm going to show you things which have already happened.” These are things yet future according to what the angel said to John. Another witness is verse 3:

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” Revelation 1:3.

Same general theory, it's in the future! The things you will read about are future. The signs or the visions which the angel showed John, and which were then written down by John, were of things which were yet future events in 96AD. Do you understand that? Do you read these verses the same way I do? Because this is a very, very important point when you study the book of Revelation. If you want a third witness, read Revelation 4, where after he has given the message to the churches we read this in verse 1:

“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.” Revelation 4:1.

I know I'm repeating this, but every time you hear a minister preaching out of the book of Revelation, and he tells you that these things happened way back in milleniums past, like some creature falling out of heaven to the earth, you can call him a liar, and you can prove it with Revelation chapters 1 and 4.

The visions in Revelation were to take place, or be fulfilled, after they were shown to John, according to these three witnesses. What does that do to the churches, and even Identity ministers who insist that the ‘devil’ or ‘satan’ of Revelation 12 is a ‘fallen angel’ who was cast out of heaven milleniums before John saw the vision? It makes them either fools or liars. Read the vision in Revelation 12 in more detail.

“And there appeared a great wonder (and the margin in most Bibles will tell you the word ‘wonder’ could have been translated ‘sign’) in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the

moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.” Revelation 12:1.

Were these actual events taking place in God’s heaven, or were they visions that John saw which were symbolic of things that would happen? I really don’t think you could believe that John would be teaching this is a literal woman clothed with the sun, standing on the moon and wearing 12 stars on her head. It has to be symbolic of something else. He is not seeing the actual thing, he is seeing it in symbolism.

John was on the isle of Patmos, and in Revelation 4:2, he said he was ‘in the spirit’ when he saw these things. My understanding of this, is that when John says “I saw something in heaven,” he was looking up in the sky and he saw these events taking place. When he said, “there appeared a wonder in heaven,” it doesn’t necessarily mean that the woman was up in God’s heaven. John saw her up in the sky, and wrote it down as he saw it.

“And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder (sign) in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: And the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man-child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up unto God and to his throne. 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 three-score days.” Revelation 12:2-6.

Then come the verses that say there was ‘war’ in ‘heaven.’ This is all part of a continuing vision, and John is writing it down as he sees it. Let us try to identify the participants here as best we can. The symbolism in the first verse, the “sun, moon and stars” leads us, of course, back to where Joseph dreamed a dream in Genesis,

“And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow ourselves down to thee to the earth?” Genesis 37:9.

You can see in Joseph’s dream, as in John’s vision the “sun, moon and stars” signify the whole house of Israel. Therefore, this woman is also symbolic of the house of Israel, the identifying marks being the sun, moon and stars. There are events in Scripture where the sun and the moon will be darkened, and so on. I have identified them, in previous sermons, as being symbolic of the destruction of Israel, and the reducing of her power at the end of the age. It has nothing to do with the heavenly bodies of the sun, moon and stars. These are symbolic and, of course, 12 is always a symbol for Israel and for the twelve tribes.

If this vision is actually in heaven, then in order to fulfil the vision, Israel would have to be in God’s heaven, would she not? But we know Israel is not in heaven. Israel is on the earth, has always been on the earth, and will remain on the earth. The heaven mentioned here is where John saw the vision, not where the woman was or will be. The war in heaven also does not have to be in God’s heaven.

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, (he was looking up at this vision in the skies) and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out...”
Revelation 12:7-9a.

Here is the identification used by the churches to say that this was ‘satan’:

“...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.” Revelation 12:9b.

We passed over something already, which the Catholic priests always pass over, and the protestant ministers always pass over, and at least those Identity ministers who opposed me in my arguments about ‘satan’ also pass over, so let’s go back and read it,

“And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.” Revelation 12:3

The Mother Eve of Judaism, of the Mormon church, and of the Seedline people - who teach that this ‘satan’ seduced her - must have been some sort of a pervert. Can you imagine her falling for some creature with seven heads and ten horns? This does NOT mean some creature, or man, or person literally. It obviously has some other meaning. This creature figuratively has seven heads, ten horns, and seven crowns.

Since we've already seen that the woman is not a woman, but is a great mass of people called Israel, then maybe the dragon isn't a dragon, nor a devil, nor a satan, nor even a serpent, but something else! The Bible, of course, has the answer for us, and there are several other places in the Bible where there is a creature described very similarly to this creature, here called the Devil and Satan.

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns; and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death: and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’” Revelation 13:1-4.

In this passage of Revelation 13, this beast is not identified. But it is identified in the book of Daniel, and we may look at that later. But we'll stay in Revelation for now. The ‘satan’ theorists, or those who teach these devil doctrines, never call the creature of Revelation 13, a ‘great fallen angel,’ even though that creature has seven heads and ten horns, just like the Devil and ‘satan’ of Revelation 12. Of course, as I mentioned earlier, they never even read Revelation 12:3, when they tell you the ‘devil’ of this chapter is a ‘fallen angel.’

If you heard this devil had seven heads, you might question their interpretation. You certainly would question the devil or serpent of Revelation 12 having sexual intercourse with Eve, and fathering Cain; if at the same time they pointed out that this serpent had seven heads and ten horns. The next

place we have the same kind of beast is in Revelation 17.

“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither: I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: (remember this is still John writing the descriptions of visions he saw, shown to him by an angel. In some cases the angel explained them as he did this one) with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.” Revelation 17:1-3.

Here is that same identical description as in Revelation 12 called that “old serpent, the devil and satan.” Let’s read on with this description, because if we were again to take this literally, as being what it is visually, then we would have to expect sometime in the future a scarlet woman here on the earth, riding some sort of scarlet coloured beast with seven heads and ten horns. Obviously it symbolizes something else; it’s not a literal beast. Just as the creature back in Revelation 12 does not have to be a literal ‘satan’ or a literal devil. John writes a little more about the woman and then continues,

“And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.” Revelation 17:7-8.

Remember those first verses in Revelation 1. These are still the visions John was shown by angels of things “which must shortly come to pass.” They were to happen sometime after John saw the vision.

“And here is the mind that hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.” Revelation 17:9.

All students of Bible prophecy should know symbolism well enough, to know that the word ‘mountains’ in prophecy means nations or conglomerates of people. They are not physical mountains. The angel identifies who the woman is,

“the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.” Revelation 17:18.

The woman is riding a beast with seven heads. The woman rules over the kings of the earth. Therefore what is the symbolism? The symbolism is some sort of a mystery power, here called MYSTERY BABYLON which rides, or gains its power through a conglomeration of nations. It is NOT ‘satan,’ it is NOT the ‘devil,’ it is NOT some spiritual angel thrown down from heaven in past millenniums. It is a conglomeration of nations.

“And there are seven kings: (in other words, each one of these nations has a king) five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come,” Revelation 17:10a.

John is seeing this at a time when something had already happened, one is ruling, another is coming, and,

“...when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition (destruction). And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings. which have received no kingdom as yet.”

Revelation 17:10b-12a.

These ten kings did not rule at the time that John saw the vision. They had received no kingdom as yet.

“But receive power as kings one hour with the beast.” Revelation 17:12b.

Whatever this is, it will take place over a relatively short time. One hour in Bible prophecy would be quite short, because there are prophecies of 100 years and 1260 years, and so on.

“These have one mind. and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb. and the Lamb shall overcome them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”

Revelation 17:13-14.

So it shows here that there is going to be a war involving ten kings. Revelation 17 is the most simple explanation of what the beast with seven heads and ten horns is. The ten horns are ten kings. These kings give their power and strength unto the beast. They make war with the Lamb, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

“And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, (hate this ruling entity that rules over the whole world) and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.” Revelation 17:16.

The same ten kings, or ten nations, that give their power to the beast, shall destroy her,

“For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.” Revelation 17:17.

I went into this in detail a few years ago, that the USA has given more of its wealth and its power to build up the red beast of communism than any other nation.

Russia as a military power today would not even exist, except for technical things given and sent to the Soviet Union over the last 50 years from the USA (Documented in NATIONAL SUICIDE by Anthony Sutton).

In other words, all of their weaponry, all of their science, all of their computers, all of their factories were literally built by American technicians and productivity. So, if America is the nation that has given the power to the beast, the red beast of communism, where do the ten nations fit in?

How many of you know that America was divided into ten nations? It was divided into ten regions in

about 1970. We now have ten governments ruling over ten separate nations. All the government control and aid and money comes out of a central point, Washington D.C., and is distributed to each region.

America is no longer fifty states, it is ten regions. I am not going to be dogmatic about this, but it was the United States being divided into ten regions, through which our enemies gained control of our government, have used our wealth, stolen our taxes, taken our grain and productivity and built up the red beast. America could be these ten kings, which receive power as kings one hour with the beast. One hour is a very short space of time. And remember, then those kings,

"...shall hate the whore, and make her desolate, and naked and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire." Revelation 17:16b.

If I am correct in my theory that those ten horns are ten nations which are collectively the USA, then it will be the US which will destroy the power of the red beast of world communism that now rules the world. The prophet Obadiah saw visions concerning the destruction of Edom.

"The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord God concerning Edom. (Edom means RED. Edom is world communism.) We have heard a rumour from the Lord, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle." Obadiah 1:1.

This prophecy describes the destruction of Esau/ Edom, which we can identify as this world-controlling power that now reigns over all the earth. And look who destroys Edom,

"But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance..." Obadiah 1:17a.

We've identified the USA as Zion in other sermons.

"...and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble..." Obadiah 1:17b-18a.

And of course, Esau is Edom; Genesis 36 repeats that four times.

"And saviors shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau;" Obadiah 1:21a.

In other words, saviors shall come upon the nation of Zion to judge the nation of Esau, or Edom, the Reds!

"And the kingdom shall be the Lord's." Obadiah 1:21b.

This is the description of the last battle to be fought upon the earth, when Jacob/ Israel have been deceived into giving their power to this great red beast and this scarlet woman. Then we'll turn on the woman and destroy her. This makes the only sense of this entire prophecy. The beast with seven heads and ten horns is something which gives power to the scarlet woman, and then it will turn back against her and destroy her.

I'll repeat the point I made earlier: if you take Revelation 12 as the Catholic church does, and as the

Protestants do, and say: “Oh, this is that great arch-angel, and he fought in heaven and was brought down to the earth, and so on,” you then destroy all of this actual prophecy which is being given here. It is no wonder then that our people are blind to what is happening in the earth today, because prophecy in the Bible has been misrepresented to them.

That doctrine of course, is so universally taught, and has been taught over such a long period of time, that there are few who question it. I must admit, for the greater part of my life, I never questioned it either. I accepted all of these stories and descriptions of this ‘devil,’ since my parents and everyone else that I knew, believed it. I assumed it was the truth.

Back in those days, everyone that I knew thought that the Jews were Israel, so I believed that too. Everyone I knew thought that non-Christians went to ‘hell-fire’ and were tortured for ever and ever by this same ‘devil,’ so I believed that also. Almost everyone that I knew thought Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the savior of America, and the only reason I didn't believe that, was because my parents did not believe it. My father said that Franklin Roosevelt was a crook. So that is still a good example. We tend to believe what our parents believe, whether or not it is true.

But believing it doesn't make it true! We read Revelation 12:3, which is the verse the ‘devil’ preachers do not read, since it describes a strange ‘creature’ with seven heads. Whoever heard of a devil with seven heads? Well, that then took us to Revelation 17. The beast upon which the scarlet woman, MYSTERY BABYLON, rides has seven heads. These seven heads are identified as seven mountains or nations. And the ten horns as ten kings, or kingdoms. So the description in Revelation 12, and the symbolism in Revelation 12, is identical to that of Revelation 17.

That old serpent called the ‘devil’ and ‘satan’ is not a spirit creature, but a conglomerate of nations opposed to Christians and Christendom. I showed in my sermon series entitled **Give The Devil His Due** (7810, 7811, 7812, 7813), that the Hebrew word translated ‘satan’ in the Old Testament means simply ‘adversary’ or ‘enemy.’ In fact it is translated ‘enemy’ in the Old Testament more times than it is transliterated into the word ‘satan.’

So the scarlet woman and the red beast of Revelation 17 are certainly the ‘adversaries’ of Christianity because the woman is said to be “*drunken with the blood of saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.*” We'll find that this Revelation 12 ‘satan’ is also the enemy of Christendom.

Some may think I have boxed myself into a corner with my emphatic statement that the events of Revelation 12 were to come to pass after John saw the vision in AD96; because of what I read in Revelation 1 and 4. The woman gave birth to a man-child, and most people teach that the man-child is Jesus, who was born some 90 odd years before John saw the vision.

“And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man-child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up to God and to his throne.” Revelation 12:2-5.

At first reading, it may seem to be the baby born to Mary. In other words, the baby Jesus. However, as we have seen, the symbols in this vision are not what they actually represent. The woman is not a woman, the woman is Israel. The sun, moon and stars are not actually sun, moon and stars. The red dragon is not a literal dragon. The heads are not heads, the horns are not horns; so perhaps the child is not a child, but symbolizes something else.

Consider everything we can here, since this man-child is to rule all nations with a rod of iron. That takes us, first of all, to Revelation 19, and after the destruction of MYSTERY BABYLON, there is another vision,

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse, and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.” Revelation 19:11.

This, I believe, is a reference to Jesus Christ. This is not the Christ taught by most of the clergy; they teach that this Christ is going to come and snatch the Christians from the earth, and take them off to heaven. This Christ in Revelation 19 is going to judge and make war,

“And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vestures and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” Revelation 19:15-16.

In Psalm 2 we read of the references to someone ruling the earth with “a rod of iron.”

“I will declare the decree: The Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; This day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potters vessel.” Psalm 2:7-9.

This seems to be Jesus again who will rule with a rod of iron. But is it possible that verse 8, is not God speaking, but the Son. In other words He is saying in verse 7, God said, *“Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.”*

Then if we take the next verse as Jesus speaking, then He is saying, *“Ask of me and I shall give thee, (you), the heathen for your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thine possession.”* Thou, you believers, you Christians, shall break them with a rod of iron; and shall dash them in pieces as a potters vessel!

We are told in Revelations that it is the Christian believers who will rule the world with a rod of iron. Jesus is speaking to the churches:

“And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works to the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.” Revelation 2:26-27.

We have a two-fold revelation here that it is Jesus who will rule the nations with a rod of iron, but it is also true that Jesus’ followers, the overcomers, will rule the nations of the world with a rod of iron.

There are other verses in Revelation 12 which also reveal that the man-child here is not Jesus Christ. We've already seen that the Bible says the overcomers will rule the nations with a rod of iron. Revelation 12:2 says;

“and she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.”

Earlier I identified the woman as Israel. The sun, moon and stars are symbols of the nation of Israel according to Joseph's dream. But the question is, Did Israel travail when Jesus was born? The answer is, No! Most of Israel didn't even know what was happening. And another point in fact, the word 'travail' is never used in Scripture in relation to Jesus' birth.

However, there is a birth in Scripture which is supposed to produce a man-child, and is supposed to produce it with pain and travail. The Bible itself can identify what this man-child is in the last chapter of the prophet Isaiah.

The last half of the book of Isaiah is almost completely about the Zion of Bible prophecy, as are some of the other prophecy books in the Old Testament, yet we seldom hear an explanation of what the Zion of Bible prophecy is. Generally speaking, Zion is related to Jerusalem and to a redeemed Israel ruling over the earth in the kingdom. In other words, the word 'Zion' fits the kingdom of Jesus Christ upon the earth.

“Hear the word of the Lord, ye that tremble at his word (this is addressed to believers, people who tremble at God's word) Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, 'Let the Lord be glorified:' but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.” Isaiah 66:5.

He is referring to someone who is cast out by their brethren, but God will appear to the cast out ones.

“A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the Lord that rendereth recompence to his enemies. Before she travailed, she brought forth, before her pain came she was delivered of a man-child. Who hath heard such things? Who hath seen such a thing? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once?” Isaiah 66:6-8a.

What was born? What is the man-child? The man-child is a nation, a nation born at once.

“For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. 'Shall I bring to birth, and not cause to bring forth?' saith the Lord: 'Shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb?' saith thy God.” Isaiah 66:8b-9.

God is going to bring something out of this thing called Zion. And the thing born, called a 'man-child' in prophecy, is a nation. Another chapter, Micah 4, is obviously a prophecy of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ upon the earth. The first part of it literally repeats word for word Isaiah 2:1.

“But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains and it shall be exalted above the hills: and people shall flow unto it.” Micah 4:1.

As we saw earlier, the word 'mountain' symbolizes 'nation' in Bible prophecy. The nation of the

Lord is going to be established as the chief among the nations, on top of the nations:

“And people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain (nation) of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob: and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” Micah 4:2.

There is a cassette message (7105) on that subject explaining the difference between the law going from Zion and the word from Jerusalem.

“And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: and nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” Micah 4:3.

This has to refer to that great prophesied time of peace, the Kingdom upon the earth!

“But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree: and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts hath spoken it. For all people will walk everyone in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever. In that day, saith the Lord, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted.” Micah 4:4-6.

Her that halteth, her that was driven out, and her that was afflicted, is the nation of Israel, driven out of old Palestine 700 years before Christ.

“And I will make her that halted a remnant,” Micah 4:7a.

The Hebrew word translated ‘remnant’ means literally ‘the turned ones.’ It’s too bad that the word ‘remnant’ means ‘a small number’ nowadays. Back then it did not mean that, it meant ‘the turned ones,’ so this would mean, the ones turned to God.

“and her that was cast far off a strong nation:” Micah 4:7b.

Here is a prophecy that God, who had cast off Israel, would regather Israel and make her a strong nation.

“And the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even forever.” Micah 4:7c.

What is that nation, that is made up of reconstituted Israel? In Bible prophecy, it is called Zion. And it is out of Zion that the man-child is born.

“And thou, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.” Micah 4:8.

Not the old mother, not that filthy little old city back in Palestine, but the New Jerusalem, the new nation called Zion, and Jerusalem, that was born in a day, and which the dragon in Revelation 12 was

attempting to destroy.

“The kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem. Now why dost thou cry aloud? Is there no king in thee? Is thy counsellor perished? For pangs have taken thee as a woman in travail.”
Micah 4:8b-9.

Something is coming to birth in this nation of reconstituted Israel.

“Be in pain and labour to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail: for now shalt thou go forth out of the city, and thou shalt dwell in the field, and thou shalt go even to Babylon; there shalt thou be delivered, there the Lord shall redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies.” Micah 4:10.

We've shown this in other sermons on prophecy, that this nation - this great reconstituted nation of Israel was to be born in a day - was to become the chief among nations of all the world, and then was to go into captivity under an entity called Babylon. Remember Revelation 17, it is MYSTERY BABYLON that rules over all the nations of the world, and fights against Christendom. This is the same Babylon that we read here. Then God says, at that time;

“There shalt thou be delivered. There the Lord shall redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies. Now also many nations are gathered against thee, that say. Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion.” Micah 4:10b-11.

What did we read in Revelation 12 in the last part of verse 4?

“the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.” Revelation 12:4b.

So what do we have? We have a nation born out of reconstituted Israel and this confederation of nations in Revelation 12 wants to destroy it. Where has that ever happened in history? Well, most of you (Americans) are living in that nation, that was born in a day on July 4th, 1776. The nation of reconstituted Israel which the dragon, the enemy, the anti-Christ, has been trying to destroy for centuries. This is not a recent battle. This battle has been going on for years.

So you can see, as we read this, that we find the manchild is really the nation of regathered Israel. It is not Jesus Christ as we showed earlier. All of the visions in the book of Revelation have to take place after John saw the vision. That is made very plain in the first verses of Revelation 1, and in the first verse of Revelation 4. These are not things that happened before. So this birth was not Jesus Christ. This birth was of the great Zion nation of Bible prophecy, the United States of America.

“Now also many nations are gathered against thee that say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion.” Micah 4:11.

I would guess that there are more spies and subversives per capita in America than in any nation on earth. This cannot fit the little old land of Palesine. I would suspect we have more enemy spies and agents in America than they have people in Palestine!

“But they know not the thoughts of the Lord, neither understand they his counsel: for he shall gather them as sheaves into the floor. Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and thou shalt beat in pieces many people and I will consecrate their gain unto the Lord, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth.” Micah 4:12-13.

This is that great end-time battle in which all the nations of the world will be gathered against the Zion of Bible prophecy. Anyone who lives in America, who can't see the nations of the world gathered against this great nation; - with the military arms in, and subversive parties in control of even a good share of South America, and Cuba, and Nicaragua and even now (1980) taken control to some extent in Mexico, with the Russian submarines and ships patrolling both of our seas with missiles by the thousands aimed at this nation; - if you still think the Zion of Bible prophecy is over in Palestine (Israeli), you simply don't know what is going on in the earth today.

We are the target of the great anti-Christ conspiracy. We are the nation born in a day, of reconstituted Israel, the people who follow Jesus Christ. Let's go back to Revelation 12 and see if this vision does rather fit with this idea, that the man-child is not Jesus but was reconstituted Israel born in a day.

“And she brought forth a man-child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.” Revelation 12:5.

Again, it does not mean a literal removal from the earth to heaven. It is simply symbolic language for God's protection of that man-child. God led and guided that man-child. If you can name a nation upon the earth that has had more leading and guidance and protection from God Almighty than the USA, you tell me about it, because I simply don't know one.

“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.” Revelation 12:6.

I've not yet figured out the time on this, and as I don't believe in computing times for Jesus' return at the end of the age, I'll let others work on that. But I do know Israel was regathered here in this North American continent, this wilderness.

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not, neither was their place found anymore in heaven. 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.” Revelation 12:7-9.

This, of course, is not some spiritual being that walks about the earth tempting Christians. Again, this old dragon is this conglomeration of nations, and they are literally going to be brought low and destroyed by God. The terminology here, of course, is 'Michael.'

“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the Kingdom of our God,” Revelation 12:10a.

Here is that Kingdom again, that we read about in Isaiah and Micah,

“and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.” Revelation 12:10b.

That is another thing that our enemies do, which at least is one thing that does make our patriotic Americans angry. We are accused of causing all the trouble on the earth. In other nations in the third world, and among the communist propagandists, America is the great and terrible power. Khomeiny and Bin Laden call us ‘Devils’ and everything else.

America literally receives the blame for everything that is going on the earth. And yet, in times of calamity and earthquakes and famines and trouble, what one nation, of all the earth sends its food, its help, its doctors, and its people to it? The United States, of course! The great Zion Nation of Bible prophecy.

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death.” Revelation 12:11.

This great anti-Christ world power is not going to be overcome by force of arms perse, but by the Word of God and the power of Jesus Christ.

“Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants 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.” Revelation 12:12.

It is also true that the rest of the earth is suffering under this anti-Christ power which is attempting to destroy America. If you’ve ever read the writings of Marx and Lenin and Stalin and some of the other so-called theoreticians of communism, they make it very plain that the nation they want to destroy is the USA. However, they recognize they will have to take the rest of the world first, then destroy us. So, as it says here, the devil is come down unto the rest of the inhabitants of the earth and the sea. All the other nations are suffering from this warfare which is directed against us.

“And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man-child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the Wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.” Revelation 12:13-14.

There is a cassette tape series dealing with the Great Seal of the United States (7825 - 7829), and many people I discovered, as I did that series on the radio, wrote that they had always assumed that the eagle was the symbol for the USA, and they did not know, until I read it from the Bible, that the Eagle is the symbol of God. God carried Israel, the olive nation, in His talons, and protected them with the arrows of His Words. That seal, of course, has a lot more symbolism than most people know about. That is why it took me 20 radio broadcasts to explain it. So, God Almighty carried Israel into the Wilderness, where she is nourished for a time, times and half a time from the face of the serpent.

“And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.” Revelation 12:15.

This great flood of hatred and propaganda and enmity to attempt to destroy the nation of Zion.

“And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.” Revelation 12:16.

Again, referring to the other nations, this is possibly fulfilled by the fact that much of the power and might of the anti-Christ is absorbed by the other nations. This great flood which they cast out against Christian Israel, is absorbed by the other nations. If it were not, if their attack had only been on our nation, we would have been destroyed long ago (humanly speaking); but the other nations of the world serve to some extent to soak up that power and enmity and evil.

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed,” Revelation 12:17a.

The war has to be against the physical, literal, racial descendants of this woman whom we’ve identified as Israel, and here they are:

“which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”
Revelation 12:17b.

What can it be but Christianized Israel? The people of our race, reconstituted in this North American Continent as the Israel of God in the great Zion of Bible prophecy. The dragon of Revelation 12, which was seen in vision by John is, of course, the same beast creature of Revelation 17, which wars against God’s people.

“These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen and faithful.” Revelation 17:14.

Who could they be but the Christians of the earth, the Christians of America. This nonsense that the Jews, who are the most anti-Christ people in all of the world, over in Palestine-Israeli, are the people against which world communism is fighting, is literally that, not only nonsense, but DANGEROUS NONSENSE! The people they are fighting are the Christians of America and Western Europe.

We are the target, we are the ones they wish to destroy. If those who are fought against in Revelation 17 are identical to those fought against in Revelation 12, why is it so far fetched to say that the entity which fights against them is the same in both chapters. In other words, not a great spirit being but a conglomerate of nations and people gathered together to fight and attempt to destroy the Zion of Bible prophecy.

My identification earlier on the ten horns of Revelation 17 as possibly our own government which has been divided into ten regions, does not change my identification of this, since our government is not run by our people.

How many of you know it is certainly not run by Christian people? In fact, the present President claims to be a born-again Christian (Jimmy Carter), and as far as we can tell from the entire list of hundreds, and perhaps by now thousands, of people he has appointed to office in the Federal Government, he has never appointed one Christian to office, which of course doesn't speak very well for his profession of Christianity.

This government of ours is actually combined with the enemies of Christianity, making war on Christians. Thank God a lot of ministers are beginning to see that when the government is trying to take away their tax-exempt status and close their schools, and has already stopped prayer in the public schools and prevented the Bible from being read there. There is at least a stirring among our people and a recognition that there is a great almost sacred hidden power which is warring against Christendom and against our people.

In summing up, we have an accurate prophecy in Revelation 12, that people and nations, constituted as earthly powers, would make war on the regathered house of Israel in the Wilderness, in their attempt to destroy Zion; to destroy God's government over the nations. The interpretation of that vision as someone portraying a fallen angelic creature, who is nebulous and invisible, prevents us from grasping the truth of the existence of this conglomeration of people and nations; that war is being carried on against us by flesh and blood people, and NOT by some angelic supernatural creature.

There is a great difference in fact by identifying this serpent or this satan of Revelation 12 as a great spirit creature. The ministers and the clergy have educated the people to sit in church and listen to the minister while he fights an unseen and unseeable enemy. He has become their surrogate soldier and they never enter into the war, and never realize that they can. In fact, they just watch this vapour called the 'devil,' and the war goes on around them on the earth, and its one-sided, because the enemy is fighting us and we're not fighting back. We are told that everything is caused by this 'devil.'

Some ministers take this 'devil' and this 'satan' and make a great thing out of it to make themselves heroes and martyrs. Every time their ministry starts to grow and they have success, they say, "Oh we overcame the devil." When the contributions start to fall off and the people leave the church, they say, "Oh the devil is trying to destroy the ministry." The devil has become a scapegoat for their own failings. The individuals who are destroying our nation encourage our people to hate the 'devil.' But you're never, NEVER supposed to hate the individuals who are doing the work of destroying this nation, and our people. The ministers rail against pornography, but who is at fault? Oh, the devil is. They rail against prostitution, abortion, drug promotion, blasphemy against Christ, treason in government, and world communism, but who is at fault? Oh, its that devil out there doing that. NO, it is not my friends! It is millions, upon millions of anti-Christ flesh and blood people who are destroying your nation and your people.

The devil, as I said, becomes just a scapegoat. Since you can't hurt this spirit creature, you never attempt to stop any of the things that these people are doing. The minister may even make a great crusading hero out of himself by speaking against these nation destroying activities. Then when someone comes along and says, "What we must do is execute, exile, imprison or punish the criminals and traitors in some way," they say, "We must hate the sin and love the sinner. We must not judge lest we be judged, after all, its the devil doing all of these things."

If you point out that you have investigated these anti-Christ and anti-Christian activities and you have been convinced that they are primarily promoted by anti-Christ Jews who are followers of the religion of the Pharisees, which Jesus condemned; and that they are behind everything from communism to pornography, to drug promotion and distribution, for the purpose of destroying Christianity, then they say, "The Jews are God's chosen people. God will curse you if you do anything against the

Jews. We must love the Jews.” Then they go back to fighting shadows and the wind again with the devil and the great anti-Christ.

They don't mind if you oppose pornography, just don't jail the pornographer. They don't mind if you oppose abortion, just don't execute the baby-killer! They don't even mind if you hate communism, just don't imprison or deport the Jewish communists. In actuality so many churchgoers are so conditioned to think of their enemy as a spirit creature called the devil, they can hardly think in terms of flesh and blood enemies. The 'devil doctrine' is powerful protection for the enemies of Zion and Israel.

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” I Timothy 4:1.

I have read that verse for years and I always assumed it meant that some would give heed to doctrines promulgated by devils, but Paul instead could have been warning that those who would not preach the true faith would preach doctrines ABOUT devils.

It's interesting that the greatest so-called church in Christendom which has departed from the faith is the Roman Catholic Church; and a great part of its teaching is always about that 'devil.' The devil will get you if you don't follow the teaching of the priests, and so on.

In Romans 1 we'll see who has the power here. This chapter is about people who refuse to follow God.

“Because that when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened:” Romans 1:21.

It then describes people who are opposed to knowing anything about God.

“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:” Romans 1:22.

Did they get caught up in the web or deception of some nebulous spirit creature called the 'devil'? NO! God gave them up to those things.

“Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blest for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:”
Romans 1:23.

Who Is the power? Not the devil! But God Almighty! 2 Thessalonians 2 is that great chapter on the man of sin, which we've explained in some detail previously (7702, 7103).

“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish: because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.” 2 Thessalonians 2:10.

For this cause, that is because they did not want the truth. When people believe lies and believe not the truth of this Holy Word, who has led them into that false belief? God Almighty! Let's be careful about what credit we give the 'devil' for doing great things. God Almighty sends them strong delusions that they should believe a lie.

Thank God for the other side of that same coin. If you love the truth, God will open your eyes and God will give you the truth. He will not deceive you, and you will find out the things in His Word which are truth. When Israel repents, when our nation repents and turns to God and seeks the truth; God will open their eyes and give them the truth that will set them free.

The truth that will destroy all of the anti-Christ powers of these people and nations, which almost seem to have us in their grasp, and the power is here, the power is not some mythical 'satan' of the churches. The power is in God Almighty and His Word. We are the ones who must repent and then the old adversary, this devil and this satan, which are the people of the earth that oppose Christendom, will be destroyed, and God will bring upon this earth the cleansed land of Bible prophecy, the Kingdom of God upon the earth. May God speed the day.

Pastor Sheldon Emry.

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