

“Help for the Persecuted”

Revelation 12:13- 13:10

I. The greatest advantage of a believer is God’s protection.

A. God will continue to thwart Satan’s attempt to destroy believers in the tribulation.

Revelation 12:13–16 — “13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. 14 But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. 15 And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.”

1. “**dragon**” – refers to Satan.
2. “**the woman**” – this is the symbolic representation of true Israel.
3. “**two wings of great eagle**” – descriptive image that refers to the protection of God’s people. **Exodus 19:4 — Isaiah 40:31**
4. “**serpent poured water**” – a large military force sent to destroy the fleeing Jews.
5. “**the earth opened its mouth**” – tectonic activity that swallow the military force.

II. God often permits believers to be persecuted.

A. Satan will turn His rage on two other groups who oppose him:

Revelation 12:17 — “So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”

1. Those who **keep the commandments God**.

2. Those **who keep the testimony of Jesus**.

III. God prepares all persecuted believers.

A. God warns believers will be targeted for persecution.

Revelation 13:7 — “It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.”

1. There is a sanctify effect caused by persecution -**Zechariah 13:9** — (see Daniel 12:10)

B. God promises that our names are forever sealed in the book of life.

Revelation 13:8–9 — “⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. ⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear.”

1. Those whose name are written in the book of life can never turn from Christ...
2. God chooses on behalf of the helpless sinner to bring Him to repentance and faith. **Romans 9:15–16**

C. God describes what persevering faith will look like:

Revelation 13:10 — “If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.”

1. They will be willing to be put in prison rather than deny Christ.
2. They will be willing to die fighting against the beast and his forces.
3. Jesus previously said that they will not perish: **Luke 21:17–19** referring to their souls.

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