

The Big Mistake

We live in the time of the gathering storm.

Regardless of your timeline, if you are reading the bible, you can see that things are coming to a conclusion.

Eternity is around the corner... the end of the time of gospel evangelism is coming to an end.

(Rev 11:1-2) Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. ² "Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months.

When Jerusalem was attacked in AD70 the plan was to preserve the temple and not destroy it... but somehow it caught on fire, then it was looted for its treasures (parts were overlaid with gold), there were rumors of great treasures in hidden vaults, so everything was pried apart looking for the gold and treasures.

... now there is no temple left.

The measuring of the temple but not the court illustrates the difference between those IN CHRIST (true church) and those that are CHRIST ADJACENT.

Also, the measuring is two-fold.

- 1) The measuring is because the Herodian temple is still there which indicates this being written before 70AD....
- 2) This measuring is in preparation for the Jews to rebuild the temple.

There is a tunnel underneath the uncovered Western Wall in Jerusalem call the Hasmonean or Rabbi Tunnel.

At a certain place there is a sign on the wall of the tunnel that suggest that it is the place closest to the Holy of Holies.

The Jews rebuilding the temple is the precursor for the coming of the end ... the AntiChrist.

In fact, we are given a period of (42 months) 1260 days, before the end of everything when God will send two witnesses to prophesy and teach during that time.

Throughout the Word of God, God's behavior is to warn the people through prophecy.

Amos 3:7 says, ⁷ Surely the Lord GOD does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel To His servants the prophets.

(Rev 11:3-4)³ "And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." ⁴ These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

The symbolism of olive tree and lampstands is to indicate God's preparation of them and the fact they are filled with God's spirit.

(Rev 11:5-6)⁵ And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. ⁶ These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.

Scholars point at these two descriptions as indicators that these two witnesses are Elijah and Moses... if they are not them, they at least come in the spirit of Elijah and Moses.

(Rev 11:7-10)⁷ When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. ⁸ And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. ⁹ Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their dead bodies for three and a half days and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. ¹⁰ And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

Here we see evil rejoicing in the death of God's servants.

Egypt represents those who persecute God's people and **Sodom** represents the aggressive nature of immorality in the last days.

If you recently watched the news you'll remember the videos of people around the world rejoicing and celebrating the Jews being attacked by Hamas on Oct. 7.

Question: If the people are that wicked why does God waste time sending these two messengers.

(Eze 2:7)⁷ "But you shall speak My words to them whether they listen or not, for they are rebellious.

Preaching doesn't imply that people will listen, and living for Jesus does not guarantee the favor of society.

(Rev 11:11-12)¹¹ But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. ¹² And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them.

The world parties, until God shows up.

Here in the text is public visible proof of God's resurrection power!

This is God showing the world what they have lost by rejecting Christ.

(Rev 11:13-14)¹³ And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. ¹⁴ The second woe is past; behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

When you see the phrase *"gave glory to the God of heaven"* don't think saved, think Pharaoh and Saul ...

One day all the demons in hell will glorify God but they won't be saved. One day every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess ... but not every one will be saved.

It is at this moment that the 7th trumpet sounds.

(Rev 11:15-19)¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying, "We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. ¹⁸ "And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth." ¹⁹ And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

In order to understand this last paragraph, remember that this is **still a vision of** what was, what is, and what is to come.

John sees directly into the heavenly temple.

Seeing the **ark of the covenant** indicates how close we are to perfect, complete, open fellowship with God.

(Rev 12:1-2) A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; ² and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

We know, spiritually speaking, that those who believe in Christ are Israel ... However, it is impossible to ignore the significance of the Hebrew people and the Jewish nation. The promises that God made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob have not been dismissed or forgotten.

Who is this woman in heaven? Let me tell you first, who she is not.

- She is not the Virgin Mary. Mary gave birth to the Lord Jesus Christ and is to be honored among all women, but these two verses do not describe her.
- It is not the church. Even though the church is spoken of in feminine terms as the bride of Christ. The woman in this passage is giving birth to Christ. [Jesus gave birth to the Church----this is not the church.]
- If this woman is giving birth to Christ how can it not be Mary?

This text is **referring to the nation** that gave birth to Christ and the woman is Israel.

Your bible says that when God gave Joseph a dream way back in Genesis, Israel was described as having *“the sun and the moon and the eleven stars.”* (Gen 37:9)—Joseph was the twelfth star.

The bible also says in *Isaiah 45:5-6* ⁵ **“I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; ⁶That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other,**

Again, your bible says in *Romans 9:4-5* ⁴ **who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, ⁵whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.**

The Apostle Paul is saying that Israel gave us the Messiah! **Israel is a God-ordained, God-called, God-blessed, God-protected nation.**

God has called Israel to be a blessing to all the world. God told Abraham, *“And I will bless them that bless thee and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”*

Every Christian is blessed because of Israel. The OT is a Jewish book and we serve a Jewish Messiah.

1. Satan’s unwise attack

Revelation 12:3-5 ³ **Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. ⁴ And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth, he might devour her child. ⁵ And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.**

Who is the ferocious dragon? He is red because of his thirst for blood. He has seven heads, ten horns and seven crowns because as we have already studied, seven means perfection; ten means complete; and the horns are symbolic of power. Satan in his diabolical power is trying to be God.

What is he doing ... Satan is at war with Israel. Not because he is angry, but because he hates God and Satan knows that Israel is God's beloved people. —look at what the last part of verse 4 says: *“And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child .”*

Who is her child? Jesus. **And what does Satan want to do?** Destroy him.

Who do you think influenced Herod to murder all the baby boys who were two years old and under around the time of Jesus' birth? And the scripture tells us that this woman (Israel) gave birth to a son that is going to rule the world. **Hallelujah! Jesus was born, he lived a perfectly sinless life, died on the cross, was buried, and rose from the tomb a victorious Savior.**

There are two things you cannot deny, Satan hates Jesus, and Satan hates the Jews. If you love Jesus you you'll also love the Jews.

If you ever study the history of the Jewish peoples you will find that they have endured satanic-inspired persecution and atrocities under Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander the Great, Nero, the Turks, the Ottoman Empire, Germany, Russia, Arab nations, and sadly even Christians.

Today there are about 7.2 million Jews in Israel surrounded by 200 million Arabs—most of whom wish Israel did not exist and most of whom would be happy to see the Israelites driven into the sea.

2. The War in Heaven and the War on Earth

(Rev 12:6-10) ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. ⁷ And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, ⁸ and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God, day and night.

There are two battles taking place in this passage.

First there is a war in heaven and the purpose of this war is to cast Satan out. You may say, **“I thought Satan was already cast out of heaven?”** and that is true as far as residence is concerned, but he still has access to heaven. Job 1:6 says *“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.”* Although Satan has been evicted from heaven, God has allowed him some merciful latitude...and what has Satan used this opportunity for? To accuse all the saints before God—that's what verse 10 says.

But now Michael and his angels are telling Satan that he has been cut off and does not have access to heaven any longer and he will be cast down to earth but soon we are going to read that he will be cast into the bottomless pit.

But there is also a war on earth.

Revelation 12:11,12 ¹¹ "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. ¹² "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."

I want you to pay particular attention to how the saints of God overcame Satan. Satan who was cast out of heaven is now upon the earth and he is filled with violent rage, like a cornered animal that senses things are closing in on him. So, he begins to fight against the saints with an intensity that he has not shown before.

This passage is important because it gives us a threefold formula for victory over Satan.

The believer's cleansing. First, they overcame Satan by the blood of the Lamb. Jesus won the victory over Satan on the cross.

The believer's confession. They overcame Satan by their testimony. When you testify about who Jesus is in your life you are throwing water on Satan's fire.

The believer's courage. The most noble and glorious cause in the world is the cause of Christ.

3. Satan's Realization

Revelation 12:13-17 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.* 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.*

Now, it dawns on Satan what has happened to him.