

## **We Shall Overcome!**

In the Mid-1980's a man named Nezar Hindawi, moved to England and met this Irish young lady, Anna Marie Murphy. She adored him, but she couldn't get a lifelong commitment out of him. Pregnant with his child, she was surprised one day when he asked her to marry him. He stipulated only one condition. He wanted the wedding to take place in the holy land.

She was delighted. He made reservations for her travel on El Al, the highly secure Israeli airline. He helped pack her bags, and dropped her off at London's Heathrow to fly to Israel. He promised to meet her there for their wedding in a few days.

As Anna Marie Murphy submitted to rigorous check-in procedures, her suitcase set off a security alert. On opening it, officials found a bomb wired to blow up her jumbo plane after take off. Apparently Nezar Hindawi did not care that his unborn child would be on that flight.

In the courtroom Anna Marie looked at Nezar and said, "How could you do this to your own baby?"  
-Ramesh Richards. 28-29

The answer is: that's what evil does.

Today we will see the Author of evil try to do away with another mother and child.

**If you had to pick one chapter in the Bible to summarize the entire Bible, it may be today's passage, Revelation chapter twelve!**

It refers to events in Heaven and on earth, God and Satan, angels and demons, Israel and believers, spiritual warfare and persecution, Satan's being thrown out of Heaven, and victory for believers in the blood of the Lamb!

**It's also interesting that Revelation chapter twelve occurs at the exact midpoint of The Book of Revelation. There are 194 verses before chapter twelve and 193 verses after chapter twelve.**

Sometimes in Bible literature to strengthen a point they will put the main thing being said right in the middle of the book!

Read Revelation 12      We Shall Overcome      Let's Pray!

**V. 1-2      The Woman represents Israel**

Verse one begins by telling us about a great sign appearing in Heaven.

**This is the first of seven times the word sign is used from here until the end of the Revelation: 12:1 12:3 13:13-14 15:1 16:14 19:19**

A sign is a symbol. Instead of it being a literal woman, it's a symbol of something.

**This particular woman reminds us of Eve, and because she gives birth in verse five to Jesus, she reminds us of Mary. But in the context she represents Israel.**

The description of the woman in verse 1 immediately makes us think of the dream Joseph had in Genesis 37:9-10, referring to Israel and its twelve tribes.

We're then told in verse 6 that she will flee into the wilderness for 1,260 days, or three and a half years. This corresponds to numerous prophecies in the Old Testament about the time of Israel's Great Tribulation.

When we say "the Tribulation" we are referring to the entire last seven years before Christ's coming. When we say "the Great Tribulation," we are talking about the more intense last three and a half years of the Tribulation.

It won't be Eve or Mary experiencing those hard 3.5 years, it will be Israel.

## **V. 5            The Child is Jesus!**

Genesis 3:15 said the child of the woman would crush Satan's head.

Isaiah 7:14 said He would be born of a virgin.

Isaiah 9:6-7 said the Child would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, and would rule the nations from David's throne.

Micah told us He would be born in Bethlehem, although He had always existed!

His glorious return has been the theme of The Book of Revelation!

Verse five tells us where He went after His first coming – "caught up" to God!

## **V. 3-4            The Red Dragon is Satan**

Again the word "sign" is used!

So don't look for Satan to appear visibly in red with a pitchfork, or as a dragon: this is a symbol for us of how awful he really is.

It says here he has seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems.

From early days commentators realized that the heads and horns refer to earth's kings and kingdoms.

The "seven heads" are the seven Roman kings from whom the antichrist comes; the "ten horns" are the ten kings at the end of time. -Victorinus of Petovium, ACC 177      Died in 304, 1<sup>st</sup> year of Diocletian's reign

REV. 17:9 says the seven heads represent the Seven Hills of Rome.

Rev. 17:10 tells us they also represent seven past kings.

Rev. 17:12 tells us these are ten kings of the end time.

Daniel saw one head with ten horns (Daniel 7:7, 20, 24).

**Verse three is telling us that Satan is the leader of a revived Roman Empire at the end of time. More on that in the week's to come!**

Now look at verse four.

**Verse four tells us of two events in Satan's past; his rebellion with a third of Heaven's angels and his attempt to destroy Jesus at birth.**

In other places the Bible describes for us Satan's fall from Heaven and the fact that there were angels who joined his rebellion. But here we learn that it was one third of the angels who joined Satan's rebellion and became demons.

So now you know what the Bible teaches: two-thirds of the angels remain good angels. One-third of the angels are now bad angels, or demons.

The gospel of Matthew and the gospel of Luke show how Satan tried unsuccessfully to destroy Jesus after His birth to the Virgin Mary.

**Revelation chapter twelve tells us several things about Satan.**

**First, we read of three things Satan hates:**

**Israel, Jesus, and those who have the testimony about Jesus**

Verse 13 and verse 17 tells us how Satan persecutes Israel and those who believe.

**Second, Satan's true character is made known:**

Look at verse 9. Interestingly, this is the center verse of The Book of Revelation.

Five titles for Satan are here:

Dragon, Serpent, Devil, Satan, Deceiver.

Add in verse 10 that tells us he is the Accuser of our Brethren.

Dragon and Serpent show his desire to do people harm, to kill them.

Peter tells he goes around earth like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.

Devil means slanderer. Satan means adversary. He is not to be messed with!

He hates your guts and along with his demons tries to deceive you into sinning against God, something we do easily enough without his help!

But don't be naïve! Don't be looking for the Red Dragon to appear to you.

Instead, he comes as the beautiful Lucifer, which means morning star, like an angel of light, twisting your thinking, trying to make wrong appear right to you.

He convinces you sin is no big deal. And then it happens.

**Sin takes you further than you wanted to go,**

**Sin keeps you longer than you wanted to stay, and**

**Sin costs you more than you ever thought you'd have to pay!**

John 10:10 tells the difference between Satan and Jesus.

**The thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come that they may have life and have it in abundance. I am the Good Shepherd.**

**-John 10:10-11a**

Satan is like a wolf seeking to hurt sheep!

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who loves and cares for His sheep!

**Third, we learn that Satan himself is deceived!**

Now follow what I am going to say here!

If I was to ask you what the opposite of Satan is, I think most would say, "Jesus."

In these Tribulation chapters of Revelation, we learn that Satan views himself as more like God the Father. His false trinity has an Antichrist to resemble Jesus, and a False Prophet to mimic the Holy Spirit.

But look at verses seven and eight. Here we learn that when the battle comes, Satan and his demons can't even defeat Michael and the other angels!

Jude tells us that when Michael was fighting Satan once before he simply said "the Lord rebuke you" and Satan fled. So the power to defeat Satan is from God, period! But my point stands- Satan himself is greatly deceived about who he is!

#### **Fourth, we learn that Satan is going down, down, down!**

Now one thing that's hard to figure out from these verses is what it means when it says that Satan is thrown down to earth.

And commentators generally speak about the time he was thrown out of Heaven, the time he was thrown out of the Garden of Eden, the time he was defeated by Jesus at the cross, and this time coming in the Tribulation.

Well, I personally think you can combine all of them, and this chapter intends to make the greater point that Satan is going down, down, down!

Think about the history of Satan for a moment!

**In pride Satan said, "I will be like the Most High." Satan rebelled against God. Because Satan and the demons knew full well what they did their actions are forever inexcusable he continues to be judged.**

First Satan was removed from the place of privilege he had in the highest heaven. He was thrown down to the lower part of heaven and earth.

Then he caused the fall of man into sin at the Garden, and was judged again.

At the cross of Jesus he lost the souls of all those who trust Jesus for salvation. He was still able to run his mouth about them, but he could not have their souls.

When Michael kicks his tail at the midpoint of the tribulation, he will no longer have access to God and be able to accuse believers. No longer will he be the prince of the air, or the atmospheric Heaven. He will be restricted just to earth.

His response will be to make earth a living hell for 3.5 years.

What awaits him at Jesus' return?

The end of his earthy rule, and 1,000 years in the Abyss!

What awaits him at the end of the 1,000 years? The Lake of Fire, eternal torment!

**The history of Satan is his continual spiral down from the highest heaven to the lowest hell, the Lake of Fire.**

I don't know about you, but now I see why Heaven gets so excited about his downfall! And we need to live with that excitement also!

## **V. 11            How we conquer Satan**

What a verse!            How do we conquer Satan?

By the blood of the Lamb AND by the word of our testimony!

And then by word of explanation it says, "they did not love their own lives in the face of death.            I love this verse!

When Jesus died on the cross for sinners, he purchased victory for all who will believe in Him and receive Him as their Lord and Savior.

On December 16, 1984 I trusted Christ for salvation, and I was washed in the blood of the Lamb, forgiven of my sin, and the Holy Spirit of God indwelled me!

25 years later I can testify that that was the biggest moment of my entire life! I am not all that I want to be in Jesus yet, but thank God, I am not who I was! Anyone who is around Danny Campbell for a while will say, Danny's life is about Jesus! He's pretty much a bonehead, but he's a bonehead for Jesus!

The testimony of your life and lips does not save you, it points to the One who did save you and is completing the work He began.

**Now remember that John was in Patmos with other persecuted believers when he received The Revelation. They had friends who had died for their faith. This must have meant so much to them as they faced their trials. And it has continued to bless Christians as they have faced trouble, or persecution, for these 2,000 years.**

"You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world!"

-John 16:33

It may be that someone in this room will have to make a hard choice one day. Testify that you love Jesus and die testifying to your faith, or disavow Jesus.

We often think of that in relation to mission fields. But Rachel Scott died as a martyr at Columbine High School in Colorado. Filled with the power of the evil one, one of the assassins approached her and said, “do you believe in God.” Without hesitation, Rachel, whose diaries testified of her love for Jesus, said “Yes!” And the assassin put the gun to her head and sent her to meet Jesus.

Now, I have told you that I believe born again church members will be raptured before the Tribulation starts. But if we are not, if we are here during the time of the tribulation, I want you to know that God will be with you like he was with Rachel, and you will be a testimony for Jesus even during those difficult days.

**Dying for the faith is probably the worst thing that could happen as a believer. But the Bible makes clear that if that happens to you, God will be with you, and there is a reward waiting for you in Heaven that only martyrs get!**

“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”      -Revelation 2:10

In some ways this passage defines the age old struggle, and it helps us be ready for whatever tribulation we face now! And we do!

You don’t overcome the power of the evil one in your own strength but by the blood of the Lamb! You say, Danny, I just can’t do it! Sure you can!

Years after he was President, John Quincy Adams was asked to argue an important case before the U.S. Supreme Court. He protested that he was too old and couldn’t hold his thoughts together as well as he once had. But American abolitionists insisted he was the right man to argue the case of the slaves aboard the *Amistad*.

In 1839 the Spanish Schooner left Havana, Cuba for another Cuban port, carrying 53 African slaves. Under the leadership of Cinque, the captives revolted, killed the captain, and seized the ship. They demanded to be taken back to Africa, but the ship’s navigator tricked them and brought them to Long Island New York.

Spain demanded that the *Amistad* be returned with its human cargo to Spain. The administration of Martin Van Buren agreed. But Cinque and his comrades, supported by abolitionists, insisted they were not property at all, but human beings who had been kidnapped in Africa as part of the evils of slavery.

Now the dispute was going to the Supreme Court, and the case for the Africans relied heavily on whether John Quincy Adams could come through. But he was rusty and worried, because he hadn’t been in a court room in decades.

On February 24, 1841, the nervous Adams spoke, at first with a faltering voice. But then realizing how right his cause was, he pointed at a framed document on the wall, and said, “The moment you come to the Declaration of Independence, that every man has a right to life and liberty, as an inalienable right, this case is decided. I ask nothing more on behalf of these unfortunate men than this declaration.”

The court agreed with Adams, or rather with the Declaration of Independence that Adams testified of, and the men were freed!

That's how our it works for us too, folks!

Let Satan bring his accusations to you. You resist Him, and refer to the Declaration of Independence from Satan that was written in blood for you at the cross of Jesus Christ!

For those of you who have not yet received Christ, why not make this the day of your freedom in Christ!

Sinner's Prayer!