

Christmas in the Book of Revelation Revelation 12

“Love Came Down - Christmas 2015”

12 More days to Christmas – 12 more days to shop

Christmas shopping starts earlier and earlier!

A) I am sure that some of you ventured out on Black Friday this year.

B) Black Friday is starting earlier and earlier.

- 2010 3am
- 2012 12am
- 2013 Thursday 8pm
- 2014 Thursday 6pm
- 2015 Thursday All day
- **2020 4th of July**

C) Just out of curiosity – how many of you have your Christmas shopping all done.

1) ½ Done? Haven't started? - **Why is it all men!**

A Study was done that revealed that when men go shopping their blood pressure goes up –

A) “Shopping is Hazardous for men’s health elevating their blood pressure.” – **British Psychologist and researcher – David Lewis**

B) So guys when your wife asks you why you didn't get her anything for Christmas – just tell her –

1) “Do you want me to have a heart attack?”

C) Interesting that the same study revealed that a women’s blood pressure remained unaffected by Holiday shopping.

Going anywhere toward a mall – is problematic

A) Driving and waiting: person carrying handfuls of bags – CAR STALKING

B) Finally get there – they very carefully put all the stuff in the trunk –

1) then they go back to shopping –

C) COME ON – PLEASE WAVE ME OFF OR SOMETHING

I think Satan Loves to get people Distracted on so many things that they miss the real meaning of Christmas

A) Season that is meant to bring glad tidings of great joy (**Message of the Angels to the Shepherds**)

B) But this Season that is meant to bring glad tidings of great joy has become a season filled **with long lines and lots and lots of stress!**

C) Satan hates the real meaning of Christmas – Tries to Kill it

1) Definitely the picture we see in the text before us today.

When we think of Christmas story passages – we don't typically think of the Book of Revelation.

A) We think of Isaiah 9:6 “**For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**”

B) Or we think of Micah 5:2 – “**But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.**”

C) Birth of Jesus – account in Luke 2

We typically don't think of the Book of Revelation – but there is a picture of Christmas in Revelation Ch. 12

A) Not the Usual cast of Characters – No manger scene – no shepherds – no wise men

B) The Picture we have here is that of a Fiery Red Dragon who is trying to devour a Baby.

C) Not the stuff for holiday Christmas cards – **“Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas.”** – Available in the Book Store - NOT LIKELY

D) But What we have here Rev. 12 is Christmas from a Heavenly Perspective!

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her

feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron.

Unusual Cast of Characters:

A) **The Dragon is the Devil** – The book of Rev. often **complies several events** into ONE PIC.

B) **We have an example of that here:** Satan started off as Lucifer – Angel- being thrown out

1) Taking a 1/3 of the Angels with him – that is the pic of the stars (Angels) being gathered – Dragon tail

C) Those fallen Angels would become his Demons

D) **The seven heads and ten horns that the Dragon** has is a reference to the Revived Roman empire

1) That is going to happen during the Tribulation period – led by antichrist –

E) **Who is going to be possessed by Satan Himself Now Who is the Woman ?**

A) There have been a number of suggestions : the most Popular being it is the Virgin Mary

B) In v. 6 it tells us that Mary Fled into the Desert to a place prepared for her by God – where she would be taken care of for 1,260 days

C) **Note: That never happened to Mary**

D) But That will happen to Israel during the 2nd half of the Tribulation –

1) **So the Woman is the nation of Israel**

How she is clothed in v. 1 gives us a Clue – this is Israel *a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of 12 stars.*

A) This takes us back to Gen. 37 – Joseph's Dream – where the Sun the moon & the 12 stars

are referred to for the **first time in a figurative sense**

B) **Study of Hermeneutics** – Laws of interpreting scripture – One such Law is the Law of First Mention

C) The way something is first used in Scripture sets the tone for its interpretation throughout scripture

Well there in Gen. 37 Joseph has a Dream that the Sun & the Moon & the Stars were Bowing down to Him – (His **Family rightly interpreted AS THEM**)

A) Who was Joseph's FATHER? Jacob – named Changed to Israel – his 12 sons make up the 12 tribes –

B) So **By cross referencing to Gen.37** This helps us to identify the woman as the nation of Israel

The Son she gives Birth to = Jesus

A) Which coincides w/ what the O.T. scriptures Prophesied – that From the Seed of Abraham & of the Lineage of David **come the Messiah**

5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

B) The one who would rule the nations w/ a Rod of Iron – taken from Messianic Psalm 2:7-9
1) God the Father speaking – says:

7'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'

C) **How does this all relate to Christmas? – We need to understand this**

Although Jesus was Born of the Virgin Mary

A) **the Bigger Picture is that the Messiah was going to come from this tiny nation – small people**

B) And at the time of the Birth of Jesus – Israel was in great pain / being under the heel of Rome & suffering much under Roman Rule

C) See it has always been about the Nation of Israel.

This picture is depicting the hostility that Satan has had with the Nation of Israel from the beginning.

A) Reminding us that Christmas is a time of Conflict

B) Recall – Matthews gospel – first Christmas – Herod's decree – all babies in Bethlehem were to be Killed

C) Mentioned earlier – Black Friday – Some are starting to Call it Black Eye Friday:

1) The Craziest that happens

D) In Malls across the USA tempers flared among shoppers as law enforcement agencies struggled to keep control.

E) At a Louisville mall on Thanksgiving night, shoppers wrestled each other to the ground in a packed food court.

"The fracas knocked a woman to the floor as shoppers at St. Matthews Mall gawked at the sight of two unidentified men slapping, punching and tearing at each other's shirts."

Not just the USA in Glasgow Scotland also –

A) A Tesco – version of Costco – police were called and the store had to be shut down – until shoppers calmed down

B) Here is how one employee described the Meley "I looked at the massive crowd seeing people climbing over shelves and displays, staff running for cover, fights breaking out, stock flying through air, people breaking through carrying televisions - and this was before the sale had even started,"

C) I think Satan and his cohorts laugh at all that.

D) He loves that Christmas has become a time of Conflict

1) But it is not just the Conflict that is associated with Shopping

Family Conflict –

A) For some of you because Divorce has been a part of your family history

B) It means you have more than one place to go for Christmas

1) Dad and his girlfriend – Mom and her new Husband – step brothers and sisters.

C) Makes it all - Weird and uncomfortable

Some of you Come from a dysfunctional family –

A) People who don't like each other and don't get a long - Messy

B) Always Awkward as everyone gathers at Mom's house for Christmas –

1) Anticipation of the tension.

C) Word of advice and comfort to you whom that is your situation –

1) Issues in your family for 20+ years – {You are not going to fix it this Christmas

D) Relax – meet with who you can and enjoy it!

Some of you have a loved one who is no longer with us.

A) Christmas can be like walking through a mine field –

B) Songs – gifts – places – All these events bring back memories of the loved one who is no longer here.

1) That is probably the hardest one of all

C) But The Conflict we go through is nothing like the first Christmas

1) Devil trying to Destroy the Baby Jesus – Herod trying to kill the Babies in Bethlehem

Understand: that Conflict existed way way way – before the First Christmas!

A) Started in the Beginning

B) Genesis 3- The Fall – Garden – Enjoy.

A) Tree – the Command – Eve – ate – Adam followed

C) God revealed how mankind would be affected by that decision – Sin entered the Human Race

1) God laid out the effects of sin on man

D)God's message to Satan: **"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel."**
Genesis 3:15

You will strike or bruise His heel – You are going to wound him

A)But He will crush your head –

B)How do you kill a snake? Crush it's head!

C)The woman was going to give birth to a Son who would **crush the head of the Serpent** – render a death blow to Satan.

DSatan has known since the garden - a Messiah was coming who would put him out of business!

1)Ever since he has been looking for a way to eliminate the offspring of the woman – the Jewish people

2)**Eliminate the Possibility of a Messiah Coming Happened in Exodus – Pharaoh – too many Jews In Egypt – Kill the Babies**

A)1 Samuel – Saul tries to Kill David – Saul – crazy – very Satanic

B)Satan trying to use **King Saul to Kill** the line of the Messiah –

1)Messiah would come through the family of David on both sides

C)IN Esther - **Haman tries to Kill the line** – he wants to Annihilate the Jews from off the face of the earth.

C)Fast forward into the NT – Matthew's gospel - Herod at the birth of Christ orders all the babies born in Bethlehem

Even Today: Hostility toward Israel – from the nations around the world

A)Is Evidence of the continued conflict between the Dragon and the Baby

B)Prior to the birth of Christ – Satan was trying to take out the seed of the messiah

C)Now – **trying to kill the Prize** – People of Israel

1)Jesus is coming to redeem his chosen people

D)Israel is in the news more than any nation in the world – Every day across the globe

Israel is always a major topic at UN Meetings – this little country – ½ size of California

A)All a part of Bible Prophecy

Zechariah12:2-3

"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. ³ And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

B)Satan knows that Jesus is coming again – and one of the things he is going to do is Redeem the nation Israel

C)He is going to set up His Kingdom that will never end.

D)All throughout History – **Satan has been trying to THWART THAT PLAN.**

At the Temptation: - Pinnacle – all the nations – Offered -

A)Offering the kingdom without the cross – JESUS REFUSED

B)Luke 4 Jesus' own town – People knew – tried to throw him off a cliff

1)He miraculously walked right through the crowd like they didn't see him – Where did he go?

C)Not the right time for him to die– His time had not yet come

D)One day your time will come - DIE

1)Christians are indestructible until God is done with them.

E)Not a Christian today – Your time is going to come as well – **Question is are you ready to stand before God?**

1)God sent you a Christmas gift – His son born of a Virgin – Born to be the Savior

2) He wants to know what you did with it!

One of the problems we are facing is we have made Christmas too Beautiful.

A) We have taken the Raw powerful message of Christmas and we have gutted it.

B) We have pictures of a Beautiful snowy countryside and horse drawn sleighs of Carolers and – Lights and Candles- Christmas trees

C) I love all of that

1) But the beautiful Baby that was born in a manger was born with a distinct purpose.

D) That Baby was born to grow up as a man – to Reveal God the Father to people.

1) Jesus said, “If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.”

MAIN PURPOSE: That man in the prime of his life WAS DESTINED TO GO to the Cross and Die for the sins of the world

A) Set his Face like Flint --- Jerusalem

B) Nothing was going to stop him – nothing was going to ALTER THE PLAN

C) Jesus was on a Mission – A Rescue Mission!

Red is the Color of Christmas because Red is the Color of the Blood that was shed by Jesus at Calvary.

A) Christmas trees – some like them some don't – 1st CHRISTMAS TREE WAS A CROSS

B) WE PUT LIGHTS ON OUR CHRISTMAS TREES –

1) GOD THE FATHER PUT THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD ON THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE.

C) Gal 3:13 – Cursed is anyone who hangs on a tree

D) Love came Down to Rescue us! – Jesus stepped out heaven – into a Womb – Stepped out of the womb into our world

1) Stepped from our world – ONTO A CROSS -

E) **Placed into a Tomb** – Stepped out of that Tomb – give us life!

Back to Gen. 3 – Enmity between your offspring and Her offspring

A) ANYONE WHO IS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS is a part of that offspring – BORN OF THE SPIRIT

B) Not a follower of Jesus – there is only one other choice – Devil's seed.

C) **Pastor Rob** – are you insinuating that I am a follower of Satan – Satan worshipper. – No

D) But Jesus said: Either you are for me or you are against me. Meaning – there is no neutral ground.

E) Devil blinds eyes to the truth

See the Conflict is over Souls.

A) Jesus said I have come that you may have Life and that more Abundantly.

B) But the Devil is a Thief and Robber who comes to Kill to Rob and to Destroy!

C) Offers you the world – Enslave you to passions and pursuits

D) Rob you of your Peace -

1) Conflict for the HEARTS of Men & Women

If you are already saved: Satan knows – can't affect your soul – eternity.

A) But he would love to get you so distracted with stuff– so self absorbed with life-

B) YOU are not going to make an impact on anyone else.

Wrap this up with a Red Bow – God's gift – you receive it or you don't

You do – Results in Forgiveness – Guilt removed – Freedom

YOU DON'T – Judged: What did you do with my Son?

Unopened Christmas gift – all year – tree is down – sits by TV

God's unopened gift – 20 years – Actually open – you know what it is – Never embraced! - TODAY