

Rev. 11:15 *'And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever.'*

We saw the 2 Witnesses; they prophesied for 3.5 years until the midpoint of the Tribulation. Then, the Antichrist entered the Temple, desecrating it, and declared himself to be god, demanding that all worship him as god. Satan has entered the Antichrist. The Antichrist will be killed and then come back to life. This will be Satan's counterfeit copy of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ but it will not have been a genuine resurrection; Antichrist will have been killed but it will be Satan who then enters and animates the body. This will, then, finally be what Satan has planned for millennia when, in ancient history, he declared: *'I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.'* Isa 14:13

Satan is finally, he thinks, ruling over all the Earth; king of kings and lord of lords; he is being worshipped as god but how pathetic... he is but a sad puppet in God's hands. God will allow him this small window of earthly glory only to suddenly return, conquer everything Satan has spent thousands of years building, bind him hand and foot and cast him into the Bottomless Pit for 1000 years. If he weren't so evil, we could almost feel sorry for the guy. For all eternity, he will remember what he had before he rebelled and all that he could have had and done if he'd only remained faithful. The same is true for every human. We will, everyone, spend eternity either twistedly cursing God for what we have caused in our lives, miserably languishing in the Lake of Fire or joyfully praising God for all He has done for our eternal blessing and glory.

Here, in Revelation, the Lord Jesus Christ is lauded as the eternal, universal King over all. From this moment on through the final half of the Tribulation, He will be pulling all evil parties to their final doom at Armageddon, culminating in His physical return to the World which rejected Him; then, He will destroy or imprison every enemy.

Something we may not have realized but until this time at the midpoint of the Tribulation and, during our time now, Satan and the rest of the rebellious angels still have access to some part of Heaven. I would strongly doubt they can go to the place where believers have been taken at death, where our past loved ones are now, but they do have access to some part of Heaven; we will now see the time when they are finally removed and cast down to the Earth.

Rev. 12:1: *'And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars'*

Many have thought, and taught, especially Catholicism, that this woman is Mary, the mother of the Lord Jesus Christ. Mary is never described this way. Mary was, as is, a normal human just like all of us. She was a sinner, she needed a Savior and, unlike many of us, sometimes, she was willingly faithful and submissive to God's will, and plan, even to the point of being thought an unfaithful, fornicating trollop.

You'd see, in most Catholic cathedrals, high up front, large paintings of Mary, mother of God, queen of Heaven with her crown, with the sun shining brightly behind her, with 12 stars circling her head while she is standing on a crescent of the moon and often there are beams of light shining forth from her hands down to us as she dispenses God's graces to us. Few things could be more blasphemous than the Catholic portrayal of Mary: she was conceived and born without sin or sin nature, she never sinned during her life, she was taken up bodily to Heaven, she is the co-redeemer, as important to salvation as Jesus Christ; she is our intercessor, she is the one to whom we are to pray, she is the queen of Heaven, etc, etc, etc. All that really is true of the Lord Jesus Christ is ascribed unto Mary in the false religion of Catholicism.

In truth, this vision is of Israel; Israel is the woman. This harkens back to one of Joseph's dreams: *'And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. ⁶ And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: ⁷ For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my*

sheaf. ⁸ And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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 down ourselves to thee to the earth? ¹¹ And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying. 'Gen 37:5

Joseph's dreams had a double meaning as do many prophecies. Eventually, after many years, Jacob and his 11 other sons would, in fact, bow down to Joseph as the 2nd most powerful leader in Egypt. Jacob and his sons, Joseph and the 11 others, the sun and 11 stars are, in fact Israel, the nation. Jacob's name was changed, by God, to Israel. Joseph is a type for the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior.

Here, in Rev. 12, the woman in this vision is Israel.

Verse 2: '*And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.*'

The child is the Lord Jesus Christ being born out of Israel. Israel did cry out in pain and travail for many centuries, waiting for her promised deliverer but when He finally came, she rejected Him and crucified Him; after His resurrection, He was taken back up into Heaven.

Verse 3: '*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.*'

The great red dragon is Satan; he is seen with 7 heads and ten horns with crowns on each head. When we study Daniel along with Revelation, we discover that this also represents Satan's, through the Antichrist, complete control over all the World. The 10 horns represent the 10 kings who will rule the World at the beginning of the Tribulation; 7 will willingly give their authority and allegiance to the Antichrist while 3 will resist and be forcefully brought under the Antichrist's dominion.

*'After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. ⁸ I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were **three of the first horns plucked up by the roots**: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things... Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. ²⁴ **And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.***' Dan 7:7, 8, 23, 24

Satan is allowed, by God, to rule over the Earth at this time but soon, during the time, of which, we are reading, he will finally be defeated and imprisoned for 1000 years while the Antichrist will be sent directly to the Lake of Fire to be tormented forever.

Verse 4: '*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.*'

The dragon, Satan, stands ready to kill Jesus when he is born. Satan knew God's promise to send a Savior who would destroy Satan: '*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*' Gen 3:15. '*Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*' Isa 7:14 He knew He would be born in Bethlehem: '*But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. ³ Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.*' Micah 5:2 See how that prophecy coincides with Rev 12:4

Satan knew the approximate time He would be born from Daniel's prophecy of the 70 weeks of Daniel but he never knew exactly how or when the Lord Jesus would be born so he inspired Herod to kill all the baby boys up to 2 years old, thinking he could thus kill the right one along with all the others but Satan never knew exactly who or where Jesus was until He began His ministry; then he sought to kill Him, finally succeeding with the Crucifixion; even then, Satan never realized that he was fulfilling God's perfect plan of redemption of us.

It is from this verse we infer that one third of the angels of Heaven rebelled with Lucifer. How, we wonder, could they have been so dumb as to follow an angel, like themselves, as opposed to following the God of Heaven Who created them? When we reason it out, along with our imaginations, we begin to understand how this could have happened. Remember, In Isaiah, God says, *'How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, **I will exalt my throne** above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.'* Isa 14:12

I will exalt my throne; Lucifer had a throne; he probably had a kingdom. We know that God intends to give us authority in various levels of ruling and reigning with Him, that we are genuine fellow-heirs with Him; all that He has... everything... we are fellow-heirs with Him. With that in mind, it doesn't take too much imagination to think that in the past, God gave various areas of authority to His angels. Some were faithful under God's ultimate rule while others, like Lucifer, were not faithful and did rebel.

Let's imagine that Lucifer was given the rulership over this planet and possibly this entire solar system, the Sun and 8 planets plus Pluto or, perhaps he ruled from one of the other planets. If Satan can go to Heaven to accuse us, surely angels have the ability to travel between the planets of this system. You'll remember that all the planets are actually named after Greek and Roman gods who were, themselves, patterned after the offspring of fallen angels intermarrying with humans in Gen 6. Perhaps all these planets were wonderful, glorious places as only God could create.

Look at what God says regarding Lucifer's rebellion: *'Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, (Lucifer) and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. ¹³ **Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God;** every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: **the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes (musical instruments: possible involved in musical worship) was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. ¹⁴ Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵ Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. ¹⁶ By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. ¹⁸ Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by **the iniquity of thy traffick;** therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.'*** Ezek.28:12

This tells us that Lucifer, before his fall was involved in traffic/merchandise/trading.

Back to our imagination: it's not difficult to imagine that many angels were, for many centuries, busy building an incredible society and civilization with interplanetary commerce as they accumulated vast wealth built with precious metals and stones. We read of the precious stones which made the covering, the clothing of Lucifer. Eventually, by virtue of his perfect beauty, his vast wealth, perhaps his stardom in music... all the things that draw humans away from God... all these were the things which drew Lucifer away from God; they are all the things which Satan uses to entice and draw humans into bondage and away from any desire for God.

Satan and 1/3 of the angels didn't just wake up one day and decided to rebel against God... there had to have been something which they decided was more important to them, more precious to them, than being 'sons of God who loved and served God.'

When iniquity was found within Lucifer, rather than being drawn to love his Heavenly Father, he chose to love all that he had built and accumulated... he chose to love riches and glory rather than God. That, I believe, is the answer to the question of how is it possible that 1/3 of the angels could be so stupid as to follow Lucifer in his rebellion rather than to remain loyal to God. They, like Lucifer, were enticed by all that the World had to offer.

This verse, then, is where we get the idea that 1/3 of the angels followed Lucifer in rebellion.

Verse 5: *'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.'*

This clearly refers to the Lord Jesus Christ: He Who would rule all the nations with a rod of iron Who, after His Earthly ministry, after His resurrection, was taken up to Heaven: *'And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; ¹¹ Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.'* Acts 1:9

Here in Revelation, the man child, Jesus Christ is caught up unto God, up to Heaven. The Greek word the Holy Spirit inspired John to use is *harpazo*, the very same word Paul used to describe what will happen to us when we are taken up to God and to His throne in Heaven. Jesus rose up, in front of those with Him, and into a cloud. We are told that, at the Rapture, we will be caught up together to meet Him in the clouds.

Verse 6: *'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.'* (3.5 years, the 2nd half of the Tribulation.)

This is the midpoint of the Tribulation. Antichrist will desecrate the Temple and declare himself to be god. Israel will suddenly recognize that the Antichrist is not who they thought he was, not their Messiah. The Jews will remember Jesus' warning in Matt 24 and also from Daniel 9. Matt 24: *'When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)' ¹⁶ Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: ¹⁷ Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house: ¹⁸ Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. ¹⁹ And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! ²⁰ But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: ²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²² And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.'* Matt 24:15 *'And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.'* Dan 9:27

Jews and Christians will be hunted down and persecuted like never before; nothing of the past will have compared to that time, the second half of the Tribulation: *the Great Tribulation, the time of Jacob's Trouble.*

Next time we will see when Satan and his angels are finally cast out of Heaven; they have access to Heaven, even now. In Eph. 2:2 Paul calls him: *'prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.'*

It may be that when he is finally expelled from any access to Heaven, God also removes his ability to fly, as angels do. This may be what's meant by his being 'cast down to the Earth.'