

## EP97 Revelation 12 verses 3-4

In our last podcast we studied the birth of the child and began examining another sign that was caused to be seen in heaven.

### *A Dragon*

#### ***Revelation 12:3***

Then another sign was caused to be seen in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon now having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems.

We did a deep dive into this image of the red dragon and the seven heads, and let's now pick up with the ten horns.

### **10 Horns**

The dragon also now has ten horns. According to the **Code**, "horns" are a symbol of power and status, as horns are an animal's weapons to attack and to defend. In our earthly realm, these horns would represent **military might** and weaponry.

So, we must ask the question, are these horns to be understood in a physical capacity (human led military might) or some sort of spiritual weaponry?

The simple answer is both! According to the **Code**, the number ten is associated with the *divine order* of *human affairs*. Thus, there are ten spiritual powers or rulers of might which are connected to ten kingdoms in the realm of humanity, which the dragon utilizes to enforce his will upon mankind, through the use, or threat, of military might. These ten horns sit on the seven heads of the Spirit Princes, and like an animal, they are weapons used by the dragon to attack and to defend.

#### ***Horns of the Dragon Become the Horns of the Beast***

We will learn in **Revelation 13** that the dragon gives his power, throne, and great authority to the Beast. Thus, when we are first introduced to the Beast, he is imaged as having seven heads and ten horns, upon which sits ten (not seven) crowns or diadems—that which he received from the dragon. Apparently, the dragon also works through agency, as he tends to mimic that which he has learned from God.

This is important because much of the information we have on the horns comes from the time when the Beast will take authority over the seven heads and the ten horns, upon which sit the diadems.

Accordingly, in the book of **Daniel**, God shares a vision with Daniel of the kingdom of the Beast, and Daniel said it was a terrifying vision that disturbed him greatly. This beast which Daniel saw was dreadful, terrifying, and it was extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth and **ten horns**. And we are specifically

told that these ten horns are **ten kings** that will arise.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, we should expect to literally see a coalition of ten kingdoms, countries, states, or whatever, from which the kingdom of the Beast arises to power and assumes control on this earth with the use of or threat of military might. But more on that later.

### *The Mismatch of Heads to Horns*

It should be noted that there is a mismatch of horns to heads, with ten horns distributed over seven heads. Now, in this same vision where Daniel was shown the Beast, Daniel said that he was contemplating the ten horns, when another horn, a little horn, came up from among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before the little horn. So, we know that at least one of the heads has three horns.

## 7 Diadems on 7 Heads

“... and on his heads were seven diadems.” So far in **Revelation**, all we have seen are crowns of victory, or in the Greek, “*stephanos*.” The saints who are now overcoming are promised crowns of victory. The “woman” who is clothed in the sun is adorned with a crown of victory. And the rider who sits atop of the white horse, the first horse released with the opening of the first of seven seals, is wearing a crown of victory. But these seven diadems refer not to crowns of victory, but they are a **symbol of royalty**.

### *Spiritual Royalty*

This communicates that the seven heads are beyond just powerful spiritual leaders, they are “**kings**.” **Revelation 17:10** states this explicitly. They are deemed, in the spiritual realm, to be royalty, and they have been given charge, by the dragon, over territories of the earth, each with their own designated territory. These seven heads are the “*kings of the earth*” referenced in **Revelation** and across the **Codex**.<sup>2</sup>

Because these seven heads are kings, the upper echelon of the Spiritual Princes, they bear a title of royalty, or a rank of highest stature amongst the angelic entities. Accordingly, they are of the kind of power and glory like the angels Michael and Gabriel. In the book of **Daniel**, Michael is referred to as a Prince (a title of royalty), and Gabriel is identified as going to war against other Spirit Princes, which would indicate that he also bears the rank or title of royalty, that of a spiritual prince.<sup>3</sup>

### *Earthly Royalty*

These seven heads, these “*kings of the earth*,” likely administrate the dragon’s authority over seven territories (the way in which the dragon has divided up the earth). Each of them a “king” over their territory.

### *Loyalty to the Dragon*

We will find that these kings are loyal to the dragon, but they are not mere puppets of the dragon. They too must be convinced to follow the dragon’s plans. We find out in **Revelation 16:13-16** that the dragon sends unclean spirits, like frogs, to croak and croak at these kings to gather them for the great

<sup>1</sup> **Daniel 7:7-27**

<sup>2</sup> **Psalm 2:2, 76:12, 89:27, 102:15, 138:4, 148:11; Isaiah 24:21; Acts 4:26; Revelation 1:5, 6:15, 17:12, 18, 18:3, 9, 19:19, 21:24**

<sup>3</sup> See **Daniel 10:13, 20**

battle at Armageddon.

## *Where Demons Come From (The Dragon's Tail Now Sweeps)*

### **Revelation 12:4**

And his tail **now** sweeps away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.

Let's keep in mind that this image of the dragon is a picture depicting a terrifying and indomitable monster—one that can only be subdued by its creator. It is an image of strength and might, so much so that his tail **now** sweeps away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth (yes, there is an intentional mismatch of verb tenses).

### **Dual Imagery of the Stars**

As mentioned previously, according to the **Code**, stars have a dual meaning across the **Codex**. For instance, when there are 12 stars and they are connected in imagery with the sun and the moon, they are a picture of the sons of Jacob and their religious offspring (perhaps the image even encompasses the angels that are assigned to each tribe and their offspring). But when the **Codex** refers to stars in the heavens, it is addressing angelic beings.<sup>4</sup> Sometimes the good angels and sometimes the demonic angels. Clearly, in this instance, this speaks of all the angels who followed the dragon in his rebellion to **Yahweh**, and those who even now are succumbing to his lies.

In this image, the tail of the dragon "**now sweeps away**" is rendered in the *present active indicative*. Hence, it is happening now, and that is a statement of indisputable fact. However, "**threw or cast them to earth**" is rendered in *aorist active indicative* (explaining what has been done). So, while he now sweeps, he has thrown them to the earth; again, a statement of fact. We will address this mismatch of the verb tense (the use of both the present and the past) when we discuss how Satan gathers angels to his side.

### **A Third**

This idea of **thirds**, jumps off the pages of the **Codex**. It seems that the Spirit is obsessed with thirds. 185 times a third of something is mentioned in the **Codex**. A third seems to be a very odd and yet specific calculation. Expressed in its decimal form, it would be rendered 0.33333, and continuing forever with more 3's, thus this calculation or this expression bears the mark of divinity.

With the number three being **Code** for "*perfection*," we are to understand that everything identified as a third bears God's thumbprint, so-to-speak. In other words, the Spirit does not want us to miss the importance of anything He has associated with a third, for from beginning-to-the-end it is an expression of *perfection*, an expression of the Godhead, the only one who is perfect and whose works are perfect.<sup>5</sup>

In **Revelation 8** and **9** alone, a **third** is used 15 times to describe the 11 judgments brought about by

<sup>4</sup> See **Deuteronomy 4:19; 1 Corinthians 10:20; Judges 5:20; Job 25:5, 38:7; Isaiah 14:13, 40:26 (Psalm 147:4); Daniel 8:9-10; Matthew 24:29; Mark 13:25; Revelation 1:16**

<sup>5</sup> **Deuteronomy 32:4; 1 Corinthians 13:10; Hebrews 5:9**

the blowing of the seven trumpets. The *instrumentalities* of these judgments are:

- Hail and fire, mixed with blood.
- Something like a great mountain burning with fire.
- A great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch.
- The sounding of the 4<sup>th</sup> angel.
- Four Angels.
- Fire.
- Smoke.
- Brimstone.

And the *objects* of the judgment, each with a **third** being directly impacted by its respective instrumentality are:

- Earth
- Trees
- Sea
- Sea creatures
- Ships
- Rivers
- Waters
- Sun
- Moon
- Stars
- Mankind

Each of these judgments (which were expressed in **Code**) and their associated objects of judgment (which were expressed in **Code**), bear the mark of God, as they are *perfect* in both the instrumentality used and the object or the target of the judgment.

This same expression of “**thirds**” is used in connection with the fallen angels. “*The dragon, with his tail, now sweeps away a **third** of the stars of heaven (**Code** for angelic beings) and threw them to the earth.*”

What this means is that even the fall of the angels was and is **Plan-A**, for it bears the mark of *perfection*, it bears the thumbprint of God. Yes, **Yahweh** used the instrumentality of the dragon to bring about this judgment on these angels, but it was still all according to the sovereign design of **Yahweh Adonai, Yahweh** the Lord of Lords.

We do not normally think about praise and worship in connection with the demonic, because they are so creepy and awful in all they do, but because they have been thrown from heaven to the earth, fallen from their original position and purpose, we have another reason to rejoice and to praise God. Once again, we can have confidence that nothing happens in heaven or on earth that is random or outside of **Plan-A**—the plan which God established from before the creation of time. It is all working according to His design.

Therefore, we should not fear these creatures, they are just tools in the hands of our God, accomplishing His works, even though they probably do not fully grasp their utility to Him or to us. Nevertheless, their having fallen from heaven to earth is marked with the symbol of “*perfection*” – hence

the Spirit references a **third** of the angels or the stars of heaven.

## How Satan Gather's Angels to His Side

We know that the devil (the accuser) is a liar, and when he speaks a lie, he speaks from his nature or from his very personhood, for he is the father of lies—the one who deceives the whole world and those who dwell on the earth.<sup>6</sup>

One of the lies that he has told himself over and over – a lie which he has somehow been able to convince many angels to believe – is that because he is so ridiculously glorious, mighty, and powerful (quite unlike any of the other angelic beings), and with nothing on earth being like him, one day he will find a way to overthrow **Yahweh**, take His throne, and sit as lord over the realms of heaven, the stars, and mankind.<sup>7</sup>

### **Isaiah 14:12-14**

How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! But you said in your heart, “**I will** ascend to heaven; **I will** raise my throne above the stars of God, and **I will** sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** make myself like the Most High.”

Quite the audacious boast. But given his vast following, these angelic beings (the stars) who follow the dragon must be convinced that when the dragon ascends to the throne of **Yahweh** that they will ascend with him and rule with him over the kingdoms of heaven and mankind. The dragon likely made the same promise to the angels that Jesus made to those who are now overcoming: they will sit with him on his throne and rule over the nations with a rod of iron.<sup>8</sup>

Going back to the verb mismatch, with “sweeps” being rendered in the *present active indicative*, and “threw them to the earth” being rendered in the *aorist active indicative* (a form of the past tense), we can conclude that even though these angels have been **thrown** down to the earth, or cast out of their place and position in heaven, and have no opportunity to return, it seems that there are times when they are not fully convinced that the dragon will win and they are not fully convinced of the lies they have been told, so the dragon must sweep them again to keep them in his fold.

Perhaps some of the angels have wanted to disengage, seeing that **Yahweh** always ends up with the upper hand, and perhaps some of them come to understand that they are just tools in His hands sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation.<sup>9</sup> And so with his tail, the dragon, sweeps them once again to ensure they hold the line of his ridiculous lies.

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<sup>6</sup> **John 8:44; Revelation 12:9, 13:4**

<sup>7</sup> **See Job 41**

<sup>8</sup> Jesus' promise to Thyatira (**Revelation 2:26-27**) and Jesus' promise to Laodicea (**Revelation 3:21**).

<sup>9</sup> **Hebrews 1:14**

## The Tail

### The Prophetic.

The dragon sweeps these demons away with what can only be described as false prophecy — “*And his tail now sweeps.*” Do you remember the **locust-like demons with scorpion tails**, which had the power to sting in their tails? They were released from the Abyss, at the sounding of the 5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet, when the Beast was set free. In our study, we learned that according to the **Code**, the “**tail**” is a representation of the prophetic voice and the use of prophecy to deceive. “*And the prophet who teaches falsehood is the tail.*”<sup>10</sup>

Thus, it is likely that dragon claims to the angels that the ancient prophecies found in the **Codex** predict his ultimate victory, and their victory. Hence, he utilizes the prophecies, which he distorts, just as he did with Eve, to convince the demons that one day the Lamb will finally be conquered and slain.

For instance, to convince them that he is one who is full of knowledge, he likely predicted the destruction of Israel, the exile of Judah, the slaughter of the innocents (the children who were killed by King Herod in Bethlehem, shortly after Jesus’ birth), the obliteration of Judaism at the hands of the Romans, the coming slaying of the two witnesses, and other such events detailed in the **Codex**, as evidence of his great power, knowledge and authority. The dragon probably even predicted the demise of the Messiah, although he was completely blindsided by the resurrection.

Being a deceiver and a liar, the dragon leaves out, and the demons fail to understand the rest of the story prophesied in the **Codex** – their abject and humiliating defeat that occurs with just a word.

The use of prophecy to lead people astray is not uncommon. For instance, the **Codex** reveals an interesting exchange between **Yahweh** and a demon who says that he (the demon) will go and be a lying spirit in the mouths of the prophets of one of Israel’s kings (Ahab) enticing him to go to war with dreams of victory, even though God had already ordained not just his defeat but his death.<sup>11</sup>

Similarly, in the church at Thyatira, Jezebel led the people into the depths of religious apostasy through the means of false prophecy.<sup>12</sup> What occurred in the church is no different than what occurred in ancient Israel “*And the false prophet who teaches falsehood is the tail. For those who guide these people are leading them astray; and those who are guided by them are brought to confusion.*”<sup>13</sup>

In like manner, with his tail of prophetic deception, the dragon even now sweeps away a third of the angels and keeps them bound to his kingdom of darkness.

### The Dragon’s a Bully

We should understand that this angel is pictured as a dragon for a reason. He is strong, powerful, fierce, intimidating, and a bully. Thus, with his powerful tail of prophetic deception, he knocked the demons out of the realm of light and into the darkness, and he now keeps them down.

<sup>10</sup> **Isaiah 9:15**

<sup>11</sup> **1 Kings 22:10-28**

<sup>12</sup> **Revelation 2:18-29**

<sup>13</sup> **Isaiah 9:15-16**

## *Satan's Intentions: Devour the Child*

### **Revelation 12:4**

And the dragon stood before the woman who **now** being ready to give birth, so that when she might give birth, he might devour her child.

The woman, Israel, is pregnant with the child. This is an allusion to the Messiah, the Christ, the one who has the true claim to royal authority over the earth, the one who sets people free from the power of sin and death—that which Satan wields over the soul of mankind.

### **Now Being Ready to Give Birth**

If this is an allusion to the Messiah, however, why then would the Spirit render this part about the woman now being ready to give birth in the *present* tense and not some form of the *past* tense? Is the woman still now being ready to give birth? We must remember, **the Spirit is always intentional and precise**. Therefore, He said things exactly how He wants us to understand them. So, how can this make any sense?

Perhaps it is best to understand this through the image of the woman, Israel. What we know is that the woman did not receive her Messiah—she did not recognize the time of her *visitation*.<sup>14</sup>

It's as if the child was born for those of the tribes of Ephraim, Joseph, and Levi (primarily the Gentiles) to make know the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, not from among the Jews only, but also from among the Gentiles. *"As He says in Hosea, 'I will call those who were not my people, 'my people,' and here who was not beloved, 'beloved.' And it shall be that place where it is said to them, 'you are not my people,' there they will be called sons of the living God.'"*<sup>15</sup>

Although the woman Israel did not recognize the visitation of the child, we are told that there will be a *second visitation*.<sup>16</sup> For those Jews who survive the Great Tribulation and who refuse to take upon their forehead or their hand the mark of the Beast, it will be as if their Messiah is birthed new unto them. As it is said in **Zechariah**, *"In that day ... I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn."*<sup>17</sup> So in a sense, from the perspective of this woman, she is even now being ready to give birth to her Messiah.

### **Dragon's Desire to Devour**

The dragon's desire was to devour—literally to eat up—the child soon after his birth. It is said of the

<sup>14</sup> **Luke 19:44**

<sup>15</sup> **Romans 9:23-26**

<sup>16</sup> **1 Peter 2:12**

<sup>17</sup> **Zechariah 12:10**

dragon that “*around his teeth there is terror.*”<sup>18</sup> Hence, this imagery used by the Spirit to describe the dragon’s intentions is pretty visceral and animalistic. Just imagine a monstrous creature tearing apart a child and consuming it, leaving no remains.

Still, this is a strange depiction. The dragon was not looking to stomp on the child, to torch it with the sparks of fire and burning torches that leap forth from his mouth, or to just tear it apart, but to devour the child leaving no remains, leaving nothing for anyone to salvage.<sup>19</sup> In effect, the dragon’s desire was to wipe from the face of the earth last every remnant this child.

## The Dragon Stood

“*And the dragon stood before the woman...*” Interestingly, the Greek text allows for the word “stood” to be a parsed verb, meaning that it can be rendered in both the *imperfect active indicative* and the *perfect active indicative*. Both tenses represent the past, but the *imperfect* tense addresses the past as something that was done and completed, whereas the *perfect* tense indicates that there is some **resonance** to the past act, if that makes any sense. In other words, the result of the past act, the desired attempt to kill the child, seems to be present or simultaneous even as the Spirit was speaking to John. Again, the act has a **resonance** about it that echoes throughout time.

What this tells us is that the event actually happened, Satan tried to devour the child, to consume him. But it also reveals to us that his desire to wipe this child off from the face of the earth still resonates throughout time. In other words, it indicates that Satan desires to finish what he started and completely usurp the position of the true King.

## Attempt to Kill the Child?

Working through human agency, Satan used King Herod the Great as a puppet in his attempt to devour the child. The story is told as follows. After Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem, some wise men, royal astrologers, arrived from the east seeking the newborn king of the Jews. They saw His star in the sky and followed it to Israel. These men were members of the royal Magi in the kingdom of Babylonia, and they were following a 600-year-old prophecy that most likely had been passed down to them by none other than the prophet Daniel, who had been appointed chief of the Magi by King Nebuchadnezzar. After six centuries, they were faithful to their instruction.

After seeing His star in the sky, they came to Israel to find the newborn king of the Jews, which obviously would not sit too well with the then current rulers of Israel. King Herod was deeply disturbed by this news, and he called a meeting of all the leading priests and teachers of religious law, and he asked them where the Messiah would be born. They quoted to him a prophecy from the **Codex** which indicated that Bethlehem would be the city in which the chosen one would be born.<sup>20</sup> Herod then inquired of the wise men as to when they first saw the star, as he was attempting to discern the possible age of the newborn. Then he requested of them that once they find the child, that they send him news about the child, feigning that he too wanted to worship this child king.

God, however, warned the Magi in a dream not to return to Herod. Therefore, once they found the

<sup>18</sup> **Job 41:14**

<sup>19</sup> **Job 41:19**

<sup>20</sup> **Micah 5:2**



child, they departed on a different route. Herod became outraged when he heard that the wise men had shunned him. Thus, he sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two-years old and under (because the wise men told him the star first appeared to them about two years earlier).

Fortunately, God warned the child's father (Joseph) in a dream to pack up and flee the area and go to Egypt, since Herod was looking to kill the child. Joseph escaped with the child just in time as Herod's men came to Bethlehem and brutally slaughtered all the male children in that region, but the child was safe. Satan's plan did not play out as he had hoped. He had stood over the woman waiting to devour the child, but God frustrated his plans.<sup>21</sup>

## The Ways of Satan

It is intriguing what we can discern from this story in terms of how Satan works on the earth and what kinds of people are most useful or available to him. Unless Satan physically possesses someone, as he did with Judas, the only active force he can exert is through unseen influence. Thus, he targets those (like Herod) who have given themselves over to darkness and evil—those whose minds have become accustomed to his voice.

What this tells us is that Satan was somewhat limited in his ability to influence or have power over the immediate people who surrounded the child. For instance, we do not see one of the shepherds freaking out and attempting an assassination of the child, nor do we see Joseph or Mary going on a crazy rampage doing the unthinkable deed. The Magi did not suddenly try to assassinate the child. The hearts of and their minds were not given over to such darkness.

Instead, Satan targets a man of great influence and power, the King of Israel, who was not really the king (in terms of Judean lineage) but was made king by the Romans. He was a usurper, just like Satan was attempting to be. It was also well known in the Judean kingdom that Herod was a mad man. It was joked that the safest person in Israel was someone who was not related to Herod, for he had many of his wives and children murdered on suspicion of treason. He also murdered a great number of rabbis.

Herod's heart was accustomed to evil, for he was familiar with the voice or the unseen influence of Satan, and that made him a perfect target for Satan to manipulate and use in his attempt to devour the child. And it would have been successful if it were not for **Yahweh** intervening and warning Joseph to flee to Egypt.

By the way, the attempted assignation and the slaughter of the innocents was prophesied in the **Codex**.<sup>22</sup> Thus, this was not a surprise reaction by Satan, but a fulfillment of the word of God.

## The Ways of Yahweh

Before we move on, we would be remiss to not mention the ways of **Yahweh** in contrast to that of Satan. It is intriguing what we can discern from this story in terms of how **Yahweh** works on the earth and what kinds of people are most useful or available to him. Unless **Yahweh** physically possesses someone, via the Holy Spirit, the only active force he will exert is through unseen influence. Thus, he targets those (like the magi—the wise men) who have given themselves over to the ways of faith—to those whose

<sup>21</sup> See **Matthew 2**

<sup>22</sup> **Jeremiah 31:15** (the area of Ramah is located approximately 5-miles south of Bethlehem)

minds have become accustomed to his voice.

This story reveals that **Yahweh** targets men who are committed to His word, even a word spoken six centuries before. Can you imagine. We tend to struggle so much as we wait for God to fulfill what He has promised, and with time being our worst enemy, we often tend to linger in our belief and become overcome with disappointment. But these men did not even receive this promise unto themselves, but it was spoken to their order of magi long before. Still, they believed. Their faith transcended the enemy of time. Thus, they were looking for the star and they were ready for the star, and when they saw it, they traveled over 500 miles and came to worship the newborn King.

These men, these magi, represent the ways of God as He works amongst humanity and secures those who are willing to believe that God will always do what He say, what He promises, it is just a matter of time.

And with that, let's stop here and we will pick up in our next podcast with the male child who will rule the world with a rod of iron. Thank you for "tuning in" and being "ready to listen."