

EP102 Revelation 12 verses 12-14

In our last podcast, we ended on the third **Woe**, with the devil being unleashed on humanity. Let's pick it up there.

The 3rd WOE—The Devil Unleashed on Humanity

If you remember back in **Revelation 8:13**, John heard an eagle flying in midair call out with a loud voice, “Woe, Woe, Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels,” that would be the woe's brought about by the 5th, 6th, and 7th Trumpets.

With the first **WOE**, we saw the Beast, the angel of the Abyss, enter the world and with him an army of locust-like demonic beings that will lie, seduce, and deceive people to follow the Beast through prophetic revelations. They will torture many to ensure that they remain loyal and will not fall back toward the grace of God.

With the second **WOE**, we saw death—the slaying of one third of mankind and the hardening of the hearts of so many others who refuse to repent.

With the third **WOE**, we see the strongest of warnings about the devil and what will ensue when he is expelled from heaven and caused to be thrown down, with his armies, to the earth.

Revelation 12:12

Woe to the earth and the sea because the devil has come down to you, **now** having great wrath, knowing that he **now** has only a short time.

Woe to those who do not belong to **Yahweh**, for the devil is consumed by wrath, as he is now having great wrath. And since he knows he only has a short time, he is vicious.¹

We must also keep in mind that the dragon just lost a war that he never thought he could lose. Michael and his armies picked the fight, and the result was that the fierce, terrifying, mighty, and heretofore unassailable foe was found not to be strong enough to hold his position in the heavenly realms. And he and his armies were caused to be thrown down to earth, with no chance of returning to their cosmic outpost.

You can only imagine the extent of the devil's rage. Michael, who in a previous encounter, had to call on **Yahweh** to command the devil, because Michael was not strong enough to defeat him, now won the victory.² The shame of it all. How will the devil be able to continue his deceitful lies promising he will upend the Lamb of God and take over his throne if he just lost to Michael—an angel that is beneath his own glory and power?

Hence, it is understandable that the devil is **now** having great wrath, knowing that he **now** has only a

¹ “having” is rendered in the *present active participle*, and “has” is rendered in the *present active indicative*

² See **Jude 9**

short time. It is interesting to note that “*having*” and “*has*” are both rendered in the *present* tense. Thus, we can understand this **WOE** to be not just for the **End Times**, but it is also a **WARNING** for us, now!

He Already Knows

What is fascinating is that the devil already knows that his time is short, as “*knowing*” is rendered in the *perfect active participle*. Sometime in the past, the devil became aware that he would **NOT** win this inevitable war, that he would lose his place in the heavenly realms, and that he ultimately would be the greatest loser of all time. This is the reason the dragon sweeps the fallen angels down from the heavens with his lies and false prophecies, and bullies them into submission (remember, the tail speaks of the prophetic word and the image of the dragon speaks of power and terror).

Wild animals can be fierce, but when they are in a panic, when they are terrified, when they are trapped, when they sense doom, they become beyond vicious and are overcome by a relentless wild mad fury. This is the picture that is being communicated. The devil is now having great wrath, for he cannot accept his soon coming defeat and demise. **WOE** to the earth and the sea.

The Earth and the Sea

This is a **WARNING** for all of humanity—all those who have chosen to make their abode in this world. As we know, the sea is **Code** for the restless masses of humanity, and the earth, well, it’s the earth. Thus, there will be no place to hide, there will be no safety. Consider some of the things Jesus said:

Luke 21:10-11

Nation will be caused to rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will choose to be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and **there will choose to be terrors** and great signs from heaven.

Luke 21:25-26

There will choose to be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, **men now fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are now coming** upon the inhabited earth; for the powers of heaven will be caused to be shaken.

Mark 13:19

For those days will choose to be a time of tribulation **such as has not occurred** since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will choose to be.

The Tool of Self-Destruction

With this massive **WOE**, it is interesting that the Spirit did not choose to refer to the Dragon, a big

mighty terrifying beast that is intent on destruction. Afterall, this **WARNING** sounds like a Dragon type of thing. Instead, the Spirit chose to refer to the devil, the Accuser, the Slanderer. In the next few verses, the Spirit will use both the imagery of a Dragon and the Serpent, but in terms of the earth and the sea, He chose the character and traits associated with the devil.

As we learned, the word “devil” literally means “slanderer” which is why he is also referred to as the “*Accuser of the brethren*.”³ The devil is all about slander. With him there is no limit. Day and night, the devil slanders us to God, he slanders God to us, he slanders us to others, others to us, and he slanders us to ourselves.

So, at this time when the devil and his angels are thrown to the earth, he will be slinging slander and accusation around like it was pollen in spring. There is one thing to be intimidated and threatened by a big mighty beast, like a dragon, and it is an entirely different thing to be surreptitiously caused to self-destruct through division resulting from accusation; but that is the way of the devil.

This **WOE** is a firm warning that because of the devil’s great wrath expressed through accusation and slander, everyone will turn on everyone; it will be hard to find anyone you feel you can trust. Friends, family, neighbors, workmates, formally trusted institutions, leaders, pastors, elders, and so on will be laid waste by slanderous accusations—harmful words that will stick like glue. The division and relational chaos are likely to be unparalleled. The Spirit and Jesus described the relational disaster as follows:

Micah 7:4-6

But your judgment day is coming swiftly now. Your time of punishment is here, **a time of confusion. Don't trust anyone**—not your best friend or even your wife! For the son despises his father. The daughter defies her mother. The daughter-in-law defies her mother-in-law. **Your enemies are right in your own household!**

Luke 12:49-53

I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I now wish it were already kindled! But I now have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is caused to be accomplished! Do you suppose that I chose to come to grant peace on earth? I now tell you, no, but rather division; for from now on there will choose to be five members in one household that will have caused to be dividing, three against two and two against three. They will be caused to be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Matthew 24:9-11

Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will choose to now be caused to being hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will be caused to fall away and will

³ ***Revelation 12:10***

betray one another and hate one another.

Mark 13:12

Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will choose to rise up against parents and have them put to death.

With this level of personal and relational fall out, it is no wonder that this is the **3rd WOE!** Nothing will be sacred, and except for those who are now following the Lamb wherever He goes, no relationship will be secure. Everyone will be slandered, it will be a time of great confusion, and it will be brutal.

Great Wrath

A quick note on the great wrath of the devil versus the great wrath of God. Both the devil and God are described as having great wrath, but it is not always the same Greek word. For some unknown reason, the translators chose to use the same English word to describe two entirely different Greek words. Now, clearly based on the effect of the slander and accusation, the great wrath of the devil is not to be trifled with; but even more so, the wrath of God.

In the Greek, the word “*thumos*” (literally, hot passionate breath) is used to define the **devil’s fury**. It’s a form of rage. You can picture a person who is all hot-and-bothered, red faced, and filled with anger. That pretty much captures the idea of “*thumos*.”

When the Spirit addresses what is translated as the “wrath” of God, there are times He uses “*thumos*” and other times He uses “*ogre*,” which is a step even further into an intensified rage. It might be called “fierce rage” or “furious indignation,” or as it is stated in **Isaiah**, “*cruel with fury and burning anger*.”⁴ *Ogre* is like *thumos* but amplified to another level of anger.

Ogre & Thumos

When God judges apostate religion, symbolized by Babylon the Great and the woman who rides the Beast, He expresses *ogre* – fierce, intensified rage.⁵ **Yahweh** unequivocally hates, loathes, and despises apostate religion. His disgust is due to the personal affront stemming from apostate religion.

After the sixth seal was opened, “*the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they now say to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who now chooses to be sitting on the throne, and from the wrath (the “ogre” or fierce rage) of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath (fierce rage – “ogre”) has come, and who is now able to be caused to stand?”*”⁶

When the 7th Trumpet was blown and God revoked the tenancy over the earth that had been given to the devil and his angels, and He took back that power and began to reign, we are told that the nations

⁴ **Isaiah 13:9**

⁵ **Revelation 16:19**

⁶ **Revelation 6:15-17**

were enraged (a form of the word “*ogre*”), and His, **Yahweh’s**, fierce rage (“*ogre*”) came.⁷

At His Second Coming, Jesus will strike down the nations, and He treads the wine press of the “*thumos ogre*” – the raging fierce indignation of God, the Almighty.⁸ This will be a time of passionate hot violent and extreme rage and indignation as Jesus brings about His reckoning and judges the nations.

In contrast, when the Spirit speaks about the seven bowls filled with the wrath of God, the Spirit uses “*thumos*”—as God’s rage is poured out upon the earth.⁹ In like manner, all those who follow the Beast will drink of the wine of the rage (“*thumos*”) of God. It seems that in His rage, Jesus also expresses some level of compassion, for He does not pour out *ogre* during the Great Tribulation, but only *thumos*.

Oddly, the **Codex** reveals that the nations can muster up a form of “*ogre*” and clearly **Yahweh** can, but for the most part, it seems the devil cannot, muster “*ogre*,” but only “*thumos*.” The devil has “*mega*” or great “*thumos*,” but his rage will never match the intensified rage of people or God. It must be something connected to the fact that mankind was made in the image of God, and the angels were not.

There is however one time when a form of “*ogre*” is used in connection with the image of the dragon, and that is in **Revelation 12:17** when it says the dragon was caused to be enraged (“*orgizo*”) and declared war against the remnant of the children of Israel: against the two witnesses. Clearly, the dragon hates, loathes, and despises the bondservants of God.

The Devil’s Reaction

Revelation 12:13

And when the dragon saw that he had been caused to be thrown to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male.

When the devil is unleashed upon the earth and the sea (upon the restless masses of humanity), he reacts in great fury. The first thing he does is go after Israel and he persecutes the woman, **the nation**, that brought forth the male child (the Messiah).

The implications of this prophecy are staggering, mind-boggling, and nothing short of miraculous.

First a Miracle

Consider that the Romans deposed the ruling dynasty of Israel in 140 BCE and subjugated the nation to its will. The Roman Senate declared Herod the Great King of the Jews in 40 BCE, indicating that Israel had indeed lost all sense of self-rule as a nation. Rome chose its leaders. From that point forward Israel was an appendage of the Roman empire, with only vestiges of a nation.

For 140 years before Christ, Israel was under the governance of Rome, which makes it so ridiculously ironic that certain Israelites once scoffed at Jesus who told them that the truth will set them free. They

⁷ ***Revelation 11:18***

⁸ ***Revelation 19:15***

⁹ ***Revelation 14:19, 15:1, 7, 16:1***

answered him and said, *“We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, “You will become free.”*¹⁰

Subsequently, in 6 AD, Judea proper, Samaria, and Idumea (which was the very southeastern part of Israel) became a Roman province. And then in 70 AD, the Romans completely obliterated any remnant of Israel’s national identity, destroyed Jerusalem, and wiped the Temple off the face of the earth, and with it any remnant of Israel’s political and spiritual life.

When John received this vision, he must have been so confused. How could the dragon persecute the woman, the nation who gave birth to the male (to the Messiah), if there was no woman, if there was no nation, and there was no chance of her return? She had been devastated and scattered. And like all the nations that had once occupied the land and were destroyed before Israel (the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites, and the Jebusites), it seemed that the nation of Israel would be relegated to a historical footnote in ancient manuscripts.

Then over 2,000 years later, and in one day, just as **Yahweh** prophesied, the woman reappeared (she came out of the wilderness). The nation of Israel was reborn. On May 14, 1948, the provisional government of Israel proclaimed a new state of Israel. On that same day, Israel was recognized by the United States as the de facto authority of the Jewish state. Then on May 11, 1949, Israel was recognized by the United Nations and was admitted as a full member.

*“Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once? But by the time Zion’s birth pains begin, her children will be born. Would I ever bring this nation to a point of birth and then not deliver it? Asks Yahweh. No! I would never keep this nation from being born, says your God.”*¹¹

AS WE HAVE SAID OVER-AND-OVER AGAIN, THOUGH IT OFTEN MAY SEEM ILLUSORY OR IMPOSSIBLE, EVERYTHING GOD SAYS COMES TRUE (WITH A VENGEANCE), AND EVERY PROMISE HE MAKES WILL BE FULFILLED, IT IS ALL JUST A MATTER OF TIME!

The existence of the nation of Israel today is nothing short of a miracle. And the miracle is even greater when you consider that no other people group in all of history has ever survived through captivity (beginning with Babylon in 597 BCE) and a scattering and assimilation across 5 world empires (Babylon, Media, Persia, Greece, and Rome) all the way up to and through modern days, endured the Inquisition at the hands of so-called Christians, and attempts by many all around the world to destroy them completely, and somehow they survived and have kept their own nationalistic identity.

Yes, for the last 75 years, we have had the privilege of witnessing one of the greatest miracles of all time in not just the Jew, but in the reemergence of the woman—the nation of Israel—from the wilderness!

Then Persecution

“... he {the dragon} persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male.” After being thrown down to

¹⁰ **John 8:31-33**

¹¹ **Isaiah 66:8-9** (verse 8: New American Standard Bible; verse 9: New Living Translation)

the earth, the dragon will turn his attention to the nation of Israel. He will marshal his warriors and attack the woman. It is interesting however that in terms of the **Code**, “persecuted” is NOT rendered in the *future* tense (something he will do THEN), but it is rendered in the *aorist active indicative*, a form of the past tense.

The Spirit seems to be communicating that the woman, the Jew, and the nation of Israel, have always been a central target for persecution. This is nothing new. The dragon’s animosity for the woman is evident in all the ways the Jew has been persecuted throughout time in practically every nation in which they were scattered. It is also evident in the various wars and terrorism the nation has experienced in the past 75 years from their neighboring states.

Again, this is nothing new; yet, at the same time, when the devil is cast down to the earth, he maniacally focuses his efforts on the woman; and she will experience extreme persecution, so much so that she will be caused to flee from her land.

The Rest of the Story

As we read passages like this, we must remember that there is an unseen reality that holds the rest of the story; a view of things that is often easy to forget. We are told that the dragon persecuted the woman. We can look through history and see that this is true, we can see all that is happening in our world today and know that it is true, and we can look forward and prognosticate about what will obviously continue in that regard. But truth be told, the dragon is only acting as an agent of **Yahweh Sabaoth** who is using the dragon to judge His people.

In the behind-the-scenes reality, all these things go exactly as **Yahweh Adonai** has determined—as the **First and the Last** has declared.¹² Whether he is acting as the devil, the dragon, the Satan, the serpent, or the adversary, the Shining One is just a tool in the hands of **Yahweh Sabaoth** to accomplish the plans determined by **Yahweh Adonai**—plans which He has declared and communicated throughout the **Codex (Plan-A)**.

In that regard, we must never forget that this entire narrative is about the unveiling of Jesus Christ, **Yahweh**, and how He works according to the plans of His Father, **Yahweh**. For He lives to do the Father’s will.¹³ In that regard, the tools He chooses to use are somewhat inconsequential. After all, “*Is the axe to boast itself over the one who chops with it? Is the saw to exalt itself over the one who wields it? That would be like a club wielding those who lift it, or like a rod lifting him who is not wood.*”¹⁴

And What Has Yahweh Declared?

The persecution of the woman is going to involve a lot of death and mayhem, for the devil has great wrath, and it will be expressed. When it is all said and done, **two-thirds** of the people in Israel will be cut off and perish. The people will be plundered, raped, taken captive, and killed in the fury unleashed by the dragon. Even half of the city will be exiled.¹⁵ The persecution of the dragon against the woman will be devastating.

¹² See **Psalm 33:11, 115:3, 135:6; Job 42:2; Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 40:13-14, 41:21-27, 42:9, 43:12-13, 44:6-8**

¹³ See **John 4:34, 5:30, 6:38**

¹⁴ **Isaiah 10:15**

¹⁵ **Zechariah 14:2**

For the Purpose of Rescue--Salvation

By the way, even though the persecution will be beyond terrible, **Yahweh Adonai** has also declared that **one third** of the populus will be protected and saved.¹⁶ He will bring that group through the refining fire and make them pure, and He will call them to Himself. In turn, they will call on His name, and He will call them His people.¹⁷ Hence, we get that famous line, everyone who calls on the name of **Yahweh** will be saved through the fire—for everyone will be salted with the fires of refining persecution.¹⁸

The Woman Flies***Revelation 12:14***

And two wings of the great eagle were caused to be given to the woman, so that she might **now** choose to fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is **now** caused to be nourished [fattened] for a time and times and half a time, from the presence [literally, the “face”] of the serpent.

The imagery switches from the dragon to a **serpent**; hence, the devil will rely heavily on his lies, manipulation, deception, seduction, etc. What this indicates is that the devil will likely amplify the anti-Semitic propaganda that he has been touting for centuries and deceive, seduce, and manipulate, the nations with lies, leading them to persecute Israel.

The Great Eagle

“And two wings of the great eagle were caused to be given to the woman.” This could *possibly* be a picture of one of Israel’s most ardent allies and sworn defenders, the United States, whose national emblem, and symbolic identity, is the eagle. Even Bin Laden is credited with saying that he wished to die in the belly of the eagle, meaning he wanted to die in a terrorist act on American soil. The eagle is globally recognized as the symbol of the United States of America.

As a nation, the United States has sworn to protect Israel’s security and to promote its future. This should not be surprising since the United States has more Jewish residents than any other country in the world, even more than Israel. In fact, with over 12 million Jews, the United States possesses about twice that of Israel and 16 times more Jews than the next nation, which is France.

Thus, when the Beast and his accomplices from the nations start to persecute the woman, perhaps the United States follows through with its commitment to protect Israel and gives the woman safe passage out of danger.

This is just speculation and not a sure thing. With that said, it is not uncommon for the **Codex** to view nations through their national symbol, or through some symbol that portrays the character and nature of the nation. For example, when Daniel sees a vision of a ram and a goat, he is told that the ram is a picture of the Medo-Persian kingdom, and the goat is a picture of the kingdom of Greece. There is no confusion

¹⁶ **Zechariah 13:8**

¹⁷ **Zechariah 13:9**

¹⁸ See **Mark 9:49; Joel 2:30-32**

as to the meaning of these images since he is specifically told that the male goat represents the king of the Greek Empire.¹⁹

By the way, understanding national imagery will be critical to our understanding the kingdom of the Beast.²⁰ The point is that using animals, known symbols, or pictures is a common way for the **Codex** to depict nations.

We might also simply understand this passage in the way God described His deliverance of the children of Israel from the Egyptians. He said to Moses: *“Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the people of Israel: you yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.”*²¹

When God delivered Israel from the iron grasp of Pharaoh, He needed no help from anyone; no other nations were called into fight on behalf of Israel. **Yahweh** did the work; He both guarded and guided the Israelites to safety.

But the language in our passage is not nearly so poetic or metaphorical. In the **Exodus**, God *likened* their escape to being carried on eagles’ wings, even though the Exodus narrative never mentions eagle wings. But here, utilizing the *definitive article*, the Spirit says that the woman was given **the** two wings of **the** great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness.²²

In language, the use of the *definitive article* indicates that the identity of the noun is known by the reader; in this instance, the two wings and the great eagle, is known, therefore, this reference is identifying something specific. As such, this might possibly be a reference to a specific nation, just like we saw with the ram and the goat.

The Two Wings

*“And **two wings** of the great eagle were caused to be given to the woman...”* This is an odd phrase, even for poetic language, unless the point is about the **“TWO”** wings, versus just the wings of the eagle (which obviously has two of them), or the eagle itself. The Spirit, who is very precise, seems to be driving a point home about the **“two”** wings. Perhaps He is indicating that Israel will have the support of both the political will and the military will of the Great Eagle.

Since her inception in 1948, the woman has needed both, and the United States has continually provided her with both. Moreover, she will need both the political will and military will of another to escape the dragon’s persecution.

Political Wing

Without the political support for Israel, the woman is left to herself and vulnerable. For the better part of the past 70 years, the United States has been the primary nation that has supported the return of her people to the land and to the nation’s right to the land. This Great Eagle has kept her safe and has provided a political net, so-to-speak, around her so that those hostile to her cannot take advantage of her and those

¹⁹ See **Daniel 8**

²⁰ We will do a deep dive in to national imagery when we get to **Revelation 13**.

²¹ **Exodus 19:3-4**

²² “given” is rendered in the *aorist passive indicative*, thus, it is a statement of fact!

who are lukewarm in their affections for the nation won't abandon her in her times of trouble. For instance, the United Nations hostility to this woman is well-known, but the United States has to date kept even their hatred at bay.

Military Wing

Israel has received more military assistance (both in terms of grant aid and military sales) from the United States than any other country. They are equipped with American transportation aircraft (both planes and helicopters) as well as land vehicles that could be utilized if a very quick escape were necessary (and it will be—speed will be the key to their survival). And perhaps this is the reason “*so that she might **now** choose to fly into the wilderness*” is rendered in the *present **middle** subjunctive*. The Spirit indicates through the **Code** that even now she can make the choice, if she wants, to fly to safety; she has the military means provided by the Great Eagle, to practically stage an escape to safety.

The woman using the 2 wings of the great eagle to escape communicates that the Great Eagle will enable her escape. The image here is important to the message. The eagle is strong in flight and very swift. Thus, this picture communicates that her escape will be swift and the wings which carry her will be strong enough to ensure her escape, with all alacrity and dispatch.

Let's stop here and we will pick up in our next podcast with the woman who flies. I am glad you “tuned in” and have been “ready to listen.”