EP103 Revelation 12 verses 14-16

In our last podcast, we began discussing the **3rd Woe** – the time when the Dragon and his army are unleashed upon humanity. They are filled with fury over having lost the war to Michael and his angels. The devil's reaction to having been thrown to the earth was to persecute the woman, Israel. This is something which he has done for centuries.

Then we discussed the two wings of the great eagle upon which the woman will fly for protection from the presence, or from the face of the serpent. We speculated, for many reasons, that the eagle might just be a reference to the United States of America, with the two wings addressing both the political will and the military will of the United States; both of which come to significance in helping the woman fly to safety.

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.

"*… so that she might now choose to fly into the wilderness to her place*…" Previously, in ***Revelation 12:6***, the woman fled to the wilderness, where God had prepared a place to care for her for 1,260 days. These were *figurative* days, and this "wilderness" was understood to be the nations where God kept her safe until the time that she could be brought back to the land (which did not occur until 1948).

And here, once again, the woman ***might*** flee to the "wilderness" (to the nations); however, this time we are specifically told that she is equipped by the two wings of the Eagle so that she ***might*** now choose to **fly** (not flee, but **fly**) into the wilderness to her place.

She is enabled and equipped, but since "*fly*" is rendered as a *subjunctive* (as a possibility), she still must choose. But if she does, the fact that she will "**fly**" indicates that her escape will be sudden and swift.

However, it should be noted that not all Israel will fly off to the wilderness, for two-thirds of the population is doomed to destruction. "*It will come about in all the land," declares **Yahweh**, "that two parts in it will be cut off and perish; but the third will be left in it*."[1] **One-third** of Israel will be preserved by God.

This "one-third," these are the "**Elect**"—the "**Righteous**" from among the Jews. He will say, "*This third I will bring through the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are My people,' and they will say, '**Yahweh** is my God*."[2] And the **Elect** will know when it is time to flee; Jesus already warned them.

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[1] ***Zechariah 13:8***

[2] ***Zechariah 13:9***

Matthew 24:15-28

So, when you see the *Abomination of Desolation* having been caused to be spoken of by the prophet Daniel, having been caused to standing in the holy place (*who is now reading is now commanded to understand*), then let those who are in **Judea are commanded to now flee to the mountains**. Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. And alas for women who are now being pregnant and for those who are now nursing infants in those days! You are commanded to now choose to pray that your flight may not choose to be in winter or on a Sabbath. For then there will choose to be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will choose to be. And if those days had not been cut short, **no one would be caused to be saved**. But for the sake of the **elect**, those days will be cut short.

Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him. "For false Christs and false prophets will be caused to arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the **elect**. "Behold, I have told you in advance. "So, if they say to you, 'Behold, He is now in the wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them. "For just as the lightning now chooses to come from the east and now is caused to flash even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man choose to be. "Wherever the corpse now is, there the eagles will be caused to gather.

This is one of those passages that has many layers which are possibly applicable to differing time periods. There are many who teach that this passage addresses the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD by the Romans. And while it is likely to have been applicable to that time (as many people relied on this passage to flee from the Roman destruction), we can be confident that this is primarily a passage regarding the **End Times** and not simply the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

Jesus states that there will be a "*great tribulation*" that won't come about until after the *Abomination of Desolation*, and it will be so great a tribulation that there will be nothing like it ever before occurring nor ever again. It will be **the** "*Great Tribulation*" that ensues after the blowing of the 7th Trumpet.

The destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans was bad, for sure, but it was not unlike the destruction that was carried out by Babylon many centuries prior. To obtain the rank of "*such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will choose to be,*" it would have to be worse than the worst we have ever seen. It would be hard to argue that this event was worse than what happened in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, much less all of World War II where it is estimated that between 70 million to 118,357,000 people died. And then there was the purging in the Soviet Union after World War II where it is estimated that Stalin alone slaughtered over 20 million of their own people due to racial and political dissent. And then there is Mao Zedong whose government is responsible for the killing of between 40-80 million of its own people.

The point is that there has been a lot of bad, so for something to rank of "*such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will choose to be,*" it is likely not the invasion of Jerusalem by the Romans.

In addition, during that time of Roman destruction, false Christs were not arising with *great signs and wonders* to mislead the many, even, if possible, the elect. So, although this may be a layered text with some applicability to the destruction by Rome, where many people did flee to the wilderness for safety, this is first-and-foremost an advanced **WARNING** of a terrible day yet to come.

The prophet ***Daniel*** states that 30 days before the end of the first 3.5-year period of the tribulation, the man of sin, the son of destruction (literally, the son of *Apollyon*) will be revealed. Other than the references to "*the Assyrian*" which we have discussed, this is one of the only times that the **Codex** refers to the man we call the Antichrist—the man who will be possessed by the Beast.[3] Most references in the **Codex** are to the angelic spirit, the Beast, who himself is the *Abomination of Desolation*.

In ***2 Thessalonians 2:3-5***, the Spirit reveals that the Beast sits in the Sanctuary of God (the "naos") and is even now exhibiting himself as now being God; he is now choosing to exalt himself above all that is now being caused to be called God or that is worshiped.[4] Yes, it is happening now.

The fact that he "***sits***" is very important. In the language of the **Codex**, this indicates that he is ruling from that location, it is essentially where his throne of authority has been placed. This contrasts with when someone is depicted as "***standing***," which indicates they are now ready to act.[5]

But what is entirely shocking is that his throne, so-to-speak, is in the holy place, the Sanctuary where the priests minister. In other words, he operates in-and-amongst the priesthood of God (right there along with the two witnesses).

And he is even now exhibiting himself as now being God; he is now choosing to exalt himself above all that is now being caused to be called God or that is worshiped.[6] **He is the Abomination of Desolation**. The Beast has established his authority from with the community of true believers—those priests who are permitted into the Sanctuary. This reveals much about the cunning and deceit of the Beast. He utilizes Christianity to, even now, secure his position of authority such that he is found in-and-amongst the bondservants of God. This should not surprise us as even the servants of Satan cloth themselves in light and transfigure themselves as servants of righteousness.[7] Thus, he will likely fool many, right up to the point that he attempts to kill anyone who will not worship him.

In that light, Jesus says, "*So, when you might see the Abomination of Desolation having been caused to be spoken of by the prophet Daniel, having been caused to* ***standing*** *in the holy place (who is now reading is now commanded to understand), then those who are in Judea are commanded to now flee to the mountains*." In other words, Jesus is saying that when you see the Beast rising from his base of authority (from within the church) to act (to go to war), standing against all those who will not worship him as God,

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[3] ***Daniel 12:11***. *Note: "From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days*." Counting back from the end of the second 3.5 years of the tribulation (which lasts 1,260 days), we arrive at 30-days before the end of the first 3.5-year period of the tribulation. With that said, we have no idea when the first 3.5 -year period begins, so the date of the day is still a mystery.

[4] ***Daniel 9:27***

[5] *See* ***Daniel 12:1***, where Michael was seated, and he rises, or stands up, to act. Similarly, Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, the place of His authority. But he will also arise to act, to judge the earth (**Psalm 82:8,** *see* also ***Psalm 76:9, 7:6, 44:26***).

[6] ***2 Thessalonians 2:3-5***

[7] ***2 Corinthians 11:14***

then it is most definitely time to flee.

Referring to the passage in ***Zechariah 13:8-9*** and the one third of the Jews who will escape destruction, Jesus' instruction is very specific. Those who are in **Judea** are commanded to now **flee to the mountains**. He did not say those who are in Israel, but Judea. Thus, when Jesus speaks of those in Judea who will flee, He is not addressing literal Judea (the small territory in southern Israel), rather, He is speaking in **Code**.

Judea is symbolic for the **Elect**—the **one-third** from among the Jews who are preserved because they refuse to follow the Beast into apostasy. This is reminiscent of much of the record in the Old Testament which separates Judea (the tribes of Judah and Benjamin) who worshipped **Yahweh** from the ten-northern territories of Israel who early on became apostate and worshipped demonic gods.

It is interesting to note that Jesus rendered some parts of this passage in the *present* tense. For instance, the command to now flee to the mountains, referencing those who are now pregnant and now nursing. This is a "layered" part of the text that on-the-one-hand served as a present warning (albeit 40 years later), as to what they should do when the Roman General with his band of Assyrian conscripts came to destroy Jerusalem, as many Jews followed this instruction and fled to the mountains for security. And on the other hand, it speaks of a powerful spiritual truth that we will get to in ***Revelation 13***, which addresses the responsibility of those who now see and now understand what is happening in the midst of the Sanctuary.

But make no mistake, Jesus was clear, the *Abomination of Desolation* spoken of by the prophet Daniel is here and when we have eyes to see it, those in Judea will flee to the mountains, for there will be a time of *great tribulation such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will choose to be.*

The Two Witnesses Never Flee

This **WARNING** by Jesus was given to the **Elect**—the **Righteous** from among the Jews who do not and will not worship the Beast as God. With that said, this instruction is not for the two witnesses—the **Called and Chosen and Faithful** bondservants of Jesus Christ who are even now found to be worshipping in the Sanctuary of God.

The two witnesses do not flee for they are sent on a mission to make prophetic declarations and to remove blessings from the earth, to destroy the blessings that exist, and to release calamity and wounds as often as they desire. It is a very specific mission that results in their getting slaughtered in the Great City of religious apostasy during the war which the Beast wages against them. In effect, they serve as a sacrifice offered up for the **Elect**.

This indicates that as bad as the "great tribulation" (the time of wrath) will be for the **Elect**, it could have been worse. Perhaps it is because of this sacrifice that the days of wrath will be mercifully cut short. As Jesus said, "*For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the **ELECT** those days will be cut short*."[8]

Again, when the Beast rises and is understood to be "*standing*" in-and-amongst the community of the two witnesses (*who is now reading is now commanded to understand*), it is time for those in Judea to flee,

[8] ***Matthew 24:21-22***

for next comes the war, then the rapture, and then this "*great tribulation*."

Her Place in the Wilderness

"*… so that she might now choose to fly into the wilderness to her place* ..." The ***Codex*** mentions a time when the Jews will flee the land of Israel, likely to the nations near to Israel. **Yahweh** will cause a great split in the Mount of Olives resulting in the formation of a wide valley which will run from east to west.[9] Perhaps this is a result of the great earthquake which shakes the world right after the rapture occurs.[10]

The Jews will flee hastily through this valley which will stretch across to *Azal*. Now, there is no place that anyone has been able to identify that is called "Azal," so hardly anyone thinks that Azal is rendered in this passage as a proper noun (as in a specific place). Instead, this word is translated in Hebrew as "**very near**." Thus, they will flee through this valley which **Yahweh** creates to a place prepared for them that is relatively nearby.

Many "end-times" junkies believe that Azal is a reference to the ancient city of Petra, which is just over the border in Jordan. It is a rock city that was historically quite impregnable—a rock of protection and salvation. If this is where they fly, it is an awesome real-life metaphor for Jesus who is our rock of protection and our salvation, the place where we are to flee.[11]

Petra literally means "rock," which is quite appropriate as the city is literally carved from rose-red sandstone hills and cliffs. Petra is a little over 100 miles away from Jerusalem and only a 2.5-hour bus ride from the border of Israel. It is not that far away and is a place where the Jews could quickly flee, especially if they were using military equipment provided to them by the great eagle.

On the approach to Petra, there is a long narrow shaft (the sides of which are 200 feet high) that is the only entry into the city; a shaft that is easily defensible for long periods of time. Petra used to be occupied by the Nabataeans and had anywhere between 20,000-100,000 residents. The area was eventually conquered by the Romans, but Petra remained a central trading center for many years. It was eventually abandoned as other more efficient trade routes were established. Petra was first known as the city of Edom, or the rose red city. It was founded by Esau, the brother of Jacob.

The city is a labyrinth of thousands of caves and tombs, and it will be capable of housing and handling the multitude of Jews fleeing the onslaught of the Beast. It is believed that Nabataean King Harith (also known as Arêtes) gave sanctuary to the High Priest Jason of Jerusalem when Antiochus IV (who is a Biblical type of the Antichrist, and whose affairs are described in ***Daniel 11***) removed Jason from office and established his own High Priest, Menelaus, from the tribe of Benjamin. So, the area has a history of protecting the Jews.

In Arab tradition, Petra is the place where Moses struck a rock with his staff and water came forth, and where his sister, Miriam, is buried. Now the area has water issues, as it sits in the Jordanian desert; but it is said that there is a spring called Musa which flows into the city. Musa is the Arabic name for Moses. Ironically, if the **Elect** do indeed flee to Petra, they will be watered by the spring of Moses, reminiscent of their being watered in the desert by the rock which Moses struck.

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[9] ***Zechariah 14***

[10] ***Revelation 11:19***

[11] ***Psalm 18:2***

Furthermore, God might already be working out the water issue through the Jordanian Government. In conjunction with the Petra National Trust, there is a current proposal to restore parts of the ancient Nabataean hydraulic system. The goal would be to protect the site from flash floods, to harvest water for use within the site, and to revive the indigenous vegetation.

Now this whole Petra escape is a speculation as the **Codex** does not directly come out and say it; but it does have some intriguing Biblical underpinnings. It provides a nearby place in the nations, "*the wilderness*," for the woman to fly.

In that vein of thought, in ***Daniel 11:41***, we are also given evidence that Jordan (ancient Edom and Moab and the chief sons of Amnon) will evade the grasp which the Beast has on the nations, which would make Jordan a safe place for which the Jews to flee. Perhaps this is a blessing provided by God as Jordan is one of only two countries in the Middle East that has a long standing peace treaty with Israel (the only other one being Egypt).[12] And the Lord promised centuries ago that anyone who would bless Israel would be blessed by God (just as anyone who would curse Israel would be cursed by God).[13] In that regard, somehow Jordan is miraculously protected from the clutches of the Beast, whereas it seems that most other nations are submitted to his rule and authority.

Perhaps God is just fulfilling His promise as it applies to the founder of the city, Esau. If you remember the story, when Jacob left his home and went to his in laws, upon his return, approximately 21 years later, he was scared that Esau, his brother, would still be indignant with him for usurping his birthright and his father's blessing. But instead, Esau had forgiven his brother and was so happy that his brother was coming home and was in good health. Esau was a blessing to Jacob—to Israel. And so perhaps, at the end of days, God returns the favor and likewise blesses the descendants of Esau and keeps them out of the grasp of the Beast.[14]

The Woman is Nourished

"*… 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*." There is another passage in the **Codex** that seems to be speaking directly to this time of hiding and it states that the rocks of the mountains will be their fortress, but it also talks about practical provision, or nourishment, for this woman (the **Elect**).

Isaiah 33:14-16

The sinners in Jerusalem shake with fear. Terror seizes the godless. "Who can live with this devouring fire?" They cry. "Who can survive this all-consuming fire?" Those who are honest and fair, who refuse to profit by fraud, who stay far away from bribes, who refuse to listen to those who plot murder, who shut their eyes to all enticement to do wrong—***these are the ones who will dwell on high*. The rocks of the mountains will be their fortress. Food will be supplied to them, and they will have water in abundance**.

[12] *Note*: recently, August 2020, the United Arab Emirates entered into a peace treaty with Israel normalizing relationships making them the 3rd middle east country to secure Israel's right to the land.

[13] ***Numbers 24:9***

[14] *See* ***Genesis 25:27-34, 27:1-46, 32:1-21, 33:1-17***

God saves those who have a conscience and refuse to give themselves over to evil. They will be the ones, the **Elect**, who dwell on high (perhaps the high cliffs of Petra). Literally, the rocks of the mountains will be their fortress, and she is now nourished just as He promised.

By the way, "*nourished*" is rendered in the *present passive indictive*. The woman is always, even now, nourished by God. This is evidenced by the fact that Israel has never perished, despite the number of times she has been completely conquered, deported, nationalized, and so on; and let's not forget the many attempts at her extermination. Historically this is a mere miracle. There is no people group in history who has ever survived this kind of treatment and retained their national and racial identity.

For example, consider all the nations that once occupied the Promised Land, as well as the other nations, that were conquered by the Assyrians, the Babylonians, as well as the Medes and Persians, the Greeks, and the Romans. None of those conquered people groups exist. They have been absorbed by the nations, assimilated, and every one of them lost their unique identity, much like those from the northern tribes of Israel who were assimilated into the nations.

But that is not the case with the Jew—the survivors of the southern tribe of Judah and a remnant of others from the ten-tribes. Why? Because God has always nurtured them, thus they have always survived even though the list of conquering nations goes on and on: Assyria, Babylon, Media, Persia, Greek, Rome, Arabs, Fatimids, Seljuk Turks, Crusaders, Egyptians, Mamelukes, Islamist, and others, including the British the Germans, and the Soviet Union. But still, they survive and are amply nourished.

Time, Times and Half a Time

"… *where she is now caused to be nourished [fattened] for a time and times and half a time* …" Given the timing of when Satan and the Beast go to war against the two witnesses, and the centering event being the blowing of the 7th Trumpet, we can be confident that this **mystical 3.5-year** measurement of time, times, and half a time speaks of the final 3.5-years of the tribulation.

By the way, this is the only time this form of the mystical **3.5-year** measurement is used in ***Revelation***. In fact, across the **Codex**, "t*ime, times, and half a time*" was used only two other times, and that was in the book of ***Daniel***. Therefore, we should expect that contextually these passages are aligned.

First, Daniel is told that "*they*" – presumably those belonging to the Holy One – are given into the hands of the horn that comes forth from the Beast (speaking about the man we call the Antichrist), for time, times, and half a time.[15]

Second, Daniel is told that there will be a time of distress such has never occurred since there was a nation until that time. So, the context of the passage is the **Day of the Lord**, the time of **Yahweh's wrath**. He is then told about the rapture and how the dead will awaken to everlasting life.

Then one angel asked another, how long until the end of these wonders? And the answer was time, times, and half a time, or 3.5 years. Daniel is also told that from the time the *Abomination of Desolation* is established, there will be 1,290 days, which covers the entire span of the second 3.5-year period (made

[15] ***Daniel 7:25***

up of literal 1,260 days) and 30 days of the first 3.5-year period, for a total of 1,290 days.[16]

WE CAN SAFELY CONCLUDE THAT THE ELECT OF ISRAEL WILL BE PROTECTED AND NOURISHED DURING THE LAST 3.5-YEAR PERIOD OF THE TRIBULATION.

The Mystical 3.5 Years: The Code

We have touched on this before, but now we get to the final variation of the mystical **3.5-year** period. What we have come to understand is that all the various renderings of the mystical **3.5-year** measurement are itself **Code**. For example, we have learned that when the Spirit speaks of ***42 months***, He is addressing the time allotted for the activity of the Beast and the time of darkness. When He speaks of ***1,260 days***, He is addressing the time allocated to the people of God, both the two witnesses and the woman. And when He speaks of ***time, times, and half a time***, He is addressing the **Elect** of Israel, the one-third of the Jews that **Yahweh** takes through the fire, nourishes, and protects.

If you follow the breadcrumbs long enough (the hints and clues the Spirit leaves throughout the **Codex**), eventually the meaning of the **Code** becomes clear.

The Face of the Serpent

"… from the presence [literally, the "face"] of the serpent…" This is an important distinction; the woman is protected from the face (not the presence) of the serpent. The face of a serpent is the terrifying part of the creature, the steely eyes, the tongue lashing in-and-out like a whip, the threatening fangs, the drips of poison seeping from the fangs, and the curled up and poised tensed position as if ready to strike at any moment. Simply terrifying. The imagery associated with the "*face*" is a bit more potent than just the "presence."

Yahweh protects the **Elect** from the face of pure raw terror, the face of Satan. But that does not mean the **Elect** are free from the tail. After all, Satan pursues her vigorously.

Attack Against the Woman

Revelation 12:15

> And the serpent threw water like a flood out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.

The Water & the Flood

The imagery in this verse is fascinating as the imagery associated with the enemy is switched once again from the dragon to the serpent. The serpent opens his mouth, and water gushes out with torrential

[16] *See* ***Daniel 12***

force, much like a flash flood, and tries to sweep the woman away with the flood.

As we know, the image of the sea is **Code**, which stands for the restless masses of humanity. In like manner, the water like a flood pouring forth from the serpent's mouth is also **Code**, and this image represents a collection of peoples who have gathered at the bequest of Satan and the Beast to destroy the woman—to sweep her away—with the speed and ferocity of a flash flood.

These people who come against the woman have been deceived, lied to, and they have now become an adversary that is ready and willing to attack and carry out the desires of the serpent and the Beast. Their attack is quick, sudden, fierce, and forceful like the mighty torrents of a flash flood. This seems to be one quick attempt to wipe the woman off the face of the earth, in the style of the Nazi blitzkriegs.

We must keep in mind that this is a rendering of events that take place once the dragon is thrown down to the earth. And since the imagery switched from a dragon to a serpent, the focus is on Lucifer's cunning, manipulation, and deceit that causes peoples to turn their aggression, hatred, anger, and wrath toward Israel.

Whether this flood, this attack, comes at the hands of the nations which surround Israel, or whether it is the great invasion of nations led by Gog of Magog, we do not know and can only speculate. But we do know that this attack against the woman will come because of some serious deceit and manipulation by the serpent of the peoples of the earth, and it will come quickly.

Much like the warning given about the ***Abomination of Desolation*** and it being a signal to flee, so is this **flood**, as once again Judah (not apostate Israel) is admonished to flee to the mountains.

Luke 21:20-24

But when you may see Jerusalem now **caused to being surrounded by armies**, then you are commanded to know that its desolation has come near.

Then those who are in **Judea** you are commanded to now **flee to the mountains**, and those who are inside the city you are now commanded to depart, and those who are out in the country, you are commanded to now choose to not enter it, for these are *days of vengeance*, to be caused to fulfill all that has been caused to being written. Alas for women who are now being pregnant and for those who are now nursing infants in those days!

For in the *future* there will choose to be great distress upon the earth and wrath ("*orge*") **against this people**. They will in the *future* choose to fall by the edge of the sword and in the *future* be caused to be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will in the *future* choose to now be trampling underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles might be caused to fulfilled.

The **Code** in this passage is beyond fascinating. With the predominate use of the *present* tense and then the sudden jump to the *future* tense, this **WARNING** is peculiar and layered in terms of time.

It seems clear that Jesus was **WARNING** the people of the coming devastation of their land, the "*days of vengeance*," hence, the frequent use of the *present* tense. It should also be noted that this judgment in the *days of vengeance* all comes at the hand of **Yahweh**, though He utilizes the tool of the armies of the

nations to bring it about.

But then Jesus also looked forward to the time in the future when there will be great distress upon the earth as well as terrible wrath, indignation, hatred, and contempt for the Jews. And it will come like a flood.

The Woman is Rescued Again

Revelation 12:16

But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon threw out of his mouth.

Though the serpent is hoping to kill all the Jews in this "flash flood" like attack, we know from the **Codex** that only two-thirds of the Jews will be killed while one-third will escape, for the earth will come to the aid of the woman.[17]

The earth opened its mouth and helped the woman. The earth, or certain nations, swallowed the flood of water that the serpent poured out from his mouth. In the same way that the large crevices around Petra quickly swallow up the water that periodically cascades upon the hardened desert surface, certain nations of the earth, perhaps Jordan, will rise to protect the **Elect** and keep them from being overpowered by the "flood."

In this picture, we are seeing the armies of the enemies of Israel gathering to overrun her. After all, many nations have a stated goal regarding Israel, and that is to "wipe Israel off the map." But certain nations who are still allies of Israel (and not yet under the control of the Beast), step in and protect the woman. They literally absorb this attack and prevent this river from overrunning the **Elect**. Again, maybe this is another role in which Jordan (and maybe the United Arab Emirates or other allies) will play in caring for Israel during the **End Times**.

The Snake & the Dragon

The passage begins with the image of the **dragon**. But then the imagery switches to the **serpent** as the **serpent** threw water like a flood out of his mouth. But then the imagery switches once again and addresses the flood which the **dragon** thew out of his mouth. So why the interposing of imagery.

The snake symbolizes lies, deception, and manipulation. It is the activity of Satan as a snake that allows him to lie to, deceive, and manipulate certain armies of nations to turn against Israel. What Satan did in the heavenlies, which is make accusations, he now implements on earth, and his treachery is targeted at the woman. He will speak to the peoples, groups, and nations that are under the control of the Beast and convince them, through various accusations and anti-Semitic propaganda, to go after the woman.

We see that even today. For example, nation after nation in our world speaks catastrophe against the nation of Israel believing that she does not deserve to be a state, and even more terrifying, they state that

[17] ***Zechariah 13:8***

the Jew does not deserve to live. And the strange thing is that these people really believe what they say, and that is because they have been overtaken by the myriad of lies which the serpent has for centuries spoken into their minds and their hearts.

An old Saudi King is quoted as saying: "*Our hatred for the Jews dates from God's condemnation of them for their persecution and rejection of Isa (Jesus) and their subsequent rejection of His chosen Prophet (Muhammad). For a Muslim to kill a Jew, or for him to be killed by a Jew ensures him an immediate entry into Heaven and into the august presence of God Almighty*."

The Arab countries see to it that even young schoolchildren are taught to hate Jews. The Syrian Minister of Education wrote: "*The hatred which we indoctrinate into the minds of our children from their birth is sacred*." This is the act of the serpent.

The dragon symbolizes power, strength, imposing intimidation, violence, fierceness, ferocity, and evil intent. Thus, while the snake lies and collects its followers, the dragon mobilizes the nations for violence against the woman. And, though he uses seduction and deceit to manipulate those he turns against the woman, it is the dragon's hated that will fuel the fires of aggression and brutality against the woman.

Let's stop here and we will pick up in our next podcast with the war against the two witnesses (a reprise from ***Revelation 11***). I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."