

EP104 Revelation 12 verse 17; Revelation 13 Introduction

In our last podcast we discussed the woman. We explored her flight, or specifically, the flight of the **Elect** (the chosen from Israel) into the wilderness for time, times, and half a time, where they will be nourished and protected. In addition, we once again were confronted with the dragon and the serpent. They tried to attack the woman to destroy her, but she was rescued, so they turned their attention to the woman's offspring.

The War Against the 2 Witnesses

Revelation 12:17

And the dragon was caused to be **enraged** with the woman and went off to make war with the rest [remnant] of her seed, who are **now** keeping the commandments of God and are **now** holding to the testimony of Jesus.

With the dragon's plan of complete elimination of the Jew once again foiled by the sovereign will of God, the dragon becomes enraged. This is the only time in the **Codex** that a form of the word "*orgizo*" or "intensified wrath," is used in connection to the dragon. As we discussed, he normally only expresses "*thumos*" or rage. But when it comes to those who are set apart by God and are the object of God's greatest affections, the dragon is filled with a hate and fury that is as hot as the burning fires in his breath.

Thus, he turns his focus to the remnant or the seed of the woman—to those who have come from her. And since the **Elect** are protected and untouchable (those who are in Judea who flee), he goes off to make **war** on the two Witnesses. This is where this narrative about the woman and dragon intersects with the events of **Revelation 11**. The believing Jewish and Gentile believers, who are the **Called and Chosen and Faithful**, have finished their **1,260** days of testimony, and, the dragon, through the Beast, will declare war against them, conquer them, and kill them.¹

The Commandments of God

The **Code** has a couple of treats for us to consider which do not come out in most translations. "Keep" as in "keep the commandments" is rendered in the *present active participle*. This is a reference to the bondservants of God, those who are **now** keeping the commandments of God. As we have learned, this is a reference to those who are now overcoming, the 144,000, the two Witnesses, those who are even now worshipping in the Sanctuary.

This statement is a play off the **testimony** of Jesus, "*He who is now having My commandments and is now keeping them is the one who is now loving Me;*" and "*you are my friends if you do what I command you.*"²

Keeping Jesus' commandments is the evidence that we love Him and are in relationship with Him. And

¹ See **Revelation 11:7**

² **John 14:21, 15:14**. Note: "has", "keep", and "loves" are all rendered in the *present active participle*.

what are His commandments? It is that we should love one another with God's *agape* love. "***This now is my commandment that you should now love one another as I have loved you.***" "***These things I choose to now command you that you now should agape one another.***"³

True believers, those who are filled with the Spirit of God, have an ongoing flow of oil running through their candlestick, which expresses the light of God in love—in *agape* love. *Agape* love is that which comes only from God, for He is *agape* love.⁴ As it is part-and-parcel of His personhood, *agape* love cannot be manufactured, it can only be expressed by God in-and-through our lives. Thus, those who are now keeping the commandments and are **now** holding to the testimony of Jesus: love one another with God's *agape* love.

In contrast, the serpent works hard on those who are in the household of **Yahweh**, but do not have an ample supply of oil expressed in **Yahweh's** *agape* love (the **Called** and the **Chosen** who are not now worshipping in the Sanctuary). The serpent deceives and manipulates them to divide, attack, slander, berate, and punish one another, all in Jesus' name, and in the name of love. The irony is beyond anything we could have fathomed.

But the key identifying mark of those who are now worshipping in the Sanctuary – those who are now keeping **Yahweh's** commandments—is that they love one another with God's *agape* love.

In the same way, "*hold to the testimony of Jesus*" is also in the *present active participle*. True believers are **now holding** to the testimony of Jesus. By the way, in terms of the testimony of Jesus, the fact that God is *agape* love, and that *agape* love can only be expressed by Him, just amplifies the truth that all things—YES, ALL THINGS—are **by grace through faith, with faith being a now thing**.

Simply said, we cannot obey the commandment of God to *agape* love. Only He can obey the commandment for us through us as we are now believing that He is our **I AM**, our **Yahweh**, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the Lord (**Adonai**) our God Almighty, the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Most High God, the Victor, and the only one who is good, and to whom we must come to like a little child dependent upon Him for all things all the time.

But when we are willing to let God *agape* love others in-and-through our lives, through our very bodies, it is, in effect, a declaration that sets us in the crosshairs of the dragon's intensified rage. And that is why the Spirit encouraged us with these words.

1 John 3:13-16

You are **now** commanded to not be surprised, brethren, if the world **now** hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we **now** love the brethren. He who is not **now** loving **now** abides in death. Everyone who is **now** hating his brother is **now** a murderer; and you know that no murderer **now** has eternal life **now** abiding in him.

³ John 15:12, 17. See also John 13:34; 1 John 3:23; 2 John 5

⁴ 1 John 4:8, 16

1 Peter 4:12-14

Beloved, you are commanded to not **now** become surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing **now** chooses to be **now** happening to you; but to the degree that you **now** share the sufferings of Christ, you are commanded to **now** rejoice, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may be caused to rejoice to **now** choose to be exultating. If you are **now** caused to be reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God chooses to **now** rests on you.

The Spirit's point is that since true believers are objects of the dragon's wrath, we should expect war, we should expect the world to hate us. But we can also understand that it is a sign that we are the "rest" of the woman's offspring. In this we can rejoice, for it means we now have eternal life now abiding in us.

The Timing of it All

Much of what we have been studying in **Revelation 12** occurs during the time of the blowing of the 7th Trumpet, when God brings to completion significant events in God's plan not just for His people, but for all the peoples of the world.

Satan and his armies being defeated by Michael and being cast out of heaven likely occurs during the **3.5-month** period that overlaps the two 3.5-year periods of the tribulation. During this time, the serpent deceives the nations, and then the dragon through the agency of the Beast brings the nations to war against this woman and then to war against the two witnesses.

As we discussed at the beginning, **Revelation 12** addresses events which occur from the start of creation all the way down to this war against the two witnesses. Therefore, we find that **Revelation 12:17** overlaps, in the **End Times** narrative with **Revelation 11:7** ("*When they have finished their testimony, the Beast that is now ascending up out of the abyss will make war with them and overcome them and kill them.*")

You might be thinking, "*Hey, Revelation 11:7 says that it is the Beast who wages war, but Revelation 12:17 says it is the dragon*"? If so, you are thinking right.

But we also have touched on **Revelation 13:2, 7** which says that the **dragon** gives the Beast his own power and throne and great authority, and with that power, throne, and great authority, the Beast is allowed to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. You see, the dragon, like **Yahweh**, also works through agency (he had a great teacher), and the **Codex** explains it both ways.

By way of example, when King David chose to take a census to determine the number of fighting men in Israel, in one passage the **Codex** ascribes responsibility to Satan and in another to **Yahweh**, as both are true. It is just that Satan was acting as an agent of **Yahweh** to carry out **Yahweh's** purposes of judgment.⁵

Hence, when the Beast wages war against the 2 witnesses, the dragon is behind his activity and the Beast is simply following the dragon's plan for war against the bondservants of God.

⁵ 1 Chronicles 21:1; 2 Samuel 24:1

Revelation 12:18 or 13:1

“And he {the dragon} was caused to stand on the sand of the seashore.”⁶

Depending upon the translation of your Bible, some place this statement as part of Chapter **12** and some push it forward to chapter **13**. Some translate it as “And **I** stood upon the sand of the sea,” and others “And the **dragon** stood on the sand of the seashore.” It is less important whether it belongs in Chapter **12** or **13** as is the proper identity of the one who was caused to stand on the sand of the seashore and the tense of the verb (which is rendered in the *aorist passive indicative*).

The Greek word translated in most Bibles as “stood” is rendered in the *third* person, not the *first* person, therefore, it makes no sense as to why anyone would translate it as “I” (as if John was saying he was on the sand next to the sea); yet, it also does not say “dragon.”

But being in the *third* person and *singular*, it should be rendered “he” – he was caused to stand on the sand of the seashore. However, given the context of the dragon who was enraged with the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her children, it seems permissible and proper for “he” to be interposed with “the dragon.”

For ease of understanding. We will place it in Chapter **13** for contextual flow as it is fitting that the dragon watches as his pet (the Beast) rises from the sea, from the tumultuous waves of humanity.

Visual of Time Chapters 11-12

Given the difficulty of the layering of time, and the multitude of events that are layered on top of each other, and the non-linear progression of the text in Chapters **11** and **12**, perhaps a visual might help to sort through the events of the **3.5 months** which overlap between the two 3.5-year periods.

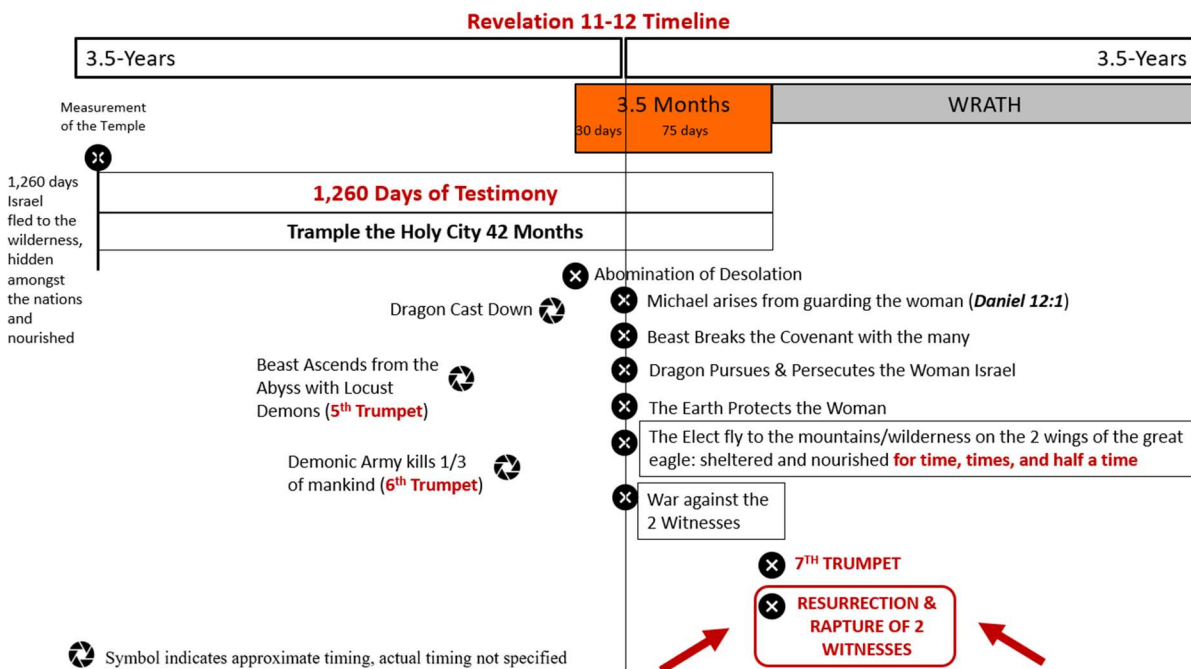
You can go to threshermediagroup.com, *podcasts*, *Season 5 Jude & Revelation*, and *Episode 104, Download Transcript*, where you can download and print the visual from the transcript. It will be very helpful to understand where we have been and to keep things in order in your mind as we go forward.

With that said, using the 30-day month (as was the standard in Biblical times), there will be 30 days at the end of the first 3.5-year period and 75 days into the second 3.5-year period, for a total of 105 days (or **3.5 months**) of intense connected events.

The end of these 105-days brings to conclusion all the events let loose by the blowing of the 7th trumpet and initiates the time of the wrath of the Lamb which will begin with the pouring out of the 7-bowls of wrath.

⁶ “stood” is rendered in the *aorist passive indicative*

Illustration



Revelation 13

Introduction

Overview: Introduction to the Beast as He Ascends to Power and the Rise of the False Prophet as He Promotes the Beast

Revelation 13:1-18

And he {the dragon} was caused to stand on the sand of the sea.

And I saw a beast **now** coming up out of the sea, **now** having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns ten diadems, and on his heads blasphemous names.

And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet as of a bear, and his mouth as of the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.

And one of his heads as if it had been caused to being butchered to death, and his deathly wound had been caused to be healed. And the whole earth was caused to be amazed {or in wonder} after the

beast; and they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, **now** saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is **now** caused to be able to wage war with him?"

There was caused to be given to him a mouth **now** speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, them who are **now** dwelling in heaven.

And it was caused to be given to him to make war with the holy ones and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was caused to be given to him. All who are **now** dwelling on the earth will *{in the future}* worship him, whose name has not been caused to be written in the book of life of the Lamb who had been caused to being slain from the foundation of the world.

He that **now** has an ear, they are commanded to hear. He that into captivity, to captivity he **now** goes; he that is caused to kill with the sword, with the sword he must be caused to be killed. Here **now** is the perseverance and the faith of the holy ones.

Then I saw another beast **now** coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke like a dragon. He **now** exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he **now** makes the earth and those who are **now** dwelling in it to *{in the future}* worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was caused to be healed.

And he **now** performs great signs, so that he even **now** might make fire **now** come down out of heaven to the earth in the sight of men.

And he **now** deceives those who are **now** dwelling on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the sight of the beast, **now** telling those who are **now** dwelling on the earth to make an image to the beast who **now has the wound** of the sword and lived.

And it was caused to be given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might also {or both} speak and may cause as many as may not worship the image of the beast that they may be caused to be killed.

And he **now** causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bondslaves, to possibly be given their mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and that no one might **now** be caused to buy or to sell, except the one who is **now** having the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.

Here **now** is wisdom. He who is **now** having understanding has been commanded to calculate the number of the beast, for the number **now** is that of a man; and his number, six hundred and sixty-six.

We finally arrive at our proper introduction to both the Beast and to the second beast, who is also referred to in **Revelation** as the False Prophet.⁷ This entire chapter focuses our attention on these two players. The imagery is deep, but it will bring past, present, and future political, military, religious, and economic landscapes into view.

⁷ **Revelation 16:13, 19:20, 20:10**

The Code

The **Code** in this passage is kind of all over the place. Surprisingly, the *present* tense is used often, the *future* tense is used only twice (2x) addressing those who are now dwelling on the earth, those we have identified as the **Accursed**, those who have made their abode, their purpose, their meaning in all that this world has to offer. Most of this passage is rendered in *past* occurrences, and still other parts just state that which is, rendered in the *aorist active infinitive*.

So, in typical fashion, the Spirit is going to make us work for our understanding, but we **MUST** be careful to take what He says how He says it, remembering that the Spirit is always intentional and very precise, and He said things exactly as He wanted them to be expressed (and as they were expressed by Him through John).

However, because it is hard for us to grasp time in a layered backwards, forwards, in-and-out fashion, and then to tie events to those specific aspects of time, the temptation is to massage this passage in a way that will make logical and sequential sense to our brains. But we must stick to the **Code**, otherwise, we will distort what the Spirit wants us to understand. He who is now having an ear, is commanded to hear what the Spirit now says to the churches.

This move from **Revelation 12** to **13** provides a key transition point, where the focus changes and the Spirit brings us into a depth of understanding of the ways and the activity of the Beast and the False Prophet, who throughout the chapter is called the “second beast.” In this chapter we will get to an enormous amount of folklore and fiction about the Antichrist, about the image of what some say is a statute of the Antichrist that is caused to speak, about the mark of the Beast, and most definitely about the infamous number of his name: **666**.

There is so much to sort through to get a true understanding of these two characters that take the center stage in the second 3.5 years of the tribulation period.

So, with that as an introduction, let’s stop here and we will pick up in our next podcast with an introduction to the Beast as he rises to power. I am glad you “tuned in” and have been “ready to listen.”