**Revelation 10-12** - December 26th

Today’s Summary: Wow, just wow. God takes back authority over all and strips Satan of being ruler of the earth. Satan is hurled to earth along with his demons, never to enter heaven or God’s presence again. Satan is not on the level of God – he is only an angel, and so we see him battling out with Michael, the archangel of Israel, and of course Michael wins. But what is profound is that God even gave Satan time to repent out of a deep love for His creation. All of this wrath and destruction is temporary to save souls for eternity. Keep that in mind as we continue to see devastation that is truly unfathomable to imagine. God is victorious so is Israel and the Church and all who call on the Name of Jesus. This life is but a vapor, eternity with God back in paradise is our home.

The Angel and the Little Scroll

**10**Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars *(signifying judgement)*. **2**He was holding a little scroll *(little signifies that each sinner is given a this short life to repent)*, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, **3**and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. *(he is only an angel, not Christ, but like John the Baptist, is just ushering in Christ’s Second Coming)*When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. **4**And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.” *(love that one commentator said John could not write it down because it was God’s judgment and it was not final as He was giving people time to repent)*

**5**Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. **6**And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, “There will be no more delay! **7But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”** *(The mystery of God is the Word of God in its fullness that had been kept hidden for ages and generations, but now was disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:26-27)*

**8**Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: “Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.”

**9**So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but ‘in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.’” **10**I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. *(the book represents the sins of mankind – as listed in Revelation 9 of those who are still alive who would not repent – sin tastes sweet at first but always always turns sour because it leads to death).*

**11**Then I was told, **“You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.”**

The Two Witnesses

**11**I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. **2But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles.** *(still a distinction between Israel and the Gentiles)*

**They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.** **3**And I will appoint my two witnesses (*Elijah and Moses – because we are still in the Trumpet Judgements which are still to save Jews and Israel*­­­­), and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” **4**They are “the two olive trees” and the two lampstands, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.” **5**If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. **6**They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

**7**Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. **8**Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city - which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt - where also their Lord was crucified. **9**For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. **10**The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

**11**But after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. **12**Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

**13**At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and **gave glory to the God of heaven.**

**14**The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.

The Seventh Trumpet

**15The seventh angel sounded his trumpet**, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:

**“The kingdom of the world has become
    the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah,
    and he will reign for ever and ever.”**

**16**And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, **17**saying:

“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
    the One who is and who was,
because you have taken your great power
    and have begun to reign.
18The nations were angry,
    and your wrath has come.
The time has come for judging the dead,
    and for rewarding your servants the prophets
and your people who revere your name,
    both great and small -
and for destroying those who destroy the earth.”

**19Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant**. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.

The Woman and the Dragon

**12**A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. *(this woman is ISRAEL – the 12 stars the 12 Tribes of Israel)* **2**She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. *(Because of Eve’s sin, God said women would give birth in pain – the whole story of Israel and the Church and Jesus talks about birth pains in Matthew 24)*

**3**Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon *(Satan)* with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. *(7 is God’s number and Satan having 7 heads with 7 crowns symbolizing that Satan has authority over the earth – that God allows for a time for freewill - and is head of the 10 nations that submit to him and creates the one world government under his evil reign during the last days)*

 **4**Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth *(Angels that are now demons that fell with Satan).*

The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. 5She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” *(Jesus of course! Psalm 2:9, Revelation 2:27, Revelation 19:15)* And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.

**6**The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. *(love that some say this is Petra and that wealthy businessmen have gone to Petra and hidden evangelistic tracts and Bibles for such a time as this)*

**7**Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back**.**8But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 9The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

**10**Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

“Now have come the salvation and the power
    and the kingdom of our God,
    and the authority of his Messiah.
For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,
    who accuses them before our God day and night,
    has been hurled down.
**11They triumphed over him
    by the blood of the Lamb
    and by the word of their testimony;
they did not love their lives so much
    as to shrink from death.
12**Therefore rejoice, you heavens
    and you who dwell in them!
**But woe to the earth and the sea,
    because the devil has gone down to you!
He is filled with fury,
    because he knows that his time is short.”**

**13**When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

**14**The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach. *(Israel protected during second half of Tribulation while the witnesses witness)*

**15**Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. **16**But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. **17Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring - those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.** *(Believers who are saved during this horrible time)*