

LESSON 20

Seven signs

Objective: To be clear in the understanding of the future of the world as revealed in the scriptures.

Bible Reference: Rev. chapters 12,13

Memory verses: (NKJV) Rev. 12:10

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

Introduction:

Satan and his powers are trying their best to defeat God's plan of salvation for man. Satan is employing all his strength to fight against God and His people as he is nearing his final judgement. In the middle of the Great Tribulation, seven signs appear as described in Rev. chs. 12&13. We shall now study about these manifestations.

1. Woman clothed with the sun:

A woman clothed with the sun appears in heaven with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She cries out in pain as she is about to give birth. A red dragon stands in front of the woman to devour her child. She gives birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. The child is immediately snatched up to God's throne. The woman flees into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she is taken care of for 1260 days (3 ½ years) (Rev. 12:1-8, 13-16). The woman represents Israel who flee to the wilderness to escape

from Antichrist. (Read Gen. 37:9).

2. Male child (Rev. 12:23):

The male child born to the woman is Jesus Christ who was born into the world as a child of Israel. He will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. (Read Psa. 2:8-9, Isa. 9:6, Rom. 9:5). He is the One who was taken to the throne of God (Eph. 1:20-23).

3. An enormous red dragon (Rev. 12:3-17):

The enormous red dragon with seven heads, ten horns and seven crowns on the heads is Satan, the old serpent. Satan has been defeated by the angels and sent to earth (Revelations 12:7-9). He tried to kill the child but did not succeed. He spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman who was fleeing to the wilderness. But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river. Enraged at this, the dragon fights with the remnant of the Jews, he stands on the shore of the sea ready to terrorize the Jews during the Great Tribulation.

4. The arch angel (Michael):

Satan and his hosts are defeated and cast out from heavenly places by Michael. The work of Michael is mentioned in passages like Dan. 12:1, 10:13 & Jude 9. The arch angel mentioned in 1 Thes.4:16 is also Michael.

5. The remnant of Jews (Rev. 12:17):

After the attempt at destroying the woman (Israel) and her male child (Jesus Christ) fails, Satan is trying to destroy those left in her family. The reference is to the remnant of Jews who are passing through the Great Tribulation. This group consists of those who obey God's commandments and who have the testimony of Jesus.

6. Beast that comes out of the sea (Rev. 13:1-10):

The sea although linked to the Mediterranean Sea, represents a group of Gentile nations a group of gentile nations. The beast coming out of the sea resembles a leopard but has feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. Beast in John's vision is a mixture of the three of four beasts that appeared to Daniel in Dan. 7. Prophecies associated with Antichrist are given in Dan. 7:8, 7:24-25, 8:9-12 and 8:22-25. The scarlet beast of Rev. 17:3 with seven heads and ten horns represents the same person. We learnt in Lesson 12 about the emergence of a world leader from

among a ten-nation union of the Roman Empire that will come into existence in the last days. This leader is given great power and authority by the dragon (Satan). One of the heads of the beast is fatally injured but is healed miraculously. People of the world are amazed at this miracle and bow before the dragon and the beast. The beast will utter blasphemy and continue his dreaded rule for 42 months. Read 2 Thes.2:3-10.

7. Beast that comes out of the earth (Rev. 13:11-18):

This beast emerges as a helper of the first beast (Antichrist), deceiving the inhabitants of the earth by performing great and miraculous signs. He is also called the 'False Prophet'. The two beasts are separately mentioned in Rev 16: 13, 19 -20. A kind of trinity of Satan can be seen here: dragon, beast and false prophet. When the first beast (Antichrist) is ruling the whole world, the second beast (False Prophet) Matt 24:24 shows miraculous signs and compels people to make images of the beast and worship him. The whole world comes under one religion. Ecumenism is spreading in the world trying to bring everyone under one banner. This trend will end up in the worship of Antichrist. People who do not worship the image of the beast will undergo terrible persecution. The false prophet is symbolized by the harlot woman sitting on a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns in Rev. 17.

World events leading to the rapture of the Church and the appearance of Antichrist and False Prophet are evident even now. The Holy Spirit will be taken away after the rapture of the church. Then Antichrist and False Prophet will make their appearance. At the end of the seventieth week, the Beast and False Prophet will be thrown alive into the lake of fire. If we fight against the deceptions of Satan and live a life of holiness and separation, we will be taken up at the first phase of our Lord's coming. Do you have this assurance?

Questions:

1. Why do we say that the woman wearing the sun is Israel?
2. Who is the male child born to the woman wearing the sun?
3. Who is the red colored dragon? Why is he standing on the seashore?
4. Who is the chief angel that throws out Satan from heaven?
5. Who is the beast coming out of the sea? List the prophecies concerning him in the Old

Testament.

6. What is the other name of the beast coming out of the earth?
7. Why do we say that there is a kind of trinity in Satan? Who are the members of that trinity?