

The Book of Revelation

The Anti-Christ and Common Demonic Strategies

I. Introduction

- A. Rev. 12:1-6 (NLT) *¹Then I witnessed in heaven an event of great significance. I saw a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ²She was pregnant, and she cried out because of her labor pains and the agony of giving birth. ³Then I witnessed in heaven another significant event. I saw a large red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, with seven crowns on his heads. ⁴His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky, and he threw them to the earth. He stood in front of the woman as she was about to give birth, ready to devour her baby as soon as it was born. ⁵She gave birth to a son who was to rule all nations with an iron rod. And her child was snatched away from the dragon and was caught up to God and to his throne. ⁶And the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place to care for her for 1,260 days.*
- B. Psalm 2:9 (NLT) *"You will break them with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots."*
- C. Rev. 12:7-12 (NLT) *⁷Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. ⁸And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. ⁹This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels. ¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, "It has come at last—salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth—the one who accuses them before our God day and night. ¹¹And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die. ¹²Therefore, rejoice, O heavens! And you who live in the heavens, rejoice! But terror will come on the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you in great anger, knowing that he has little time."*
- D. I John 2:18a,b (NLT) *Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared.*
- E. I John 2:22 (NLT) *And who is a liar? Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ. Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an antichrist.*
- F. Rev. 13:1-2 (NLT) *¹Then I saw a beast rising up out of the sea. It had seven heads and ten horns, with ten crowns on its horns. And written on each head were names that blasphemed God. ²This beast looked like a leopard, but it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion! And the dragon gave the beast his own power and throne and great authority.*
- G. Rev. 13:10c (NLT) *This means that God's holy people must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful.*

II. Common Demonic Strategies

- A. Deception
1. Rev. 12:9 (NLT) *This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.*

2. John 8:44 (NAS) *"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

B. Intimidation

1. Rev. 13:4 (NLT) *They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and they also worshiped the beast. "Who is as great as the beast?" they exclaimed. "Who is able to fight against him?"*
2. Rev. 13:10 (NLT) *Anyone who is destined for prison will be taken to prison. Anyone destined to die by the sword will die by the sword. This means that God's holy people must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful.*

C. Accusation

1. Rev. 12:10 (NLT) *Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, "It has come at last—salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth—the one who accuses them before our God day and night.*
2. Rom. 8:1 (NAS) *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*
3. Rev. 12:11 (NLT) *And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.*
4. Rev. 12:12 (NLT) *Therefore, rejoice, O heavens! And you who live in the heavens, rejoice! But terror will come on the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you in great anger, knowing that he has little time."*

III. Conclusion

Upcoming Messages: 10/18-19 "The First Five Minutes of Eternity"; 10/25-26 "The Doctrine of the Judgment of God"; 11/1-2 "Enduring to the End"; 11/8-9 "Extreme Spiritual Reality"; 11/15-16 "The Kind of Person You Will Be in Heaven"; 11/29-30 "The Hope We Have"