

Chapter 12 – [part 1]

[1] And there appeared a great sign in heaven, in the likeness of things on the earth; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.

[Verse 1] presents the premise upon which the metaphors of this book have been based since it's beginning, which is that they are expressed "in the likeness of things on earth."

Paul presented this same concept in:

[Romans 1:20] God revealed unto them the invisible things of him, from the creation of the world, which are clearly seen; **things which are not seen being understood by the things that are made**, through his eternal power and Godhead; **so that they are without excuse.**

And many years before John or Paul came along, the Lord said to Enoch that: "all things have their likeness; and **all things are created and made to bear record of me; both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual**; things which are in the heavens above, and things which are on the earth, ... both above and beneath, **all things bear record of me.** [Genesis 6:66]

Many say that the woman depicted in [Verse 1] was Mary, the mother of Jesus, and that he was the man child "who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron," as stated in [Verses 2 and 3]. And, as true as that statement about Mary may be, it just doesn't work here, because the woman and the symbols **are not of the earth**, they are "**in the likeness of things on the earth!**" Therefore, these symbols would be meaningless if they pertained to Mary because they would have no relevancy. But they are not meaningless, and they are relevant; for they depict conspicuous, spiritual characteristics belonging to this woman which make her extraordinary and incomparable!

Conspicuous characteristic number 1: She was clothed with the sun:

And I, God, made ... the greater light, the sun, to rule over the day. [Genesis 1:19-20]

Without the sun the earth would lie frozen and in darkness; unable to sustain life. Therefore, the sun is the provider, the conservator, and the protector of earth.

Because of sunlight we can see the world in which we live, both the good and the bad, and plan and direct our lives as we choose to embrace the one or the other. Jesus said, speaking allegorically, that "If any man walks in the day, he stumbles not, because he sees the light of this world. But if a man walks in the night, he stumbles, because there is no light in him." [John 11:9-10]

It should be no surprise that the sun was used in [Verse 1] to typify this woman's clothing. For the sun represents the fullness of the gospel i.e. "the greater light," which sustains life in God's kingdom and enlightens those who continue to walk in that light. John wrote that "In *Jesus* was

the gospel, and the gospel was the life, and the life was the light of men." [John 1:4]

And Paul said that "If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost; In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." [2 Corinthians 4:3-4] [Malachi 4:2]

*Conspicuous characteristic number 2: **The moon was under her feet:***

And I, God, made ... the lesser light to rule over the night. [Genesis 1:19-20]

At night the moon is the brightest object in the sky, but it gives off no light of its own. A portion of the light from the sun is reflected from the moon to the earth. This light, in the physical world, is expressive of the lesser light which continues to shine when the gospel is eclipsed by darkness.

In addition to representing the Mosaic law, (*especially the Ten Commandments, which one can obey completely and still not love God!*) the moon represents the "milk" of the gospel. The reason the moon is under her feet is that, the principles reflected by the lesser light do not disappear when the fullness of the gospel is present! The "foundation of repentance ..., faith ..., baptisms, and laying on of hands," (*of which none were given to Moses*) remain just as valid at noon day as they do at midnight. If any one of them changes or vanishes, the foundation on which the woman stands will crumble, for they will always be the "first principles of the oracles of God."

[Hebrews 5:12- 6:3]

Another indispensable mission of the moon is to keep the earth in a steady path on it's axis as it orbits the sun. Remove the attraction the moon has upon the earth and you remove the power which keeps the earth from wobbling as it circumnavigates the sun. For if the earth wobbled on it's axis it could not support life.

For, just as the earth, without the moon, could not continue on it's reliable path around the sun; the kingdom, without the "milk of the gospel," will wobble off course and be blanketed with darkness, because the lesser light was also "to divide the light from the darkness." [Genesis 1:20]

*Conspicuous characteristic number 3: **She wore a crown of twelve stars:***

The stars also were made, ... to give light upon the earth. [Genesis 1:20]

The "crown of twelve stars" upon the woman's head signifies the office of twelve apostles, each apostle representing one of the tribes of Israel. And just as the power and authority of kings and queens are manifested by their crowns, this woman's power and authority, are signified by her crown. But, just as if the moon is debased or if the sun is eclipsed; if the light which shines through the apostolic office is diminished, her kingdom suffers ! [Mat 6:23 - D&C 64:7c-d & 98:6a-h]

Look at these same three metaphors as given in a dream to Joseph of the Old Testament!

[Genesis 37:9-11] And he (Joseph) dreamed yet another dream, and told it to his brothers, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven

stars made obeisance to me. [10] And he told it to his father, and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow down ourselves to you to the earth? [11] And his brothers envied him; but his father observed the saying. **Obeisance**: a bow made to show respect or submission.

The sun, moon and stars are all presented as metaphors in Joseph's dream; the sun represented his father; the moon represented his mother, and the eleven stars represented the eleven sons, Joseph himself being the twelfth. Thus, each of the twelve tribes of Israel is represented by a star.

Notice this, the one thing that the sun, the moon, and the stars have in common is that "they all give light." The sun with which the woman was adorned, represents the "greater light" that shines through the Melchisedec priesthood, when it is functioning properly. The moon on which she stood represents the "lesser light" that shines upon people, either in harmony with the Melchisedec priesthood, or when the Melchisedec priesthood is missing, as it was from Moses until John.

[Exodus 34:1-2] The Lord said unto Moses, ... I will take away the priesthood out of their midst;

[Deuteronomy 10:1-2] ... I will write on the tables the words that were on the first tables, which you broke, save the words of the everlasting covenant of the holy priesthood,

... Therefore, he (*the Lord*) took Moses out of their midst and the holy priesthood also; and the lesser priesthood continued, ... until John, whom God raised up, [D&C 83:3a-4d]

And, the "crown of twelve stars" represents the light which shines through the office of twelve apostles when they embrace and expound the fullness of the gospel. Thus, the quantity of the light of the gospel that shines upon the kingdom, and upon the world, is commensurate with, or proportional to, the quality of the lives of those through whom it shines!

[2] And the woman being with child, cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

[3] And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up unto God and his throne.

The woman brought forth "a man-child," who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. Again, Mary is not the woman portrayed in [Verses 1 & 2]. It would be easy to presume as much, were it not for [Verse 7] clarifying that:

The woman "**was the church of God**, who had been delivered of her pains, and brought forth **the kingdom of our God and his Christ**." Think of all the ramifications of this verse!

The woman was, is, and always will be the true Church belonging to God and his Christ, who brought forth "a man child" and "the kingdom of our God and his Christ!" [Verse 7] **IV**

Then, what is the man child? If the woman is the church, it can't be Jesus, because the church didn't bring forth Jesus; Jesus brought forth the church! He said "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." [Matthew 16:19]

Build: 1 : to form; also : to bring into being or develop **2** : to produce or create [Webster]

Jesus formed, or brought into being, or created – his church! **more on this in [part 2]*

Who, then, is going to "rule all nations with a rod of iron?" Look at this:

[Revelation 2:26-28] And to him who overcomes, and keeps my commandments unto the end, I will give power over many kingdoms; [27] And he shall rule them with the word of God; ...and he shall govern them by faith, with equity and justice. [Mat 24:52-54; Mk 13:56-58; Lu 12:44-53]

The **rod of iron**, which my father had seen, was the **word of God**. [1 Nephi 3:68-69 & 4:38-40]

And what about this one:

[1 Corinthians 6:2-3] Do you not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? [3] Do you not know that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

[4] **And there appeared another sign in heaven; and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman which was delivered, ready to devour her child after it was born.**

[Verse 8] identifies "the great dragon" as "that old serpent called the devil, and also called Satan;" and "his tail lured a third of the angels of heaven and cast them to earth?"

[Isaiah 9:14-16] Therefore the Lord will cut off from Israel head and tail, branch and rush, in one day. [15] The ancient and honorable, he is the head; and the prophet that teaches lies, he is the tail. [16] For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed

These stars come to earth as servants of Satan! Some appear to be "**honorable**" who become leaders of his people; "**branch**" is a division of a family descended from one ancestor, and "**rush**" are tufted and hollow-stemmed grasslike marsh plants. [Webster] Figurative: spiritually shallow.

[D&C 76:3i-j] And this we saw also, and bear record, that an angel of God, who was in authority in the presence of God, who rebelled against the only begotten Son; whom the Father loved, and who was in the bosom of the Father; [3j] and was thrust down from the presence of God and the Son, and was called Perdition; for the heavens wept over him; **he was Lucifer**, a son of the morning. And we beheld, and lo, he is fallen! is fallen! even a son of the morning.

[**Isaiah 14:12-16**] How are you fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how are you cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations! [**13**] For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north; [**14**] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High. [**15**] Yet you shall be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. [**16**] They that see you shall narrowly look upon you, and shall consider you, and shall say, **Is this the man** that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms? Lucifer, a man! [**2 Nephi 10:34-38**]

Again, stars are angels while in the spiritual realm, but are born on earth as people. [**Rev 1:20**]

[**2 Corinthians 11:13-15**] For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. [**14**] And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. [**15**] Therefore it is no great thing **if his ministers** also **be transformed as the ministers of righteousness**; whose end shall be according to their works.

"Ministers" is a word generally associated with the natural world, not the spiritual.

[**Matthew 13:35-38**] Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house. And his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. [**36**] He answered and said unto them, **He that sows the good seed is the Son of Man.** [**37**] The field is the world; **the good seed are the children of the kingdom;** but **the tares are the children of the wicked.** [**38**] **The enemy that sowed them is the devil.** [**D&C 84:1a-d**]

Jesus also said "Every plant which my heavenly Father has not planted, shall be rooted up." [**Matthew 15:12**]

[5] And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she had a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore years.

[**D&C 85:17**] Behold, that which you hear is as the voice of one crying in the wilderness; **in the wilderness, because you can not see him**:

[**Verse 14**] states that she was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might flee into the wilderness "for a time, and times, and half a time;" which is another way of saying 1260 years. It was originally written "for a time, two times, and a half a time;" and was understood that a time equaled one year. This also agrees with the 42 months, i.e. 1260 days, i.e. 1260 years, which "the holy city was to be tread under foot of the Gentiles" as recorded in [**Revelation 11:2**]



And [D&C 84,1] shows that the tares drove the church into the wilderness.

So, where was this "wilderness" that she was to flee into? It was not a wilderness in the sense of being a wasteland, or a barren and desolate place. This wilderness was "a place prepared of God," a spiritual place where she was to be fed for 1260 years, which cannot be seen with the natural eye.

Many say that the woman, i.e., the Church, went into apostasy and became the "mother of harlots," the "whore of all the earth," as depicted in [Chapter 17]. This is not true because, as stated earlier, the woman (*the Church*) was taken to "a place prepared of God;" to remain 1260 years out of reach of the "great red dragon." [Verse 4] The Church did not apostasies, the people did! Then the "mother of harlot" church supplanted her for those 1260 years.

By looking at the dragon's makeup, the time the woman fled into the wilderness can be determined quite accurately. [Revelation 17:9] states that the seven heads are seven mountains (kingdoms); and [Verse 12] says that the ten horns are ten kings.

The Seven Mountains or Empires:

Egyptian	Assyrian	Babylonian	Persian	Grecian	Roman	Papal Power
1070 B.C.	612 B.C.	539 B.C.	331 B.C.	146 B.C.	570 A.D.	1830 A.D.

Since these powers had modest beginnings, some of them many centuries before they became empires; only the dates they were conquered are given. Some scholars may present these dates

slightly different from the ones shown here, depending on when they consider these kingdoms as being conquered. For instance, Rome fell in 476 A.D., but all of its territories had not fallen until 570 A.D. when the Lombards conquered the last residue of its empire in northern Italy.

The year 1830 A.D., shown under Papal Power above, is the date the woman, i.e., the Church, was restored to earth, not the date that the Papacy lost its power. For just as the Papacy's rise to power was gradual, its power was also stripped gradually by the Reformation.

Rome was eventually divided into ten kingdoms; thus the ten horns mentioned in [Verse 4]. These kingdoms were the:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Goths, Ravenna, Huns, Romans, Saxons, Burgundians, Sueves, Franks, Alemans, Lombards.

[these kingdoms will be alluded to in chapters 13, 14 & 17]

The Lombards invaded Italy in 568 and seized control of much of the Italian peninsula. They overthrew the last vestige of the Roman Empire in 570 A.D. after which they settled in a part of northern Italy that is still called Lombardy.

Thus, the vision concerning the dragon was complete in the year 570 A.D. The seven heads, (mountains or empires) having received their crowns; the ten horns, (kingdoms) in their time and place. So, starting at 570 A.D. and going forward 1260 years brings us to 1830; the year that God brought his Church out of the wilderness and placed her back on earth. * see [Chapter 14]

Today, the pope's temporal responsibilities are limited to ruling Vatican City, the smallest independent country in the world. Vatican City has an area of 109 acres and a population of about 1,000. It has its own flag, coins, stamps, public works, and communication systems. An empire which ruled much of what is today's Europe, Asia and Africa; in the guise of a church; reduced to ruling its own country of 109 acres of land and a population of roughly 1,000 people!

[6] And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought against Michael;

[7] And the dragon prevailed not against Michael, neither the child, nor the woman which was the church of God, who had been delivered of her pains, and brought forth the kingdom of our God and his Christ.

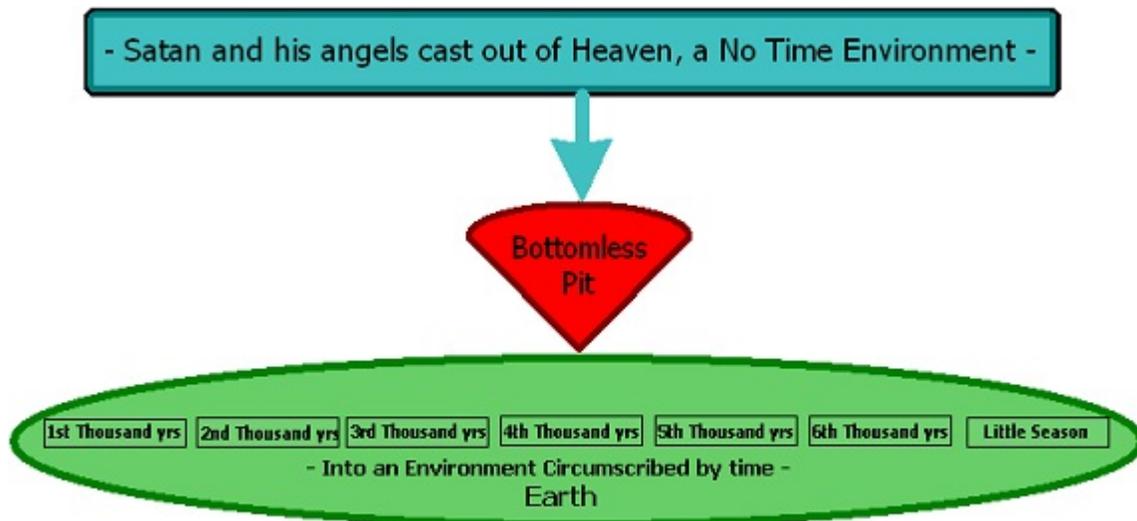
[8] Neither was there place found in heaven for the great dragon, who was cast out; that old serpent called the devil, and also called Satan, which deceives the whole world; he was cast out into the earth; and his angels were cast out with him.

Notice the following pertaining to Satan and his angels being "cast out into the earth":

[D&C 28:10a-d] And it came to pass, that Adam being tempted of the Devil, for, behold, the Devil was before Adam, for he rebelled against me, saying, [b] Give me your honor, which is my power; and also a third part of the hosts of heaven turned he away from me because of their

agency; [c] and they were thrust down, and thus became the Devil and his angels; ... [d] and it must needs be that the Devil should tempt the children of men, or they could not be agents unto themselves, for if they never should have bitter, they could not know the sweet. [Genesis 3:1-5]

It is important to understand that in heaven; where this war took place, time does not exist. Time is a physical law, created to measure the rate at which all temporal creations age. Nothing ages in heaven. "Time is only measured unto men." [Alma 19:38] Lets look at it this way:



The 7th 1000 yr epoch was not included in the preceding chart because that is the time of the millennial reign. Satan is bound during that time, for the earth will be off limits to him and his angels. As indicated in the preceding diagram, he and his angels were cast out of heaven, where time does not exist, into the bottomless pit. From there they ascend to earth to be born at his/her appointed time, to live in an environment where the life of every living thing is measured by time.

Paul wrote that God “made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation. [Acts 17:26]

[9] And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ;

The paramount reason Jesus was born at the appointed time and place is epitomized in the affirmation from heaven that “Now is come salvation!” Samuel, the Lamanite, said of Jesus, that “**he surely must die, that salvation may come.**” [Luke 3:5-11] [Helaman 5:68]

Notice how [Verse 9] points back to [Revelation 5:9] which states that Jesus “redeemed us to God by his blood,” by loosening the seven seals that had us bound to an endless grave! And from Abinadi; “Were it not for the redemption which he has made for his people, which was prepared from the foundation of the world, ... **all mankind must have perished.**” [Mosiah 8:53]

[Isaiah 25:8-9] He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth; for the Lord has spoken it. **[9]** And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us; this is the Lord; we have waited for him, **we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.**

The word “**Now**” in the statement “**Now is come salvation,**” **[Verse 9]** indicates that man was now **[1]** brought out of the grave **and [2]** back into God’s presence. Jesus had to be the first to overcome the physical **and** the spiritual death. * the resurrection will be studied in **[Chapter 20]**

[Matthew 27:54-57] Jesus when he had cried again with a loud voice, saying, Father, it is finished, your will is done, yielded up the ghost. **[55]** And behold, the veil of the temple was rent in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; **[56]** And the graves were opened; and the bodies of the saints which slept, arose, who were many. **[57]** And came out of the graves **after his resurrection,** went unto the holy city, and appeared unto many.

[10] For the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

[11] For they have overcome him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; for they loved not their own lives, but kept the testimony even unto death. Therefore, rejoice O heavens, and you that dwell in them.

“I beheld, and, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. ... These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he that sits on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.” **[Revelation 7:9-17]**

[12] And after these things I heard another voice saying, Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, yes, and they who dwell upon the islands of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has but a short time.

Sure he has but a short time; he is no longer in the realm where time does not exist, he and his angels have been cast into the earth, into the bottomless pit, to await for their appointed time and place to live on earth in one of the six thousand year epoch and in the little season. Time, when measured against eternity is always short.

[13] For when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man-child.

[14] Therefore, to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might flee into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

The devil's intention has always been to destroy people's faith in God by luring them away from him and entangling them in sin. He wants people to worship him! He wants to be like God!

[**Isaiah 14:14**] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High. But now, the Church was in his way and he had to destroy it if he was to be like God! He had already, through his ministers, tried to destroy Jesus but it backfired on him, because up until that time the devil had power over death. But through the resurrection, Jesus took it from him.

[**Hebrews 2:14**] Forasmuch as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; **that through death** he might destroy him that **had** the power of death, that is, the devil.

In [**Verse 5**] was seen that "the woman fled into the wilderness, where she had a place prepared of God." She was to remain there 1260 years, which is "a time, and times, and half a time." Some of Jesus' disciples thought that his return was to be imminent after his crucifixion, but as they became more knowledgeable about God's plan they knew differently. Paul wrote that they should not believe "that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means; for there shall come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." [**2 Thessalonians 2:2-4**]

Notice how the thinking of "that man of sin" parallels the thinking of Lucifer; for the Lord said to him; "you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High." [**Isaiah 14:13-14**]

This similarity is not a coincidence; remember, Satan's ministers appear on earth as ministers of righteousness; For Paul said that "it is no great thing **if Satan's ministers** also **be transformed as the ministers of righteousness!** [**2 Corinthians 11:13-15**]

With all the scriptures supporting this truism; it is obvious that Satan's angels, at least many of them, after being born on earth, grow up to become "pseudo" ministers of righteousness! And if more evidence is needed, look at the powers that some ministers have claimed for themselves; Ch. 12 Pg. 90

I do make holy and unholy; I do justify the wicked; I do forgive sins; I open and no man shutteth. All the world is my diocese, and I am the ordinary of all men, having the authority of the King of kings upon subjects. I am in all and above all . . . If these things that I do be said to be done not of man, but of God, what do you make me but God? . . . I, being above all prelates, seem by this reason to be above all gods; whereupon no marvel if it be in my power to change times and abrogate laws, to dispense with all things, yea, the precepts of Christ. [Bolton's, The Great Antichrist, p. 48]

[15] And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

[16] And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

[17] Therefore, the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The “water as a flood” that the serpent cast out of his mouth symbolizes his doctrine, for he wanted to “cause her to be carried away” by his doctrine. But, the earth “opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood.” This may seem like a strange phrase, yet it makes sense; for only one third of the earth’s population, at any given time, are placed here by Satan. The remaining two-thirds are those who range from being righteous, to indifferent, or to being rebellious, but not evil!

It is not just the righteous who contend for world peace; it was not just the righteous who fought against Hitler’s regime and other aggressors of war; it is not just the righteous who fight against poverty and diseases that plague mankind; and etc. Many of those who do not tolerate evil are merely those who are charitable towards others, who abide by Jesus’ second commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself. [Matthew 22:38] [Mark 12:36] [Luke 10:28]

When the dragon, i.e., the devil, failed to destroy the Church (for it was taken out of his reach) [Verses 13 & 17], he “went to make war with the remnant of her seed,” i.e., the remaining Church members, since the “man child,” which is the priesthood, “was caught up unto God.” [Verse 3]

*** Church members should be aware that the most dangerous wars waged by the devil and his angels are imperceptive to “John Q Public,” because they are not manifested as physical battles. Paul understood this and thus wrote that; “we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” [Ephesians 6:12] *reference also [Isaiah 24:5-6]

The dragon, through the beast, will have great success in the war of [Verse 17]. He will overcome the saints, in that “it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them; and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.” [Revelation 13:7]

Though the devil overcomes the saints at this time, it will only last for the 1260 years, referred to today as the “dark ages,” the time the Church remained in the wilderness.

[Joel 3:14-21] Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision; for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. [15] The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. [16] The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake; **but the Lord will be the hope of his people!**