

Chapter 1

The Seventh Trumpet and Background of the Seven Bowls Begun (11:15-11:19)

1.1 Seventh Trumpet: The Seven Bowls Awaited (11:15–19)

The sounding of the seventh trumpet resulted in heavenly celebration anticipating the institution of the God's kingdom on the earth (11:15-19). However, some background information is provided before the actual beginning of the seventh trumpet in 16:1.

1.1.1 The Seventh Trumpet: The Seven Bowls Awaited (11:15-19)

Telescoping of judgements

1. Seal 1
2. Seal 2
3. Seal 3
4. Seal 4
5. Seal 5
6. Seal 6
7. Seal 7 = 7 Trumpets

(a) Trumpet 1

- (b) Trumpet 2
- (c) Trumpet 3
- (d) Trumpet 4
- (e) Trumpet 5
- (f) Trumpet 6
- (g) Trumpet 7 = 7 Bowls
 - i. Bowl 1
 - ii. Bowl 2
 - iii. Bowl 3
 - iv. Bowl 4
 - v. Bowl 5
 - vi. Bowl 6
 - vii. Bowl 7

Revelation 11:15

And the seventh angel sounded; and there came great voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become [that] of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever."

Seventh angel: The seventh angel is about to act after the conclusion of the second woe (or the sixth trumpet). Just like the seventh seal, there is no immediate earthly action, instead worship begins at heaven (11:16-18). The text then gives insights to various heavenly activities that lead to the culmination of human history (11:19-14:20).

Sounded: Sounding of the seventh trumpet is different from the **last trumpet** of 1 Cor 15 for several reasons including:

- (a) absence of any immediate earthly activity,
- (b) just like the seventh seal expands to seven trumpets, the seventh trumpet is expanded to the seven bowls occupying a period of time.
- (c) the last trumpet of 1 Cor-15 results in rapture which happens at an instant.

1 Cor 15:51-52. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed

Great voices in heaven: This is in contrast to the great silence at the opening of the seventh seal (8:1). John is now transported to heaven which actually controls the events unfolding on the earth.

Kingdom of the world: This not the church since church is kingdom of heaven. It is the world-empire once ruled by the anti-Christ. The celebrations in Rev 12:10 and 19:6 confirms this. The whole theme of Revelation is purging the evil from the world and restored to Jesus. The word **has become** shows the prophetic certainty of the event. This is a theme from Psalm 2 appear frequently in Revelation (2:27; 12:5, 10; 14:1; 16:14; 19:15, 19).

Reign forever: Father and Son with perfect unity will rule the kingdom forever and shows the eternal nature and fulfillment of the prophecy by Daniel. Note that this has two phases: the first the millennium (20:1-10) and the new creation (Rev 21, 22), supported by Paul also

Dan 2:44. And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever

Dan 7:14. . . . His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed

1 Cor 15:24-28. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. . . . 28 Now when all things are made subject

to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all

Revelation 11:16

And the twenty-four elders who were before God sitting upon their thrones fell on their faces and worshipped God,

Elders: the 24 elders re-enter the scene after 7:13-14 and the whole group worship God as done earlier (4:10; 5:8, 14). They fell on their faces and worshipped just like often it happens on the earth.

Revelation 11:17

saying, "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and begun to reign;

Thanks to you: Elders express the gratitude for God's answer to prayer for justice.

God Almighty: The God is an all powerful God. He is sovereign and will be manifested clearly in the institution of His kingdom. No one can resist His power.

Who is and who was: Contrasting 1:4, 8; 4:8, He has already come (16:5). The answer to prayer is now answered.

Mt 6:10. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven

Taken: God seized direct and permanent control of the world by an overwhelming display of power over His enemies. God allowed His enemies to have control on the earth till them. Some wrongly (allegorically) interpret this by telling the reign as the church age and taking control is the destruction of temple in AD 70.

Revelation 11:18

and the nations were enraged, and your wrath came and the time for the dead to be judged and to give the reward to your slaves the prophets and to the saints, even to those who fear your name, the small and the great, and to destroy the destroyers of the earth.”

1. They also sang about the response of the nations and the implementation of God’s wrath and of judgment.

Enraged: The hostility of the nations of the world against God. Note that the wrath of man is wicked (6:17) and the wrath of God is holy. The rage is shown by fighting against God (16:14, 16; 20:8-9). This is applied Psalm 2 to the crucifixion of Jesus, but here the scope is much wider.

Acts 4:25-28. who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? 26 The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.' 27 "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together 28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done

Time ... came: The right time for the judgment as well as giving reward has arrived. Although here judgment of the wicked and giving reward the righteous are mentioned together, the actual implementation is at different time. All the wicked people is judged at the Great White Throne (20:11-15) where as the faithful is rewarded in 21:9-22:5.

Reward Misthon: Giving reward is an act of God's grace and varies in proportion to the works

1 Cor 3:8. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor

Slaves the prophets: They refer to OT prophets and NT apostles who are prophets (Eph 2:20; Rev 18:20) who were the recipients of God's revelation.

2Ki 21:10. And the Lord spoke by His servants the prophets, saying

Dan 9:6. Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name . . .

Saints . . . small and the great: Both Jewish and gentile believers will receive reward. Further, lowliest slave who comes to faith will get same consideration as that of great.

Destroyers of the earth: The context of the book suggests that these include the Babylon, the beast, the false prophet, and Satan (19:17-21; 20:10).

Revelation 11:19

And the temple of God which is in heaven, was opened, and the ark of His covenant in His temple appeared and there came [bolts of] lightning and voices, and [peals of] thunder and an earthquake and great hail.

And: This verse could be seen as response to the hymn of 17-18 where the ark corresponds to rewards to the faithful and the storm indicates the judgment to the wicked which proceeds from the temple (14:15, 17; 15:5-8; 16:7).

Was opened: The events in 15-18 and here are in the past in the prophetic or heavenly sense only. The opening of heaven indicate unhindered fellowship with God (21:3). The temple in heaven (distinct from the sanctuary on the earth) received prayers (8:3-4), vengeance proceeded (8:5; 15:5-8). Appearance of ark anticipate the restoration of God's people and fulfillment of OT promises.

Ark of His covenant: ark has rich biblical history. On one hand it shows God's favour when used rightly (Lev 16:2 ff.; Heb. 9:3 ff.; 10:20), but on the other hand, when used wrongly results in plagues (1 Sam 4:8) and fall (Josh 6:1-20). The original of the earthly temple is in the heaven. The appearance of it is a great hope to God's covenant people.

Lightning . . . : The storm theophany closes the response to the seventh trumpet's sounding. It manifest divine presence (4:5; 16:18), wrathful judgment of God (8:5; 10:3; 16:18).

1.2 The Woman, the Male-Child, and the Dragon (12:1–18)

Overview:

C. The pouring out of the seven bowls (12:1-18:24). The seventh trumpet paved the way for the seven bowl judgments. For better understanding of this revelation some background information of the

hidden forces is necessary.

1. The background of the bowls (12:1-14:20). First, the initial rebellion of Satan and its impact on human history which eventually culminated in the personal return of Jesus.

a. The Woman, the Male Child, and the Dragon (12:1-18): It has three parts (i) woman clad in the sun who gives birth to the Messiah and the threat by the huge red dragon.

1.2.1 The dragon's enmity against the Messiah (12:1-6)

Revelation 12:1

And a great sign appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon [was] under her feet, and upon her head [was] a crown of twelve stars,

Woman is wrongly identified as: (i) the mother of Apollo in Greek mythology, (ii) wife of emperor Domitian, (iii) Virgin Mary (it cannot be Mary, since, it is symbolic and 12:17 excludes it referring to an individual), (iv) God Himself (it also does not fit the rest of the descriptions), (v) people of God of both OT and NT (Israel and church together: this cannot be the case, since, church is the bride and not the mother of Jesus). True identity is the nation of Israel since the picture is an allusion to the dream Joseph saw in Gen 37. Joseph

and Jacob understood the dream. John saw in the woman an ongoing fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant. Note that the woman is a sign and not an individual. Figure of Israel as woman in labour is abundant in OT

Gen 37:9. Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me"

Isa 26:7. As a woman with child Is in pain and cries out in her pangs, When she draws near the time of her delivery, So have we been in Your sight, O Lord

Jer 4:31. For I have heard a voice as of a woman in labor, The anguish as of her who brings forth her first child, The voice of the daughter of Zion bewailing herself. . .

Mic 5:3. Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel

Sun ... moon ... stars is an allusion to Jacob who stood in the lineage to inherit the blessing of the Abrahamic covenant, Rachael, and the 12 tribes of Israel.

Revelation 12:2

and she was with child and cried being in travail, even being tormented to give birth.

Birth pangs: just as a woman feels the pain of child birth, so did the nation of Israel undergone pain to bring Christ to this world. The cause of this pain is the persecution of the nation inspired by Satan to prevent the birth of Christ and destroy the people of God. By the time John wrote this, Jesus was already born and hence, this is a heavenly enactment of that past historical event just as other events yet to happen is enacted in this book.

Revelation 12:3

And another sign appeared in heaven, and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns and upon his heads [were] seven diadems,

Behold: calls for special attention to the description of the new sign.

Great red dragon: is a name given for monster beings in mythologies and John used the same word to denote Satan (12:4, 7, 9, 13, 6, 17; 13:2, 4, 11; 16:13; 20:2). Great (**megas**) indicates largeness and blood-red (**pyrros**) indicates its intention to kill the offspring of the woman.

Seven heads ... ten horns ... seven diadems: similar description occurs in 13:1; 17:9-10; and Dan 7. The heads are consecutive world empires and ten horns belongs to the last empire in the seven year period. The diadems (a head band kind of crown wore by kings) indicates the power and its position (on the head) indicates the universal earthly dominion.

Dan 7:7, 20, 24. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 20 and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows. 24 The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom ...

Revelation 12:4

and his tail dragged the third [part] of the stars of heaven and cast them into the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, the when she give birth to her child, he might devour [Him].

Stars ... cast: refer to the angels (9:1; 12:8-9) who fell with Satan in history past before the birth of the child. Satan led this war and was cast out of heaven. A second war in 12:7-9 is his final attempt.

Stood before the woman: Dragon shows his hatred primarily to the child. OT records several instances of this hatred:

- i Cain's murder of Abel (Gen 4:8);
- ii corrupting the line of Seth (Gen 6:1-12);
- iii attempted rapes of Sarah and Rebekah (Gen 12:10-20; 26:1-18);
- iv murder of male children in Egypt (Ex 1:15-22);
- v attempted murder of David (2 Chr 22:10);
- vi Haman's attempt to slaughter Jews (Est 3-9);
- vi Herod trying to kill Jesus (Mat 2:16); and
- vii many other instances to kill Jesus culminating in the Crucifixion.

Revelation 12:5

And she gave birth to a son, a male, who is about to destroy all nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught away to God and to His throne.

She gave birth: Israel gave Messiah to the world, it was the work of the nation by preserving the genealogy and not Mary alone.

Son, a male: refers to Jesus, and not Jesus and the church or even the church alone. It is evident that the child is Jesus alone because the child is going to rule the nations (Psalm 2:9).

Caught away: the child is inaccessible to the dragon as Christ was ascended to heaven after resurrection. Note that the main purpose of His ascension was not to escape from Satan, but it was a byproduct. Once Jesus is in heaven, Satan had no further access to Him, so he had to redirect his hatred to the woman.

Act 5:31. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins

And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has there a place prepared by God, that there they might nourish her a thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Fled: This flight chronologically happens after the war of 12:7-12 and is described in detail in 12:13-17. This flight is prophesied by Jesus

Mt 24:15-28. Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains ...

1260 days: The heavenly defeat of the dragon and his angels by Michael and his angels happen at the mid point of Daniel’s seventieth week and 1260 days of the woman’s protection must correspond to the last half of that week, while the two witnesses are serving in Jerusalem (11:2, 3; 12:14; 13:5). This period of protective care for the woman will also be the future period of the false Christ’s raging (13:5) and it is not the time between ascension and Parousia of Christ. In spite of his fiercest efforts, the dragon will be unable to reach the woman.

A place: The place is prepared by God although the location is not specified. It is the work of God and unspecified people will meet the need of the woman.

1.2.2 Expulsion of the dragon from heaven (12:7-12)

Revelation 12:7

And a war occurred in heaven, Michael and his angels had to make war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels made war,

And: Returning to a point before the flight of the woman, the vision now furnishes an additional reason for the rage of the dragon against woman. That is v. 7 return to the end of v. 5 and the futile response of the dragon. Verse 6 is a summary of 13-17 and this section includes an account of the battle in heaven (7-9) and a heavenly hymn of victory (10-12).

A war ... make war ... made war: Many wrongly conclude that this war occurred at (i) the fall of Satan before the creation, (ii) the cross, (iii) John's time, or (iv) an unknown past. However, the context strongly suggests the war is an end-time event occurring midway through Daniel's seventieth week. During this period Satan will oppose God's people, especially the Israel, with great severity, but for a short time. This explains

the unusual severity of persecution during the second half. It also agrees with the little time left for Satan and the involvement of Michael in the last days. It is an effort of the dragon to unseat Christ and reestablish himself in heaven

Dan 12:1. "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book

Isa 14:13. For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven. . .

In heaven indicates the scene of this battle.

Michael is the leader of the heavenly army. Michael is the arch angel and previously had war with Satan

Jude 9. Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil . . .

Revelation 12:8

and yet he did not prevail, neither was a place for them found any longer in heaven.

Did not prevail: the dragon was not victorious in this battle.

Place ...in heaven: the dragon will no longer be entertained in heaven, for his duty was accusing the brethren which will be stopped

Rev 12:10. ...for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down

1 Ki 22:20-22. And the Lord said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up [for war] ... 21 Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, and said, 'I will persuade him.' 22 The Lord said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the Lord said, 'You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.'

Job 1:9-11. So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

Zech 3:1. Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him

And the great dragon, the serpent of old, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole earth, was cast down- was cast down into the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.

Cast down ... cast down ... cast down: Three fold use indicates forceful and mass expulsion of dragon and his angels from heaven. Cast down is normally used in connection with judgment. Jesus saw the fall of Satan and the cross is the basis of that. Note the chronology of the events: (i) Satan is cast out from the heaven, (ii) then he will be chained in the abyss for 1000 year period (20:1-3), and (iii) then the lake of fire as his eternal home

Mat. 13:42. and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth

Luk 10:18. And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven

Joh 12:31. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out

And the: Five fold description of the person is given to avoid any kind of confusion that may arise about the identity of Satan:

- (a) **The great dragon:** indicating the hatred and cruelty of this being

Rev. 12:3. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads
- (b) **The serpent of old:** which reaches back to Genesis. He is noted for his cunning nature for he first lured man into sin and then started accusing them.

Gen 3:1. Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field . . .

2Cor 11:3. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ
- (c) **Devil:** the word come from **diaballo** which means slander or accuse falsely or act as an adversary.
- (d) **Satan:** is a Hebrew word and appears several time in OT and refers to the superhuman adversary. Some of his actions include inspiring David for census, accused Job, accused Joshua the high priest.
- (e) **Who deceives the whole earth:** he is known for it and it includes Judas to betray Jesus and Peter to deny Jesus

John 13:2. And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simone's son, to betray Him

Luke 22:31. And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat

2 Cor. 2:11. lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices

2 John 7. For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an Antichrist

Whole earth: is susceptible to his diabolical ways.

Revelation 12:10

And I heard a great voice in heaven saying, "Now have come the salvation and power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, because the accuser of our brethren has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

Great voice: Sudden outburst of praise in heaven (like 4:8, 11; 5:9-10, 12, 13; 7:10, 12; 11:15, 17-18; 15:3-4; 19:1-2, 4, 6-8). It has three stanzas:

- (a) arrival of God's kingdom and Christ's authority (10),
- (b) the earthly victory of the saints who identify with Christ (11), and

- (c) the celebration over the expulsion of the dragon and warning to earth because of the Devil's expulsion from heaven (12).

Salvation and power and the kingdom: salvation denotes victory over dragon; power denotes the power of God that accomplished this victory, and the kingdom (like in 11:15) refers to both the future temporal phase (20:1-10) and the eternal phase (21:1-22:5) of the kingdom

Rev. 11:15. Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Rev. 20:4-6. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years

Rev. 21:1. Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea

Authority of Christ: Christ exercise the authority given to Him by the Father and will rule in the future kingdom. Note that the song prophetically look forward to the rule of Christ.

Psa 2:2. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession

Mat. 28:18. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth

John 17:2. as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him

Accuser: Satan accuses us, but Christ is our advocate

Rom. 8:34. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us

1 John 2:1. My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous

Heb. 7:25. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them

Heb. 9:24. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us

Accuses day and night: Just like the angels constantly worship God (4:8), Satan constantly accuses God's people. But his mouth will be shut-up soon.

Revelation 12:11

And they themselves overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life unto death.

Overcame him: earthly victory of the saints who identify with Christ in His witness and death despite the accusations of Satan is significant.

Blood of the Lamb: the primary and objective basis of the victory is death of Christ. Here, the victory is already achieved (prophetically).

Word of their testimony: the secondary and subjective basis of victory is their personal labor and self-sacrifice. Because the Lamb's blood was shed, they had an answer to the accuser. Then, it motivates them to testify the word of God (John 8:31-32; 15:3).

Did not love their life: They did not love their earthly life. Instead, they gave importance to the faithfulness to Christ.

Revelation 12:12

Because of this, make merry, heavens and those who dwell in them; woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has descended to you having great anger, knowing that he has little time.”

Merry: The angels have reason to rejoice. Satan and his angels were removed from heaven.

Woe: this woe is due to Satan and directed to God's people on the earth (contrasting the three woes which is from God and directed to enemies of God on the earth). It refers to the intense persecution during the second half of the seven year period.

Anger . . . little time: the reason for the intense persecution is anger of Satan due to his defeat and expulsion from heaven and the knowledge of the limited time available.

Applications

1. Satan is a deceiver - be aware of his tactics.
2. Christ is our advocate - no sin will he not defend us [not a license to sin; but not to be afraid of Satan].
3. Witness for Christ is more precious than life on this earth.

1.2.3 Dragon's pursuit of the woman (12:13-18)

Overview: The text gives additional reasons for the dragon's pursuit of the woman: his expulsion from heaven, resulting limited time available to pour out his vengeance to the Israel, flight and protection of the woman.

Revelation 12:13

And when the dragon saw that he had been cast into the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male.

And when: the explicit reason for the woman's flight (v 6) is the dragon's anger for giving birth to the child. Dragon could not hurt the child and hence indirectly tries to hurt the child by hurting the mother.

Pursued: many past incidents resembles the pursue of the dragon: [i] drowning the male child in the Nile, [ii] pursuit by Pharaoh, [iii] AD 64 flight due to Roman persecution. Similarly the deliverances in the past includes: [i] carrying on eagle's wings and [ii] nourishment by God. However, the present description does not match any of the earlier incidents. Hence, the flight must be a literal flight in the future as predicted by Jesus

Du 32:11. As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings

Du 8:16. who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end-

Mt 24:15-28. 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains... 20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath

Mk 13:14-23.

Revelation 12:14

But two wings of a great eagle were given to the woman, that she might fly into the wilderness into her place, where she is nourished there a time and times and half a time from the presence of the serpent.

1. **But ...were given:** This explains how God gave the woman a means of escape which surpasses all the efforts of the dragon to defeat the woman.
2. **Eagle's wing:** This denotes the characteristic strength and swiftness with which God delivers the woman as He did in the past. The terminology here is that of God's protection

Ex 19:4. You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself

Du 32:11. As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings

Ps 91:1-4. 4. He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge

3. **Fly into wilderness:** This is a literal flight as told by Jesus. The location is not specified except that it is place of refuge.

Mt 24:16. then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains

4. **Nourishment:** God who provided manna to the Israelite will also provide here. Note that no one will be able to buy or sell during this period (13:17).
5. **Time, times and half a time:** refers to the second half of the tribulation period or the period of the great tribulation

Mt 14:21. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be

Re 11:2, 3; 12:6; 13:5; Dan 7:25; 12:7)

Revelation 12:15

And the serpent cast from his mouth water as a river behind the woman, that he might make her [to be] swallowed up by the river.

1. **Water as river:** Since the serpent could not pursue the woman, he attempted to impose harm by drowning her. The destruction could be due to literal water or the hot pursuit by an army

Jer 46:7-8. "Who is this coming up like a flood, Whose waters move like the rivers? 8 Egypt rises up like a flood, And its waters move like the rivers; And he says, 'I will go up and cover the earth, I will destroy the city and its inhabitants'

Jer 47:2-3. Thus says the Lord: "Behold, waters rise out of the north, And shall be an overflowing flood . . . 3 At the noise of the stamping hooves of his strong horses, At the rushing of his chariots, At the rumbling of his wheels . . .

Revelation 12:16

And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank the river which the dragon cast from his mouth.

Earth opened: Another supernatural provision protects the woman. OT speaks similar incidents

Ex 15:12. You stretched out Your right hand; The earth swallowed them

Nu 16:30. But if the Lord creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the Lord

Nu 26:10. and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up together with Korea when that company died, when the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men; and they became a sign

Du 11:6. and what He did to Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, their households, their tents, and all the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel

Ps 106:17. The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan, And covered the faction of Abiram

Earth opened the mouth: this may be an earthquake which drains all the water (or the army) sent by the dragon to drown the woman.

Revelation 12:17

And the dragon was enraged at the woman, and went away to make war with the rest of her seed, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus;

1. **Enraged:** the divine protection given to the woman all the more enraged the dragon, but all he could do was to direct it to the woman. The dragon was more angry because after the child was taken to heaven, dragon as cast out of heaven, and now the woman is protected.
2. **The rest of her seed:** these are the ones who did not go to the wilderness but may be scattered followers of Christ. This remnant will have war with the beast (13:7). Most likely this group is the 144000 witness of Rev 7. Observe the continuity of 12:1 to 14:5, and the mention of them in 12:18; 13:1, 11.

Da 7:21. I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them

3. **Keep the commandments of God:** this group has Jewish lineage and has a special mission to be slaves of God (7:3) who obey His commandments and to bear testimony to Jesus by following the truths He taught. Their aggressive witness also makes them the target of the dragon.

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