



METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES
For the week of Dec 26, 2015 – Jan 2, 2016
Lesson #1: **Rebellion and Redemption**

SABBATH – Crisis in Heaven

(Memory Text) **Revelation 7:10** “And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.”

The context in which everyone is giving praise to God is after the great controversy is finished and we’re all in heaven. Notice the previous verse:

(9) After this I beheld, and, lo, 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;

We have “the great multitude which no man could number” mentioned. Contrary to popular belief this great multitude is not a result of the preaching of the Loud Cry after the Sunday Law. We have no proof for saying this in the text. We just say things long enough and everybody believes it.

The great multitude is not the millions upon millions we usually say are the 144,000 as we interpret it to be a symbolic number. The reason we can’t say the great multitude is the 144,000 is because this verse is happening in heaven **after** the great controversy is finished. The proof for this is because it says the great multitude “stood before the throne.” This scene is not taking place on earth but in heaven.

Now why are they shouting victory? It’s because Jesus has redeemed them from the earth. He has given them victory over sin and the father of it – the Devil.

The Origin of Evil

The Bible tells us how Satan came to be.

(Ezekiel 28:13 – *speaking of Lucifer*) ...the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that **thou wast created**.

Lucifer was a created being which means he is not eternal. He had a beginning, and if he had a beginning he will have an end because evil will not last forever.

The question is – Who created him? John 1:1-3, 14 says that all things were created by Jesus. Does this include things in heaven too?

(Colossians 1:15, 16 – *speaking of Jesus*) Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:



Lucifer's creator was none other than Jesus Christ – the very one he became jealous over and hated. Do you think God in His foreknowledge knew that Lucifer would rebel and cause all this misery? Absolutely, but yet He still created Lucifer just like He went ahead and created Adam and Eve knowing they would sin too. We don't understand this kind of love I don't think. If it were me I would not have done that but let's thank God that one of us isn't in charge because if Jesus was like us we would all be struck down dead already because none of us have the patience and longsuffering He does.

Another question we might not have thought of is this: When Lucifer rebelled did he know that Jesus was his creator? We will answer that question as we proceed.

Absolutely recommended reading from the Spirit of Prophecy: GC 492-504, PP 32-43, SR 13-19, DA 19-26, and TA 23-62. These pages deal with the origin of the great controversy between good and evil.

Also read DA 723-764 – this is a lot of pages but will be worth your time as these pages will show you how God solves the great controversy between good and evil.

SUNDAY – The Fall in Heaven

Remember it was Jesus who created Lucifer. And how did Jesus create him Lucifer – was it with a basic flaw? Did Lucifer have the seed of rebellion in him when he was created? The answer, of course, is no.

(Ezekiel 28:15) Thou wast **perfect in thy ways** from the day that thou wast created, **till iniquity was found in thee.**

God did not create Satan – God created Lucifer. God did not create a Devil – God created a holy angel who chose to become a Devil.

There are some who have this logic that God did create the Devil – they say. If God created the Devil – then wouldn't this really make God a greater devil than the devil? Yes, because of all the things that are happening in the world today – the wickedness, disease, perversion, and violence – these would all be God's fault if He made Lucifer with the seed of rebellion already in him.

What made Lucifer choose to rebel against God?

First let's notice how Lucifer was dressed by God.

(Ezekiel 28:13) Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold...

Lucifer was luxuriously decorated. He had the finest jewels as his clothing. Was this part of the reason why he rebelled?

(17) **Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty**, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness:

The heart being "lifted up" is an image of pride.



The issue of jewelry

The Seventh-day Adventist church has a standard that we're not supposed to use jewelry. How do we reconcile this with Lucifer who is covered in all these precious stones that people today use for jewels?

Because Lucifer had all this glory and precious stones as his covering – what did this lead Lucifer to do? What was he filled with as a result? Total pride.

In the Bible jewelry is a symbol of apostasy and pride against God. It led to Lucifer's fall. That's why the Seventh-day Adventist church says in the context of the great controversy "Be careful with what you wear lest we become like Lucifer and filled with pride."

So with this in mind does the concept we have on standards: on how we dress and things like jewelry, does this have anything to do with the great controversy? It has much to do with it.

People cannot handle jewelry in a sinful world when we have sinful flesh. The issue of jewelry confuses some Adventists because there are some places in the Bible where God puts jewelry on people:

The parable of the prodigal son – the father put a ring on his finger.

But there are other places where jewelry is a symbol of apostasy:

Revelation 17 and Ezekiel 16

So is the Bible contradicting itself? No not at all.

Here's the key: In the Bible when God puts the jewelry on you it's a sign of holiness. But when you put the jewelry on yourself it's a sign of pride and apostasy to God.

We are made in the image of God – not only in our spiritual and mental qualities but also in our physiognomy. We are made in the image of God physically, mentally and spiritually.

MONDAY – The Prince of This World

Satan became "the prince of this world" in the Garden of Eden on planet earth. How and what was the defining moment in this transition from Adam as the ruler of this world to Satan?

When Adam awoke and then a little while later Eve for the first time, Jesus was standing there in front of them and I'm sure introduced himself as their Creator. The couple was happy and pleased we can be sure of. They knew even though they were given dominion over the planet that Jesus being their Creator had dominion over them. There was something that God placed on earth that was to let them know that He was God. It was the tree of knowledge of good and evil. We'll talk about this more in detail in the next lesson. But when Eve chose to obey Satan in the form of a serpent and then Adam eating the fruit because he loved Eve more than God, Satan then became "ruler" of the planet. Adam and Eve had obeyed Satan over Jesus.



We will discuss more of this ordeal in the Garden of Eden in the next lesson.

Satan knows he now “ruled” the world because of this.

(Job 1:6, 7) Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.

7 And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Satan says “I come representing the earth.” In other words he saying I now rule the earth because every one of the human beings born on this planet follow me because they have all sinned.

But the fact is One would come that would become the new Adam and take dominion back from the Devil and place it back in the hands of not only the original Adam but all those who would be faithful till the end.

TUESDAY – War in Heaven

Revelation 12:7-16 is highlighted for discussion as this deals primarily with the war that took place in heaven and then was brought here to planet earth.

Revelation 12 is my absolute (overall) chapter of the Bible. It has been since almost day one of becoming a Seventh-day Adventist. What follows is from my own personal notes dealing with verse 7-16. I’ve just copied and pasted them in. Please study and enjoy.

Revelation 12:7-16

The purpose of these passages is to speak about the celebration (or reaction) in heaven as a result of his victory in the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. The passage also tells us of the wrath of Satan on earth because of the victory of Jesus.

There's nothing in this passage about the warfare of the dragon against the woman.

The central focus in this passage is the battle of Satan against Christ and the result in heaven because Jesus has gained the victory. And it also speaks of the reaction of earth because the Devil has descended down to the earth with great wrath because he knows his time is short.

(Revelation 12:3, 4) And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

And now the next verse is going to go back and reminisce about a past event.

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth:...

And now the verse brings us back to the present and speaks about the dragon standing next to the woman.

(4) ...and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – January 2, 2015

These verses start out speaking of the dragon, and then it has a flashback and tells us he draws with his tail a third of the angels and they come to the earth. And then it carries us forward to the times of Christ and tells us that dragon that took a third of the angels of heaven in the past - now stands before the woman and wants to destroy Christ as soon as he is born.

In Revelation 12:7-12 we have the same idea. In vs. 7 we have a flashback and then vs. 8-12 carry you into the future, to the victory of Christ on the cross.

(Revelation 12:7) And there was war in heaven...

Could that be taking place at the cross? (no)

(Revelation 12:7-9) And there was war in heaven: Michael (Jesus) and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan...

Is this a flashback of something that happened even before the creation of this world? Yes it's talking about the war in heaven, but now it carries us to the present.

(Revelation 12:9) ...which deceiveth the whole world...

Notice the tenses of the verbs used in these verses.

"war broke out in heaven" --- past tense

"Michael and his angels fought..." --- past tense

"the dragon fought...and prevailed not..." --- past tense

"the great dragon was cast out..." --- past tense

But then it comes to the present and says in vs. 9

"which deceives the whole world" --- present tense

(Revelation 12:9) ...he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Now it talks about the celebration in heaven.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation...

Is this past or present? It's present because it says "Now..."

10 Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

The sequence in these verses sometimes appears to be mixed up. Is it talking about the original casting out of Satan in heaven in the beginning or is it speaking of the casting out at the cross? Actually it is both.



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – January 2, 2015

Did the Devil have any brethren to accuse when he was thrown out of heaven in the beginning? NO, so this proves that this can't be talking about that first literal casting out only because there were no brethren to accuse.

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down (present) unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

The Devil has a Short Time

It's been 2000 years since the cross - how is that a short time? We need to understand that 2000 years, from God's perspective and even Satan's, is not a long time. God is eternal. The Devil was possibly the first created being and who knows how long ago that was. It could have been millions of years since his creation and his rebellion. We just don't know for sure how old Satan is. So we have to look at this "short time" from God's perspective of time and not ours.

The accuser of thy brethren

There are several stories in the Old Testament that illustrate how the Devil accused God's people day and night. And this was them being accused before Jesus dies and resurrected.

The story of Job (as a prime example)

(Job 1:8-11) And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

The Devil says to God Job serves you because you take care of him. He doesn't serve you because he loves you it's because you give him all these things. He's accusing Job but he's also accusing God in the process.

The scene of Zechariah 3

Joshua is standing before the angel of the Lord in filthy garments and Satan is there accusing him.

(Zechariah 3) And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist (accuse) him.

2 And the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?

3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.

4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.

5 And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the Lord stood by.



The story of Jacob

(The Great Controversy, p. 618) Satan had accused Jacob before the angels of God, claiming the right to destroy him because of his sin; he had moved upon Esau to march against him; and during the patriarch's long night of wrestling, Satan endeavored to force upon him a sense of his guilt in order to discourage him and break his hold upon God. Jacob was driven almost to despair; but he knew that without help from heaven he must perish. He had sincerely repented of his great sin, and he appealed to the mercy of God. He would not be turned from his purpose, but held fast the Angel and urged his petition with earnest, agonizing cries until he prevailed

Jesus referred to this casting out of Satan at the cross. He was cast out in two senses:

1. He was cast out in the sympathies of the angels.
2. He was cast out as ruler of this world.

When Jesus was victorious at the cross, he re-conquered the position that Adam had lost. Originally the Devil beat Adam - so Adam became his servant. And Jesus beat the Devil and now the Devil becomes Christ's servant. So Jesus takes over the kingdom of this world - legally - at the cross.

The only thing that remains to be seen is who's going to be with Jesus. The victory of Jesus is the victory of the universe. And the remaining factor is who is going to be with Jesus, who is going to claim what Jesus did? Debt for all sin has been paid and who will claim that payment.

John 12 picks up on this theme of the Devil being cast out at the cross and Jesus is saying this just a couple of days before his death.

(John 12:30-33) Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince (ruler) of this world be cast out.

Now what does Jesus mean here when he says that the ruler of this world will be cast out? He explains...

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

So what is it that casts the Devil out of heaven - meaning the sympathies of the angels and as the representative of this world? It was the death of Jesus on the cross.

Did the Devil go representing this world in heavenly meetings before Jesus died on the cross? He did.

(Job 1:6, 7) Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.

7 And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – January 2, 2015

Whenever there was a meeting in heaven Satan came representing this world. Why was this so? Because he had usurped Adam's position.

(Luke 10:17, 18) And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

(Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 3, p. 194)

The casting down of Satan as an accuser of the brethren in Heaven was accomplished by the great work of Christ in giving up his life.

(Desire of Ages, p. 761)

Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, **he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings.** Henceforth his work was restricted. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken.

Yet Satan was not then destroyed. The angels did not even then understand all that was involved in the great controversy. The principles at stake were to be more fully revealed. And for the sake of man, Satan's existence must be continued. Man as well as angels must see the contrast between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. He must choose whom he will serve.

Remember Christ's statement in Luke 10 - Satan fall from heaven like lightning?

(Desire of Ages, p. 490)

Like the apostles, the seventy had received supernatural endowments as a seal of their mission. When their work was completed, they returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name." Jesus answered, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."

The scenes of the past and the future were presented to the mind of Jesus. He beheld Lucifer as he was first cast out from the heavenly places. He looked forward to the scenes of His own agony, when before all the worlds the character of the deceiver should be unveiled. He heard the cry, "It is finished" (John 19:30), announcing that the redemption of the lost race was forever made certain, that heaven was made eternally secure against the accusations, the deceptions, the pretensions, that Satan would instigate.

But now notice she goes one step further...

Beyond the cross of Calvary, with its agony and shame, Jesus looked forward to the great final day, when the prince of the power of the air will meet his destruction in the earth so long marred by his rebellion. Jesus beheld the work of evil forever ended, and the peace of God filling heaven and earth.



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – January 2, 2015

She says Luke 10 refers to what happened with Satan in the beginning in heaven and at the cross - because they're related. And Jesus is looking forward to the final eradication of sin from the universe.

(Manuscript Release, vol. 12, p. 409) When Christ cried, "It is finished," God's unseen hand rent the strong fabric composing the veil of the Temple from top to bottom. The way into the Holiest of all was made manifest. God bowed His head satisfied. Now His justice and mercy could blend. He could be just, and yet the justifier of all who should believe on Christ. He looked upon the victim expiring on the cross, and said, "It is finished. The human race shall have another trial." The redemption price was paid, and Satan fell like lightning from heaven.

(Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 4b, p. 45) As we near the close of time, Satan comes down with great power knowing his time is short. Especially upon the remnant will his power be exercised. He will war against them, he will seek to divide and scatter them, that they may grow weak and be overthrown. The people of God should move understandingly; their efforts should be united. They should be of the same mind, of the same judgment; then their efforts will not be scattered, but will be of force, and tell in the upbuilding of the cause of present truth.

Now let's see how Revelation 12:6 and Revelation 12:13-15 relate to each other. Revelation 12:6 is amplified in verses 13-15.

The Devil first persecuted whom the child. He wanted to get rid of the child. When the child escapes he then goes after the mother. This is found in verses 6, and 13-15. How do you think the child feels about someone mistreating his mother? Is there anything a child loves more than his mother? No, whoever touches mother, touches the child (or the Son) we could say.

So should we expect Jesus (the child) to intervene and rescue mother? Absolutely! And when God finally provides this refuge for the woman to escape the wrath of the serpent, the serpent then finally goes after whom? He now goes after the remnant of her seed. This is the three parts of Revelation 12.

1. the war against the child
2. the war against the mother of the child (the woman)
3. the war against the remnant of the woman's seed.

Who is the woman's seed? It's Jesus - so it's the remnant of Jesus. There are three stories (or contexts) that form the backdrop of Revelation 12.

The first is Genesis 3:15. This applies primarily to the scene in Revelation 12:1-5. You have all the same elements: a woman, seed, serpent, enmity

(The second) Then we have Revelation 12:6, 13-15. The primary focus is on the Elijah story. There is also a hint of Daniel 7 - the saints are persecuted for a times and times, and the dividing of time. And this is repeated in Revelation 12:14 of the woman fleeing.

(Revelation 12:6) And the woman fled into the wilderness...



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – January 2, 2015

Does it say why she fled into the wilderness? No, that's why we have to go to the amplification to know the reason why.

(Revelation 12:6) And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Notice the elements in this verse:

1. woman
2. wilderness
3. a place prepared (by God)

That they should what?

4. feed her

And for how long?

5. 1260 days

Who is she fleeing from? She's fleeing from the dragon (or serpent).

In verses 13-15 you'll see immediately how they are drawing on verse 6. Verse 6 is amplified in verses 13-15 - it's very clear.

One of the big mistakes the Christian world makes, when studying the book of Revelation, is they don't study the literary structure of the book of Revelation and how the book is organized. If you don't know how the book is organized you will go way out in left field. We must take time and study the way the book is organized.

Now let's find out why the dragon persecutes the woman.

(Revelation 12:13) And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

What's the reason or his motivation for going after the woman? It's because he was cast down. This is why he's furious. Was this point made in verse 6? It was not.

(Revelation 12:14, 15) And to the **woman** were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly 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**.

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.

Do we find the same elements as we just found in Revelation 12:6? Absolutely.

1. woman
2. serpent
3. wilderness
4. place prepared (by God)
5. nourishing (same as feeding)



6. 1260 days

Daniel 7:25

A comparison of Daniel 7:25 with Revelation 12:6 and 14 reveals three things.

1. the woman represents the saint of the most high

How do we come to this conclusion? In Daniel 7 the little horn persecutes "the saints" of the most High for 1260 years. In Revelation 12 the serpent persecutes "the woman" for 1260 years.

So the conclusion is the woman is the saints of the most High. We don't even have to go to verses like *Ephesian 5* where it says "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church...*" to show that a woman represents God's people. It's right here in Daniel and Revelation - internally. This woman is not Mary as Roman Catholics teach. We can prove this without a doubt within Revelation as well.

The second thing that we notice when we compare Daniel 7:25 with Revelation 12:6 and 14 is:

2. The power behind the little horn is the dragon, the ancient serpent called the Devil and Satan.

Who is the enemy of God's people in Daniel chapter 7? It's the little horn. And is the little horn a human earthly system? Yes, but who is the enemy of God's people in Revelation 12? It's the dragon (or Satan). So whose ambassador is the little horn? None other than the Devil's.

So who is it that stands behind the little horn? It is the Devil. The little horn represents the Roman Church and we can conclude based upon Scripture that the power behind the Roman Church is Satan. So this is the system of the Devil.

The third comparison between Daniel 7:25 and Revelation 12:6 and 14 is

3. The 3 1/2 times is the same as the 1260 days.

In Revelation 12:6 it speaks of 1260 days, whereas in vs. 13-15 (the parallel) it speaks of "a time, and times, and half of time". So we know absolutely that these two time periods are speaking of the same time period.

The Spirit of Prophecy goes a step further...

(The Great Controversy, p. 439) **The forty and two months are the same** as the "time and times and the dividing of time," three years and a half, or 1260 days, of Daniel 7 -- the time during which the papal power was to oppress God's people. This period, as stated in preceding chapters, began with the supremacy of the papacy, A.D. 538, and terminated in 1798.

We've now discovered the reason why Satan is enraged with the woman and went to make with her. He was angry because he was cast down to the earth at the cross, and of course Jesus had resurrected.

Notice how the Spirit of Prophecy describes the wrath of the Devil as a result of the victory of Jesus at the cross.

(Early Writings, pp. 191-192) Satan again counseled with his angels, and with bitter hatred against God's government told them that while he retained his power and authority upon earth their efforts must be tenfold stronger against the followers of Jesus. They had prevailed nothing against Christ but must overthrow His followers, if possible. In every



generation they must seek to ensnare those who would believe in Jesus. He related to his angels that Jesus had given His disciples power to rebuke them and cast them out, and to heal those whom they should afflict. Then Satan's angels went forth like roaring lions, seeking to destroy the followers of Jesus.

Of course the followers of Jesus are the woman.

(Revelation 12:14) And to the woman were given **two wings of a great eagle**, that she might fly 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 Eagle's Wings

What are the eagle's wings and what do they signify?

(Deuteronomy 32:10-14) He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

11 As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:

12 So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

13 He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

14 Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.

Described here is a metaphor of God bearing Israel on eagle's wings of deliverance from Egypt, and God providing for them in the wilderness and taking care of them - just like God did for his people during the 1260 years.

(Exodus 19:4) Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

(Isaiah 40:31) But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

These wings are not any old eagle's wings - but the wings of the great eagle. This represents God's deliverance, God's care in the wilderness. God is watching over his people.

How does the serpent try and kill the woman? We know that devil is already persecuting the woman because she has fled into the wilderness but how is he doing it - what method is he using to persecute the woman? Verse 15 tells us.

(Revelation 12:15) And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman...



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – January 2, 2015

This verse is a vitally critical verse. This verse is critically important for understanding Revelation 17. And here's why:

How many heads does the serpent of Revelation 12 have? It has seven heads.

(Revelation 12:3) And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having **seven heads** and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

If he has seven heads - how many mouths must he have? It must be seven. How many mouths are spewing out water in Revelation 12:15? It's only one - and that's a very critically important point.

(Revelation 12:15) And the serpent cast out of his **mouth** (singular) water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

Even though the dragon (serpent) has seven heads, only one head is spewing water out. This indicates clearly that only one head rules at a time. At this time we do not know which head is spewing out the water, but this is explained in Revelation 17:15.

We won't study this now because of time constraints. But let's look at verses that explain the meaning of water in symbolic prophecy.

Water in Symbolic Prophecy

In Isaiah 8 are very important verses because it's referring to the river Euphrates. King Sennacherib was invading the land of Judah, and he actually overcame all of the cities of Judah and he came to Jerusalem and it looked as though Jerusalem was also going to fall. But of course it didn't. But what's interesting here in these verses is the imagery being used here is the imagery of a flood. The Assyrian armies are being represented as a flood and the flood is reaching up to the neck and it looks like God's people are going to be drowned. But of course God is going to take care of things.

(Isaiah 8:7, 8) Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of **the river**...

Whenever you have the phrase "the river" without a name, it means the Euphrates River.

(7) Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks:

Sennacherib is being compared with a flood. And who is he flooding? He's flooding the land of Israel - God's people.

8 And he shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach even to the neck;

When flood waters reach to the neck - it's critical. It means that it's just about over. But now notice this imagery in verse 8:

(8) ...and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel.



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – January 2, 2015

What does that mean? The Ancients believed that the mountains were the heads of a cosmic dragon. And where did the waters originate? In the mountains. So if the mountains are the heads and they are sending water down then it's the mouth of the head spewing waters out. That's how they viewed things. So the heads are really mountains but what do mountains represent? A mountain represents a kingdom.

In Revelation 17 is some interesting terminology.

(Revelation 17:9) And here is the mind which hath wisdom. **The seven heads are seven mountains**, on which the woman sitteth.

In other words the mountains **are** the heads. This is the Ancient's concept - that the mountains are where the waters originate and they come down the side of the mountain (or several mountains), and they form a raging river in the valley. The river twists down the valley and it looks like a serpent's body if you were to especially view it from above.

And when the river floods its borders and overgrows its boundaries - it looks as though it is spreading its wings. This is the Ancient's way of thinking.

In our evangelistic series when (if) we talk about this we tend to paint a picture of a huge dinosaur and we totally miss the point of what this beast in Revelation 12 and 17 is about.

In Revelation 12 when it says the mouth spews out water, it means one of the heads of the dragon is spewing out water - and what is a head? The head is a mountain according to Rev. 17:9. And a mountain represents a kingdom. So the mouth/head here in Revelation 12 that is spewing out water is a kingdom.

This is critically important to understand this imagery.

Texts that symbolize a mountain for a kingdom:

Jeremiah 51:25; Micah 4:1, 2; Isaiah 11:6-9; Isaiah 2:2-5

In Daniel 9 we also have the imagery of the river (waters). This is talking here about the invasion of Titus to the city of Jerusalem as a result of the Jews rejecting Christ as the Messiah. Notice the imagery that is used:

(Daniel 9:26) And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people (the Jewish nation) of the prince (Christ) that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary...

Before we read the rest of the verse did the Jews destroy their own city and their own sanctuary? Yes, they did. It was their actions that brought about the destruction.

Who destroyed Jerusalem? (there are three choices to choose from)

1. God
2. Titus
3. Israel



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – January 2, 2015

The answer is - because of the apostasy of Israel God allowed the Roman armies to come and destroy the city. All three are actually true.

(Daniel 9:26) ...and the end thereof shall be with a **flood**, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

So once again an invasion of an army to destroy is compared to a flood.

Here's another text

(Psalm 69:1, 2, 14, 15) Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul.
2 I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me.

Now what does this mean? Maybe he's standing in literal water and can't get out?

14 Deliver me out of the mire, and let me not sink: **let me be delivered from them that hate me, and out of the deep waters.**

15 **Let not the waterflood overflow me**, neither let the deep swallow me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me.

These waters are not any old water - it is the river Euphrates. Where was the river Euphrates located? In Babylon. So the waters that this mouth, this head, spews out in Revelation 12 are the waters of the river Euphrates. And this is so important because soon (in our time) the Euphrates is going to flow again.

In Revelation 17 is this whore seated on many waters? Yes read vs. 1. But was she dismounted from those waters at some point? Yes, this happened in 1798. Did the multitudes at that time cease to support her in 1798? Absolutely. And has she been without support for quite a long time? Yes. But is she gathering support even now - and will the whole world support her sometime very soon? Yes, the waters are going to flow again. But is God going to dry them up again? He will under the sixth plague.

When the water comes in to flood (kill) God's people, God is going to dry up those waters and deliver his people. Does Revelation 12 pick up on this same theme?

(Revelation 12:15) 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**.

Some other translations will say "river" instead of flood.

(Rev. 12:15 - **ESV**) The serpent poured water like a **river** out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a **flood**.

The word "river" and "flood" in this verse are the same Greek word "potamos." We actually get our word for hippopotamus from this word. Hippo means under and potamos means river. It means he swims under the river. But this translation is telling us that the "river" is "the flood".

(Revelation 12:16 - **ESV**) But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed **the river** that the dragon had poured from his mouth.



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – January 2, 2015

River has the definite article - it's not just **a** river or any old river, it's **the** river - the river Euphrates.

Just take notice how Revelation draw a lot on Old Testament terminology. A Jew would be able to understand the book of Revelation much easier (in many areas) because it's drawing from the Old Testament.

(Joshua 24:2, 3, 14-15) And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of **the flood** in old time

This is speaking of the river Euphrates. Many translations will say "the river" instead of "the flood".

(NKJV) And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Your fathers, *including* Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of **the River** in old times;

(NIV) Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond **the Euphrates River** and worshiped other gods.

(RSV) Your fathers lived of old beyond **the Euphra'tes**...

So when the Bible says "The river" - it's speaking of a specific river - the Euphrates.

(Joshua 24:2, 3, 14-15) And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of **the flood** (the river) in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.

3 And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood (the river), and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac.

14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of **the flood**, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of **the flood**, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

The KJV uses flood, which is consistent with Revelation 12 - that the serpent sends a flood out of his mouth. They're connecting that the river Euphrates is a flood.

Genesis 15 calls it "the great river"...

(Genesis 15:18) *In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto **the great river, the river Euphrates**:*

(Revelation 12:15, 16) 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.

So what is the flood that this serpent is spewing out of his mouth? It is **the** river - the Euphrates. But now what happens? Something happens with the waters that the dragon spewed out of his mouth.



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – January 2, 2015

(Revelation 12:16) 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.

In other words the waters are dried up. The persecution ceases. God dries up the water, just like he did in the Old Testament, to save his people.

When do you think they were dried up? It had to be towards the end of the 1260 years because it says the woman was persecuted for “a times, times and half a time.”

So if the flood is persecuting for a time, times, and half a time - it must mean that the waters could not be dried up before because if they were dried up before - then that means the waters didn't persecute for the 1260 years. So it must be in 1798 that the waters are dried up. And when we say 1798 we do understand that there were events that lead to that climatic event. It's like we say the origins of the United States was in 1776 but there were events that happened beforehand that lead up to 1776.

So in 1798 **the** river (Euphrates) is dried up. In other words the head that is spewing out water is no longer spewing out the flood waters. But is the time coming that one of these heads is going to spew out water again? Bible prophecy makes it clear that this is the case and it is going to be **the** river Euphrates (spiritually speaking).

Revelation 17 says the woman is seated on many waters - so are the waters flowing once again? The waters come from the mouth (or one of the heads) and a head is a kingdom. So this beast is riding all the kingdoms. She's in control of the kings of the earth.

When God's people are being persecuted it means the head is alive, and when God's people are not being persecuted it means the head is inactive - it's dead (the deadly wound). But when and after those waters do flow again will they be dried up again? Absolutely - under the sixth plague it says a plague falls on the river Euphrates and its waters are dried up. In other words the people will no longer support and agree with this system and will turn on her.

WEDNESDAY – Satan Evicted

Luke 10:1-21 are highlighted for discussion. A few verses from the passage:

(Luke 10:18, 19) And he said unto them, I beheld **Satan** as lightning **fall from heaven**.
19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and **scorpions**, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

According to the Bible a star can mean several things:

1. A literal star in the heavens. (See the creation story in Gen. 1)
2. God's people (Daniel 12:3)
3. An angel (Job 38:7)

Let's dwell on the third option. Satan is an angel – a fallen angel.



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – January 2, 2015

(Isaiah 14:12) How art thou **fallen from heaven**, **O Lucifer**, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Where did Lucifer – a star – fall from? He fell from heaven. This is what Jesus said. The phrase "Lucifer, son of the morning" actually means "star"

From Strong's # 1966 - the Hebrew word is heylel {hay-lale'}. The definition of heylel (which means Lucifer "light-bearer") 1) shining one, morning star.

Notice how other translations render this phrase:

(Isaiah 14:12 - **NRSV**) How you are fallen from heaven, **O Day Star**, son of Dawn, How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!

(Isaiah 14:12 - **NIV**) How you have fallen from heaven, **morning star**, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

Again, Satan is a "star" and Isaiah says he fell from heaven and Jesus too said he saw Satan fall from heaven.

With this in mind let's read from the 5th Trumpet.

(Revelation 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw **a star fall from heaven** unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

If we allow the Bible to interpret itself what is this star that falls from heaven? By the witness of Jesus and even Isaiah it is the angel – the star, that is Satan.

And notice that the 5th Trumpet even mentions "scorpions."

2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the **scorpions** of the earth have power.

Remember Jesus, after mentioning Satan falling from heaven, also mentions "scorpions" in Luke 10:19.

Many interpret this star that falls from heaven in the 5th Trumpet to be Mohammed. But when we allow the Scriptures to interpret itself we can only come to the conclusion that this star is Satan and the scorpions are his demons/evil spirits.

Satan loves it when we take away the focus off of him. It was he who was cast out of heaven twice. It was literally out of heaven and then at the cross he was cast out of the minds of the angels who may have had questions about the things Satan was saying to them while he was still in heaven. When the angels witnessed what Satan did to Jesus by inspiring God's own professed people to join up with the Roman Empire to kill Jesus they had no more sympathies left for him. They knew he was wrong and a deceiver. And when Jesus was victorious and came forth



from the tomb He conquered the Devil and has now made it possible for us mortals, by His power and grace, to conquer the Devil and his imps too.

THURSDAY – The Continuing Battle

John 16:33 is highlighted.

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me **ye might have peace**. In the world **ye shall have tribulation**: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

It almost sounds like a contradiction. How can we have peace but at the same time have tribulation? According to Jesus we can be at peace while at the same time there is total war on the outside.

Jesus as the perfect example:

In Matthew 8 starting with verse 23 Jesus is on the Sea of Galilee - the elements were totally out of control. There was thunder, lightning and terrible winds. The boat was filling with water.

The disciples were stressed out - there was no peace inside or outside for them. They're bailing water out of the boat - they're trying to save themselves.

The Spirit of Prophecy says a bolt of lightning flashed across the sky and they looked over and they saw Jesus sleeping on a pillow. Did they shout "Lord, don't you care that you're going to drown?" Is that what they said? No, they were worried about their own lives.

Ellen White describes when Jesus stood up in the boat. She said his face had perfect peace. **So just imagine the face of Jesus with perfect peace whereas everything outside and around him was total war**. She says that the reason why his face had peace was not because he knew he had power to calm the storm but because **he trusted in his Father and he knew his Father would protect him**.

These are the storms of life. We need to remember that Jesus is in the boat. And because of this we can have peace --- perfect peace.

Jesus stands and says "Peace, be still." (Mark 4:39) and Ellen White says suddenly everything was gone and the stars came out and were shining. It didn't take half an hour for the clouds to clear out - it happened instantly. There was absolute and complete calm and peace. And the Spirit of Prophecy says that this is what Jesus can do with our lives - if we let him.

(1 Peter 4:13) But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

In the church of Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11) all of these, no doubt, crossed the minds of God's servants when they were being mowed down by the Roman Empire. They had full trust in the Lord. They knew God was testing them. It's interesting that Jesus doesn't have one thing bad to say about the church of Smyrna because they were faithful to the Lord even in the midst of persecution.

The Battle Continues on Earth



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – January 2, 2015

In the book of Revelation the dragon primarily represents Satan.

(Revelation 12:9) And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan...

But Satan works through agencies. **The dragon also represents in the book of Revelation Rome in its various stages.**

With this in mind – the lamb-like beast of Revelation 13 that speaks like a dragon is not only a spokesman for Satan but is also a spokesman for Rome. It will speak like Rome.

Is the dragon Satan working through Rome? Yes, this can be clearly seen when comparing Daniel 7:25 with Revelation 12:14.

(Daniel 7:25) And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and **they shall be given into his hand** (meaning the little horn's hand) **until a time and times and the dividing of time**.

So we have the little horn power persecuting “the saint” for how long? 1260 years. The little horn is a symbol for the Roman Catholic system.

In Daniel 7 we have four kingdoms symbolized by animals.

The first beast was like a Lion and represents Babylon.

The second beast was like a Bear and represents Medo-Persia.

The third was like a Leopard and represents Greece.

The fourth is like a **Dragon** and represents Rome.

We usually call this a non-descript beast but when you compare this fourth beast with the dragon in Revelation 12:1-4 it becomes clear that this fourth beast is a dragon.

Again - What does the fourth beast represent? The fourth beast is clearly Rome, but the fourth beast is portrayed as a what? As a dragon.

In Daniel 7 it has claws of brass and teeth of iron --- and just tramples and breaks in pieces everything in its path (sounds like a Godzilla type of monster doesn't it?). And this description represents Imperial Rome.

This dragon beast in Daniel 7 has ten horns and what do they represent? They represent the ten kingdoms into which Rome was divided. And this was completed by the year 476 A.D.

What does the little horn represent? It represents Papal Rome. Did Papal Rome persecute “the saints” for 1260 years? (yes)

Now let's go to the parallel passage in Revelation 12 (yes this is a parallel passage). Remember Daniel is a prophecy and Revelation is an unfolding of that prophecy. We should be able to find more details in Revelation 12 if this is the case.



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – January 2, 2015

In Revelation 12 we have the dragon persecuting the woman for 1260 years?

(Revelation 12:13, 14) And when **the dragon** saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly 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.

Notice the parallels between the two prophecies:

Daniel 7:25	Revelation 12:13, 14
The little horn	The dragon (vs. 13)
Persecutes	Persecutes (vs. 13)
The saints	The woman (vs. 13, 14)
For “a time, times, and the dividing of time”	For “a time, and times, and half a time” (vs. 14)

So instead of the little horn it's the dragon. Instead of persecuting the saints – it's the woman. And in both passages it is for the 1260 year time period of the Dark Ages. These are parallel passages.

So whose ambassador is the little horn? He's the dragon's ambassador. And the woman is the true church – the saints of the living God – and she is being persecuted for 1260 years.

So who is working behind the little horn power? It is the dragon and Revelation 12:9 says it is Satan himself.

Rome is the **visible** agent on earth and the devil is the **invisible** agent. He's behind the scenes directing the ambitions of Rome.

The various stages of the dragon power

Dragon Stage #1 – It was Satan who stood before the woman to try and kill the man-child (baby Jesus). (Revelation 12:4) ...and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Did Satan literally stand before the woman and try and do this? Or did he use an agent to accomplish his purposes? It was Herod, a ruler of the Roman Empire, who sent out the decree to kill all newborn babies two years and younger. And didn't Satan also use Rome to condemn Jesus to death?

So what does the dragon represent in its fullest understanding? It represents Satan working through his visible empire – Rome – to slay the child.



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – January 2, 2015

Dragon Stage #2 –

(Revelation 13:2) And **the beast** which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and **the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.**

Who does the beast get its power and authority from? The dragon --- and how long does this beast that the dragon gives his power to rule for?

(Revelation 13:5) ...and power was given unto him to continue **forty and two months.**

Forty-two months is the same as 1260 years.

Who is the power behind the beast? It is Satan himself – the dragon. So who is it that actually gives authority to the Papacy (the beast)? The Bible says it's the Devil himself. But who does the world think this system represents? The world thinks this is the religion of Jesus Christ.

Who was the person that helped make this transition of power from the Roman Empire to the Roman Church? It was Constantine.

The Roman Catholic Church received the baton (it's power and authority) from old Rome back in the 4th Century.

Dragon Stage #3 – In Revelation 13 the beast that arises from the earth will speak like a what? It says it will speak like a dragon.

Do you think this must mean that this beast will not only be a spokesman for Satan but also for Rome? There is no doubt on this point.

So the dragon, the beast from the sea, and the beast from the earth are all agents of Satan who operates through the power of Rome --- the Roman Catholic Church.

And Revelation 13:11-18 is the explanation and amplification of Revelation 12:17. It explains the war the dragon will wage against the remnant.

(Revelation 12:17) And 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.

A quick summary:

So who sought to slay the man-child? It was Rome. Who gave their power and seat and great authority to the beast? It was the dragon which is Rome. And when this second beast with the lamb-like horns comes up it will wind up speaking like what? He's speaking like the dragon --- like Rome.



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – January 2, 2015

This phenomenon of Satan working through the instrumentality of Rome is clearly discerned in the three stages of Revelation 12.

Stage #1 of the dragon – It was Satan through Pagan Rome that tried to kill the baby Jesus. (vs. 1-4)

Stage #2 of the dragon – It was Satan through Papal Rome who persecuted the woman for 1260 years after the child ascended to heaven.

Stage #3 of the dragon – It will be the dragon, Satan through resurrected Papal Rome, who will persecute the remnant of the woman's seed when the deadly wound is healed.

The dragon is involved in all stages. He tries to kill the man-child, he goes after the woman for 1260 years, and then after the earth helps the woman it says the dragon is furious with this woman and goes to make a final war against the remnant of her seed.