

Introduction

Though the seventh trumpet was recorded in 11:15 as sounding, the details of what will come out of the seventh trumpet are not revealed until chapter 16. Accordingly chapters 12-15 view the prophecies of the end time from another perspective and introduce the great personages who are involved in the second half of the seven-year period.

Many have pointed out that seven personages appear in chapters 12-13: (1) a woman clothed with the sun, representing Israel (12:1-2); (2) the red dragon with seven heads and 10 horns, representing Satan (12:3-4); (3) the male Child, representing Christ (12:5-6); (4) the archangel Michael, casting Satan out of heaven (12:7-12); (5) the offspring of the woman, persecuted by the dragon (12:13-17); (6) the beast out of the sea, the future world dictator (13:2-10); (7) the beast out of the earth, the false prophet (13:11-18). These chapters do not advance the narrative chronologically, but present events and situations that are concurrent with the soundings of the trumpets. Chronological progress of events resumes in chapter 16.¹

- 1A. The Woman, the Child and the Dragon (12:1-6)
The woman and The woman symbolizes Israel, as indicated by Genesis 37:9-11, where the sun and the moon refer to Jacob and Rachel, Joseph's parents. The stars in the woman's crown relate to the twelve sons of Jacob and identify the woman as Israel giving birth to the Son who would fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant (see Gal. 3:15-16; Isa. 7:14; 2 Sam. 7:12, 13, 16; Luke 1:30-33). Isaiah 60:1-3, 20 make it clear the sun refers to Israel's future glory.
- 2A. Satan thrown out of heaven (12:7-12)
Satan's rebellion against God is recorded in Ezekiel 28:11-19 and Isaiah 14:12-21. And though God pronounced judgment against him, the sentence has not been fully carried out – until now! He is cast from heaven to earth for his last hurrah!
- 3A. The woman persecuted (12:13-17)
At the midpoint of the week, the temple is desecrated and persecution of the Jews escalates as never before in history. Matthew 24:16 instructs those living in Judea to flee to the mountains – perhaps to Petra in modern Jordan.
- 4A. The Beast from the Sea (13:1-10)
This is the one commonly referred to as the Antichrist. See attached essay for details.
- 5A. The Beast from the Land (13:11-18)
The second beast had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon, that is, like Satan. From this it can be gathered that he will be a religious character whose role will be to support the political ruler, the first beast. He will have great authority derived from Satan and the political

¹Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (2:959). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

ruler, and he will make the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, the one whose fatal wound will have been healed.

This false religious system no doubt will be designed by Satan to imitate the divine Trinity. Satan seeks to take the place of God the Father; the first beast assumes the place of Jesus Christ, the Son, the King of kings; and the second beast, the false prophet, whose role is to be similar to that of the Holy Spirit who causes Christians to worship God. This is Satan's final attempt to substitute a false religion for true faith in Christ.²

²Ibid. p.962