



There was once a little girl named Rachel who was very afraid of the dark. One evening, her beloved dog Tippy ran away. Although she called and called, Tippy did not come home. Late that night, after her family went to sleep, Rachel heard barking. She was sure it was Tippy. It was very dark outside; and any other night, Rachel would not have even dared to look out her window. But this night, she forgot her fear. Rushing outside, she ran to catch Tippy and brought him home.

**Love for Tippy conquered Rachel's fear of the dark. In this lesson, we are going to find out how love for God can conquer even the fear of death.**

In almost every lesson, we are learning a new symbol from prophecy. In the last lesson we talked about the seal of God found in Revelation 7. In this lesson we will discover several new symbols that will help us understand Revelation 12.

Use the Bible to fill in the correct meaning for each symbol.

- 1 **Revelation 12:9** Dragon or serpent = \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 **Revelation 1:20** Stars = \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 **Jeremiah 6:2** Woman = \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 **Revelation 17:15** Water = \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 **Luke 2:7** Baby = \_\_\_\_\_

**Let's put together these clues and find out the meaning of the vision that John saw in Revelation 12.**

- 6 **Revelation 12:1** "Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a \_\_\_\_\_ clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars."

John saw a woman, which is a symbol for God's people, or the church. Now we need to figure out if this is a faithful or unfaithful church.

Solomon said his pure bride was as "fair as the moon" and "clear as the sun" (Song of Solomon 6:10). When Jesus was glorified in front of His disciples, "His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light" (Matthew 17:2). Clearly, this woman represents a faithful church.



- 7 What did John see next?  
**Revelation 12:2-4** "Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red \_\_\_\_\_ having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a \_\_\_\_\_ of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born."

This reminds us of something Jesus said. "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Luke 10:18). The vision John saw helps us understand more of this story. It says that Satan was cast out of heaven and his angels (symbolized by stars) were cast out with him.

- 8 What proportion of the angels in heaven joined Satan?  
a. 1/4                      b. 1/3                      c. 1/2

- 9 Who is the child John saw in his vision?  
**Revelation 12:5** "She bore a male Child who was to rule \_\_\_\_\_ nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne."

This is talking about Jesus. (See Psalm 2:7-9 and Revelation 19:15, 16.)



What about that rod of iron with which Jesus would rule all the nations? In those days, shepherds carried a rod of iron and a staff. The shepherd's staff had a hook on it, so it could be used to catch lost sheep. The rod of iron was used to defend them.

Psalm 23 likens Jesus to our faithful shepherd. It says that His rod and staff comfort us. With the staff, He comes after us if we are lost, and with the rod He protects us.

- 10 After her Child was taken to heaven, what did the woman have to do?  
**Revelation 12:6** "Then the woman fled into the \_\_\_\_\_, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days."



- 11 Did you notice this prophetic time period—1,260 days? In symbolic Bible prophecy, one day equals one literal year. (Numbers 14:34.) So for how many literal years would the woman be in the wilderness? \_\_\_\_\_

Remember, that is how long the papacy ruled in the Dark Ages. It ruled from A.D. 538 – A.D. 1798. Revelation 13:2 says that Satan is the one who gave his power, seat, and great authority to this church. During the 1,260 years of papal supremacy, the watching universe had an opportunity to see how Satan would rule our whole world and the universe if he were in charge.

Where were God's faithful people hiding during this time? In the wilderness. There Jesus fed His people with His living Word, the Bible. (Matthew 4:4; John 6:48.) So the light of God's truth was not wholly put out.

**Next, John saw in his vision something that had happened before our world was made. This helped him understand where Satan came from, and why he was so angry at Jesus and His church.**

- 12 What did John see next in his vision?  
**Revelation 12:7-9** "And \_\_\_\_\_ broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did \_\_\_\_\_ prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the \_\_\_\_\_, and his angels were cast out with him."

Long before our world was made, God made many beautiful angels. They were all perfect, and they lived in heaven. The most beautiful angel, Lucifer, became proud and rebelled against his Creator. He wanted to exalt himself above God. He wanted the angels to worship and obey him instead of Jesus (called Michael in this verse). You can read more about it in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28.



Of course, Lucifer and his followers had to leave heaven, and his name was changed to Satan. Satan has been angry at Jesus ever since.

**Why didn't God just destroy Satan instantly?**

If God had killed Satan immediately, everyone in the universe would have wondered if perhaps Satan was right, after all. They would have thought, "Maybe Satan's ideas really are better than God's, and God just doesn't want us to know it." Then the angels would have obeyed God because they were afraid of Him. But God only wants His creatures to obey because they love Him and are sure that His way is really best. (John 14:15.) So God let Satan live and show everyone what his government is really like.

When Adam and Eve chose to listen to Satan in Eden, they were saying that they agreed with Satan, and that they trusted Satan more than God. Because of their choice, the battle between Satan and Jesus moved to our earth.

What a lot of sadness and suffering came because of the way Satan ruled our world!

Then, when Jesus finally came to our world and the entire universe saw all the terrible things Satan did to Him, they had no more questions about who was right. All the angels could see that God is kind, loving, and completely unselfish. And Satan was unmasked as a mean, cruel, hateful tyrant.

**Because of Jesus' perfect life, His death on the cross, and His amazing resurrection, Satan knew that his cause was now completely hopeless. Someday he and his angels will be destroyed.**

**13** Jesus went back to heaven, and Satan couldn't tempt and hurt Him anymore. So what did he do to Jesus' faithful followers?  
**Revelation 12:13** "Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he \_\_\_\_\_ the woman who gave birth to the male Child."

**14** How did God protect His special people from Satan's anger?  
**Revelation 12:14** "But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might \_\_\_\_\_ into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent."

This verse should sound familiar. We just read a very similar verse earlier in the chapter. God's people were protected in the wilderness "for a time and times and half a time." That's the same as the 1,260 days in verse 6. We have already learned about this time. It's the Dark Ages when Satan used the apostate church to persecute God's faithful people. The only way they could worship God and study the Bible in peace and safety was to flee to lonely and desolate places.



**What John wrote next gives us a few more details about this time period.**

**15** What did Satan, the serpent, do to try to destroy the woman?  
**Revelation 12:15, 16** "So the serpent spewed \_\_\_\_\_ out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the \_\_\_\_\_ helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth."

Water is a symbol for people. (Revelation 17:15.) Through the apostate church, Satan sent huge armies to destroy God's people. Although millions of God's people were killed, a small number, or remnant, was able to escape.

Many of these people came to America, a very desolate land, to escape persecution.

**16** What happened next?  
**Revelation 12:17** "And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to \_\_\_\_\_ with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

**If we keep God's commandments and have the testimony of Jesus, Satan is especially angry at us.**

Revelation 12:10-12 says, "Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.'"

**17** According to these verses, why is the devil so very angry?

- a. Because he hates God.
- b. Because he thinks God is being unfair.
- c. Because he knows that he has only a short time left to tempt people.
- d. Because he knows that he can't tempt people anymore.

We can be so thankful that Satan has only a short time left to tempt and annoy people.

**What is it that makes you afraid? Some people are afraid of the dark; others are afraid of spiders or snakes. Many are afraid of getting hurt or embarrassed. Some people are afraid of Satan and what he might do to hurt them.**



What about Jesus? When He lived in our world, do you think He had a reason to be fearful knowing what was about to happen to Him? Jesus knew that people would pull hair out of His beard, spit on Him, put a crown of thorns on His head, and drive nails through His hands and feet.



**18** How was Jesus able to have such courage, and what helped Him to go through all that so bravely?  
**1 John 4:18** "There is \_\_\_\_\_ fear in \_\_\_\_\_; but perfect love casts out fear."

Jesus had such a perfect love for us that all fear was gone. Fear did not control Him. Because of His perfect love, He could save you even at the cost of Himself.



**If Jesus put that kind of love for Him in your heart, could you do anything for Him?**

Satan thinks he has a powerful tool in fear. In the next lesson we will learn about a terrible trial into which Satan is going to plunge our entire world. He is going to try to use fear to scare people into not keeping God's Ten Commandments. Thankfully, **love is much more powerful than fear.**

Remember the story of Rachel and Tippy? Love for her dog was stronger than her fear of the dark. Love conquered her fears.

**Love puts fear in its right place. If we have perfect love for Jesus, we would rather die than disobey and dishonor Him.**

**19** What does Jesus promise us?  
**Isaiah 41:10** "Fear \_\_\_\_\_, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."  
**Isaiah 43:2** "When you pass through the waters, I will be \_\_\_\_\_ you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you."  
**John 14:27** "Peace I leave with you, My \_\_\_\_\_ I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."  
**Psalms 56:3** "Whenever I am afraid, I will \_\_\_\_\_ in You."

These promises are so special. We do not have to be afraid of the trials and temptations Satan has planned. Instead, let's learn to trust Jesus.

**20** Are you willing to trust Jesus with all your heart? When you start to get scared, will you ask Him to fill you with His love and make you brave? \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers**

- |                   |                   |                       |                        |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. devil or Satan | 6. woman          | 11. 1,260             | 16. make war           |
| 2. angels         | 7. dragon / third | 12. war / not / earth | 17. c                  |
| 3. church         | 8. b              | 13. persecuted        | 18. no / love          |
| 4. people         | 9. all            | 14. fly               | 19. not / with / peace |
| 5. Jesus          | 10. wilderness    | 15. water / earth     | / trust                |