

# **The Sign of the Dragon**

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# **The Sign of the Dragon**

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## **Summary**

Revelation 12 is not a popular chapter, but I believe it is the only chapter in the Bible that tells us what signs must be fulfilled before the rapture happens. It also explains why the rapture must occur and what events take place immediately afterward.

This document is going to take a close look at that chapter. Here are the nine verses that we are going to analyze:

**Revelation 12:1-9:** "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. 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 his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. 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. And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was

cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

There is a great deal of material in that passage. Before we begin, however, I want to give you a summary of what we are going to talk about. (I'm going to state my claims, then explain my reasons for them, and finally summarize my claims once more at the end.) Based on Old Testament prophecy and the additional information we find in Revelation 12, I believe this is how events will unfold:

1. The United States will find itself in a position where it is no longer defending Israel. (This may be due to a change in policy, or because the United States has become weakened and is no longer able to provide support.)
2. Israel will begin to suffer and be in great pain. It will cry out for help.
3. Once Israel is in pain, the devil and his demonic army will invade this world in a highly visible way (most likely pretending to be aliens). In spite of why they claim they are here, the true reason they have come is because they know the rapture is near and they plan on attacking the church the moment *after* the saints are resurrected.
4. The Lord Jesus Christ will return to this world and resurrect the saints. He will snatch them out of this world before the devil can attack, and bring them to Heaven.
5. The devil will follow the saints to Heaven and try to attack them there. The devil and his demons will fight against Michael and his angels. The devil will lose and be cast out of Heaven forever.
6. Back on Earth, Israel will be attacked by a united coalition of her immediate neighbors. Israel will be severely damaged and a great multitude of her people will be killed, but the nation will not be completely destroyed.

However, Syria will be utterly destroyed, Damascus will be reduced to rubble, and Egypt will be so severely damaged that the nation will be abandoned for 40 years. Israel will win and her neighboring countries will be defeated.

7. Civilization will collapse. Modern technology will be lost, and mankind will revert to a more primitive state.
8. The world will spend a long time in this primitive state (perhaps decades or even centuries). During that time God will bless Israel, and they will become a rich and prosperous nation with much cattle (which will be coveted in a post-apocalyptic world). Since Israel already defeated all the hostile nations around her, she will no longer worry about her defense. Her cities will have no walls and her people will dwell carelessly.
9. While mankind is in this primitive state, Gog-Magog will invade Israel in order to steal her riches and cattle. The Lord will fight against Gog and save Israel in a miraculous way. Israel will spend 7 months burying the dead and 7 years burning the primitive wooden weapons from Gog's army.
10. During this time the demons (who are probably still posing as aliens) will try to create a hybrid race that's part demon and part alien. The purpose of this (regardless of what they claim) will be to change mankind's DNA to make people no longer human, and therefore ineligible for salvation. (This is probably what the Mark of the Beast actually does. Those who take it become non-human and therefore cannot be saved.)
11. The city of Babylon will be rebuilt and gain power over the world. The 10 demonic kings that appeared with the devil before the rapture will divide the world among themselves. Over time technology is reintroduced. The antichrist will appear and start to gain power.
12. Israel will become afraid and sign a treaty with the antichrist. This treaty will start the seven-year tribulation

period.

I realize a lot of this is quite different from the way that most people interpret Bible prophecy. Why do I believe these things? Well, let's take a closer look at the Sign of the Woman and the Sign of the Dragon.

## ***The Sign of the Woman***

In Revelation 12 we are given two signs: the Sign of the Woman and the Sign of the Dragon. I believe that both of these signs must take place before the rapture, and they can be used as “signs of the times”. Once both of these signs have come to pass, we will know that the hour of our Lord's return is very near.

(Before we begin, you might wonder why signs that talk about the rapture would be found so far into the book of Revelation. Since the rapture takes place before the tribulation, why not put those signs at the beginning of the book? What we need to remember is that in ancient times books were written on a *scroll*. If you rolled a scroll up from both sides and then began to unroll it, do you know what part of the text you would see first? *The middle*. That's exactly where we find this chapter.)

The first sign in Revelation 12 is the Sign of the Woman:

**Revelation 12:1-5:** “1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. 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 his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for



to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.”

What does this sign mean? What does it depict and how can we recognize it when it happens?

Well, first of all, in order to decipher this sign we need to use the Bible. The symbolism in the Bible is *not* open to private interpretations! Instead God has provided the interpretation for the symbols He uses in the Scriptures. If we want to understand any symbolism in the Bible, all we need to do is look up the answer in other passages and we will be able to understand what's going on.

The first symbol in this passage is the woman. When women are used symbolically in the Scriptures they always stand for some sort of religion (either good or bad). In this case the woman is depicted with the sun, moon, and twelve stars. This same sign can be found in Genesis 37:9. The woman with the twelve stars represents the nation of Israel, and the twelve stars represents the twelve tribes. All throughout the Old Testament the nation of Israel is compared to a woman. It's highly unlikely that the woman represents the church because the church is called the *bride* of Christ – in other words, the church is unmarried! Israel, though, was the *wife* of Jehovah (Jeremiah 3:14). The woman who is giving birth is *not* the unwed church, but is the nation of Israel.

Who is the child that she gives birth to? Well, people usually assume it's Jesus but I think that interpretation is incorrect. The book of Revelation was written to tell us things that *had not yet taken place at the time it was written* (Revelation 4:1). The birth of Jesus was already in the past when John wrote Revelation! Besides, the details of the passage don't match what happened at His birth. It's true that Jesus was threatened by Herod shortly after He was born, but He avoided that threat by moving to Egypt for a time. He didn't ascend up to Heaven until after His

crucifixion and resurrection – and when He did ascend He wasn't in any danger. By that point in His life the dragon (the devil) was no longer threatening Him. Revelation 12:5 doesn't describe the life of Jesus at all. This passage is talking about a child who was saved from the devil by being taken up to Heaven immediately after its birth. That didn't happen to Jesus!

Second, the phrase “caught up” in verse 5 is “harpazo” – the same Greek word that's used in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 to describe the rapture. According to Strong's it means to seize or catch away, and carries the idea of "force suddenly exercised". It does *not* refer to a slow, steady ascension! Instead it means to grab something suddenly with great force and yank it away. That word is *not* used in Acts 1 to refer to the ascension of the Lord, but it *is* used in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 when Paul is talking about the rapture! When Paul says that we will be "caught up" to meet the Lord in the air, that was the word he used.

I believe that verse 5 is talking about the rapture of the church. Revelation 2:27 says that the church will reign with Christ over the world and rule with a rod of iron – which is exactly what Revelation 12:5 says. The church is a much better match for the identity of the child! Plus, the church was indeed born out of Israel. The apostle Paul told us that we were a wild branch that was grafted into the family of God (Romans 11:17). It also makes sense from a timeline perspective. The book of Revelation is talking about things that will happen in the *future*. The ascension of Christ was already in the past when John wrote it, but the rapture was still to come.

This passage is telling us that there will come a time when the woman (Israel) will be in great pain because she's about to give birth (to the resurrected church). When her labor pains arrive, the dragon (which is identified as the devil in Revelation 12:9) will be present in order to attack the child as soon as it's born. However, once the child is born it will immediately be snatched up to Heaven to save it from the dragon.

The most straightforward interpretation of this passage is that at some point in the future the modern nation of Israel is

going to be in pain that's worse than anything it has experienced since it became a nation again in 1948. When these "labor pains" take place, the devil and his demonic army will move into position. He's not planning on attacking the church before the rapture because we will just be resurrected when the Lord returns. Instead he wants to get into position so he can attack us *after* the rapture. After all, that's what the text says! The rapture is when we will be "born again". That is the day when the saints of God will put off their mortal bodies and become incorruptible and immortal. If the day of Pentecost was the day the church was conceived, the rapture is the day the church is born. It's not clear what the devil hopes to gain by attacking us as soon as we're resurrected, but Revelation 12 tells us that's his plan. The reason Jesus immediately removes us from this world is to spare us from the wrath of the devil, who wants to "devour" the resurrected church. When the devil's plan fails he will follow us to Heaven in order to attack us there. Michael and his angels will fight against the devil and his demons, and the demonic forces will lose and be cast out of Heaven forever (Revelation 12:7-10).

When will the sign of the woman be fulfilled? Well, there are several clues in this passage that give us that answer. We are told that the sign appears in heaven and consists of a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and a crown of twelve stars.

I think it's reasonable to say that this sign appears in the sky, and the woman is a constellation. After all, where else would you find a sign that's composed of the sun, moon, and stars? (The word translated "heaven" is Strong's #3772, which can indeed mean "the sky".)

It should be noted that when God created the stars, one of His reasons for doing so was so they could serve as *signs* (Genesis 1:14). Throughout the Bible the Lord used the "lights in the firmament of heaven" as signs. At the birth of Christ the wise men saw the famous star that led them to Jesus (Matthew 2:2, 2:9-10). Matthew 24:30 says that before Christ returns at the end of

the tribulation He will be preceded by the "sign of the Son of Man in heaven". God has used signs in the sky to tell people about the birth of Christ, and He will use another sign in the sky to tell mankind about Christ's return. Given this history and the fact that the sign of Revelation 12 is composed of the sun, moon, and stars, I think it's reasonable to conclude that this is an actual sign in the sky. That's the most straightforward way to approach this passage.

We know that the woman represents Israel, but how is the woman depicted as a constellation in the sky? Well, there are all sorts of different constellations that are recognized by societies all over the world. According to the International Astronomical Union (IAU) there are 88 official constellations that are recognized by modern civilization. However I think we can narrow this list down by using a few basic criteria.

First of all, the constellation needs to depict a woman. That's clear from the text. Second, it needs to be part of the zodiac. If you look up the word "zodiac" in a dictionary you will find that the zodiac is composed of the constellations that are in the path of the sun, moon, and planets. Since the sign of Revelation 12 is made up of the sun and moon, that means it has to be part of the zodiac. If the constellation wasn't part of the zodiac then the sun and moon wouldn't be able to pass through it! Finally it needs to be a constellation that was recognized by the ancient world. The book of Revelation was written two thousand years ago. It makes sense that John was talking about a constellation that was known in *his* day – not something that a completely different culture would invent millennia later.

That makes the identification rather simple. The IAU states that there are only three constellations that depict a woman: Andromeda (the chained maiden), Cassiopeia (the seated queen), and Virgo (the maiden). Of these three possibilities there's only one constellation that was part of the zodiac in ancient times (or today, for that matter), and that is the constellation Virgo. There are no other constellations that could fulfill this sign.

Revelation tells us that the woman will be clothed with the sun and have the moon under her feet. The alignment of the moon

is not a great mystery: it's simply stating that when this sign is fulfilled the moon will be positioned under her feet. Since Virgo is a part of the zodiac, that happens on a regular basis. Virgo can fulfill that requirement.

However, the sun is more challenging. Given that the sun's appearance in the sky is much smaller than the constellation Virgo, how can Virgo possibly be clothed with the sun? Well, in Roman times (when the book of Revelation was written) it was common for people to wear garments that were fastened together at the shoulder by a brooch. In the constellation Virgo the sun occasionally appears on her shoulder, right where the ancient Romans fastened their clothing. If you were going to clothe this constellation with the sun then that's how you would do it. We are therefore looking for a time when the moon is at Virgo's feet and the sun is at her shoulder.

If the woman of Revelation 12 is the constellation Virgo then what is her crown of twelve stars? Well, as we know, the night sky is full of stars. According to EarthSky there are around 5000 stars that can be seen without a telescope. (There are a lot more stars that can be seen *with* a telescope, but since you need modern equipment to see them I think it's safe to rule them out.) Now, 2 Peter 1:20 tells us that no prophecy in the Scripture "is of any private interpretation". That means you're not at liberty to assign your own personal meaning to something! It's highly unlikely that we should just pick twelve random stars above Virgo's head and call it a day. After all, if we did that then we'd never be able to recognize the sign. The selection of stars would be completely arbitrary.

It's far more likely that the crown of twelve stars is something that's clear and easy to define. Since Virgo is part of the zodiac it makes sense to look at the only constellation in the zodiac that's directly above Virgo, which is Leo the lion. The most common depiction of Leo throughout history has contained nine stars.

You might be wondering how a 9-star Leo could possibly serve as a 12 star crown. The answer to this riddle is the fact that

the Bible describes planets as *wandering stars* (see Jude 1:13). In ancient times people grouped planets and stars into the same general category. The ancient world knew of five planets in the night sky: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. Because Leo is in the zodiac, these planets regularly make their way through that constellation. It's very common for one or two planets to appear in Leo. However, it's quite rare for there to be *three* planets in Leo. If the crown is composed of a 9-star Leo and three additional planets then we would have a rare sign.

In other words, Virgo is the only constellation that can represent the woman. Leo is the only constellation in the zodiac that's directly above Virgo. The 9-star Leo has been the most common rendition of that constellation throughout history. This means we're looking for a date in history when the constellation Virgo has the sun on her shoulder, the moon at her feet, and three planets in the constellation Leo over her head.

But there's one more criteria that must be met. Revelation 12:2 tells us that this woman is "with child" – she's pregnant. That means there has to be a celestial object inside the constellation Virgo in order for this sign to be fulfilled, and it needs to reside inside the constellation for the normal length of a pregnancy (37 to 41 weeks).

Now, the stars all move together as a group so it's impossible for a star to wander out of its place and appear in a different constellation. That means the object that represents the child must be something that can move in relation to the other stars. Since it's impossible for the sun or moon to stay inside Virgo for nine months, the only candidates left are the planets.

In order for a planet to be inside the same constellation for nine months it has to engage in something called "retrograde motion". That happens when, due to orbital mechanics, a planet appears to move backward in the sky. We are looking for a planet that goes into retrograde at exactly the right time so that, when combined with its normal orbit, the planet resides inside Virgo for the length of a normal human pregnancy. Of the five planets known to the ancient world, there is only one planet that ever

does this. That is the planet Jupiter.

This gives us our final criteria. We are looking for a time when:

- The constellation Virgo will have the sun on her shoulder
- The constellation Virgo will have the moon by her feet
- The constellation Leo will be joined by three planets
- The planet Jupiter will reside inside Virgo for nine months and then exit

Given this set of criteria, when do all of these things take place? Well, once you define the criteria the rest is just a matter of math. There's only one date when all of these criteria are met. There are a few other dates when *some* of the criteria are met, but if you look 6000 years into the past or 1000 years into the future there's only one date when *all* of the criteria are met. That date is September 23, 2017. On that day in history (and *only* that day), the sign that the apostle John saw appeared in the sky.

I realize that date is in the past, not the future. That tells me God has given us a sign in the sky to tell us that the events which lead to the rapture has started, and our remaining time is limited. The first great sign has come and gone and the final countdown has begun.

## ***The Sign of the Dragon***

The second sign in Revelation 12 is the Sign of the Dragon:

**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 his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood

before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”

This sign doesn't appear until the woman is experiencing intense labor pains and is about to give birth (see Revelation 12:2). This means that we shouldn't expect to see these events take place until Israel is suffering greatly (perhaps in some way that threatens her very existence). This distress will be a sign that the birth of the church (the rapture) is near. As we can see from the verse 3, the dragon appears *after* the woman cries out in pain.

The dragon arrives in order to accomplish one thing: the murder of the child. However, as we can see from verse 4, he's not going to try to devour the child until *after* it's born. That means his plan is to be in position *before* the rapture so he can strike as soon as we're raised from the dead. (Yes, this is a very foolish thing for him to attempt. He has no chance of success and is certain to be defeated. However, this is the same being who thought he could kill Jesus and win. He has a history of doing things that can only result in his defeat.)

How will we know when this passage has been fulfilled? The text tells us that the dragon will appear in the sky with an enormous collection of “stars”, or fallen angels. (The Bible does use the symbolism of “stars” to describe angelic beings, as we can see in Job 38:7. Demons are actually angels that have rebelled against God.) When the devil comes to “devour” the resurrected church he will appear with a very visible army. The devil will fill the sky and cast his wicked demons to this world in an act that is compared to a meteor shower.

I believe he is going to disguise his presence as a “first contact” UFO invasion. There's a strong argument to be made that the UFO phenomenon is actually demonic. I realize that seems like a bizarre thing to say, but a lot of people don't realize that the supposed aliens in the UFOs are peddling a *belief system*. There are millions of people who believe in aliens *and have accepted the religious system they're teaching*. If belief in aliens was



classified as a cult it would be one of the largest in the country. To put it into perspective: the number of people in this country who claim to have met aliens is about the same as the number of Mormons! If you read the messages that were supposedly written by these “aliens” and listen to what abductees have to say, you'll discover that the aliens are peddling a religion that has turned many people away from God.

UFO sightings are not a recent occurrence. There are reports of UFOs in documents from ancient Egypt, Rome, and during the Middle Ages. A UFO was seen in Boston in 1639 – and there are many other cases as well. What has changed in the last hundred years is the *frequency* of the sightings. In the past they were rare, but now they're common. People have always been seeing strange things in the sky, but now it's more common than ever before – and there's a very disturbing spiritual component to this.

If you ever sit down and read a book about people who claim to have been abducted by aliens you'll discover some rather odd trends. First of all, the message that the aliens are bringing tends to be very religious. They don't want to talk about science, or their home planet, or what their lives are like. Instead they want to talk about *religion*. The aliens spend a great deal of time trying to convince people that Christianity is a hoax. Of all the religions in the world, Christianity is the one that's singled out and attacked. For some reason the aliens hate Christianity with a passion. They don't usually attack any other religions; they just focus on Christianity.

The aliens make many claims that contradict the Bible. For instance, aliens claim that we had past lives:

“Then [the alien] said that it was my choice, that I agreed to all this a long time ago. I said I didn't remember the agreement ... and he answered, 'Before you were born, and we've had this conversation before.' [Taken, p147]

They claim that they are here to help us, and if we join them we can become one with the Creator (which is a pagan belief known as “pantheism”):

“People on Earth, open your doors to our help, for you need it desperately ... Join our Confederation and be one with the Creator.”

The aliens claim that they (not God) created mankind:

“Did you create humans, too?” [the abducted woman] asked, and he confirmed this.” [*Taken*, p157]

“Aliens genetically changed the DNA of a distant cousin to the ape on this planet ... the aliens took the natural evolution and sped it up.” [*Alien Contact*, p178-9]

The aliens claim that the Bible is not accurate:

“Not all stories in your Bible are accurate because your Bible is not 100% correct...” [*Alien Contact*, p177-8]

The aliens claim that Jesus was an alien:

“The messages include ... exhortations to put the world in order by returning to the 'Cosmic Laws' as taught by great Masters such as Jesus, Buddha, and Krishna – all of whom are said to have come from other planets” [*Aetherius Society*, p12-3]

“The millions that come from other worlds, from far-off galaxies to assist in bringing peace upon

Earth, have my staunch support... I am Sandanda, known to you as Jesus the Christ... I am Sandanda, and this is my message to the world." [*Project World Evacuation*, p8-9]

"The most controversial thing is the ascension and resurrection of Christ. You see, he went up to a UFO in a beam..." [*Alien Contact*, p177-8]

"the creators therefore arranged for a child to be born of a woman of the Earth and one of their own people (aliens). The child in question (Jesus Christ) would thereby inherit certain telepathic faculties which humans lack... Mary was the woman chosen..." [*The True Face Of God*, p60]

There's a great deal more, but I think you get the point. Many people are taking the message from these "aliens" very seriously, and their lives and beliefs are being radically changed. These aliens are spending a great deal of time trying to convince people that Christianity is false – and they're being very effective. Aliens claim that Jesus didn't actually die; instead He was just beamed up to a UFO and scientifically revived. They claim that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was an alien. They claim that Jesus wasn't sent here to save us from our sins but to help us advance scientifically – and on and on it goes.

The point is that these supposed aliens spend a great deal of time attacking the Bible, Jesus Christ, and the gospel. Their message is primarily a religious, New Age message that's a *direct attack on Christianity*. The aliens are spending their time spreading a false gospel and promoting a false religion! Isn't that interesting?

Sadly, their message is having a *tremendous* impact. People are believing what the aliens are telling them. One person put it this way:

“My belief system went right out the window”  
(1 in 40, p322-3).

After encountering aliens, people are drawn away from Christianity and plunged into the occult. Alien encounters have the effect of changing people's worldview. In many cases alien abductions turn into *conversion experiences*, as people are shocked by what happened and accept a false gospel. Each year more people are becoming interested in what the aliens have to say. The message that the aliens bring is that the Bible is false, Jesus can't save you from your sins, the Earth is on the verge of a terrible crisis, and the only way to save mankind is to reject Christianity and put your faith in aliens. What we're dealing with is a dangerous religion that has led countless lives astray.

All of this brings up a question: does it seem likely to you that genuine extraterrestrial beings would travel thousands of light-years across space just to come to Earth and tell people that the Bible is wrong? Does it seem likely that an advanced race of beings with superior intelligence and amazing powers would spend their time torturing people, sexually molesting them, performing horrifying medical experiments on live subjects, and preaching a false gospel to them?

Dr. Jacques Vallee put it this way:

“The 'medical examination' to which abductees are said to be subjected, often accompanied by sadistic sexual manipulation, is reminiscent of the medieval tales of encounters with demons. It makes no sense in a sophisticated or technical framework: any intelligent being equipped with the scientific marvels that UFOs possess would be in a position to achieve any of these alleged scientific objectives in a shorter period of time with fewer risks.” [Confrontations, p13]

John Keel was more blunt:

"The UFO manifestations seem to be, by and large, merely minor variations of the age-old demonological phenomenon..." [Operation Trojan Horse, p299]

What do we know about these supposed aliens? Well, based on abduction reports the aliens are sadistic, cruel, and heartless. They have tremendous powers, and they use those powers to torture people and molest them. Above all else, though, they attack Jesus Christ, the Bible, and the gospel. Given that profile, isn't it possible that what we're actually dealing with are *demons*? What if these beings aren't aliens at all but are actually evil spirits *posing* as aliens in order to peddle a false gospel and inflict horror? This does fit the profile of what we know about them, and the Bible does say that demons are deceitful spirits (John 8:44).

There's another reason to suspect that these alien encounters are actually demonic: born-again, Bible-believing Christians *have never been abducted*. Unbelievers are abducted on a regular basis, and people who are involved in the occult are especially likely to have an encounter. According to researchers, virtually *all* abductees had some sort of prior involvement with the occult before they were abducted. They're usually people who are involved in mysticism or New Age cults, and who have rejected Christianity. However, Christians are *not* abducted! In the tens of thousands of abduction cases that have been studied, *not one* has ever been reported by a Bible-believing Christian.

On top of that, it turns out there's only one way to stop an alien abduction. In nearly all cases, the people who were abducted had no power over what happened. The aliens simply took them and there was nothing they could do about it. In a few cases, though, people were able to stop the abduction. How did they do it? In every case it was the same: *they called on the name of Jesus*. Even though the abducted people weren't Christians, when they called on Jesus the aliens became terrified. The name of

Jesus made them flee.

Is there a group of powerful, supernatural beings which hates Christianity and is terrified of the name of Jesus? Yes there is: *demons*. The Bible tells us that demons are terrified of the Lord:

**Matthew 8:28-29:** "And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?"

Does this mean that demons are building spaceships and flying them to Earth? No, it doesn't. Researchers believe that UFOs are not material objects. In other words, *they are a deception*. Without going into too much detail, even *secular* researchers are beginning to speculate that UFOs are a psychic phenomenon. In other words, what the person is seeing isn't actually real and doesn't actually exist; it's just a deception that is planted into their mind. As one person said:

"I have even come to suspect that, in some instances, what we have been terming "spaceships" may actually be a form of higher intelligence rather than vehicles transporting occupants ... I feel, too, that these intelligences have the ability to influence the human mind telepathically in order to project what appear to be three dimensional images to the witnesses of UFO activity." (UFO: End-Time Delusion, p124)

Another person put it this way:

“John Keel, one of the most respected researchers in this field, noted that “over and over again, witnesses have told me in hushed tones, 'you know, I don't think that thing I saw was mechanical at all. I got the distinct impression it was alive.'” (UFO: End-Times Delusion, p130)

In some rare cases physical evidence of the sighting is left behind in the form of odors, baked earth, charred plants, electrical interference, and even sunburn. However, all of those phenomena could be explained by manipulating energy fields. This is how one expert put it:

“Drawing from what we know can happen in seances and poltergeist activity, it seems that these supernatural forces can manipulate matter and energy, extracting energy from the atmosphere, for example (which manifests as a local temperature change) ... and I guess my feeling is that on a larger scale this is what a UFO could be. It seems to me likely that UFOs are large-scale violations of the second law in which energy is arranged to take on enough of a force field appearance so that it appears to look like matter, yet it's really just energy concentration...” (UFO: End-Times Delusion, p130)

The evidence points to the conclusion that UFO sightings are being *faked* by very advanced beings who have the ability to work with energy fields and mess with people's minds. However, the UFOs themselves *aren't actually real!* They're just a very sophisticated deception. This is what one professor said:

“Many UFO reports, he said, seem to pertain more to accounts of “poltergeists” (cases where objects fly around the room and strange sounds are heard) and other types of “psychic” manifestations than to “actual solid items of nuts and bolts hardware.” “This is one of the reasons,” added Dr. Hynek, “why I cannot accept the obvious explanation of UFOs as visitors from outer space.”

UFO researchers are suggesting that UFOs have more in common with *ghosts* than actual aliens! The two phenomena are very similar. The only real difference is the window dressing.

The modern church has this idea that demonic occurrences are something that happened a long time ago, back when Jesus walked the Earth. In ancient times there were lots of demon-possessed people, but many pastors teach that things are different today. They claim that while demons may tempt people to sin, that's about it. Demons don't go around tormenting or possessing people anymore. That only happened a long time ago – or so the church thinks.

But what if demons have *not* stopped seeking whom they may devour? What if they're still active and the church simply hasn't noticed because the demons picked a particularly good disguise? After all, posing as aliens would be a *terrific* way to deceive countless people, since many would believe anything an “alien” told them. What makes it even better is that most people think UFOs are “goofy” and just ignore them – which would give demons free reign to do just about anything they wanted. If demons are behind the UFO phenomenon then I have to say they're winning, because the church isn't even fighting. Nearly all pastors ignore the issue entirely.

There's another facet to this that shouldn't be ignored. The “aliens” are doing more than just peddling a false gospel. They're also telling the world that it's in great danger, and the aliens are going to save us all by giving great power to the man of their



choosing:

“Their message is crystal clear: In the midst of our despair they will save us. They will raise a human leader and endow him with supernormal powers that will enable him to put together a New World order, and from this the beneficence of world peace will proceed.” (UFO: End-Times Delusion, p104)

That's not all. The aliens are telling people that humanity is being held back by all these Bible-believing Christians. One day soon, though, all Christians will be removed from this planet and ascend to a different plane – and that's when the aliens can bring “world peace”. They just have to wait until all those Bible-believers are gone, and then they can lead mankind into a new era.

That puts a different light on things, doesn't it? Aliens are teaching people to look for the rapture! They're saying that the rapture is a necessary part of human evolution. That fits in with the Sign of the Dragon, doesn't it? The demons could come to this world in force while pretending to be aliens, in order to be in position to attack the church once we're resurrected. The world would accept this deception because it makes sense to them – and many Christians would be deceived as well because pastors haven't warned them in advance that this was going to happen.

Demons have great power and supernatural abilities. It would be easy for them to pose as aliens – especially since our culture is very receptive to the idea that aliens exist. I suspect that few people will have the spiritual discernment to see through this deception. God did promise to send a strong delusion:

**2 Thessalonians 2:8-12:** “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even

him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

Revelation 12 tells us that after the Sign of the Woman (which has already come and gone), a time will come when Israel is in tremendous pain. After that nation cries out in agony, the devil will come to this world with his demons in a highly visible way. They will pretend to be aliens who have come to help mankind in its hour of need – but that will be a lie. The truth is they have come because they know the rapture is at hand, and they want to attack the church the moment it is resurrected. When their attack fails they will follow the church to Heaven and attack us there (but Michael and his angels will defeat them).

## ***The Ten Kings***

But there's more. Revelation 12:3 speaks of “ten horns”. That is extremely significant! The Bible has a lot to say about these ten demonic beings and what they will do in the end times. Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar that the last kingdom which would arise would have 10 leaders that weren't human:

**Daniel 2:41-43:** “And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of

iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.”

These 10 leaders (symbolized by 10 toes) will try to “mingle themselves with the seed of men”, which means *they are not part of the race of mankind*. These beings are far stronger than men, which we can see from the fact that they are compared to iron while mankind is compared to clay. However, their attempt to create a hybrid offspring with mankind will fail (just as iron cannot be successfully mixed with clay).

There is a very large number of reported cases of alien abductions. Many people who were abducted say that horrific medical experiments were performed on them, *and they also talk about hybrid offspring*. It seems that the demons trying to do exactly what Daniel 2:43 foretold: they are attempting to mingle themselves with the seed of men, and they are failing. The 10 kings (who will arrive shortly before the rapture) will try this again once they are here but they will not have much success.

Daniel had more to say about these 10 kings:

**Daniel 7:19-22:** “Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.”

This passage is talking about the reign of the antichrist during the seven-year tribulation period. Revelation 13:7 tells us that not only will he make war with the saints, but he will overcome them and behead them by the millions. He will reign over this world with great power until the Lord Jesus Christ returns at the end of the tribulation and casts him into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20).

Who are the 10 horns that are spoken of in Revelation 12:3? They are the 10 demonic kings of the antichrist's kingdom. They will try to create a hybrid race, and will rule over this world during the tribulation. These 10 demonic entities will appear with the devil on the day that the Sign of the Dragon is fulfilled.

How do we know for sure that these 10 horns are 10 kings? Because Daniel tells us:

**Daniel 7:24:** “And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.”

How do we know that the ten kings are demonic? Because they appear with the devil when he invades this world shortly before the rapture (Revelation 12:3), and because they try to “mingle themselves with the seed of men” – which means they can't be human (Daniel 2:43). Another piece of evidence is this passage in Revelation, which tells us that the 10 kings have been alive for thousands of years:

**Revelation 17:12:** “And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received

no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.”

This passage is saying that these 10 kings existed back when John wrote the book of Revelation, but in his day they had not yet received their kingdom. During the tribulation they will receive power with the antichrist and reign with him over the world. That means these beings are thousands of years old – which makes perfect sense if they are demonic!

One day the nation of Israel will be in great pain and cry out in agony. At that time “aliens” will suddenly invade the world and claim to be here to help us in our hour of need. When that happens we will know that the Sign of the Dragon has been fulfilled and the rapture is very near.

## ***The Post-Rapture Gap***

Does that mean that once the rapture happens, the tribulation will take place within a few days or weeks? I don't think so. I suspect there will be a long gap between the rapture and the tribulation.

One of the most famous passages in Ezekiel is the attack of Gog, which is found in Ezekiel 38-39. This prophecy has not been fulfilled yet, but it will be fulfilled before the tribulation begins.

How do we know that Ezekiel's prophecy doesn't happen after the millennium? Because when Gog attacks after the millennium in Revelation 20:8-9 he brings people from all nations, and his entire army is destroyed by fire. When Gog attacks in Ezekiel 38 he only brings people from a few nations. The rest of the world condemns his actions – and Ezekiel 39:2 says a sixth of his army survives. The people in the battle are different and the outcome is different.

How do we know that this battle doesn't happen during the tribulation? Because Israel will spend 7 years burning the invader's weapons. The reason that poses a problem is because

halfway through the tribulation period the antichrist will attack Israel, and those who don't flee for their lives and go into hiding will be killed. There isn't enough time to do this during the tribulation. (There is a much stronger reason to believe that this battle is pre-tribulation, but we will get to it later.)

One of the interesting things about the Gog-Magog war is that the Bible tells us it will be fought with horses and ancient wooden weapons:

**Ezekiel 38:3-4:** “And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.”

**Ezekiel 38:15:** “And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army.”

**Ezekiel 39:3:** “And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand.”

**Ezekiel 39:9:** “And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years: 39:10 So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those

that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD.”

Not only does the passage tell us that the battle will be fought with horses and horsemen and bows and arrows and spears, but it then emphasizes the fact that these weapons are made of wood by saying the Jews will spend 7 years setting them on fire! It even says that when this battle took place the Jews had been heating their homes by going into the forests and chopping down trees, but once this battle happens they will burn the wooden weapons instead.

This battle is *not* fought with modern weapons. It is fought with ancient weapons! Many people say that Ezekiel was unable to describe modern weapons so he just used ancient terms, but we need to realize that *most prophecies in the Bible don't mention weapons at all*. There are many prophecies in the Bible against many nations, and nearly all of them *have nothing to say about the weapons those battles will be fought with*. After all, the details about what weapons will be used are completely irrelevant! For example:

- Isaiah 15 is a prophecy against Moab that says it will be laid waste. No weapons are mentioned.
- Isaiah 17 is a prophecy against Damascus that says it will no longer be a city. No weapons are mentioned.
- Isaiah 19 is a prophecy against Egypt that says a civil war will break out. No weapons are mentioned.
- Jeremiah 46 is a prophecy against Egypt. It mentions horses and spears.
- Jeremiah 47 is a prophecy against the Philistines. It mentions horses and chariots.
- Jeremiah 48 is a long prophecy against Moab. It doesn't mention weapons.
- Jeremiah 49 has prophecies against the Ammonites, Edom, Damascus, Kedar, and Elam. None of them mention weapons.

- Ezekiel 25 has prophecies against the Ammonites and Edom. There is no mention of weapons.
- Ezekiel 29 is a prophecy against Egypt. No weapons are mentioned.
- Ezekiel 35 is a prophecy against Mount Seir. No weapons are mentioned.

As you can see, there are many prophecies against the nations that do not mention weapons at all. The Gog invasion just happens to be one of the rare prophecies that mention weapons. If this invasion really was fought with modern weapons then it would have been easy to just not mention weapons at all – which is exactly what the Bible usually does. Yet this passage takes great pains to emphasize the fact that it is fought with ancient weapons that *will be set on fire and used for fuel because they are made of wood*. Modern weapons are *not* made of wood! No one can burn a bunch of guns in an oven to heat their home. God could have easily just not mentioned weapons at all, but that's not what He did. The chapter is extremely clear that *this battle is fought with ancient weapons*.

The passage gives us another interesting clue. The reason Gog-Magog invades Israel is not for religious reasons. No, it's because Gog wants Israel's supply of cattle:

**Ezekiel 38:11-13:** “And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land. Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come



to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company  
to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to  
take away cattle and goods, to take a great  
spoil?"

When this invasion happens Israel is dwelling in complete safety. The nation no longer has any protective walls or gates. Israel is *completely* at peace! Gog then decides to invade Israel to *steal her supply of cows*, and uses horses and ancient wooden weapons to do it.

Is Israel at peace today? Absolutely not. The country is constantly on high alert due to the ceaseless attacks that she experiences from all her enemies. Her cities are protected by walls, and Israel is currently building a security wall that is *440 miles long*. Modern Israel is definitely not a nation without walls! Moreover, her enemies are threatening her with modern weapons, not ancient ones – and none of the conflict in the Middle East is centered on Israel's supply of cattle.

The only way this passage can be fulfilled is if civilization collapses at some point in the future (possibly after the rapture) and modern technology is lost. The world must revert to a much more primitive state before Gog invades. The reason the nations are going to fight against each other with ancient weapons is because that is all they are going to have. The reason they will fight over cattle is because food will be a scarce and precious commodity in a post-apocalyptic world.

When Gog invades, Israel's situation has changed tremendously. In those days Israel no longer feels threatened by anyone. Her protective walls are gone and she has become both careless and wealthy. Yet when the Sign of the Dragon takes place Israel will be in great pain and danger! That tells me a lot of time must pass between now and the invasion of Gog – so much time that modern technology no longer exists and Israel feels utterly safe. Once the battle is over Israel will spend 7 years burning the weapons as fuel, because modern technology doesn't exist anymore and heating homes with electricity is not an option.

But there's a much stronger reason to believe that the gap between the Gog-Magog battle and the tribulation is quite long. That's because in the middle of the tribulation period, the whole world will witness the death of the two witnesses:

**Revelation 11:8-10:** "And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth."

In order for this passage to be fulfilled, the whole world needs to see their dead bodies. News of this event needs to spread over the planet in a matter of hours, because the two witnesses only remain dead for three days and during that time the whole world rejoices and sends presents to one another. That means modern technology (such as cell phones and television) must exist during the tribulation – but it *doesn't* exist at the time of the Gog-Magog battle. There must be enough time *before* the Gog-Magog battle to lose modern technology and revert to a primitive society, and there must be enough time *after* the Gog-Magog battle to recover modern technology. That makes me think there will be a very long gap between the rapture and the tribulation.

## ***Post-Rapture Judgments***

I realize it may seem strange to think there could be hundreds of years between the rapture and the tribulation, but there is a precedent for this. The clearest parallel we can find to

the rapture in the Old Testament is the story of Enoch. This is what the Bible has to say about him:

**Genesis 5:21-24:** "And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."

Enoch walked with God, and one day God removed him from this world. The New Testament tells us that Enoch never died:

**Hebrews 11:5:** "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God."

Enoch is a great picture of the rapture. He walked with God, and then the Lord removed him from this world before the worldwide judgment of the Flood. Here is a question: just how long before the Flood was Enoch removed? Well, the Flood happened the same year that Enoch's son Methuselah died. Methuselah died when he was 969 years old. Enoch was raptured when Methuselah 65 years old. That means Enoch was removed from this world *904 years* before the Flood! God removed Enoch from this world a *very long time* before He sent His judgment against it. That tells me there could indeed be a long gap between the rapture and the tribulation.

But there's more. The Bible also tells us that Egypt will be abandoned for 40 years. During that time no people or animals will set foot there:

**Ezekiel 29:9-12:** “And the land of Egypt shall be desolate and waste; and they shall know that I am the LORD: because he hath said, The river is mine, and I have made it. Behold, therefore I am against thee, and against thy rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate, from the tower of Syene even unto the border of Ethiopia. No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years. And I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate, and her cities among the cities that are laid waste shall be desolate forty years: and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries.”

This prophecy has not been fulfilled, which means it will take place at some point in the future. I think it makes a lot of sense for this to happen before the tribulation period. Perhaps in the days after the rapture there is some sort of global war, and Egypt is hit with a nuclear attack. That would irradiate their land, which would explain why the Egyptians leave and don't come back for 40 years. A global nuclear war would explain how modern technology could be lost, and why mankind has reverted to a primitive existence. Perhaps the nations around Israel attack her, and Israel retaliates with nuclear weapons. That seems to be what we find in the prophecy against Damascus:

**Isaiah 17:1-6:** “The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap. The cities of Aroer are forsaken: they shall be for flocks, which shall lie down, and none shall make them afraid. The fortress also shall cease from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus, and

the remnant of Syria: they shall be as the glory of the children of Israel, saith the LORD of hosts. And in that day it shall come to pass, that the glory of Jacob shall be made thin, and the fatness of his flesh shall wax lean. And it shall be as when the harvestman gathereth the corn, and reapeth the ears with his arm; and it shall be as he that gathereth ears in the valley of Rephaim. Yet gleanings shall be left in it, as the shaking of an olive tree, two or three berries in the top of the uppermost bough, four or five in the outmost fruitful branches thereof, saith the LORD God of Israel."

The city of Damascus has been continually inhabited for the past 5000 years. There has never been a time when Damascus has been utterly destroyed and left as a ruin for flocks, but one day that will come to pass. This prophecy says that Damascus will be utterly destroyed, and at the same time the nation of Israel will be severely wounded. In fact, Israel will be injured so badly that only a small remnant will survive. Damascus, however, is wiped out in a single night:

**Isaiah 17:14:** "And behold at eveningtide trouble; and before the morning he is not. This is the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us."

It looks like Syria participates in an attack against Israel (perhaps a nuclear attack, given how little of Israel survives). Israel retaliates and turns Damascus into a ruin that is never inhabited again. (If the ruin is radioactive then that would explain why people avoid that area.) Perhaps that's when Egypt is destroyed as well.

Psalm 83 tells us that a time is coming when the nations around Israel will form a confederacy against her with the

purpose of wiping her out:

**Psalm 83:1-8:** “Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot.”

This psalm described a time in Israel's history when a specific group of nations join forces in order to destroy the nation completely. There has been no time in Israel's history when this exact group of nations has threatened her. That means this chapter is prophecy, not history.

What's especially interesting is that the nations described in this chapter are all Israel's immediate neighbors. When Israel is attacked by Gog in Ezekiel 38 none of her immediate neighbors take part in it, and the attack happens during a time when Israel is at peace and isn't being threatened by anyone. That means it makes a lot of sense for this conflict to take place first and eliminate all of Israel's enemies. That would explain why she's at peace and why none of the surrounding nations help Gog – they had already been defeated and were no longer a factor.

Do you see in verse 3 how it says that this coalition is taking counsel against God's “hidden ones”? I don't think this is a reference to the Jews because the nation of Israel isn't hidden in any way. I think it's a reference to the rapture! At the time this

prophecy takes place, the church saints have already been removed from this world and hidden. The nations of the world know what God has done and they hate the people He rescued. This attack isn't just against Israel; it's also an act of hatred against those who were raptured. (You might wonder: how does attacking Israel impact the raptured saints? Well, the reason the devil has tried so hard to murder all of the Jews is because he knows that Jesus will only return once the Jews repent of their sins and accept Him as their Messiah. That's what Jesus meant in Matthew 23:39 when He said that the Jews would not see Him again until they said "Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord". If the devil can kill all of the Jews before they repent then Jesus will never return – and that means the saints will never rule over this world. Attacking Israel is an attempt to deprive the saints of their inheritance by making it impossible for them to ever receive it. I doubt Israel's enemies know why they hate Israel so much, but the devil who is causing that hatred certainly does.)

Some people have claimed that Psalm 83 is talking about the war that was launched against Israel in 1948. As soon as Israel declared its independence the nations around Israel invaded and tried to destroy her, and they lost. The problem with this theory is that some of the nations listed in this chapter didn't participate in that attack. That means this prophecy doesn't fit that battle, and so this psalm couldn't have been fulfilled at that time. God is very exact when it comes to fulfilling prophecy. If *all* of the prophecy hasn't been fulfilled then it isn't a match, which means its fulfillment is still in the future.

I believe this is talking about a future conflict that will happen after the rapture. At some point in the future the enemies of Israel will see the nation become vulnerable and in great pain. The world will be thrown into chaos when beings claiming to be aliens suddenly appear, and then millions of people all over the world vanish in the rapture. The world will be thrown into chaos, which will give Israel's enemies the perfect opportunity to attack. They will join forces and try to destroy her while she's vulnerable and weak.

The nations that attack Israel in Ezekiel 38 are *not* the enemy nations that surround her, but more distant nations (such as Russia and Turkey and Iran). When Gog invades, the nation of Israel is dwelling carelessly, without a thought for security, in a nation without walls – but modern Israel has a wall that's *hundreds of miles long* that separates her from the *many* people who want to kill her. That's strong evidence that Psalm 83 is fulfilled before Gog attacks, and expands Israel's borders and gives her a false sense of peace. Ezekiel 38 then happens later.

The nations which are listed in Psalm 83 happen to be the very same countries that immediately surround Israel. The psalm says they have joined forces to utterly wipe Israel off the face of the Earth. The reason this is interesting is because verse 5 clearly says that *all* of these nations have banded together to destroy Israel, but that didn't happen in ancient times.

It's true that there are no longer nations with these names, but we can still identify which nations this psalm is talking about. Ishmael was the patriarch of Saudi Arabia. The Hagarenes were be the people of Hagar; today we call them Egyptians. Moab was the patriarch of what's now central Jordan, and Ammon was the patriarch of what's now northern Jordan. (Moab and Ammon are the “children of Lot” that are mentioned in verse 8.) Gebal is now northern Lebanon, and Tyre is southern Lebanon. What used to be Philistia is now called the Gaza Strip. Assur is Assyria, which we now call Syria. The tabernacles of Edom refers to the Edomites, who used to live in what's now Southern Jordan.

To line them up, the nations in verses 6-8 are Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the Gaza Strip. Some of these nations are at peace with Israel, and some are not – but the day is coming when all of these nations will join forces and launch an all-out war against Israel. It is interesting that Syria and Egypt are both listed in this confederacy, since we know that Syria will be destroyed and Egypt will be abandoned for 40 years. I think that will be a direct result of their coming attack against Israel.



## ***The Sequence of Events***

Are there any other passages in the Old Testament that speak of God's hidden ones? Yes. We can find this intriguing passage in Isaiah:

**Isaiah 26:17-21:** “Like as a woman with child, that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD. We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen. Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.”

In this passage we are told that the nation of Israel is in great pain. This pain is followed by a resurrection – but the resurrected ones are taken away. The child that is born disappears, which is why it seems like Israel has only “brought forth wind”. The resurrected ones (who have been removed) are hidden away while God pours out His wrath upon this world. That is a great picture of the rapture being followed by the tribulation! It also mirrors Revelation 12:1-5. Revelation 12 tells us that the woman will be in pain, then a child will be born and caught up out of this world. Revelation chapters 5 through 19 speak of the wrath that

God will pour out upon this world – and His “hidden ones” will be spared that terrible time because we will not be in this world when it happens.

If we put all of these pieces together then a picture emerges. The Sign of the Woman was fulfilled on September 23, 2017. At some point in the future Israel will find herself in great trouble and will cry out in pain. That is when the Sign of the Dragon will be fulfilled. In that sign the devil (accompanied by the 10 demonic kings) will come to this world with his demonic army in order to attack the church the moment it is resurrected. This army will most likely pose as aliens, and the world will interpret this as a UFO invasion. The demons will claim that they are here to help mankind in its hour of need, but that will be a lie. Once he is here he will prepare to strike the church the moment the resurrection happens, but Jesus will catch us up to meet Him in the air and then take us to Heaven. The devil and his army will follow us to Heaven and try to invade that holy place, but Michael and his angels will defeat him and he will be cast out.

Once these things come to pass, the world will be thrown into chaos. The nations around Israel will band together into a confederacy, and one evening they will attack her. This invasion will cause so much destruction that only a remnant of Jews in Israel will survive. However, the nations that attacked Israel will be damaged even more: Syria will be destroyed, Damascus will be reduced to rubble and stop being a city altogether, and Egypt will be abandoned for 40 years (possibly because Israel retaliated with nuclear weapons, or because God intervened on Israel's behalf). This seems to trigger some sort of global catastrophe (perhaps a global nuclear war or EMP attack) that destroys technology and returns mankind to a much more primitive state.

After modern technology has been lost, Gog will invade Israel with ancient weapons in order to steal her cattle. However, God will defend Israel and defeat the invading army. Israel will spend 7 years burning the wooden weapons. (If they're burning weapons for heat then that means they don't have access to electricity. If they're worried about heat then that makes me

wonder if the aftermath of a global nuclear war has caused a plunge in global temperatures, and Israel is now much colder than it had been previously. That could explain how Israel obtained so much cattle, and why the rest of the world is so desperate for food.)

After Gog is defeated, modern technology is recovered. The city of Babylon is rebuilt and becomes the capitol of the world. The 10 kings (who are demons) rise to power and claim their kingdoms, and the antichrist begins his wicked reign. The demons try to create a hybrid race but fail.

Israel is terrified at the rise of these demonic beings and sign a seven-year treaty with them, which God calls the “covenant of death”:

**Isaiah 28:14-18:** “Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.”

God says that the Jews have made this covenant with Hell

itself. That makes sense if the 10 kings are actually demonic. Israel will become afraid when they see the rise of Babylon, and will try to protect themselves by agreeing to this covenant. However, the signing of this covenant will begin the seven-year tribulation period. Halfway through this period the antichrist will go into the temple in Jerusalem and declare himself to be God. He will begin persecuting the Jews with the intent of killing them all in order to prevent Jesus from returning, but he will fail. The Lord Jesus Christ will return to this world at the end of the tribulation and destroy both him and his army. The antichrist will then be cast into the lake of fire (along with everyone who took the Mark of the Beast during the tribulation).

How will we know that the rapture is near? The first thing to look for is a time when Israel is in great distress and cries out in pain. This will be followed by the appearance of the devil and his demons (who will most likely be in the disguise of aliens). Once that happens we will know that the Sign of the Dragon has been fulfilled and the rapture is very near.

The Bible tells us that if we do not watch and pay attention then we will not know when the hour of our Lord's return is near:

**Revelation 3:3b:** “If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”

Why will some people not know the hour? *Because they are not watching.* That means if we *do* watch for the signs to come to pass then we *can* know the hour of His return (but only after the signs are fulfilled). When Jesus taught His disciples about end-times events He told them to *watch* (Matthew 24:42 and 25:13; Mark 13:33 and 37; Luke 12:37-38 and 21:36). That means there is something specific we can be watching for – and I think we can find those signs in Revelation 12.

Is there precedent for knowing the day we will be taken out of this world? In the Old Testament there were two people who walked with God and then vanished. One of them was Enoch, who we have already talked about. The other is Elijah. 2 Kings 2:11 tells us that one day God removed him from this world in a chariot of fire. However, this did not take the prophets by surprise. 2 Kings 2:3 says the prophets at Bethel actually knew that was the day it was going to happen:

**2 Kings 2:3:** “And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.”

Elisha knew Elijah was going to be taken up to Heaven that day, and the people at Bethel knew as well. So did the people at Jericho:

**2 Kings 2:5:** “And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.”

When the day of Elijah's departure came, the people of God knew that was the day. Revelation 3:3 tells us that if we don't watch then we won't know – but if we *do* watch then we *will* know the hour. We don't know the hour right now, because we can't tell in advance when the remaining signs will be fulfilled. However, if we know what the signs are and if we watch for them then we will know once the day comes. In 1 Thessalonians 5:4 Paul told us that we are not in darkness and we will not be surprised. Why? Because we know what to watch for.

Do we know, at this very moment, when the rapture will happen? Nope. We know what signs to look for, but until those

signs happen all we can do is watch and wait. We don't know the hour, but once the signs are fulfilled we will know that the hour has come and it's time to go.