



# ~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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## Prayer

Lord, I want You to help me become a worker who pleases You. Help me also to please my employer and direct supervisor with the quality of my work. Forgive me for wanting to take it easy and for complaining when I am asked to do something extra or to fulfill a task that isn't in my job description. I want to be the kind of Christian worker who brings joy and pleasure to those who are over me and who presents a good testimony to the name of Jesus. This is really my desire, so I am asking You to help me to do more, to be more, and to demonstrate an attitude of excellence regarding my work, in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Worship Music

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[Mark Harris](#)

[Find Your Wings-](#)  
[Mark Harris](#)

[Broken and Beautiful-](#)  
[Mark Schultz](#)

[He Will Carry Me-](#)  
[Mark Schultz](#)

[Remember Me-](#)  
[Mark Schultz](#)

## Scripture

### Revelation 12

#### Revelation 12:1-17 (AMP)

1 AND A great sign (wonder)—[warning of future events of ominous significance] appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and with a crown like garland (tiara) of twelve stars on her head. 2 She was pregnant and she cried out in her birth pangs, in the anguish of her delivery. 3 Then another ominous sign (wonder) was seen in heaven: Behold, a huge, fiery-red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven kingly crowns (diadems) upon his heads. 4 His tail swept [across the sky] and dragged down a third of the stars and flung them to the earth. And the dragon stationed himself in front of the woman who was about to be delivered, so that he might devour her child as soon as she brought it forth. 5 And she brought forth a male Child, One Who is destined to shepherd (rule) all the nations with an iron staff (scepter), and her Child was caught up to God and to His throne. 6 And the woman [herself] fled into the desert (wilderness), where she has a retreat prepared [for her] by God, in which she is to be fed and kept safe for 1,260 days (42 months; three and one-half years). 7 Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels went forth to battle with the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought. 8 But they were defeated, and there was no room found for them in heaven any longer. 9 And the huge dragon was cast down and out—that age-old serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, he who is the seducer (deceiver) of all humanity the world over; he was forced out and down to the earth, and his angels were flung out along with him. 10 Then I heard a strong (loud) voice in heaven, saying, Now it has come—the salvation and the power and the kingdom (the dominion, the reign) of our God, and the power (the sovereignty, the authority) of His Christ (the Messiah); for the accuser of our brethren, he who keeps bringing before our God charges against them day and night, has been cast out! 11 And they have overcome (conquered) him by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony, for they did not love and cling to life even when faced with death [holding their lives cheap till they had to die for their witnessing]. 12 Therefore be glad (exult), O heavens and you that dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in fierce anger (fury), because he knows that he has [only] a short time [left]! 13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast down to the earth, he went in pursuit of the woman who had given birth to the male Child. 14 But the woman was supplied with the two wings of a giant eagle, so that she might fly from the presence of the serpent into the desert (wilderness), to the retreat where she is to be kept safe and fed for a time, and times, and half a time (three and one-half years, or 1,260 days). 15 Then out of his mouth the serpent spouted forth water like a flood after the woman, that she might be carried off with the torrent. 16 But the earth came to the rescue of the woman, and the ground opened its mouth and swallowed up the stream of water which the dragon had spouted from his mouth. 17 So then the dragon was furious (enraged) at the woman, and he went away to wage war on the remainder of her descendants—[on those] who obey God's commandments and who have the testimony of Jesus Christ [and adhere to it and bear witness to Him].

## Radio Stations

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## Bible Study Sites

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[Biblos.com](#)

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**Revelation 12. The Woman, Child, and Dragon**

Up to this point, the seals and trumpets carried the story forward to the final judgment, dealing largely with the fate of the world. In chapter 12 the writer returns to the starting place and in another series of visions portrays things previously omitted, relating largely to the fate of those who refuse to repent.

**The Woman**

The woman is commonly thought to represent Israel. The imagery is similar to the sun, moon, and 12 stars that bowed down to Joseph in his dream ( Genesis 37:9–11 ). In Revelation 12:2 we see Isaiah's prediction ( Isaiah 66:7–8 ) of a woman (Israel) bringing forth a man child fulfilled.

**The Child**

We are told in Revelation 12:5 that the child is Christ, "a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter." And so it was that Christ was physically born out of the nation Israel.

**The Red Dragon**

The dragon is expressly identified as the Devil. The "seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns" represent Satan's dominion as prince of this fallen world, or even his claim to, and efforts toward, universal dominion. He is god of this world ( 2 Corinthians 4:4 ), prince of the power of the air ( Ephesians 2:2 ), and the prince of this world ( John 12:31 )—but he is not God. He is not all-powerful, he is not everywhere, nor does he know everything. There are not two gods: God and the Devil. The Devil is a powerful prince of evil who is permitted, in the wisdom of God ( Ezekiel 28:12 ), for some reason beyond human understanding, to make trouble for a while. But his doom is inevitable. Red is probably indicative of his murderous nature. Murder is his weapon. He "swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth" ( Revelation 12:4 ), which may signify his power to marshal the hosts of the unseen world against the saints of God or his power to influence church leaders to apostasy.

**The War in Heaven, Revelation 12:7–12**

John sees Satan cast out of heaven and into the earth ( v. 9 ). There is rejoicing in heaven but "woe" to the people on the earth for "the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short." Some think that Satan's ejection from heaven may synchronize with, and account for, the Great Tribulation, the final 3½ years before Christ's return to claim the earth back to Himself.

Others believe that the war in heaven describes Satan, infuriated at his failure to thwart Christ by crucifying Him, following Him in His ascension and trying to storm the bulwarks of heaven, where he meets another crushing defeat and loses forever any further power to harm Christ or the souls of the martyrs he had killed. Having lost all opportunity to do damage in heaven, he henceforth devotes himself to the earth, to hamper and hinder as much as possible Christ's redemptive work, and to keep as many human beings as possible out of heaven. Whatever the exact meaning, it evidently is what Jesus Himself saw in a vision ( Luke 10:18 ). Michael ( Revelation 12:7 ), the archangel, apparently is the guardian angel of Israel ( Daniel 10:13 , 21 ; 12:1 ) and had had some previous experience in contending with the Devil ( Jude 9 ).

The dragon, in his determination to keep as many people as possible from being saved through the blood of Christ, installs himself in the beast, the false prophet, and Babylon in the following chapters.

**The Woman's Flight to the Desert, Revelation 12:13–17**

God makes provision for Israel, His chosen people, as He directs and provides a means for them to escape from the wrath of Satan. The "water like a river" the dragon spewed after the woman may refer to the persecutions during the tribulation period. Others believe that they represent the persecutions of the church by the Roman Empire.

The "desert" may imply that the faithful remnant of Israel will be preserved among the Gentiles during the tribulation period. Again God uses the 1,260-day time period. The 1,260 days of v. 6 are identical with "a time, times, and half a time" of v. 14 ; the latter means "a year, years, and half a year," or 3½ years, which is the same as 42 months, which, at 30 days to the month, is 1,260 days. Why three different expressions are used for the same length of time we do not know; there may be shades of meaning hidden from us. The woman was in the desert 3½ years, or 1,260 days. The Holy City was trampled on for 42 months ( 11:2 ). The beast lived 42 months after his death-stroke was healed ( 13:5 ). The two witnesses prophesied in sackcloth for 1,260 days ( 11:3 ). Thus the Holy City was trampled on while the woman was in the wilderness, while the two witnesses were prophesying in sackcloth, while Babylon (the revived beast) was on the throne, all at the same time. Futurist interpreters take it 3½-year period called the Great Tribulation. The dragon (Satan), standing on the shore of the sea, prepares to "make war against the rest of her [Israel's] offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus" ( 12:17 ). Satan sets his sights on all believers. (Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History & Commentaries; pages 940-942)

The Dragon Cast Out: VV1-2 The "woman" is the nation Israel. She wears a crown of twelve stars, symbolizing the twelve tribes and reminiscent of Joseph's dream (Genesis 37:9). V3 The "dragon" is Satan, that old serpent. V5 The "man child" of Israel could be the 144,000 who will be taken to heaven in the middle of the Tribulation. When we next see the 144,000 they are in heaven before God's throne (Chapter 14:3). Most scholars agree that the "man child" is Jesus Christ. V6 When the image of the beast is set up in the temple. Israel will flee to the city of Petra (Isaiah 16: 1-4). Sela is Petra. V9 Isaiah 14:12-17. V10 Satan is the one who accuses us before God. V11 The victory over Satan is won through the blood of Christ. V14 "A time, and times, and half a time" is three and one half years. V15 The "flood" is an army. (New Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; commentaries; page 198)

In Revelation 12:10, Satan is called "the accuser of our brethren." He tries to make us feel guilty and condemned. When we feel unhealthy guilt and condemnation, we must remember that God does not make us feel that way. God wants us to experience His love and feel the power of His forgiveness. Guilt depresses us and makes us feel as though we are under a heavy burden. Jesus came to lift us up, to bring good news to us that our sins are forgiven and the penalty for them removed. Resist guilt and condemnation by embracing the salvation and authority of Christ in your life.

**How Is Your Work Ethic? 2 Corinthians 11:23...** I personally gain strength when I consider the many victories the Lord gave the apostle Paul. He had multiple challenges that came against him and his ministry, but none of them ever stopped him from his task. As noted earlier (see August 3), it is simply a fact that those who preach the Gospel in difficult parts of the world often encounter extremely hostile situations. In order to overcome these situations, a person has to possess a strong, internal resolution that no devil, no person, no government, and no force is going to stop him from executing the assignment God has given to him. But this isn't true only of people who serve on the front lines of the Gospel. It is also true for you. God has a plan for your life. He has a specific vision He wants you to discover and achieve. On the other hand, you have an enemy who doesn't want you to find that vision. And I want to warn you—from the moment you do discover God's plan for your life, that enemy will try to stop you from achieving it. But don't worry, friend—God has given you all the promises you need to overcome every attack Satan arrays against you. However, in order for those promises to be effective, you have to decide that you are going to stand in faith and resist each attack! Because of the challenges my wife and I have encountered in our own ministry, I find great strength when I study about the attacks that came against the ministry of the apostle Paul. I like to read about how he persisted and overcame these attacks. The events Paul encountered would have shattered a normal man. But because he used his faith and kept his focus on the prize before him, Paul was able to override and supercede each act of aggression that Satan perpetrated against him. There is no doubt that Paul was hindered by these devilish attacks, but they never stopped him. The devil wasn't able to stop Paul because the apostle had made a commitment to be unstoppable. In Second Corinthians 11:23-27, Paul describes some of the difficulties and hassles he encountered in the ministry: Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Let's look more closely at this list of difficulties so you can see what Paul faced as he carried out God's will for his life. Keep in mind that regardless of the cost or the roadblocks Satan tried to set before him, none of these difficulties ever knocked Paul out of his spiritual race. When you see the hardships Paul faced in the fulfillment of his life assignment, your hardships will pale by comparison! Here's what Paul tells us that he experienced:

**Labors More Abundant:** Paul says that in the course of his ministry, he worked "... in labours more abundant...." He uses the Greek word *kopos* to describe the kind of "labor" he put forth in the fulfillment of his apostolic call. This word *kopos* represents the hardest, most physical kind of labor. It is often used to picture a farmer who works in the field, enduring the extreme temperatures of the afternoon sunshine. The farmer strains, struggles, and toils to push that plow through that hardened ground. This effort requires his total concentration and devotion. No laziness can be allowed if that field is going to be plowed. The farmer must travail if he wants to get that job done. This word *kopos* is the same word Paul uses to describe the kind of worker he is! He's perhaps the hardest worker he knows! In fact, he goes on to say, "... In labours more abundant...." The word "abundant" is the Greek word *perissos*. It is used here in the superlative sense, meaning very abundantly. It would be best translated, "I worked more abundantly than most men" or "I worked more than you could even begin to comprehend." By making this statement, Paul emphatically declares, "When it comes to hard work, no one is a harder worker than I am!" He has personally put out incredible energy to apprehend what Jesus apprehended him to do (see Philippians 3:12). I personally like this scripture because I believe in doing hard work. We live in a day when the work ethic is not what it once was. People are much "softer" than they used to be. The older generation who lived through World War I, World War II, and the hard economic times of the 1930s have a totally different mindset about work than the present generation. These older people lived through hard times and had no choice but to work hard to build their lives. They worked and worked and worked, and as a result, they achieved much and built great nations. Today's generation knows little of hardship. I thank God for the great blessings that have come on the nations during these last days. However, much of it has come so easily for the younger generation that they don't comprehend the great price the older generation paid to build this easy success for them. When members of the younger generation are asked to do something extra or sacrificial, many of them resent the request or consider it to be almost abusive. Rather than focus on how they can do something extra to contribute to the health and success of the business, organization, or church, they just want to know if they are going to be paid for their efforts. Paul was not a clock-watcher. He worked harder than anyone else he knew. Although we like to think of the mighty anointing that was on his life, a key factor to his amazing success as an apostle was that he worked at it harder than anyone else. Hard work always produces the best results. Friend, if you want to be successful or to achieve more than others, you have to develop the mentality that you are going to do more than anyone else is doing. If you only do what everyone else is doing, you will produce nothing better than anyone else. Align yourself with the apostle Paul. Determine to follow his example so that one day you'll be able to say, "When it comes to hard work, no one is a harder worker than I am!"

**QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER:** If it were time for your boss to review your work habits and attitudes, would he find you to be a hard worker or one who just does the minimum on the job? If you were the boss, would you be satisfied with an employee who demonstrates the attitudes you do at the workplace? How does the quality of your work reflect on the name of Jesus Christ? Do you believe that your work habits and attitudes give others a good impression of Jesus, or does working with you leave people with a bad impression about Christians? What are the specific areas in your work habits or attitudes that need to be improved? Why don't you write these areas down so you can pray about them as a part of your daily prayer regimen? Thank God for the great blessings that have come on the nations during these last days. However, much of it has come so easily for the younger generation that they don't comprehend the price the older generation paid to build this easy success for them. When members of the younger generation are asked to do something extra or sacrificial, many of them resent the request or consider it almost abusive. Rather than focus on how they can do something extra to contribute to the health and success of the business, organization, or church, they just want to know if they are going to be paid for their efforts. Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

(Word 9 Bible Software: Bible Software, multiple translations, dictionary, atlas, sermons of the past saints, concordance, 2005)

(The Everyday Life Bible; Amplified, 2005, Joyce Meyers, Scripture, Commentaries, pages 2137-2138)