

## The Revelation of Jesus Christ

### The Beginning of the End

Revelation 12:7-17

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
The devil and all of his angels are thrown out of heaven and cast upon the earth (Rev. 12:7-9). The devil had been primarily active in the presence of the Lord to accuse the faithful (Job 1:8ff; 2:3ff), but now is no longer permitted to do so. He is the primary accuser of believers before God (Rev. 12:10), but his accusations are summarily refuted and dismissed because of the advocacy of Jesus Christ (cf. Heb. 7:25).
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
The heavenly praise (Rev. 12:10-12) describes the assured victory of the brethren on earth. The brethren during the tribulation, as all believers, overcome the devil and death on account of salvation which Christ purchased with His blood (Rom. 3:25; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24; Heb. 9:22). These are also described as having maintained their own testimony concerning Jesus and who did not recant in the face of death (Matt 16:24-28; Rev. 2:13).
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
The devil cannot attack and destroy the redeemed of Israel because they are being protected by the Lord (Rev. 12:14-16). The enemy now focusses his rage upon any believers who are not protected in this way (Rev. 12:14-16). This group is identified as those who faithfully obey the commands of God and the testimony of Jesus (Rev. 12:17). This is John's way of describing true believers who love the Lord, who obey His Word and bear fruit (cf. John 14:15, 31; 15:1ff; Rev. 6:9; 20:4).