

# Revelation 12:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

## Analysis

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The serpent's water flood symbolizes overwhelming persecution or false teaching seeking to destroy the church. Water often represents chaos and judgment (Genesis 7, Psalm 18:16), here weaponized by Satan. The attempt to 'cause her to be carried away' suggests drowning in tribulation. Reformed theology recognizes Satan's multi-faceted attacks—persecution, deception, discouragement—all aimed at church destruction. Yet God limits Satan's power; the flood cannot overcome divine preservation. This imagery recalls Egypt's attempted destruction of Hebrew infants (Exodus 1-2) and Pharaoh's army at the Red Sea, both thwarted by God.

## Historical Context

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Water imagery would resonate with Mediterranean audiences familiar with drowning dangers. The flood represents Roman persecution's overwhelming scope and intensity. The woman's flight and the flood pursuit depicted the church's vulnerable position humanly speaking, while emphasizing supernatural preservation despite seemingly impossible odds.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. What 'floods' of opposition or overwhelming circumstances has Satan used to attack your faith, and how has God preserved you?
2. How does recognizing Satan as the source of persecution help you respond with spiritual weapons rather than merely natural resistance?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἔβαλεν ὁ ὄφιν ὀπίσω τῆς γυναικὸς ἐκ τοῦ  
**And** **cast** G2532 G906 G3588 **the serpent** G3789 **after** G3588 G3694 **the woman** G1135 **out of** G1537 G3588  
  
στόματος αὐτοῦ ὕδωρ ὥς ποταμόν ἵνα ταύτην  
**mouth** G4750 G846 **water** G5204 **as** G5613 **a flood** G4215 **that** G2443 G3778  
  
ποταμοφόρητον ποιήσῃ  
**to be carried away of the flood** G4216 **he might cause** G4160

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 59:19** (Parallel theme): So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

**Isaiah 8:7** (Parallel theme): Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks:

**Psalms 18:4** (Parallel theme): The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.