

A Great Red Dragon and a Pregnant Woman

Revelation 12 describes a wonder seen in heaven. Satan, described as a great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, is standing before a sun-clad, pregnant woman. He is waiting, ready to devour her child as soon as it is born. In the following quote from Revelation 12, take note of the phrases that are underlined, which refer to war or acts of war, directed towards the woman and her seed.

The Woman and the Dragon

1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars: 2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns on his heads. 4 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.

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up to God, and to his throne. 6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and three score days.

The War in Heaven

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which

deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brothers is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives to the death. 12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens, and you that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has but a short time.

The Dragon Persecutes the Woman

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. 14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. 15 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. 16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Rev. 12:1–17, AKJV) [underline added]

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About the Revelation 12 Woman

Some interpreters believe the Revelation 12 woman is the virgin Mary and the man child is Jesus. I do not

believe this simplistic interpretation because there are too many parts of this passage that do not match the Jesus and Mary story. A few examples are: Jesus was not caught up to the throne of God at the time of his birth. It could be said that Mary fled, but it was with Joseph and with Jesus, and the flight was to Egypt, not to a wilderness. Not only that, Revelation 12 clearly refers to the time of the great tribulation, because it specifically mentions the tribulation period of 1260 days. Also, there is no suggestion in the Bible that the devil was cast down to the earth at the time of Christ's birth, nor is there any suggestion or evidence that God had to open the earth to protect Mary from a flood produced by the devil. Neither is there any suggestion or evidence that the devil made war with something referred to in the Bible as the rest of Mary's seed.

I personally believe that the Revelation 12 woman represents God-fearing women throughout all time who have been involved in the fulfillment of God's promise concerning the seed of woman. I believe that the moon, which was the lesser light that God set in the heavens to rule during the night (Gen. 1:16), represents the law of the Lord given to Israel, which produced only a fading reflection (2 Cor. 3:12–13) of the true light. The sun, the greater light that God set in the heavens to rule during the day, represents the brilliant light of the new covenant, which does not fade. This woman is standing on the moon and clothed with the sun. She represents both Old and New Testament women in full accord with God's promises in the Old and New Testaments. She is clothed with the sun as a garment, meaning that she is bearing the glorious light of the full revelation of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. She has passed through the night of the Old Testament, under the fading light of the law. She is no longer under the bondage of the old covenant which Paul referred to when he wrote that the earthly Jerusalem was in bondage with her children (Gal. 4:25). She is free and is standing strong, having been born of the Jerusalem above which is free and is the mother of us all (Gal. 4:25–26).

Twelve individual shining lights are a crown on her head. These stars represent the twelve male apostles—the

first godly males of the New Testament era to reflect the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. She is crowned with these stars because she played a role in their appearance. They came into being as a result of the willing obedience and cooperation of a woman named Mary, who considered herself a humble handmaiden to God when she said, “Be it unto me according to Your word.” Through Mary came the promised and long awaited seed of woman, Jesus Christ. Then, through Jesus, came these twelve stars, the first of many more godly male seed of the New Testament era.

The Revelation 12 woman, appearing as a sign in the heavens at the end of time, represents all godly Christian women who have found freedom from bondage, returned to God, and suffered a very long and difficult pregnancy on earth bringing forth fruit to God—the victorious seed of woman. The two groups of women included in this sign are the Old Testament God-fearing women of *chayil* and New Testament Christian women of *chayil*. Both groups are made up of spiritual warriors. The first group brought forth Christ. The second group, of which we are called to be a part, is in labor, travailing to bring forth a man child, a male seed that will rule all nations with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:26–27). A great red dragon is standing in front of her ready to devour her child. This bright woman suddenly gives birth, and her male child is caught up to God and to His throne. She then flees to a place God has prepared for her where He feeds her. War then takes place in heaven, and the dragon is cast down to the earth. He persecutes the woman, but she is protected by God. The dragon then goes and makes war with her remaining seed, who are still on earth keeping the commandments of God and holding the testimony of Jesus.

I will not offer my thoughts on what is meant by all the events that take place after she gives birth, because they are not relevant to my message. I will, however, comment on the idea of the *remnant of her seed*. According to this passage, the remnant of her seed is definitely God’s people and definitely Christians because they bear the testimony of Jesus. They are named as the seed of the woman who are on earth and who appear to

be different from the male child that was caught up to God and to His throne. Although it is not clear exactly who they are, I will make one point about them: The idea of a remaining seed who are God-fearing people on earth during the tribulation period does not line up well with the predominant Christian belief that all believers will be whisked away to heaven *before the tribulation* that is to come upon the earth. Again, I do not have a full and clear interpretation of the whole of Revelation 12, but I offer the following additional thoughts that I have about this passage:

- Beginning with the time of the revelation of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, Christian females who were made free in Christ were called to return to Him fully and play a significant role in bringing forth Christian males who are conformed to the image of Christ.
- Similar to Jesus' statement about laborers in His field that the last would be first and the first would be last, women—formed last in the Garden of Eden and also historically last in Christian ministry (having been held back throughout most of Christian history from laboring as free women)—near the end of time, become first in spiritual maturity. This happens when they discover their God-given freedom and enter the field in late centuries, near the close of the New Testament age. God will not treat them differently than Christian males laboring in His field and will give them equal pay. At the end of the age, males—created first in Genesis and in the forefront of Christian ministry through most of the church age—will be *last* at the close of time because of the devil's full force attack against them with his massive family destroying flood of societal filth and corruption. Through the painful spiritual labor of females, many males will be brought back to God and fully delivered from the devil. Stated more simply: At the beginning of the Bible, a young female comes out of a mature male. At the end of the Bible, a young male comes out of a mature female. In this picture, it seems that God has made a clear statement of gender balance with respect to His view of both males and females and His

purpose for them. This picture brings to mind the equalizing words of Paul in 1st Corinthians:

11 In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12 For just as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God. (1 Cor. 11:11–12, BSB)

- At the close of the age, Christian females will play a critical role, laboring in God's field to bring forth, on a large scale, Christian males—godly seed of woman. This will happen during a time in which the attack of Satan against males in human society, in ways like those described earlier in this chapter, is at its peak, a time when godly males are on the decline. The godly males brought forth by laboring women will be the Revelation 12 man child: new creation beings who are conformed to the image of Christ and who will fulfill the subduing and conquering role over the devil (not one another or woman) that God intended for man from the beginning.
- When this biblically prophesied man child comes forth and stands up against the devil and engages in spiritual warfare against him, it will only be a short time before the serpent's ancient war comes to its end.
- The Revelation 12 man child will be born when, in the last days, one by one, abusive Christian men come under conviction by the Spirit for the centuries-old sin of setting themselves against Christian women. When they repent for this, put to death their old man, stop hiding their failures like Adam did in the garden (Job 31:33), stop blaming their wives, and end their friendship with the devil, the Spirit will come upon them, making them new godly men who are like Christ. The final fulfillment of the promise concerning the seed of woman will come to pass, and the final crushing of the head of the serpent will take place. Christ will set up His kingdom and reign on the earth.

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