

REVELATION

The Woman and
the Dragon

(Revelation 12:1~6)

Genesis 3:14-15: The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

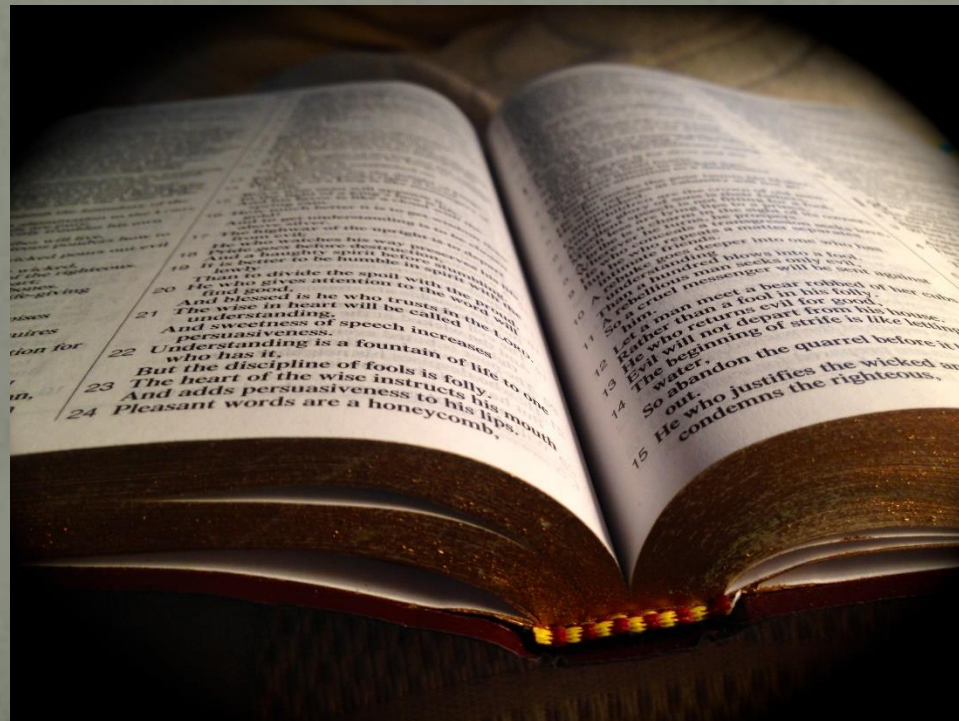


Revelation 12:1-6: And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth.

And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

The promised Son will also rule as King.

We must be faithful to God and to His Word.



1. The nature of this section

A. This section contains much symbolic language.

- ❖ Rev 12:1, 3: a “great sign”
- ❖ The symbols of the passage refer to specific things (some more obvious than others)

1. The nature of this section

B. This section gives a panorama of all of history.

- ❖ Shows how Satan tries to disrupt God's plan from Creation
- ❖ Revelation 11 announces that the kingdoms of the world will become the kingdom of God.
- ❖ Revelation 12-13 shows how Satan influences the kingdoms of the world to try to rebel against God (cf. Psalm 2).

2. The first sign John sees is a woman.

A. Her description

❖ Revelation 12:1-2: And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.

2. The first sign John sees is a woman.

A. Her description

- ❖ Genesis 37:9-11: Joseph's dream
- ❖ The woman is pregnant and about to give birth: pointing back to the promise of a son in Genesis 3

2. The first sign John sees is a woman.

B. Who is the woman?

- ❖ Some say it is Mary (common Catholic idea)
- ❖ Revelation 12:6: and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.
- ❖ Some say the church

2. The first sign John sees is a woman.

B. Who is the woman?

❖ The nation of Israel

❖ Explains picture of sun, moon, and stars from Genesis 37

❖ In the Old Testament, Israel is often referred to as a woman (esp. in Hosea)

❖ Jesus was born into the nation of Israel, and God can protect Israel in the desert after the desecration of the temple which Daniel 9 speaks about.

3. The second sign John sees is a dragon.

- ❖ Revelation 12:3-4: And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.

3. The second sign John sees is a dragon.

A. His identity: Satan

- ❖ Revelation 12:9: And the great dragon was thrown down, that **ancient serpent**, who is called the **devil** and **Satan**, the **deceiver of the whole world**—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.
- ❖ Only called “dragon” in Revelation.
- ❖ Exodus 7: Hebrew words for “dragon” and “snake” used interchangeably

3. The second sign John sees is a dragon.

B. Satan is pictured as having authority.

- ❖ Seven heads/ten horns: point to different governments and kingdoms of the world
- ❖ Seven diadems: crowns of royalty, not victory
- ❖ Influence in heaven: swept down 1/3 of the stars
 - ❖ Perhaps points to 1/3 of the original angels following him in rebellion

3. The second sign John sees is a dragon.

C. Satan's primary goal was to defeat the Son.

❖ The dragon is pictured as waiting to devour the Son.

1. Throughout the Old Testament, the promise of a Son often seemed to be threatened.

- ❖ God preserved the line of Eve through Noah.
- ❖ God narrowed the promise to the line of Abraham, but Abraham was 100 before Isaac was born.
- ❖ Pharaoh tried to destroy the male children of Israel.
- ❖ God narrowed the promise to the line of David, but twice in 2 Chronicles the line was nearly destroyed.

3. The second sign John sees is a dragon.

C. Satan's primary goal was to defeat the Son.

2. Satan tried to stop Jesus from fulfilling His role as Messiah.

❖ Satan had threatened the line in the Old Testament, but the picture of the dragon threatening the child points to Satan's direct attacks against Jesus.

- ❖ Luke 4:5-8: And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’”
- ❖ Revelation 11: Christ *will* rule the kingdoms of the world, but not because He bowed down to Satan.

- ❖ Satan influenced Judas, the Jewish rulers, and the Roman rulers to crucify Jesus. But that was God's plan.
- ❖ Revelation 12:5: sums up the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus.
- ❖ Throughout history, Satan has sought to thwart the purposes of God, but he always fails.

4. The male child is the promised seed from Genesis 3.

A. The picture clearly points to Jesus as the Messiah.

- ❖ Revelation 12:5: She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne.
- ❖ Revelation 19:5: From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

4. The male child is the promised seed from Genesis 3.

B. Christ ruling with a rod of iron shows the defeat of Satan on earth.

- ❖ Revelation 12 shows Satan being cast out of heaven and turning his wrath against earth.
- ❖ Believers during the Tribulation will face great persecution, but can be encouraged that Satan ultimately will be defeated.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- Satan will not be successful in thwarting God's plan.
- Revelation 2:25-27: **Only hold fast what you have until I come. The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end,** to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

1. Hold fast to what we have
 2. Keep God's works until the end
- We must be faithful to God and His Word.

NEXT TIME:

REVELATION 12:7-12

- The War in Heaven