

Revelation Chapter 12

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There are three principle characters in chapter 12: A **Woman**, a **Dragon**, and a **Child**. These are symbols. God is outlining what would be the history of the Christian church from the perspective of the true followers of Christ. Let's go through each verse and interpret the symbols by seeking their meanings from other parts of the Bible.

Revelation 12:1

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the _____, and the _____ under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

NOTE: A Woman in prophecy represents a Church according to these verses:

Revelation 12:9

And there came unto me one of the seven angels...saying, Come hither, I will shew thee **the bride, the Lamb's wife**.

Jeremiah 6:2

I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate **woman**.

Isaiah 62:5

For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your **wives**, even as Christ also loved **the church**, and gave himself for it.

This woman, or church, is clothed with the sun. The sun here represents the light and glory of the Christian dispensation. Jesus said that He is "the light of the world" (John 9:5). The moon under her feet stands for the

Mosaic dispensation (Old Testament). Just as the moon shines with light borrowed from the sun, so the former dispensation did shine with the light of the present. This pure woman in **Revelation 12** is a symbol for God's true church. The twelve stars forming her crown symbolize the twelve tribes of Israel before Christ, and the twelve apostles from which the Christian church was formed.

Revelation 12:2

And she being with _____ cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

NOTE: The Child is Jesus.

Revelation 12:3

And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red _____, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

NOTE: The dragon is Satan. **Verse 9** says, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world." This dragon is symbolized as "a beast with 7 heads and 10 horns with crowns." We learned in our study of Daniel 7 that a beast in prophecy represents a kingdom. Since the time frame at the beginning of the prophecy involves the birth of Christ, then this dragon also represents Rome. More specifically, *the dragon is Satan working through the Roman power*.

Revelation 12:4

And his tail drew the third part of the _____ of heaven, and did cast them to the earth.

NOTE: The Stars of heaven are Angels:

Job 38:7

When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.

Revelation 1:20

The seven **stars** are the **angels** of the seven churches.

Lucifer successfully deceived 1/3 of all the angelic host to side with him and his evil rebellion against God. They ceased to be angels and became demons under the authority of the devil.

Revelation 12:4

...and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to _____ her child as soon as it was born.

NOTE: This is a reference to King Herod. In an attempt

to kill Jesus at His birth, Herod ordered all male children up to the age of two years be destroyed (**Matthew 2**). Notice that the prophecy says that the dragon, or Satan, did this. This shows that Satan does, in fact, work through evil human agents to do his bidding.

Revelation 12:5

And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto _____, and to his throne.

NOTE: After His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead, Jesus was “caught up to heaven,” to the throne of God.

Revelation 12:6

And the woman fled into the _____, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

NOTE: Modern translations simply say 1260 days. We learned that a day in prophecy represents a literal year:

Ezekiel 4:6

I have appointed thee each day for a year.

We learned in **Daniel 7** that the people of God were persecuted by the Roman Catholic popes for exactly 1260 years, from the year A.D. 538 to 1798.

Revelation 12:7-8

⁷ And there was war in heaven: _____ 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.

NOTE: Verse 7 mentions Michael. Besides Revelation, Michael is only mentioned in Daniel as Michael the Prince, and in Jude as Michael the archangel. Michael is another name for Jesus:

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord himself (Jesus) shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel.

The name Michael means, “Who Is As God.” There is only One in all the universe who is as God: Jesus Christ. The word angel means “messenger.” Jesus, the Son of God, is the Chief Messenger—the ‘archangel’—of the Will and Word of God the Father.

Revelation 12:9-11

⁹ And the great dragon was _____ out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth 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 _____ of our brethren 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 unto the death.

NOTE: Verse 11 says, “And they overcame [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony,” the word of their testimony is another way of saying that they overcame him by the spirit of prophecy:

Revelation 19:10

...for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

To those who choose Christ over the world with their whole heart, He gives “the spirit of prophecy” – the ability to understand and teach these prophecies to guide souls into all truth. **Revelation 12:11** also says, “and they loved not their lives unto the death.” The ultimate goal for the Christian is to become like Christ, to turn away from a life of sin, to love others more than self. To be willing to lay ones life down in the name of Jesus and truth. Many through the history of the Christian age were called to do so.

We are born with the sinful nature. This is not something that can be done of our own power. No one has the ability to become like Jesus without His help. All the Bible teaches that if we submit to Christ, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” **1 John 1:9**. **Hebrews 10:16** says, “This is the covenant that I will make with them...I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.” With the **Ten Commandments** written in the hearts of the followers of Christ, sin is revealed to be the ugly disease it truly is. With the fear of the Lord comes the hatred of evil (**Proverbs 8:13**).

IMPORTANT: This **spirit of prophecy** is given only to those who love and observe all ten of God’s commandments. The Bible is clear that where churches disregard His holy law, even on a single point, God sends no prophetic vision. Sadly, all churches that keep Sunday in place of the seventh-day Sabbath of the fourth commandment are breaking the law of God, and are therefore disqualified from receiving the spirit of prophecy in its fullest measure. **Lamentations 2:9** says that where “the law is no more; her prophets also find no vision from the Lord.” Almost all of today’s Protestant churches have incomplete, or erroneous interpretations of prophecy. This is because they reject the fourth commandment in favor of a man-made tradition.

Revelation 12:12-14

¹² Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the _____ and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

¹³ And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he _____ 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.

NOTE: The church was given **wings**. Wings represent **speed** and/or **protection**:

Deuteronomy 28:49

...as swift as the eagle flieth.

Matthew 23:37

...how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings.

God preserved the truth by hiding true Christians in the wilderness during the 1260 years of great persecution. This includes the Waldensians. Considered the early forerunners of the Reformation, they lived in hiding in the mountains on the borders of France and Italy in the twelfth century. The Waldensians rejected the false doctrines of the Catholic Church. They preserved the Bible and precepts of Christ, which were outlawed by the popes. They even kept the Saturday Sabbath according to the commandment, instead of the Roman Sunday. During the Dark Ages the Waldensians devoted their lives to secretly spreading the light of the then forbidden Scriptures to towns and villages all over Europe. In this sense, they fulfilled this portion of the prophecy. As a part of God's true church, she did flee into the wilderness where she was nourished for **a time, and times, and half a time**, from the face of the serpent. We learned in our study of **Daniel 7** that a time, and times, and half a time when broken down into Jewish years equal 1260 days—prophetic years. These 1260 years is the same time period of papal supremacy mentioned in **verse 6**.

Revelation 12:15

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

NOTE: Flood means Persecution:

2 Samuel 22:5

When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

This flood came from the mouth of the dragon. "Mouth" here represents Satan's evil influence. As we saw with Herod, the devil works through human agents. Satan worked through the corrupt Roman Catholic popes of the Dark Ages. United with the secular governments, they made laws and decrees to punish those who obeyed the law of God, and to persecute and put to death the true and faithful followers of Jesus Christ. In **John 15:20**, Jesus said, "If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you." For 1260 years, the papacy persecuted God's true church. Eventually the Waldensians were labeled heretics and hunted down by the papacy. It is by the grace of God that they still exist today, and that their devotion to the Bible and truth helped spark the Reformation.

Revelation 12:16

And the _____ helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

NOTE: The **earth** here represents the **wilderness** spoken of in verse 14. Some of these true Christians escaped persecution in the wilderness, and God preserved them.

IMPORTANT: In this prophecy God now gives a description and characteristics of His true followers, those whom God loves and the devil hates more than any others on the face of the earth:

Revelation 12:17

And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make _____ with the remnant of her seed, **which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ**.

NOTE: A remnant is a remainder, the last of a kind. These are the people who love the Lord with all their heart, with all their soul, with all their mind, and with all their strength. They are characterized as those "who keep the commandments of God, and having the testimony of Jesus Christ."

No one denomination of Christianity can claim they are the only ones that will be saved. God's true remnant church is made up of members of ALL denominations, even souls of whom Christ's Holy Spirit has been successful in reaching, even if they were not born in a Christian church. It is not the name of the organization you belong to that constitutes salvation. In **Matthew 5:6**, Jesus said, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." God does not say that His true followers are Catholic, or Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal, Seventh-day Adventist, or any other denomination. He simply states that His true followers are they who accept all ten of His commandments, which by definition must include the second command, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...Thou shalt

not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.” And it must include the fourth command, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God.” If you want to be a Christian in the truest sense, the Ten Commandments must be all important to you—all ten as written by the hand of God in stone, signifying their unchangeable nature, and spoken by His own voice on mount Sinai (**Exodus 20**).

God requires perfection of character from his children. He demands that his law be remembered and meditated upon, that unswerving obedience be rendered to its requirements. Understand, there is no power in the law to save the sinner, but to the soul who yields to Christ and receives of Him His saving grace, to that redeemed soul is given the ability to obey His holy law. In other words, we are not saved by keeping the law. That is salvation by works, which is not possible. But the Bible says that if you truly are saved, then proof of this will be the keeping of the holy law. We don't keep the law of God to be saved, we keep it out of love for Him because we are saved. Jesus said in **John 14:15**, “If you love me, keep my commandments.” And **James 2:18** says, “shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.” They are His who keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

We've established from the Word of God that the testimony of Jesus is the Holy Bible, complete and unchanged, nothing added to nor taken away. Here in Revelation, the angel further states that the testimony of Jesus is also the Spirit of prophecy:

Revelation 19:10

...for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Amos 3:7

Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

When God destroyed the earth by flood He sent Noah to warn the people. When He was going to judge Nineveh, He sent the prophet Jonah to warn that city. When Jesus came the first time, He raise up the prophet John the Baptist to prepare the way before Him. Now, in these last days, just prior to His second coming, would God suddenly be silent? No. Like the Waldensians in the twelfth century, God has raised up a people with the same special purpose. The purpose of God's remnant people is to preserve the Bible and prepare the way for Christ's second coming, to proclaim the truth, that the commandments of God stand firm, that the Word of God is the supreme authority in heaven and earth, and to warn the world of the judgment. Like John the Baptist, the message is the same, “Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

The return of Jesus in the clouds of glory in judgment is imminent. But prophecy warns that troublous times will happen first. **Revelation 12** reveals to us that the devil is furious with Christ's remnant people. He is preparing to unleash his fury upon the earth. He has prepared a master plan to deceive the whole world, says **verse 9**, to cause the inhabitants of the earth to forfeit heaven by their own ignorance of Scripture. The devil makes people think they are choosing God, when they are actually choosing Satan and a counterfeit religion. The only way to recognize a counterfeit is to be well versed in genuine Bible truth:

Isaiah 8:20

To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

There it is again, **the law and the testimony—the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus**. The whole Word of God is our defense against the deceptions of Satan.

By these Bible studies of prophecy, we hope to reach many souls for the kingdom of God. The prophecies show that the Lord's coming is soon, and we want you to be ready.