

I. The Woman (12:1-2)

Verse 1

A great (megas) and wondrous sign (semeion = a marker of significant events) appeared (horao) in heaven:

The first of seven signs John lists

- 1) **A woman**
- 2) **clothed with the sun;**
- 3) **with the moon under her feet**
- 4) **and a crown (stephanos)**
- 5) **of twelve stars on her head.**

The Catholic church sees Mary Magdalene as the woman



However, other times in Revelation a woman is talked about in symbolic terms it represents a religious system.

- **Jezebel** – false teaching system (Rev. 2:20)
- **Great Harlot** – false religion (Rev. 17:2)
- **The Bride** – the pure church (Rev. 19:7-8)

This image fits with the Joseph's dream in Gen. 37 which is a dream about the tribes of Israel. Israel or Jerusalem is referred to as a woman in Isa. 54; Jer. 3; Ezek. 16; and Hos. 2.

The woman = Israel

Verse 2

6) She was pregnant (gaster = with child in womb) and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.

If the woman is Israel then this would remind us of a time of great travail and trouble and a time of change as the birth of something new is arriving.

II. The Dragon (12:3-4)

Verse 3

Then another sign appeared (horao) in heaven:

Sign #2 in John's list of seven

We will see 14 hints about the dragon's identity:

- 1) **an enormous (megas)**
- 2) **red (pyrros = the color of fire)**
- 3) **dragon (drakon = comes from "to look")**
- 4) **with seven heads (heads = territories)**
- 5) **and ten horns (keras = usually refers to kings)**
- 6) **and seven crowns (diadema = royal crowns) on his heads.**

Daniel 7:7 – The fourth beast had 10 horns

Verse 4

7) his tail

swept a third of the stars (Rev. 1:20 = angels) out of the sky and flung (ballo) them to the earth.

8) The dragon stood (histemi = dig in/stand ground) in front of the woman who was about to give birth so that he might devour (katesthio) her child.

This dragon's intention is to destroy this child!



III. The Child (12:5-6)

Verse 5

She gave birth (tikto)
to a son,

Sign #3 - Six hints to the child's identity:

- 1) a male child (arren)
- 2) who will rule
- 3) all the nations (world wide)
- 4) with an iron scepter. (Psalm 2:9)
- 5) And her child was snatched up (harpazo)
to God
- 6) and to His (God's) throne.

It seems clear that the only child who is birthed out of Israel, who will rule the world and was ascended to God is **Jesus the Christ**.

The Timing Question:

When did these events happen?

Vs. 5 is the **key** to the chronology!

- It depicts the birth and ascension of Christ.
- Therefore we have a known date in time.

Put this date in the middle.

Vs. 1-2 talks about a pregnant Israel (1900 BC)

Vs. 3-4 talks about Satan sweeping 1/3rd of the angels from heaven. So this was before the life of Christ.

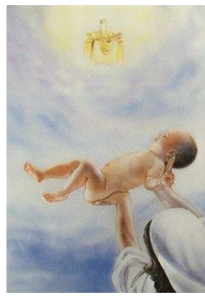
Vs. 7-9 talks about a war in heaven and Satan and his angels cast down to earth – this happens **AFTER** vs. 5 – therefore some time after the life of Christ on earth.

Verse 6

The woman fled (pheugo)
into the desert
to a place prepared (hetoimazo) for her by God,

where she might be
taken care of (trepho = nourished)
for 1,260 days. (3 ½ years)

This idea will be repeated later. Jesus explained in Matt. 24 that when the abomination that causes desolation happens – that the people should flee to the caves and deserts. God has prepared a place of protection and will supply the needs of his people during the second half of the tribulation period.



IV. The War (12:7-9)

Verse 7

And there was war (polemos)
in heaven.

Michael and his angels (Dan. 12:1)
fought against the dragon,
and the dragon and his angels
fought back.

Verse 8

But he (the dragon) was not strong (ischyo) enough
and they lost their place in heaven.

Michael (mikaheel = like God) – arc angel and Lucifer (helel = brightness – arc angel (Ezek. 28:14) – battle of equal powers. Until this great war – Satan and his angels appear to had access to heaven and to the throne of God. Afterwards access is denied. The first step in the ultimate defeat of Satan is his denial of heavenly privileges.

Verse 9

The great dragon
was hurled down (ballo)

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 9) that ancient serpent (ophis) | } Clearly Defined by the text |
| 10) called the devil, (diabolos) | |
| 11) or Satan, (Satanas) | |
| 12) who leads (planao) the whole world astray. | |

He was hurled (ballo)
to the earth

and his angels with him. (stars explained)

The answer! The dragon is Satan himself!

He is cast to earth – after the ascension of Christ (vs. 5)

V. The Declaration (12:10 - 12)

Verse 10

Then I heard
a loud voice
in heaven say:

“Now has come (ginomai = has come to the finish)

- 1) the salvation (soteria = deliverance)
- 2) and the power (dynamis = miraculous might)
- 3) and the kingdom (basileia = rule/ownership)

of our God,

- 4) and the authority (exousia = right to power)

of His Christ.



For the

- 13) *accuser* (kategor = slanderer)
of our brothers,
14) *who accuses them*
before our God
day and night,
has been hurled down.

Satan's mission is to destroy the image of the saints in the mind of God by accusing them of their sins and worthiness of death due to the law. However, God by his grace has removed our penalty of sin and has chosen to forgive and forget our unrighteousness.

Verse 11

They overcame (nikao) him (spiritual warfare)
1) *by the blood of the Lamb*

Blood calls to remembrance that the first and final defeat of Satan already happened – at the cross! Satan's threat of death was removed by Christ's proof of resurrection. (Rom. 5:8)

2) *and by the word* (logos = word of God)
of their testimony (martyria);

We have to speak the word to be a testimony!

3) *they did not love* (agapao)
their lives (psyche)
as to shrink from death.

To value Christ is to live in peace with life (Phil. 1:21).

Verse 12

Therefore rejoice (euphraino),
you heavens
and you who dwell (skenoō = tabernacle)
in them!

But woe (ouai) *to the earth*
and the sea
because the devil

has gone down to you!

He is filled with fury (thymos = slow burning)
because he knows his time (kairos) is short."

Satan accepts that he can't win – but that only drives him to greater anger and bitterness toward God.

VI. God's Protection (12:13 - 17)

Verse 13

When the dragon

saw that he had been hurled
to the earth,
he pursued (dioko) the woman
who had given birth
to the male child.

Satan has been persecuting Jews and Israel throughout history and those Christ followers that have been birthed through her. From the time of Abraham until today, Israel holds a primary role in God's plan for the ages – therefore, Satan will continue to attempt to destroy God's plan by destroying God's people, God's city (Jerusalem) and God's saints.

Verse 14

The woman was given

the two wings
of a great eagle,

so that she might fly
to the place

prepared for her
in the desert

where she would be taken care of (trepho = nourished)
for a time, times, and a half a time. (3 ½ years)
out of the serpents reach.

Eagles wings are a reference to the Exodus experience (Ex. 19:4) God will do again what he has done before. During the tribulation.

Verse 15

Then from the mouth of the serpent

spewed water like a river,
to overtake the woman

to sweep her away with the torrent.

It's interesting that the serpent mimics God's judgement during the days of Noah. However, God has promised NOT to use water to judge the earth again.

Verse 16

**But the earth helped (boetheo = to run to the cry) the woman
by opening its mouth
and swallowing the river
that the dragon had spewed out
of his mouth.**

Once again God delivers His people in times of trouble. This reminds us the promise of Isaiah 43:1-3a:

"But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you. "For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;"

Verse 17

**Then, the dragon was enraged (orgizo = bursting anger)
at the woman
and went off to make war
against the rest of her offspring**

Two indicators of her offspring:

- 1) **those who obey (tereo = keep or abide)
God's commandments**
- 2) **and hold (echo = to keep or defend) to
the testimony (martryia) of Jesus.**

For the 144,000 and those who become Christians during the tribulation, the persecution from earth now add to the difficulty. The true measure of Christian faith is stated simply here.

Prayer Concerns

