

# A Woman Clothed with the Sun

Revelation 12:1-17

It is helpful to note Revelation chapter 12 and 13 are filling in details of the tribulation period. These chapters help us understand the global drama to be played out in those days. Every drama has main characters involved and so in chapters 12 and 13 we are formally introduced to the following characters.

First, the woman (who we shall identify as Israel); second, the red dragon, Satan; third, the child of the woman who is Christ; fourth, Michael, the archangel; and fifth, the 144,000 who are sealed of God and who survive the tribulation; and finally, chapter 13 introduces us to two beasts which we shall identify when we get to that chapter. Seven characters, if you please, are front and center during the end time drama yet to come.

Now let's read chapter 12 together:

*1And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:*

*2And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.*

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

*4And 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.*

*5And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

*6And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*

*7And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,*

*8And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.*

*9And the great dragon was cast 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.*

*10And 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 brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

*11And 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.*

*12Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth 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.*

*13And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.*

*14And 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.*

*15And 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.*

*16And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.*

*17And 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.*

Now look again at verse one. As we approach this verse remember that John is in the Spirit on the Lord's Day. Thus, as recorded in this chapter, John sees a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. These identifying marks belong to Israel. We know this from Scripture. In Genesis 37 Joseph relates to his father Jacob the details of a dream he dreamed. The Bible says:

*“And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?”*

Clearly from this passage we can see the sun, the moon, and the stars are connected to Israel. The woman John sees in this vision pictures the nation of Israel.

Look now at verse two. John says the woman was with child. May I remind you that the nation of Israel gave birth to the most important child ever born. God gave the world a Savior through the nation of Israel. Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the living God, is the promised seed of Abraham and the promised seed of David who came to save his people from their sins! The woman brought forth a man child who is to rule the nations with a rod of iron.

Now look again at verses 3 and 4:

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

The great red dragon is none other than Satan who is the spirit behind the final world government pictured by the seven heads and ten horns. John saw his tail draw the third part of the stars of heaven. This speaks of those angels who joined Satan’s

rebellion in heaven and who populate the unseen kingdom of darkness yet warring against the Lord and his Christ.

Take note of Satan's effort to devour the woman's child as soon as he was born. Satan's effort to destroy the Christ child occurred through wicked Herod who slew the babies two years of age and younger in his attempt to kill Jesus.

Now look at verse five. Her child is destined to rule the nations with a rod of iron but is now caught up to God and to his throne. As you know, Acts chapter one documents the ascension of Christ into heaven where he sits upon the throne.

As we move to verse six, we see the woman flee to the wilderness where she is preserved by God in a special place of shelter during the Great Tribulation. During those days Satan will seek to destroy every Jew on planet earth, but the Lord will save a remnant of his people and preserve them through those days.

We need to remember what Jesus says about those days coming upon the Jews. In Luke 21 we read:

*“And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”*

As dark as these days to come are for Israel the Lord will not make a full end of her. He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. He will preserve a remnant of Israel in the wilderness where he supernaturally protects them.

## Conclusion

The remainder of this chapter reveals the great wrath of Satan who goes to war against Israel and anyone who has a testimony for Jesus Christ during those days. However, there will be a people in that day who overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. They will be willing to die for Christ and many will.

Likewise all believers of all generations overcome the world in the same way: by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. Are you trusting the blood of Christ for your salvation? Are you persisting in your walk with Christ through the power of the blood of Christ? We overcome by faith in the blood of Christ. The blood of Christ provides the security we need as we battle the world, the flesh, and the devil!

Are you likewise willing to confess Christ no matter what the world says about you? We overcome by the word of our testimony, that is, our confession of Christ. We will not deny him no matter the cost. We stand with Christ and will not give him up for the world! Amen!