

The Woman, The Dragon, The Child

Rev. 12

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We are journeying across the final prophecy of God. The revealing of God's plan to the end of our present state into the eternal state is presented to us. The chapter before us continues to establish the exact plans of God and that which will impact this world before the end. We are being shown here the conflict between Israel and Satan.

This section will aid in our understanding of those events around which the pouring out of the seven bowls will occur. We are being introduced to 7 key figures the woman (Israel), the dragon (Satan), the male child (Christ), Michael (the Archangel), the remnant (Saved Israel that don't flee), the beast out of the sea (Antichrist), and the beast out of the earth (False Prophet). These will play a dominant part in this last half of the Tribulation.

V1. In the middle of the week two "wonders" will appear in Heaven, for John vision is back there now. The original supports "a symbol" of something. The first we find here is a "Sun clothed Woman". The question is who does she represent? Some have said she is the Virgin Mary and others believe she represents the Church. The Bible is very clear about the symbols identity. She is Israel. Gen. 37:9 "Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the "Sun" and the "Moon", and the "Eleven Stars" made Obeisance to me". Joseph is the twelfth star.

Israel is again and again compared to a woman, and a married woman, in the Old Testament. Isa. 54:1. In the period of her rejection she is spoken of as a widow (Isa. 47:7-9; Luke 18:1-18) and a divorce woman (Isa. 50:1), and an adulterous wife (Jer. 3:1-25, Hosea 2:1-23) but the Church is a virgin, and an espoused virgin at that (II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-27). Nowhere in the Scriptures is the Church spoken of as being with child but is so prophesied of Israel.

We find the sevenfold privilege of Israel in Rom. 9:4-5 "Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the Law, and the service of God, and the promises, whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came." Here we see that Christ was to come to Israel. Then we know that the "promised seed" was to come through Israel, and the prophet Isaiah looked forward to the time when Israel could say—"Unto us a child is born unto us a son is given" Isa. 9:6-7. The proper identification of this "woman" is an important key to the right standing of this book we are in.

This review of the conflict of the ages between God and Satan is used to show how Satan's past enmity to God, mankind, and Israel fits in with God's consummation of all things.

V3-4. The second "wonder" (symbol) that will appear in heaven will be a "great red dragon". His identity is clearly presented in verse 9 were we find he is Satan. His color is red, the color of blood, for he was a murderer from the beginning. (Jn. 8:44).

The "seven heads" refer to the seven world kingdoms that have existed from Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the end-time government of Antichrist made up of