

The Woman with Child (Message #27)

Revelation 12: 1-6

At the close of [Chp.11](#) we saw the angel sound the 7th trumpet, signaling the 3rd woe. Our study tonight will not deal with the 7th trumpet; we won't get there until [Chp.15](#).

Let me remind you that the book isn't written entirely in chronological order. [Chps.4-11](#) actually covers the majority of the Tribulation. Tonight we begin a look at the Tribulation from a different perspective. [Chps.4-11](#) deal with the timing of events and [Chps.12-19](#) deal more with the characters involved. It has been said that [Chps.4-11](#) look at the Tribulation through a telescope and [Chps.12-19](#) look at it through a microscope, revealing more details.

This is an interesting passage as the ages of time are inter-woven with the Tribulation. It is very important to identify these characters properly or we will get off course and into false doctrine. The text tonight deals with the **woman**, the **dragon**, and the **child**. Let's allow the Bible to unravel this mystery for us as we consider: [The Woman with Child](#).

I. The Appearance of the Woman (1-2) – The identity of this woman has been the subject of debate and origin of false doctrine for years. John saw a [great wonder in heaven](#), referring to a supernatural sign. Clearly what John describes is symbolic due to the woman's clothing.

- Roman Catholics believe this to be the Virgin Mary. This can't be because Mary's life doesn't fit. [v.6 – And 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.](#)

- Others believe the woman to be the church. The church didn't give birth to Christ, the Man-child; He gave birth to the church! So, who is the woman in the text? Let's allow the Bible to speak for itself concerning her identity.

A. Her Clothing (1) – [And 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:](#) Keep in mind that John is using symbolic language. She is [clothed with the sun](#), speaking of her glory. [The moon under her feet](#) speaks of her power and dominion. The [crown of twelve stars](#) speaks of her royalty, made up of the 12 tribes of Israel.

- The woman in the text is the nation of Israel. Joseph describes something very similar in his dream. [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 was referring to his family, Jacob, Rachel, and his brothers, the nation of Israel.

B. Her Condition (2) – [And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.](#) The Child can be none other than Jesus our Lord. [V.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 God, and to his throne.](#)

- I realize that Mary was the mother of Jesus, but the passage is dealing with Israel. Jesus was called the Son of David and the Son of Abraham in [Mt.1:1 – The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.](#) He was born of the lineage of David. Christ came through the womb of Israel, God's chosen people. The 1st prophecy concerning the coming Messiah speaks of that. [Gen.3:15 – And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.](#) The woman is Israel and her seed is Christ.
- Consider all the turmoil and suffering Israel endured awaiting the Messiah. God promised the Messiah would come through Israel and He did! She suffered great pains being delivered, but the Messiah came. When looking at the context of this passage and the whole of Scripture, Israel must be the woman spoken of in the text.

I. The Appearance of the Woman (1-2)

II. The Adversary of the Woman (3-4) – John sees another wonder in heaven, a great red dragon, symbolic of Satan. [V.9 – And 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.](#) Notice:

A. The Description of the Dragon (3) – [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.](#) He bears the color red, the color of blood. This brings to mind the death and bloodshed he brings.

- He is described as a [dragon](#), a winged serpent, the object of myths and fables usually associated with evil.
- He has [7 heads](#) which speaks of his intelligence and wisdom. [Ez.28:12 – Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty,](#) (Illus.).
- He has [10 horns](#) referring to his power. Satan has great power, but not all power. Some believe the 10 horns may refer to specific nations that will be used of Satan in Tribulation.
- He also wears [7 crowns](#), a symbol of his authority. Satan is the god of this earth.

B. The Defilement of the Dragon (4a) – *And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth:* This is in reference to the fall of Satan before the world began. He was created as Lucifer, the morning star. He was a brilliant angel of rank until he desired to obtain the throne of God.

- It was because of his rebellion that he was cast out of heaven and became Satan, *Is.14:12-15*. At his fall, Satan drew 1/3 of heaven's angels with him. Ever since then Satan and his demons have worked to hinder the Kingdom.

C. The Desire of the Dragon (4b) – *and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.* Here we see a picture of Satan standing before Israel waiting for the birth of Messiah.

- He desired to destroy the Lord at birth. In fact he began this attempt with the 1st of God's creation. He moved Cain to kill Abel. He moved Nimrod to rebel against God, hoping to see the Lord destroy mankind. He created conflict between Esau and Jacob, trying to prevent the lineage of Christ. In Egypt he tried to have all the male babies killed. He led the people into idolatry, resulting in bondage, once again hoping God would destroy Israel.
- He moved Herod to destroy the babies in Bethlehem under age 2 in an effort to kill the Christ child. Satan has always had one objective, to disrupt the plan of God for salvation so that men would worship him rather than the Lord.

I. The Appearance of the Woman (1-2)

II. The Adversary of the Woman (3-4)

III. The Achievement of the Woman (5) – Satan tried in every way to destroy the Seed of Israel, but he failed! Jesus was born of a virgin, wholly God and wholly Man. Let's consider her achievement, the Child.

A. His Authority (5a) – *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron:* Jesus came as God in the flesh to redeem men from sin. The Jews rejected Him because they sought one who would restore Israel. Jesus didn't do that, but one day He will. He will set up His kingdom here on earth and rule with a rod of iron in complete righteousness.

- He is the Creator; He is the Redeemer; He is the sovereign ruler! The world was created by Him and belongs to Him. He purchased us with His blood. He alone is worthy to rule this earth! One day every knee will bow to the King!

B. His Ascension (5b) – [and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.](#) Jesus is pictured being [caught up unto God, and to his throne.](#) Here we are reminded of the greatest victory of all time. Jesus gave His life upon the cross. They laid His lifeless body in the tomb, but He didn't stay there; He didn't stay dead! On that 3rd glorious morning He came forth victorious over all that Satan had corrupted. He ascended back to His throne in glory, seated at the Father's right hand.

- He is now making preparations for the redeemed. One day He will step out on the clouds and call for His bride. Then at the end of the age He will return to establish His kingdom and sentence the already defeated devil.
- Satan did all he could to destroy the Lamb, but He lives today! He is coming again as King of kings and Lord of lords.

I. The Appearance of the Woman (1-2)

II. The Adversary of the Woman (3-4)

III. The Achievement of the Woman (5)

IV. The Advocate of the Woman (6) – Here our focus is turned back to the plight of Israel during the Tribulation. She has never been forsaken and this time will be no different. If God be for us, who can be against us?

A. The Preparation of God (6a) – [And 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.](#) As Satan and the Antichrist seek to utterly destroy Israel, God will make a way. Israel has been persecuted since she became a nation. They have suffered at the hands of Pharaoh, the Philistines, the Babylonians, the Romans, Hitler, and now the Islamic extremist. Their persecution will only intensify in Tribulation.

- During that time God will prepare a place of hiding for Israel in the wilderness. He will provide a place of refuge in the midst of turmoil.
- God isn't through with His covenant people. There are those who want them removed from the face of the earth, but God will hide them for His glory! There is no safer place than under the shadow of Almighty God!

B. The Preservation of God (6b) – [that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days](#). This makes reference to the last 3 ½ years of Tribulation. Once in their place of hiding, God will provide for their needs.

- We don't know who "they" in the text is referring to and it doesn't matter. God may use those who are sympathetic to the Jews or he may feed them Himself.
- He is capable of doing that you know? He has done it before. Remember the manna in the wilderness, the ravens by the brook, and the barrel of meal that never ran out? God will preserve a remnant through the Tribulation who will embrace the Lord as Messiah and believe on Him.

Let me close by sharing a story I heard. A man walked by a little league baseball game and noticed the score was 21-0. He approached a young boy on the bench of the losing team. "Son it doesn't look very good for your team." The boy replied with a smile, "Well, no sir, not right now, but we haven't got to bat yet!"

It may appear as if Satan has gained the upper hand, but the Lord hasn't stepped up to the plate yet! He is coming again and He will rule in power. The victory has already been won and I believe we are nearing the bottom of the 9th! It's good to be a winner with Jesus. Are you on the Lord's team tonight? You can be if you want to.