

The Woman and The Dragon

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John the Apostle sees a vision of a woman giving birth and dragon attempting to kill the child (Rv12:1-5). The vision contains several **important symbols**: “**a sign**”: take notice, understand; “**the woman**”: Mary the mother of Jesus, Israel the mother of the New Testament Church; “**sun, moon, and stars**” allusion to Gn37:9; “**giving birth**”: the birth of Jesus, the birth of the New Testament Church; “**a red dragon**”: Satan the Devil; “**devour it**”: kill Jesus (Mt2:7-18), destroy the New Testament Church (At4:1-7, 5:17-18, 40, 6:12-14, 7:54-58, 8:9-13; “**male child**”: Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Jesus Christ King of kings.

More about the Dragon: the dragon is explicitly identified as **Satan**; Satan’s original expulsion from eternity is noted (Rv12:4a, Lk10:18, Is14:12-15, Ez28:12-17a); his end-time denial of access to God is prophesized (Rv12:7-9, Job1:6-12, 2:1-7, Zc3:1-2, 1Kg22:19-23).

Context of Chapter 12: Chapters 12, 13, and 14 are “inset chapters”, positioned right after **the Seventh Trumpet** – the **First Resurrection** (Mk13:27, Mt24:31, 1Cr15:52, 1Th4:16). These chapters open up the meaning of the “sealed” prophecies of Daniel (Dn12:4): **chapter 12** reveals **the working of Satan the Devil** behind the world powers and the fate of Christians under the Beast Power; **chapter 13** reveals **the Beast Power** – the final incarnation of the fourth Beast of Daniel; **chapter 14** reveals **the work of God** starting with the representation of First Fruits, then the messages of the three angels, and finally the harvests of the saints and the sinners.

The Fate of the Woman: There are **three distinct events** recorded: 1. the original flight of the New Testament Church (Rv12:6); 2. the end-time attack on the Church by Satan, and subsequent protection of the Church (Rv12:13-16, “**water**” as a **symbol of danger** Ps32:6, 69:2, 124:4, 144:7); but, 3. a remnant of the Church is not protected (Rv12:17). The **flight of the Jerusalem Church to Pella** was typical of all True Christians who had to go “underground” over the next few centuries as the “false church” gained control and commenced persecution. After the flight of the Jerusalem Church, the “the rest of her offspring” were the Gentile Churches who began to be persecuted by the Roman Empire. This is the historical “type” of the prophecy.

The Kingdom of God: Rv12:10-12a make it clear there is an **end-time “antitype” for the prophecy**, when True Christians will die, “**they loved not their lives even unto death**”, during the tribulation fighting the war against the Dragon through his proxy, the Beast Power. Rv12:12b alludes to **the world war instigated by Satan** during the fifth and sixth trumpets (Rv9:1-21). There will be an **end-time flight of the Church** with Satan in pursuit (Rv12:13-16).

Protection for the Church: Who is to be protected? How will they be protected? Where will they be protected? For an example of protection, consider Elijah, God hid him in “plain sight” in Zarephath, right under the nose of the father of Jezebel (1Kg17:9-10, 18:7-10). God promises protection (Ps12:5,7, 31:19-20, 32:6-7); but, **some Christians will remain to fight the war** (Rv12:17).

Help from God: Prior to the flight of the Church from Jerusalem, **Josephus records miraculous signs by which the Church knew it was time to flee** (Josephus, Wars, book 6, chapter 5, section 3). The sixth seal, “**heavenly signs**”, are a harbinger of the Day of YHWH. The Seven Thunders may portend some kind of super-natural revelation from God at just the right time to also help us. **However, God chooses to do it, he will reveal to us what we need to know.**

We have **a very detailed historical “type”** of the fulfillment of the prophecies in Revelation 12. The **end-time fulfillment** of the prophecy is in general quite clear, but we won’t know the details until it happens. It seems clear that **some Christians will receive super-natural protection** during the tribulation; but, also, **some will be allowed to fight the war against the Beast Power**. However this all plays out, the prophecies of Revelation clearly promise that God will take care of each and every Christian, and **the Kingdom will quickly follow!**

The document “Structure of the Book of Revelation” contains a classification of the contents of the Book of Revelation to facilitate horizontal analysis of the text (1Cr10:11, Rm15:4, 2Tm3:14-17, Jh14:15-19, 25-26, At8:30-31, Hb5:11-14, 2Tm2:15, Is28:9-10). Trust the Holy Spirit to lead you into understanding, don’t trust what someone says about the Bible.

The presentation, “The Women and the Dragon”, is available at: www.mikewhytebiblicalresearch.ca/presentations

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