

“The Seventh Trumpet”

Revelation 12:1-6

Revelation 12: 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...”

- * At this point in our study we are moving into the second half of the book of Revelation today.
- * This second portion opens with an amazing vision of some great wonders on the heavens.
- * In this chapter we will look at the central characters that are involved during the Great Tribulation

Note

That note that the book of Revelation is not written in chronological order.

Chapters 4-9

- * Take us all the way through the end of the Tribulation Period
- * Chapters 4-9 deal with the *“timeline or the plan” of the Tribulation*

Chapters 10-11

- * Are passages that stand as like a parenthesis in the action.
- * They reveal some of the *“behind the scenes” activities of the Lord*

Chapter 11

- * Takes us to the very *“edge of eternity”*
- * It closes with the Lord Jesus claiming His rightful dominion over this universe and it reveals as the inhabitants of that glorious land praise their King.

Chapters 12-19

- * Take us back through the Tribulation once again
- * Chapters 12-19 deal with the *“characters or the people of the Tribulation”*

Now in Revelation 12 are introduced to some of the individuals who will figure greatly during that period of time

Now we are going to tread once again on ground we have already visited

As one writer said:

“In Revelation 4-9 we see the events of the Tribulation through a telescope; in Revelation 12-19 we see things through a microscope”

* Simply, we are about to get a more detailed look at the events of this period.

What is said in chapter 12 is essential to a proper understanding of what is going to be said in the rest of the book

* If we misinterpret things here, we are going to be off track the rest of the way through Revelation.

Revelation 12: 1-2 [KJ]

““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; [2] And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered”

[Message]

“1-2 A great Sign appeared in Heaven: a Woman dressed all in sunlight, standing on the moon, and crowned with Twelve Stars. She was giving birth to a Child and cried out in the pain of childbirth”

The First Character: A woman with child

The identity of this woman has been the subject of debate and false doctrine for centuries

1. Roman Catholics have said that this woman is Mary

There are several reasons why this cannot be true:

- * Mary never ascended in Heaven
- * Mary gave birth on earth and not in Heaven
- * Mary cannot be wedged into Revelation 12:6 “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 three score days”

2. Some believe the woman is the church

* However, it was Christ, the man-child that gave birth to the church and not the other way around.

3. A woman by the name of Mary Baker Patterson Glover Eddy

* She claimed that she was the woman and the religion she gave birth to in 1879, was the Christian Science she claimed it to be the man-child

* Just let me just say – Sorry no way!

Who is this mysterious woman?

The clues given in the text tell us all we need to know about her identity

Revelation 12: 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...”

Her Description

The woman is “*clothed with the sun*”

* This speaks of heavenly glory

The “*Moon*” is “*under her feet*”

* This speaks of dominion and power

* Make note that the “*Moon*” is under her feet

* We here and see a lot of moon crest this day and age

She wears “*a crown*”

* This speaks of royalty

The “*twelve stars*”

* Speak of the twelve tribes of Israel - And the Abrahamic Seed Prophecy

This woman very well could be none other than the nation of Israel – something to ponder and study.

* We can find some guidance and clarity in Old Testament

Genesis 15: 5

“ 1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

2 And Abram said, LORD God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir”

5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness”

- * The seed of Abraham is compared to “*stars*”
- * This verse reminds us of what we already know to be true.
- * God is not finished with Israel!
- * He chose them out of the nations of the earth for His purposes and He has not written them off forever.
- * They will once again be clothed with glory and have dominion over the earth.

Revelation 12: 1-2 [KJ]

““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; [2] And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered”

Her Destiny

- * The woman here is in the midst of childbirth

She is in great travail as *she tried to bring her child into the world*

* We are told in [Revelation 12: 5](#) that her son is to be the ruler of the world

[Revelation 12: 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”

* This is a reference to the Messiah, to the Lord Jesus Christ.

* We will say more about Him in a moment.

For now, our focus is on the woman

* This picture of Israel in childbirth reminds us that it was the nation of Israel God used to bring His Savior into the world.

* Jesus Christ is Jewish.

In [Matthew 1:11](#) He is called both “*the Son of David*” and the “*Son of Abraham*”

* When God gave the great prophecy of [Genesis 3:15](#) - He said - “**And I will put enmity between *thee* [satan] and *the woman*, and *between thy seed and her seed*; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel”**

* So, it appears that the nation of Israel was who God chose to be the womb through which He sent His Son into the world – Mary was the vessel

Did you notice in [Revelation 12: 2](#) that this woman was in travail?

* She is in labor and she brings forth this Son with pain and suffering

* This calls to mind all the pains and persecutions suffered by Israel as Satan tried his best to short circuit the plan of God.

* In fact, when Jesus was born, the nation of Israel was suffering under the iron heel of the Roman Empire

So here we see that this expectant woman is Israel who brought the Messiah into the world. She paid a price for that privilege. That was her destiny!

Revelation 12: 3-4 [KJ]

“[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.

[4] 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”

Now we see the second character come on the scene

Another wonder in heaven is a Great Red DragonThe Personality Of The Dragon

* The next vision is of a “*great red dragon*” who has “*seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads*”

Let’s take this description of the dragon and break it down symbol by symbol

Red

* The color of war and bloodshed

* It brings to mind the red horse of Revelation 6: 3-4

Revelation 6: 3-4

“[3] And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

[4] And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword”

* This dragon is a killer

* He brings death, war and bloodshed with him when he comes.

Revelation 12: 3 “...behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads”

Note:**A Dragon – A dragon is a winged serpent**

- * There is no such thing in our natural world
- * This is a picture of the devil a fallen winged angel
- * In fact, we are very safe in identifying the dragon and the devil because of what Revelation 12: 9 tells us.

Revelation 12: 9 [KJ]

“[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”

- * So we see that **Revelation 12: 3** is speaking about a great red dragon – Satan

Revelation 12: 3 [KJ]

“... a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads”

Seven heads

- * Speak of vast intelligence
- * We are dealing with a brilliant and wise creature

Ten horns

- * Horns are a symbol of power
- * Satan is not all-powerful, but his power is cast
- * The number ten may refer to a ten nation kingdom that will figure greatly during the last days

Seven crowns

- * Crowns are a symbol of authority – High Authority - Kingship
- * Satan is still “*the god of this world*” [2 Corinthians 4: 4]

Revelation 12: 4

“[4] 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”

Stars of Heaven

- * The reference to the “*stars of heaven*” being “*cast down to the earth*” by the tail of the dragon refer us back to the fall of Satan.
- * He has not always been an evil creature.
- * In the beginning, he was the ranking angel in Heaven

Ezekiel 28:12-15 [KJ]

“ Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee”

- * Pride was found in Lucifer’s heart and he tried to take God’s throne
- * He tried to over throw the Lord

Isaiah 14: 12-14 [KJ]

“ 12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit”

Luke 10:18 [KJ]

“And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven”

Lucifer sinned and became Satan

- * **Lucifer:** Son of the Morning
- * **Satan:** Adversary

Isaiah 14:15 [KJ]

“Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit”

- * He was cast out of Heaven

Ezekiel 28:16[KJ]

“ 16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire”

Revelation 12: 4 [KJ]

“And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven...”

- * When Lucifer fell, he drew one-third of the angels of Heaven into his rebellion.
- * They were cast out of Heaven as well
- * We call these fallen angels demons – they do the work of Satan
- * They are part of Satan’s kingdom and do his bidding

Ephesians 6: 10-12 [KJ]

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand”

The Plans Of The Dragon

Revelation 12: 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”

- * Satan is pictured as standing before Israel waiting for the birth of her child.
- * His intention is to destroy the seed of the woman as soon as He is born.

Satan had worked from the beginning of time in order to prevent the birth of the Promised Seed of the woman

- * Jesus was birthed Satan tried but could not stop it!
- * Satan tried to kill Jesus off but Jesus got up from the dead!
- * Satan has tried to destroy Israel and is still trying but one day a remnant will receive Jesus as their savior!

Revelation 12: 5 [KJ]

“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”

- * This verse speaks of the Seed of the Woman
- * He is called a “*man child*”
- * It is clear that the Seed of the Woman is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12: 6 [KJ]

“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 three score days”

- * The Woman flees from the Dragon and she goes away into the wilderness to hide.
- * We are reminded here that Satan hates the nation of Israel.
- * He has tried to defeat her and destroy her since she first appeared.
- * No other nation on the face of the earth has suffered as much as Israel.
- * No other race has been persecuted as much and as long as the Jews.

The history of the Old Testament is filled with story after story of nations coming against Israel to destroy it.

- * The pages of history are filled with hatred, persecution, racism and murder, all aimed at the Jew.
- * Just a generation ago a man name Adolph Hitler did his best to destroy the Jew in what he called “*The Final Solution*”.
- * He did not destroy them, but he did manage to murder over 6 million in the death camps of Nazi Germany.
- * Josef Stalin killed millions in the Soviet Union.

The Jew had suffered, but the Jew has survived!

- * They have survived because of the providence of God.
- * He is not through with Israel.
- * The only way to get rid of the Jew is to drag the sun, moon and stars from their places in Heaven!

The hatred against the Jew is growing stronger in our day as the Muslim nations of the Middle East cry for the destruction of Israel.

- * This hatred will continue to grow into the Tribulation Period.
- * During that Time, the Antichrist will bring persecution upon the nation of Israel and the Jewish people like nothing they have ever experienced.
- * When that persecution arises, Israel will seek refuge.
- * This was prophesied by the Lord Jesus in Matt. 24:15-22.
- * Yet, they will survive that too, for God has a plan for them!

Satan hates Israel for two reasons

He hates Israel because she is a constant reminder to him that his power is limited.

- * He attempts to destroy Israel and time and again she is delivered by the power of God.

He also hates her because she is a constant reminder to him of the glory he used to wear.

- * The glory of Heaven rests on Israel just as it used to rest upon him