



## The Woman, the Dragon and the Child

By Ken Terry on November 9, 2021

**READING:** Revelation 12

Our reading unfolds with two distinct visions. The first vision is a pregnant woman in Heaven. On her head are 12 stars. The woman in the passage represents the nation of Israel. The 12 stars represent the 12 tribes of Israel. Then, on the scene, we see a great red dragon. This dragon has 7 heads and 10 horns. These components represent the dragon's governmental operations, the 10 horns represent the 10 kings of the world. When the woman gave birth to the promised Messiah, the One who would rule the nation, the dragon was standing by to devour. However, the Child was saved.

*"She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days"* (Revelation 12:5,6 NKJV).

This, my friends, reflects the midpoint of the great tribulation. The nation of Israel has been protected by God for the last three and a half years. However, the fight is far from over. The next vision that John is shown is the battle of Michael and his angels against the dragon. There are so many people that have theorized about when this battle took place. I tend to lean with the thought that this battle happened when Jesus defeated Satan at the cross. That accuser who went before our Almighty God was put in his place. The Child was caught up to Heaven, Christ rose from the grave and ascended, then Satan was cast out from Heaven. *"So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him"* (Revelation 12:9).

Finally, all heaven was freed from him, however there is a consequence for that amazing action. Satan was thrown down to earth. This was not good for mankind, especially for those who follow Christ. *"Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time"* (Revelation 12:12 NKJV).

My friend, what does that mean for us? It means that we must focus. Whether we are in the premillennial period or the postmillennial period, our focus must be on our walk with Christ. You see, we do not know exactly where the world stands in God's salvation plan. However, we do know what we are called to do--preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to all the inhabited earth. This thwarts Satan's plan and puts us right in the middle of the earthly battle! Therefore, let us get busy doing the things we know to do and not speculate on the things that are still a mystery. We can feel comfortable knowing the Word of God helps us understand more of the mind of God. His plan of salvation continues to unlock those mysteries!

**PRAYER:** Jehovah, our Father in Heaven, we come before You with open hearts and open minds. Father, we ask that You continue to grow us, Your saints in the Army of Jesus. Help us see the battle before us and never let us shy away from sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Help us, Father, to live out our faith as we continue in these uncertain times. Allow your Spirit to be evident and readily seen in us. We ask these things in the mighty name of Jesus, amen.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Revelation 13

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