

The Revelation to John

Chapter 12

Notes from the Rev. Dr. Rod Whitacre

Central vision of the conflict and an introduction of the enemies

1. The Woman (3 interpretations)

- a. Israel (*cf.* Isa 66.7-10; Gen 37.9-10)
- b. Mary
- c. The Church

2. The Dragon

- a. The Serpent in the Garden (*cf.* Gen 3.1-15)
- b. Leviathan (*cf.* Ps 74.13-14; Isa 27.1)
- c. Rahab the Monster (*cf.* Job 26.12-13; Ps 89.10; Isa. 30.7; 51.9)

3. The Conflict

- a. The Woman is about to give birth
 - i. Heaven
 - ii. Sun, moon, stars (*cf.* Gen 37.9 – Israel/ people of God)
- b. The dragon sweeps down stars from heaven to earth and waits to devour the Child (*cf.* Dan 8.10)
- c. The Child is born, caught up to God, and the Woman flees to the wilderness where she is nourished by God
 - i. The period of the 1260 days (*cf.* Dan 7.25; 9.27; 12.7)
- d. War in heaven: The Dragon is cast out of heaven
 - i. Michael the archangel (*cf.* Dan 10.13, 21; 12.1)
 - ii. The defeat and the Cross (Rev 5.9-10; Matt 12.28-29; Acts 10.38; 2 Tim 1.10; Heb 2.14; 1 John 3.8; John 12.31)
- e. The Dragon attacks the Woman
 - i. Exodus imagery (Exod 19.4; Deut 32.11; Num 16.30-33)
 - ii. Tribulation and witness—You are here (Eph 6.12)

Chapter 13

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Two Beasts

1. **First Beast – Political Empire**
 - a. Daniel 7.3
 - b. Parody of God and Christ
2. **Second Beast – Religious propaganda**
 - a. False prophet (*cf.* Rev 16.13)
 - b. Relation to the First Beast
3. **Deception and the need for discernment**
 - a. Parody of Christ (*cf.* Exod 7-8; Matt 7.15, 22-23; 24.24; 2 Thess 2.9-10)
 - b. The mark of the Beast (*cf.* Exod 28.36)
 - c. Buying and selling

Satanic Imitations of God's Reality			
God's Reality		Satanic Imitation	
The real Trinity	1.4-5	the false trinity	16.13
Father, Son & HS		dragon, beast, false prophet	
Lamb standing, as though it had been slain	5.6	many-headed beast with mortal wound healed	13.3
sealing of the saints	7.2-3	mark of the beast	13.16-18
Bride in white	19.7-8	prostitute in purple and scarlet	17.1-6

Source: ESV Study Bible