

The Woman, the Dragon, and the Child Revelation 12

Special Study: The Cosmic Conflict Behind the Birth of Christ

1. The Year is 2022 because 2022 years ago Jesus was born in Bethlehem
 2. The exact DAY of His birth is unknown — but the FACT of His birth...
not only changed history — it literally changed all of eternity.
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I. THE COSMIC CONFLICT BEHIND THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

A. THE WOMAN (v.1–2)

1. A **great sign** appeared in heaven... this is symbolic language
 - a) The woman is clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet,
and on her head a garland of twelve stars.
2. **Being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth...**
 - a) On a literal level this points to Mary, the mother of the Messiah,
when she gives birth to Jesus... BUT...
 - b) the description is so Super-human and Super-natural it is Symbolic...
3. **In the OT, God's covenant people is pictured at times as a woman, a bride,
and a mother in Travail (Micah 4:9-10, 5:2-3)**
 - a) While pointing to Mary it symbolically includes the faithful lineage of Gods people

B. THE DRAGON (v.3–4)

1. **Then Another Sign appeared in Heaven... a Fiery Red Dragon...**
 - a) The Bible Interprets itself—This is Satan (v.9) Called “the god of this world”,
“Prince of power of the air”, “who deceives the whole world”
 - b) The dragon has seven heads and ten horns: showing its fierce power.
 - c) It has seven royal diadems: symbolizing complete power over the kingdoms of this
world in opposition to the kingdom of God
2. **His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.**
 - a) Some believe this is symbolic of Satan rebellion leading a third of the Angels w/ him.
 - b) We find similar language of rebellion against God in Daniel (Daniel 8:10)
3. **And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth,
to devour her Child as soon as it was born.**
 - a) Think About How King Herod Plotted to Kill the Newborn King
 - b) Wise-men from the East are asking about a child who is king of the Jews
 - c) Herod was startled:
 - 1) He knows the Magi are not ordinary men, but scholars, astronomers, wise-men
 - 2) They are asking where the newborn king will be born.
 - d) Using Deception Herod tells them to notify him when they find the Newborn King so
that he too can worship him...
 - e) But Herod will not worship him—he will try to kill him (Matthew 2:12–16)

C. THE CHILD (v.5–6)

1. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron.

- a) The Messiah who Rules the Nations with a Rod of Iron (**Psalm 2:7-9**)
- b) The Male Child is Jesus the Messiah

2. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

- a) This encapsulates the Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection & Ascension of Christ
- b) Christ ascended into Heaven at the Right Hand of God
- c) After His Resurrection Jesus told Mary He was Ascending to the Father (**Jn 20:17**)
- d) He is now at the Right Hand of God in Glory w/ All Authority in Heaven and on Earth

3. Then the woman fled into the wilderness,

where she has a place prepared by God...

- a) Just as Joseph was warned by God in a dream to flee down to Egypt
- b) God protected them from the Tyrant Herod who tried to assassinate the Child
- c) Over and over we see Satan attacking the Church but God protected His people even as they were scattered by persecution

D. THE CONFLICT

1. The Assassin in Eden is the same Assassin in Bethlehem...

- a) This Conflict has waged since the Garden of Eden, possibly even before
- b) There was a War in Heaven [Meaning: war in the spiritual realm] (**v.7–9**)

2. Having been Defeated in the Heavenly Realm—Satan was cast down to the earthly realm... but he hasn't given up (v.13–16**)**

INTERESTING FACT: Jesus Prophesied of the Destruction of Jerusalem and said, when you see the armies of the gentiles surrounding the city then get out. Don't even get your coat, don't even go back to your house just flee to the mountains. [**MAP: Wilderness & Mountains**]

- a) **The Roman General Vespian** surrounded the city of Jerusalem to destroy it.
- b) But then troubling news from Rome disrupted his plans. Three Emperors died within just a few months under mysterious circumstances.
- c) By the time the third one died, Vespian was asked to return to Rome and restore order. He returned to Rome and became the next Roman Emperor.
- d) So he sent his son Titus back to finish the attack on Jerusalem. It was this grace period that allowed all of the Christians to get out of Jerusalem.
- e) The church historian Eusibeius records that they fled into the Judean wilderness and crossed the Jordon at Pella and were saved.

→ **ANOTHER INTERESTING FACT:** 1,260 days is 42 months:

The same amount of time the gentiles would trample holy city (11:1-2**)**

Satan Tried to Destroy the Woman, but God Protected Her in the Wilderness

3. His War against God was defeated...

–His war against the Woman was thwarted...

–So he makes War against her offspring... Who is that? (v.17**)**

II. THE IMPLICATIONS FOR US

A. WE HAVE AN ENEMY WHO SEEKS TO DESTROY THE PEOPLE OF GOD

1. **There was war in Heaven and Satan and His Angels were cast to earth**
 - a) Unable to war in the heavenly realm—he now makes war in the earthly realm
2. **First Satan tried to destroy the Christ just as He was being born...**
 - a) Failing this he tries to destroy the woman because she brought forth the Christ...
 - b) Failing this he then makes war against her offspring, the Church, saints (v.17)
3. **This persecution continues around the world...**

—and will no doubt get worse here in the United States.

 - a) Satan Uses Corrupt Government Powers to enact laws that persecute God's people.
 - b) It's the same playbook whether it's from a Pharaoh in Egypt...
 - c) An order from the King of Persia to annihilate all the Jews...
 - d) The Babylonian Deep State enacting Laws to Kill Daniel
 - e) Caesar Worship Imposed on the Roman Empire...
 - f) Or Laws enacted from Washington D.C. declaring the Bible Hate Speech ...
or Christianity intolerant to Favored Grievance Groups...

→ **Satan persecutes the church, but the gates of hell will not prevail against her**

B. SATAN'S ATTACK ON THE CHURCH IS HIS ATTACK ON CHRIST

1. **The dragon can injure the child by injuring the mother; that is to say, to injure the Church is to injure Jesus Christ.**
 - a) An Attack on the Church of Christ is an attack on Christ
and Attack on the People of God is an attack on God Himself
 - b) When Saul was persecuting the church and instigating the killing of the first martyrs of the church, Jesus confronted Saul ...
 - c) "Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." (Acts 9:4–5)
2. **Here the Risen Christ makes it clear that to hurt the church is to hurt Him**
 - a) The persecution of the Church is persecution of Christ Himself
 - b) To Rob the Church of the Help we might've given it, we Rob Jesus of the help we might've given Him.
 - c) To Neglect the Church – is to Neglect Christ Himself!
3. **The Church is the People of God—**
 - a) so to hurt the people of God is to hurt God Himself and His Kingdom
 - b) To Help the People of God is to help God and His Kingdom (Mark 9:36–37)
 - c) **Are You Helping the Children? The Young in Faith?**
... who need our Care & our Encouragement?

→ **To Neglect the Church is to Neglect Christ Himself!**

C. SOMETIMES THE WILDERNESS IS FOR OUR PROTECTION

- 1. God Prepared a place in the wilderness to protect His people (v.13-17)**
 - a) The Wilderness is where He trains His prophets and Protects His People
 - b) Think how God's people are not concentrated in one location like a fortified city, but are spread out across all the nations of the world...
 - c) Under the Radar and Off the Grid from the Concentrated Power Centers and Power Pyramid Structures of the World.
 - d) God's people are friends, neighbors, co-workers, fellow citizens of all nations.
- 2. But Satan uses worldly powers to try to isolate and persecute Christians.**
 - a) The Babylonian Deep State passed a law intended to isolate and kill Daniel!
 - b) Roman Emperor worship was enacted by Roman Law, and was a tool of Satan to isolate and persecute God's people.
- 3. The Church is God's people and we are in the wilderness for a reason**
 - a) The church of Christ does not have an earthly headquarters or command center.
 - b) Our Head Quarters is in Heaven! Our King is on His Throne and Only He Has All Authority in Heaven and on Earth!
- 4. The ancient Greek word here translated 'Prepared' is the same Greek word that Jesus used: "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2-3).**
 - a) God Provides, Prepares and Protects His People!
 - b) EVEN IN THE WILDERNESS JESUS PROMISES
'I WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS, Even Unto the End of the World' (Matt 28:18-20)
 - c) The Promise Jesus made before His ascension into Heaven

D. THE BIRTH, DEATH & RESURRECTION OF JESUS Not Only Changed the Course of History, it changed the course of Eternity!

- 1. And Because of what Jesus Did for you at the Cross...
Not Only Does He Change Your History—He Changes Your Eternity!**
 - a) Because of the Way Time Works—You Cannot Change Your Past.
 - b) The Events of the Past are Set in Stone or Concrete—once they are done they cannot be changed.
- 2. But Because of Jesus Blood shed at the Cross—He Changed Your Past, Your Present and Your Future — by His Grace!**
 - a) Your Past Sins are Forgiven!
 - b) Your Present Mindset is changed by Hope and strengthened by His Spirit,
 - c) and your Future is Assured if you Remain Faithful unto Death

CONCLUSION:

- 1. We overcome by the Blood of Jesus... By the Truth, and By Our Faith**
- 2. Just as the Word of God says! (Revelation 12:10-11)**