

Chapter Twenty - One

The Woman, The Dragon And The Child

(Revelation 12:1-17)

With chapter 12 we learn that Satan was the primary force behind the persecution that was about to befall God's people. We are told of his failed attempt to prevent **the male Child** from being born and assuming His rightful place of authority as ruler of the nations (**12:1-6**).

An effort to usurp that authority by waging war in heaven is thwarted, resulting in the devil and his angels being cast to earth. That prompts a loud voice in heaven to proclaim that salvation, strength, the kingdom of God and the power of His Christ has come.

Because the accuser (i.e., the devil) has been cast down, those in heaven who overcame thru the blood of Jesus and their testimony, could rejoice. But woe is proclaimed to those on the earth, because now the devil has come down to them and he knows his time is short (**12:7-12**). At first the dragon's efforts are directed toward **the woman** who gave birth to the child. However, she is given wings to fly to her place in the wilderness where she is nourished for a time, times, and half a time (1,260 days, cf. **v.6**). Even the earth helps the woman, further enraging the dragon that he went to make war with **the rest of her offspring**, identified as those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ(**12:13-17**).

While the identities of the male child and the dragon are rather evident, who is the woman and the rest of her offspring?

Thus the chapter reveals why a period of great tribulation was about to come. Satan was frustrated by being thwarted at every turn.

I. The Woman, The Child, And The Dragon. (**12:1-6**)

I. The Woman With Child. (**12:1-2**)

Revelation 12:1-2(NKJV) ¹Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ²Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

A. A great sign appeared in heaven, in which a woman is clothed:

Genesis 37:9-11(NKJV) ⁹Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. **And this time, the sun, the moon, and**

the eleven stars bowed down to me.” ¹⁰So he told *it* to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, “What *is* this dream that you have dreamed? **Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?”** ¹¹And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter *in mind*.
(Ref.)

- 1) With the sun - **Jacob**
- 2) With the moon under her feet - **Rachel**
- 3) A garland of twelve stars on her head – **twelve tribes of Israel**.

B. This woman was not an actual person but was symbolic. Some people believe this woman represents the church I personally do not believe this. There are three more examples of a woman being symbolic for some other thing.

- 1) A real woman with the symbolic name Jezebel, she was a false teacher and symbolized paganism. **(Rev.2:20)**
- 2) A women representing a Harlot which symbolizes the apostate church. **(Rev. 17:1-7)**
- 3) A women as a bride, the bride of the lamb, which symbolizes the true church. **(Rev. 19:7-8)**
- 4) I believe this woman symbolizes the nation of Israel.

C. Being with child, she cried out in labor and pain to give birth. Ever since the beginning of time in the Garden of Eden when God first promised a child the nation of Israel has been in labor pains.

Genesis 3:15(NKJV) ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

- 1) As we will see later in this study, the child mentioned here is none other than Jesus Christ.

II. The Dragon Ready To Devour The Child. (12:3-4)

I. Another great sign appeared in heaven: a great, fiery red dragon

Revelation 12:3-4 (NKJV) ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

- A. Only in Revelation is **Satan** referred to a **dragon**
- B. **With seven heads, ten horns**, seven diadems on the heads
- C. With a tail which threw a third of the stars of heaven to the earth

II. Standing before the woman, ready to devour the child as soon as it is born



III. The Outcome Of The Child And The Woman. (12:5-6)

Revelation 12:5-6(NKJV) ⁵She 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. ⁶Then 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.**

I. The male child is born.

A. He was a fulfillment of prophecy.

Isaiah 7:14(NKJV) ¹⁴Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.[£]

Isaiah 9:6(NKJV) ⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

B. Israel brought forth the messiah

C. Who, was to rule all nations with a rod of iron.

D. Who, was caught up to God and His throne. Satan could not stop the redemptive work of Jesus.

II. The woman fled into the wilderness.

A. God will frustrate Satan's attempt to destroy Israel during the tribulation period.

B. Where she has a place prepared by God

C. Where she is fed for 1,260 days

IV. Satan Thrown Out Of Heaven. (12:7-12)

I. A War In Heaven. (12:7-9)

Revelation 12:7-9(NKJV) ⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for [£]them in heaven any longer. ⁹So 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.

A. Between Michael and his angels, and the dragon and his angels

B. The dragon and his angels did not prevail

- 1) No place was found for them in heaven any longer
- 2) The dragon and his angels were cast to the earth
- 3) The dragon identified
 - a) That serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan.
 - b) Who deceives the whole world.

II. A Loud Voice In Heaven. (12:10-12)

Revelation 12:10-12(NKJV) ¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. ¹²Therefore 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.”

A. Proclaiming victory for Christ and His brethren

- 1) Salvation, strength, the kingdom of God, and the power of Christ have come.
 - a) For the accuser of the brethren has been cast down
 - b) Who had accused them before God day and night
- 2) How the brethren had overcome the accuser:
 - a) By the blood of the Lamb
 - b) By the word of their testimony
 - c) They did not love their lives to the death

B. A call to rejoice, along with a warning

- 1) For those in heaven, rejoice!
- 2) For the inhabitants of the earth and sea, woe!
 - a) For the devil has come down to them having great wrath
 - b) Knowing that he has only a short time

V. The Failed Attempt To Persecute The Woman. (12:13-17)

I. The Dragon's Attempt To Persecute The Woman. (12:13-16)

Revelation 12:13-16(NKJV) ¹³Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*. ¹⁴But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. ¹⁵So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. ¹⁶But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

A. Cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child

B. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle

1) That she might fly into the wilderness to her place

2) Where she is nourished for a time, times, and half a time

3) Safe from the presence of the serpent

Matthew 24:15-22(NKJV) ¹⁵“Therefore when you see the ‘*abomination of desolation*,’ [£]spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶“then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. ¹⁸And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. ¹⁹But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²²And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the **elect’s sake** those days will be shortened.

C. The serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman

1) Hoping to cause her to be carried away

2) But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing up the flood

II. The Dragon's Intent To Persecute Her Offspring (12:17)

Revelation 12:17(NKJV) ¹⁷And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus [£]Christ.

A. Enraged with the woman he cannot reach, the dragon goes to make war with the rest of her offspring

B. The rest of her offspring identified:

- 1) Those who keep the commandments of God
- 2) Those that have the testimony of Jesus Christ