

**THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH**  
**REV 12:1-6 / 11-7-18 / WED**

**I. FIRST, LET'S NOTICE WHO THIS WOMAN IS.**

A. She has been identified in many ways.

1. Roman Catholics say it is the Virgin Mary. However, Mary's life does not fit verse 6.
2. Some say she is a symbol for the church. Jesus, however, gave birth to the church, not the other way around.
3. Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of the religion called "Christian Science", claims "she" is the woman and her child is her religious group.
4. Many believe she represents the nation of Israel. Israel is often described as a woman and bride of God—Micah 4:10.
5. Many also believe she represents the new Israel, the Church—2 Cor. 11:2.

B. How is this woman described?—v.1.

1. Her appearance....

**"Clothed with the sun"**- represents glory.

**"with the moon under her feet"**- represents power.

**"and a crown of twelve stars on her head"**-

Represents royalty with the stars representing the twelve tribes of Israel or perhaps the "new Israel, the Church.

2. Her destiny is prophetic-v.2.

## II. NEXT LET'S SEE WHO THE PERSECUTOR OF THIS WOMAN IS.

A. Satan is described here as a dragon-v.3 .

"Red"- represents bloodshed.

"Dragon"- is a symbol for Satan-12:9

"Seven heads"- symbolizes vast intelligence.

"Ten horns"- symbolize power.

"Seven crowns"- symbolize authority-2 Corinthians 4:4

B. Satan's fall disrupts the heavens-v.4a.

Some interpret the "third of the stars out of the sky" as a reference to not only Satan's fall but also the rebellious angels (now demons) who followed him—**12:9b....He was hurled to the earth and his angels with him.**

C. Satan's plan is to destroy the Messiah-v.4b. It started in Gen. 3:15.

1. His attempts to destroy the Messiah before he was born.

a. Temptation of Adam and Eve.

b. Killing Jewish babies when Moses was born.

c. Persecution of Israel throughout their history in an effort to destroy them.

2. His attempts to destroy the Messiah after he was born.

a. Death of the Bethlehem babies.

b. Temptation of Jesus.

c. Judas' betrayal of Jesus.

### III. NOW LET'S SEE WHO THIS WOMAN GAVE BIRTH TO.

A. How is this child described?— 5 a -- "*she gave birth to a son, a male child*" ....

Jesus, although God, was born of a woman-*Philippians 2:5-8*.

B. What is his destiny?—5b-- "*who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.*"-19:15b--....**He will rule them with an iron scepter**"

C. How will he be delivered from Satan? -5c--....**And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.**

1. This happened at Jesus' ascension-- Acts 1:9-11.

2. The Greek word for "**snatched up**" in 12:5c is the same word used in 1 Thess 4:17.

### IV. HOW IS THIS WOMAN PROTECTED?

A. She flees from the Dragon—6a—"The woman fled...."

B. Where will she go?—6b—"...into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God where she might be taken care of...."

C. How long will they stay there?—6c—"...for 1,260 days."  
For the latter half of the Tribulation (1,260 days).