



*Session 23 | Revelation 12:1-6 | The Woman and her Child*

**ANOTHER PARENTHESIS**

- The book of Revelation is not chronological, and proper interpretation requires placing one passage upon another.
- Chapter 6:1-17 begins the chronology of the Tribulation
- Chapter 7 is laid on top of chapter 6.
- Chapters 8-9 continue where chapter 6 left off.
- Chapter 10:1-11:14 is laid on top of chapters 8-9.
- Chapter 11:15-19 continues where chapter 9 left off.
- Chapters 12-14 are laid upon the chronological chapters of 6, 8-9, and 11:15-19.
- Each of the parenthetical passages describes behind the scenes information about the explicit chapters.

**THE WOMAN | REVELATION 12:1-2**

- A “great wonder” -- More literally, a sign.
  - The word carries the inherent meaning of providing information.
  - This also tells us, clearly, that what is about to happen is not literal, but rather provides information that we should know.
- “Clothed with the sun” -- Literally, “cast round about with the sun.” The word is used of the lilies of the field that are “arrayed,” and can also mean “clothed” in a literal sense.
- Who is this woman?
  - Beware of eisegesis, and allow Scripture to interpret Scripture.
  - There is zero evidence that this woman is Mary (as per Catholic interpretation).
    - Genesis 37:9-10 show Jacob as the “sun,” Rachel as the “moon,” and the brothers as the “stars.” This image is so similar that it would be irresponsible not to include this in the interpretation. Thus, the image appears to be that of the totality of Israel--the patriarchs, matriarchs, and tribes.
    - Zech 9:16 speaks of the tribes of Israel as “stones in the crown”
  - When all analysis is done, it is almost impossible to view this *woman* as anything other than the nation of Israel.
  - The Papal church has depicted the virgin Mary as this woman because they are unable to concede that Israel has a permanent, future, Kingdom role. Rather, they see themselves as the Kingdom (thus as Israel).
  - Protestant churches are equally guilty at incorrect depictions of the woman, often describing her as “the people of God” or “the church.”
- Israel “pained to be delivered” (v.2)
  - Literally, “Travailing in pain and being tortured to give birth, she, being with child [her Messiah], cried.”
  - This verse describes the painful longing of Israel for her Messiah. It is expressed well in the hymn “O Come O Come Immanuel.”

## SATAN | REVELATION 12:3-4

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- Both the Dragon (Satan) and the Beast (the Antichrist) are depicted as having seven heads and ten horns. Since the Antichrist is the "son" of the devil, this is no surprise.
  - There were seven Kingdoms that attempted to annihilate the Jewish people: Egypt, Syria, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome.
  - While it cannot be definitively determined from Scripture that this is the meaning of the seven heads, it is a likely candidate for interpretation.
- The ten horns are the horns of the final empire, Rome (Dan. 7:7).
- The last four of the "heads" is depicted in the final four empires, and the last of the empire is made up of 10 kings (who give their power to the beast). The beast's empire composes the entire territory of the four Kingdoms (and almost certainly more).
- The "stars of heaven" are not to be confused with the stars of v. 1. These stars are angels, who become demons.
- Satan "drew" one-third of the angels (stars of heaven) - This is a more violent word than "draw," as other usages in the New Testament make clear. "Drag" would be more accurate.
- The desire to devour -- This verse explains 100% of antisemitism. It also is the interpretive key to...
  - the necessity of the flood
  - the difficulty of conception for Abraham and Sarah
  - the hatred of Ishmael and Esau toward Isaac, Jacob, and their descendents
  - the edicts of Pharaoh
  - the wilderness rebellions
  - the marriages of Solomon
  - the slaughter of the innocents under Herod

## THE CHILD | REVELATION 12:5

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- The man who was to rule –The verb *mello* is "to be on the point of doing something." So, more literally, "He is about to rule..."
- The child was caught up— This is a picture of the ascension.
  - Note that He is caught to God and to God's throne...not to the throne of David.
  - Note the poor translation of "The Message," which places Christ on his own throne.

## THE WOMAN, REVISITED | REVELATION 12:6

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- The church age is between vv. 5 & 6, thus vv. 6 and following are future.
- Those who reject a pre-tribulation rapture consistently interpret the woman here to be "the church," yet they do so without justification nor explanation.
- Compare Psalm 91 and the "shelter of the Most High, which is a place of total protection. Psalm 91 is almost undoubtedly prophetic of this hiding place for Israel.
- "That they should feed her" -- Who is "they?"
  - Many translations change the clear use of third person plural active verb to a third person singular passive verb.
  - There is no excuse for this kind of outright fabrication of translation.
  - Could this be a reference to the "I was hungry and you fed me" imagery of Matthew 25?
- 1, 260 days - This is the last half of the Tribulation, after "those in Judea should flee" (Matthew 24:16). During this same time, the two witnesses are doing their work, and the 144,000 are sealed and proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom.