

- 11:4 Two Witnesses, Two Olive Trees, Two Lampstands

Who are the Witnesses?

1. Symbolic of adequate testimony displayed in the church (based on Deuteronomy 19:15)
 2. Unknown, but real men
 3. Enoch and Elijah (Tertullian)
 4. Moses and Elijah (S. L. Johnson; R. H. Charles)
 5. Symbols of the martyrs of the Church (Jerusalem, the Holy city = city of the world in opposition to God)
 6. Jewish Church/Gentile Church united (Lohmeyer).
- 11:5-6 The Powers of the Witnesses

Revelation 11:7 When they have completed their testimony, the beast that comes up from the abyss will make war on them and conquer them and kill them. 11:8 Their corpses will lie in the street of the great city that is symbolically called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was also crucified. 11:9 For three and a half days those from every people, tribe, nation, and language will look at their corpses, because they will not permit them to be placed in a tomb. 11:10 And those who live on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate, even sending gifts to each other, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

- 11:7 The beast from the Abyss ...
- 11:8 "... the city that is symbolically called Sodom and Egypt"
- 11:9 for three and a half days
- 11:10 the celebration at the death of the witnesses

Revelation 11:11 But after three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and tremendous fear seized those who were watching them. 11:12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them: "Come up here!" So the two prophets went up to heaven in a cloud while their enemies stared at them. 11:13 Just then a major earthquake took place and a tenth of the city collapsed; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

11:14 The second woe has come and gone; the third is coming quickly.

- 11:11 the revival of the Witnesses
- 11:12 "Come up here!"
- 11:13 Earthquake and 10th of city collapses

- 11:13 “gave glory to the God of Heaven...”
- 11:14 “the second woe is past...”

5.6 The Seventh Trumpet is blown and heralds the arrival of the Kingdom (11:15-19)

Revelation 11:15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven saying:

“The kingdom of the world
has become the kingdom of our Lord
and of his Christ,
and he will reign for ever and ever.”

11:16 Then the twenty-four elders who are seated on their thrones before God threw themselves down with their faces to the ground and worshiped God 11:17 with these words:

“We give you thanks, Lord God, the All-Powerful,
the one who is and who was,
because you have taken your great power
and begun to reign.

11:18 The nations were enraged, but your wrath has come, and the time has come for the dead to be judged, and the time has come to give to your servants, the prophets, their reward, as well as to the saints and to those who revere your name, both small and great, and the time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth.”

11:19 Then the temple of God in heaven was opened and

the ark of his covenant was visible within his temple. And there were flashes of lightning, roaring, crashes of thunder, an earthquake, and a great hailstorm.

- 11:15 The Kingdom Comes

- 11:16 The Worship of the Elders: “You have begun to reign”

- 11:18 Your wrath has come...

- 11:18 The time has come...
to judge the **dead**
to reward the **prophets**
to reward the **saints**
to reward **those who revere God’s name**
to destroy **those who destroy the earth**

- 11:19 The Temple and the Ark

- 11:19 Lightning, thunder, earthquake, hailstorm

Part 7: The Dragon and The Beast Are Revealed

“It is common to label 12:1–13:8 the heart of the book, for it establishes the core theme, the war between God/his people and the dragon/his people and between the Lamb and his counterpart, the beast. Mol (1981: 131) properly labels this “international myth,” because **stories resembling this can be found in virtually every religion of the ancient world.** In Egypt the mother goddess Isis is pursued by the red dragon Set or Typhon and flees to an island, where she gives birth to the sun god, Horus. In Ugaritic myth the storm god Baal defeats the seven-headed serpent Leviathan and sets up his kingdom. In Mesopotamia, Marduk, the god of light, kills the seven-headed dragon Tiamat, who had thrown down a third of the stars. In Greco-Roman myth, the goddess Leto, pregnant with Apollo, is pursued by the dragon Python. She is rescued by Poseidon, who places her in safety on an island. After Apollo is born, he slays Python. ... **The main question is why John would tell the story in mythical form.** Yet this is not unusual in a biblical context. Titles of other gods are applied to Yahweh in the OT, like “the rider on the clouds” (a title of Baal) of Ps. 68:4, in order to say that God has conquered the other gods and taken their names. The story of Jesus the stranger who meets the two disciples on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24:13–35 is deliberately given a form similar to another Apollo myth. **The purpose of this is evangelistic, to say that what the Greeks have known only as myth has now been actualized in history.** One could say that the NT “demythologizes” Greco-Roman myth by historicizing it. **What the pagans longed for in their myths has now become true in Jesus.** Therefore, the form is both deliberate and brilliant, using what has in our time been called a “redemptive analogy” to present the gospel in such a way as to capture the interest and hearts of the non-Christian reader. (Osborne, 454)

5.7 The Sign of the Woman and the Dragon appear
(12:1-6)

Revelation 12:1 Then a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and with the moon under her feet, and on her head was a crown of twelve stars. 12:2 She was pregnant and was screaming in labor pains, struggling to give birth.

12:3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: a huge red dragon that had seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadem crowns. 12:4 Now the dragon's tail swept away a third of the stars in heaven and hurled them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born.

12:5 So the woman gave birth to a son, a male child, who is going to rule over all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was suddenly caught up to God and to his throne, 12:6 and she fled into the wilderness where a place had been prepared for her by God, so she could be taken care of for 1,260 days.

- 12:1 a Great Sign in Heaven ...

“In the Gospel of John, σημεῖον [sign] referred to Jesus’ miracles as “signposts” of his person, pointers to his nature that challenged the reader and called for faith. The “signs” are similar in Revelation, referring either to divinely sent symbols or great dramas depicting heavenly reality ... Here the woman and her adversary, the dragon, are “signs” that alert the reader to the key conflict of the book.” (Osborne, 456)

- 12:1-2 The Woman
Clothed in the Sun, Moon at her feet, 12 stars above head

The imagery used for the woman here are taken from

1) Joseph's dreams in Genesis 37:1-9 where the Sun and Moon seem to correspond to Jacob and Leah and the 11 stars his brothers,

2) In Jewish literature, the 12 patriarchs were often symbolized by 12 stars,

3) Both in Scripture and in Rabbinic literature, the radiance of the Sun, Moon and Stars often symbolizes faithful Israel (see Exod. Rab. 15.6; Num. 2:4; 9:14; Isa. 60:19–20; Midr. Ps. 22.11–12)

- 12:3 The Huge Red Dragon
See 12:8-9

- 12:3 Seven Heads, Ten Horns

IN THE BACKGROUND 32: *Dragons, Sea Monsters, and Beasts*

Beasts with many heads show up in the Scriptures and often in Ancient mythology.

Psalm 74:13–14

You divided the sea by your might;
you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters.
74:14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan;
you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.

In the context of Revelation 12-14, Daniel 7 is probably the most important text giving us the foundation to understand what is going on:

Daniel 7:7–27 “While I was watching in the night visions, a fourth beast appeared, frightening and dreadful, and incredibly strong, with large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and it trampled with its feet whatever was left. **It was different from all the beasts before it, and it had 10 horns.** 7:8 “While I was considering the horns, suddenly another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. There were eyes in this horn like a man’s, and it had a mouth that spoke arrogantly.

7:9 “As I kept watching, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took His seat. His clothing was white like snow, and the hair of His head like whitest wool. His throne was flaming fire; its wheels were blazing fire. 7:10 A river of fire was flowing, coming out from His presence. Thousands upon thousands served Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was convened, and the books were opened.

7:11 “I watched, then, because of the sound of the arrogant words the horn was speaking. As I continued watching, the beast was killed and its body destroyed and given over to the burning fire. 7:12 As for the rest of the beasts, their authority to rule was removed, but an extension of life was granted to them for a certain period of time. 7:13 I continued watching in the night visions,

and I saw One like a son of man
coming with the clouds of heaven.
He approached the Ancient of Days
and was escorted before Him.

7:14 He was given authority to rule,
and glory, and a kingdom;
so that those of every people,
nation, and language
should serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that will not pass away,
and His kingdom is one
that will not be destroyed.

7:15 “As for me, Daniel, my spirit was deeply distressed within me, and the visions in my mind terrified me. 7:16 I approached one of those who were standing by and asked him the true meaning of all this. So he let me know the interpretation of these things:

7:17 ‘These huge beasts, four in number, are four kings who will rise from the earth. 7:18 But the holy ones of the Most High will receive the kingdom and possess it forever, yes, forever and ever.’

7:19 “Then I wanted to know the true meaning of the fourth

beast, the one different from all the others, extremely terrifying, with iron teeth and bronze claws, devouring, crushing, and trampling with its feet whatever was left. 7:20 I also wanted to know about the 10 horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three fell—the horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spoke arrogantly, and that was more visible than the others. 7:21 As I was watching, this horn waged war against the holy ones and was prevailing over them 7:22 until the Ancient of Days arrived and a judgment was given in favor of the holy ones of the Most High, for the time had come, and the holy ones took possession of the kingdom.

7:23 “This is what he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, different from all the other kingdoms. It will devour the whole earth, trample it down, and crush it. 7:24 The 10 horns are 10 kings who will rise from this kingdom. Another, different from the previous ones, will rise after them and subdue three kings. 7:25 He will speak words against the Most High and oppress the holy ones of the Most High. He will intend to change religious festivals and laws, and the holy ones will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time. 7:26 But the court will convene, and his dominion will be taken away, to be completely destroyed forever. 7:27 The kingdom, dominion, and greatness of the kingdoms under all of heaven will be given to the people, the holy ones of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will serve and obey Him.’ (HCSB)

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- 12:4 A third of the Stars, swept and cast ...
In Revelation, apart from Christ being identified as the Morning Star, all other symbolic uses of the term “stars” refers to angels/heavenly beings: 1:16, 20; 2:1; 3:1; 9:1
 - 12:5 The Son ... who will rule over all the nations
“While some have seen in this picture the persecution of the saints, it is certainly not that so much as Satan’s attempts to kill Jesus, not only after his birth in Bethlehem but also in the plots of the Jewish leaders (Mark 3:6) and the attempts to arrest and kill him (John 7:30, 44–48; 8:58–59). The child

“about to be born” of the woman is Jesus the Messiah, not the people of God. (Osborne, 462)

- 12:5 “caught up”
- 12:6 fled into the wilderness ... 1260 days

5.8 The Dragon/Satan is cast from Heaven to the Earth (12:7-17)

Revelation 12:7 Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 12:8 But the dragon was not strong enough to prevail, so there was no longer any place left in heaven for him and his angels. 12:9 So that huge dragon—the ancient serpent, the one called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world—was thrown down to the earth, and his angels along with him.

- 12:7 Michael

IN THE BACKGROUND 33: *Michael, The Great Prince*

Daniel 10:13-14 “The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, 14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.”

Daniel 12:1 “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

- 12:8-9 The Dragon, the Ancient Serpent, The Devil, Satan
- 12:9 thrown down to the Earth

When? (See the following verses)

Revelation 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying,
“The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God,
and the ruling authority of his Christ, have now come,
because the accuser of our brothers,
the one who accuses them day and night before our God,
has been thrown down.

12:11 But they overcame him
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony,
and they did not love their lives so much
that they were afraid to die.

12:12 Therefore you heavens rejoice, and all who reside in them!
But woe to the earth and the sea
because the devil has come down to you!
He is filled with terrible anger,
for he knows that he only has a little time!”

- 12:10 The Song in Heaven

- 12:11 But They overcame him ...

by the blood of the Lamb

by the word of their testimony

and they did not love their lives

and they were not afraid to die

- 12:12 Heavens rejoice! Woe to the Earth and the Sea

- 12:12 ...he knows that he only has a little time

Revelation 12:13 Now when the dragon realized that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. 12:14 But the woman was given the two wings of a giant eagle so that she could fly out into the wilderness, to the place God prepared for her, where she is taken care of—away from the presence of the serpent—for a time, times, and half a time.

- 12:13 the Devil pursues the woman...

- 12:14 the woman given two wings of a giant eagle

- 12:14 to the wilderness, the place prepared for her
- 12:14 for a time, times, and half a time

Revelation 12:15 Then the serpent spouted water like a river out of his mouth after the woman in an attempt to sweep her away by a flood, 12:16 but the earth came to her rescue; the ground opened up and swallowed the river that the dragon had spewed from his mouth. 12:17 So the dragon became enraged at the woman and went away to make war on the rest of her children, those who keep God's commandments and hold to the testimony about Jesus. 12:18 And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore.

- 12:15 the water from his mouth, like a flood
- 12:16 The Earth comes to rescue ...
- 12:17 to make war on the "rest" of the Woman's children
 - > those who keep God's commandments
 - > and hold to the testimony about Jesus
- 12:18 And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore

