

A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

January 10, 2021

Revelation 12

Revelation 12:1

*"And a great sign was seen
in heaven: a woman
arrayed with the sun, and
the moon under her feet,
and upon her head a crown
of twelve stars"*

Revelation 12

Revelation 12:2

*"and she was with
child; and she crieth
out, travailing in birth,
and in pain to be
delivered."*

Revelation 12

A Great Sign in Heaven

- This struggle began in **Genesis 3:15** ...
"Enmity" 'eybah (ay-baw'); hostility: (Strong's)
- The woman:
 - Her appearance:
 - In contrast to the great harlot, she is the "bearer of the light."
 - "Clothed with the sun"] Heavenly bodies that rule day and night symbolize
 - "Moon under her feet"] her exalted position in God's order of things!
 - "On her head a crown of 12 stars' (victory crown) **stéphanos** In Class. Gr., not used of the kingly crown but of the crown of victory in games, of civic worth, military valor, nuptial joy, festival gladness. Woven of oak, ivy, myrtle, olive leaves or flowers. Used as a wreath or garland." (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)
 - Note: Satan never wears such a crown in the Scriptures.
 - Glory and purity emanate from her.

Revelation 12

A Great Sign in Heaven

- This struggle began in **Genesis 3:15** ...
"Enmity" 'eybah (ay-baw'); hostility: (Strong)
- The woman:
 - Her appearance:
 - "Lenski analyzed the difference between the two types of crowns: We note that Jesus received a *stephanos* of thorns and then was mocked as *King* of the Jews. Here the woman has the twelve stars as her *stephanos*, her symbol of victory. 'The victory ours remaineth' (Luther), and thus as victor the *Una Sancta* shall reign with Christ forever. The dragon has no *stephanos*, not even a usurped wreath of victory, but only 'diadems,' royal fillets of pretended kingship, symbols of arrogated dominion." (Robert Harkrider, *Revelation, Truth Commentaries*, Page 208)

Revelation 12

A Great Sign in Heaven

- This struggle began in **Genesis 3:15** ...
"Enmity" 'eybah (ay-baw'); hostility: (Strong's)
- The woman:
 - Her appearance:
 - "Throughout Scripture '*light*' represents righteousness, the character of God (1 John 1:5-7)."
 - "Futurist interpreters who insist that Revelation should be understood literally have an enormous problem with this scene. It is impossible to clothe a woman with the sun, moon, and twelve stars."
 - "But if this is understood figuratively, then these heavenly bodies that rule the day and night symbolize her exalted position in God's order of things." (Robert Harkrider, *Revelation, Truth Commentaries*, Page 206)

Revelation 12

A Great Sign in Heaven

- This struggle began in **Genesis 3:15** ...
- **Her appearance: verse 2**
 - With child
 - About to give birth

Revelation 12

A Great Sign in Heaven

- Who the **woman** is not.
 - Some identify her as Mary, some as the Jewish nation, others as the church.
 - The woman is not a literal woman any more than the dragon is a literal dragon.
 - From the woman comes the “Man-child.” cf. verse 5
 - Not the nation of Israel as a whole. cf. 12:17 – The Jews rejected the Christ. Zechariah 11:10-13; cf. Matthew 23:38; Acts 3:14-15
 - Not the church. The church did not give birth to the “man-child,” but Christ created the church. (cf. Matthew 16:18)

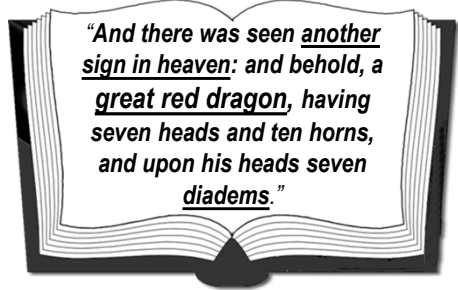
Revelation 12

A Great Sign in Heaven

- Who is the woman?
 - *At this point, before the birth of the man-child, she represents God's faithful remnant.* (cf. Isaiah 1:5-9) “The daughter of Zion”
Micah 4:9ff (cf. Deuteronomy 30:1-8)
Micah 5:1-3 (cf. Matthew 2:6 – Messianic)
 - *After the birth of the man-child, she can best be thought of as the spiritual remnant of God's people (both OT and NT) who in faithfulness, keep covenant with Him. (12:17)*
 - Isaiah 66:4-14 – Nation born in a day, beginning on Pentecost “Spiritual Zion.” (cf. Hebrews 9:15; 11:39-40; 12:22-23)

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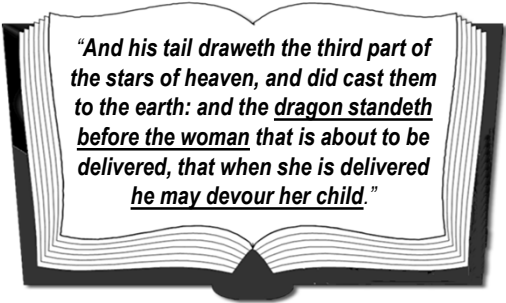
Revelation 12:3



“And there was seen another sign in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his heads seven diadems.”

Revelation 12

Revelation 12:4



“And his tail draweth the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon standeth before the woman that is about to be delivered, that when she is delivered he may devour her child.”

Revelation 12

Second Sign – The Dragon

- His appearance:
 - Red; blood of brutality
 - Seven heads – perfect vitality (hard to kill); epitome of evil; full of intelligence. The devil works with lies, subtlety, and cunning craftiness (John 8:44; 12:2; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 4:14).
 - Ten horns – **complete mighty power**; as he exercises complete sovereignty over the darkness of this world (Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 1:13).

Revelation 12

Second Sign – The Dragon

- Who is the **dragon**?
 - He is “serpent,” “devil,” “Satan” (12:9; 1 Peter 5:8)
 - Ephesians 2:2; 4:14; 6:12
 - John 8:44; 12:31
 - 2 Corinthians 4:4

} Within limitations
Hebrews 2:14ff;
Luke 11:21-22; Isaiah 53:12

- He is powerful; 1/3 of the stars (his angels)
 - Enticed many angels to sin. (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6)

Revelation 12

Second Sign – The Dragon

- His **appearance**:
 - Seven diadems *diadema* – royal crowns (realm of evil), but **not victorious crowns** *stéphanos* like the previous ones. (Revelation 2:10; 3:11; Woman wears a *stéphanos* 12:1)
 - *diadema* – not a crown but a filament of silk, linen, or some such thing tied around the head as a symbol of royal dignity. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)
 - **Found only three times in the NT. All in Revelation**
 - 12:3 – The **dragon** had “seven diadems” on his seven heads;
 - 13:1 – The **beast out of the sea** had “ten diadems” on his ten horns;
 - 19:12 – **Christ**, the rider of the white horse had “many diadems” on his head.

Revelation 12

Second Sign – The Dragon

- His **position and purpose**:
 - Awaiting the Child's birth so he can devour it as soon as it is born! cf. Genesis 3:15 “Enmity” ‘eybah (ay-baw’); hostility: (Strong)
 - Many attempts to cut off the “seed of the woman.”
 - Historical attempt by Satan to destroy the Messiah's “seed” line (2 Kings 11; Isaiah 1:5-9; Book of Esther, etc.)

Revelation 12

Second Sign – The Dragon

- His **position and purpose**:
 - Many OT examples where Satan tempted the nation to turn away from God!
 - Many did reject God. Exodus 32; Numbers 13; Judges 2; cf. Acts 7:52
 - But a faithful remnant always remained.
 - Joshua and Caleb (Numbers 14); OT worthies (Hebrews 11:36-38); Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:25)
 - Satan failed to destroy the chosen family (Israel) from which the Messiah would come.
 - In the NT, he continues through his agent Herod (Matthew 2:16)

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Second Sign – The Dragon

- His **position and purpose**:
 - During Jesus' public ministry, he tried many times, by using unbelieving Jews, to put Him to death. (John 5:16-18; 7:30, 44; 8:58-59; 10:31, 39; 11:53; cf. Matthew 12:14; Luke 22:2)
 - Finally, Jesus **delivered Himself to be crucified**. cf. John 10:18
 - Finally, Jesus' work was “**finished**.” John 17:4
 - Finally, Satan **appeared** to win.
 - But not quite. Hebrews 2:14ff