

“THE LADY, THE DRAGON, AND THE BABY”

Revelation 12:1-6

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August 13, 2014

INTRODUCTION

“The Conflict of the Ages”

Read Genesis 3:15

I. THE GREAT LADY (1-2)

A. Her Nature

- Symbolical figure—“Sign”; an amazing figure with teaching value
- “Great”—Large and important
- “Woman”—cf. Israel as bride; Church as Bride; see Gal. 4:26—Jerusalem above as our ‘mother’
- “Israel” as the nation that is **the true people of God** throughout the ages; but especially the nation of Israel as seen in bringing forth Messiah and in the last days during tribulation times, but non-Israelites who are believers in Jesus are included as her offspring—**verse 17**. The “offspring” are distinguished in some way from the ‘mother’.
- **NOT THE VIRGIN MARY!**

B. Her Adorning: *clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, a crown of 12 stars on her head* (cf. Gen. 37:9-11—Joseph’s dream)

1. Glory
2. Dominion
3. Royalty

C. Her Labor (v. 2) [cf. Mic. 4:10; 5:3]

- With child
- Cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth
- Sufferings and persecutions, resulting in spiritual birth of Messiah [and then spiritual offspring of His]

D. Her Protection (6)

1. Flight into the wilderness, barren land involving sufferings, deprivations, and spiritual discipline—*cf. Exodus; Elijah from Ahab and Jezebel; Joseph and Mary from Herod; Pella in days of Jerusalem’s destruction; and esp. flight during the tribulation period.*
2. A place prepared by God—for her protection, just as in all the above examples!
3. Provision and nourishment given—again as in all the above examples.

*But this “great lady” is not the only character in the scene before us; a more sinister character appears—also referred to as “**a sign**”—A great red dragon.*

II. THE GORY DRAGON (3-4)

A. His Identity (9—“the Serpent of old, the Devil, Satan, deceiver of the whole world)

Cf. Leviathan, Rahab, etc. (in the OT mythical descriptions of the wicked nations under Satanic control and with violent and beastly ambitions)

B. His Description (3)

1. “Great”—competition with and mockery of the greatness of God’s true people
2. “Red”—cf. Jn. 8:44, murderer from the beginning, slaughtering God’s people through all the ages!
3. “Dragon”—Sea serpent, a ‘glorified’ snake that can stand
4. **7 heads** and 7 crowns: universal sovereignty
 - The ‘god of this world’
 - The whole world ‘is in the power of the evil one’ (I Jn. 5:19)
 - All the major succession of powerful kingdoms of the past under his control
5. **10 horns**—cf. Dan. 7:7; Rev. 13
 - Strength and conquest

C. His Dirty Deeds (4-6)

1. Against the stars (4—swept away a 1/3 of them and threw them to them to the Earth)
 - Tail of a dragon is its most powerful weapon
 - Represents also dragon’s powerful influence over all these stars
 - Also manifests violence in purpose and result
2. Against the Child (4b) [notice he stands before the woman who is about to give birth, but his main concern is with the Child.
 - His purpose is to **devour the child**.
 - This depicts events before and during the birth of Christ, and during His earthly ministry.
 - All attempts to destroy the “Seed of the woman.”
3. Against the Woman (6—severe persecution for 1,260 days; the days of the “power and authority” of the beast.

But there is a third character described in this passage—not referred to as a sign—because He is not described in figurative terms—The God-Child, a Son

III. THE GOD-CHILD (5)

- A. His Identity—Is. 9:6; 7:14; 11:1-2; **esp. Mic. 5:2-3**
- B. His Nature—A Son (of man and of God) and Male
- C. His Victory—“Caught up” [cf. I Thes. 4:17; II Cor. 12:2, 4—Paul; Acts 8:39—Philip]
 1. To God
 2. To His throne
 3. *Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension, and Session of Christ*
- D. His Destiny—to “shepherd”—rule—all nations with a rod of iron (Ps. 2:9; Rev. 19:15)

CONCLUSION

The Great Conflict of the Ages—but the outcome is **sure** for the Christ and His people! And also for the Serpent!