



**Thankful for the Blood
Revelation 12:1-11
November 20, 2022**

I. The Sun-Clothed Woman

A. The Woman's Sign

Revelation 12:1 (NKJV) Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

Genesis 37:9–11 (NKJV) Then he (Joseph) dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.

Interpretation:

Israel is God's sign nation, and she is God's prophetic billboard and global yardstick. As Israel goes, so goes the nation, and so goes the world. So, I firmly believe that this woman is the nation of Israel.

B. The Woman's Seed

Revelation 12:2 (NKJV) Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

Interpretation:

I firmly believe that this child is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Why? Because it was the nation of Israel that gave birth to the Messiah. That the woman is pregnant further confirms her identity as Israel; the church cannot be a mother since she is not yet married. Just like a pregnant woman in labor feels pain, the nation of Israel was and is in pain, waiting for Messiah to come forth.

C. The Woman's Sorrow

Revelation 12:3 (NKJV) And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

Interpretation:

The Red Dragon is nothing less than the devil himself.

Revelation 12:9 (NKJV) So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12:4 (NKJV) His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

Interpretation:

“A third of the stars” refers to Satan’s demonic angels that fell from heaven with him.

D. The Woman’s Son

Revelation 12:5 (NKJV) She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

Interpretation:

Notice that no man is mentioned here, only a woman, for Jesus was born of a virgin. We see the resurrection of Jesus, and we see the rapture of Jesus as he was "caught up to God." The words "caught up" are the same words used in the rapture of the church in I Thessalonians 4:17.

E. The Safety of the Woman

Revelation 12:6 (NKJV) Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Matthew 24:15–21 (NKJV) Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

John MacArthur:

Antichrist’s desecration of the temple will send the Jewish people fleeing into the wilderness. The exact location where God will hide them is not revealed, but it is probably somewhere east of the Jordan River and south of the Dead Sea. The length of Israel’s stay in hiding, one thousand two hundred and sixty days (three and a half years), corresponds to the last half of the Tribulation, the period Jesus called the Great Tribulation.

II. The War

A. The violence of the war

Revelation 12:7–8 (NKJV) And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought. But they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

Takeaway:

The reason why Michael is chosen to lead the charge is that he is not just a mere messenger angel but also a warrior and a soldier. He is God's field general, and he also happens to be the great defender of the nation of Israel.

The devil spends his time in two major areas:

1. Accusing the saints in heaven
2. Attacking the saints on the earth

B. The viciousness of the war

Revelation 12:9 (NKJV) So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Satan Is Called Four Different Names:

1. He is called dragon because of his strength
2. He is called serpent because he is crafty
3. He is called devil because he is evil
4. He is called Satan because he is disgraceful

C. The victory in the war

Revelation 12:10–11 (NKJV) Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God, day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.