

Revelation Chapter 12

Bill Holdstock

The woman clothed with the sun

Verse 1

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.

The word wonder should read 'sign'; the Greek word is 'semeion' which is rendered sign. This sign is seen in the heavens and refers to what is taking place on earth. (Verse 6, 13, 15-16).

Israel is often spoken of as a woman married to God under the terms of the Old Testament covenant shown in Isaiah 54 v 1-6 & Jeremiah 3: 1-14. Hosea 2: 14-23.

Isaiah 54:1

Sing O barren, you who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud you who did not travail with child: for more are the children of desolate than the children of the married wife says the Lord.

This verse refers to Israel, in Hosea 2: 16 the Lord confirms that in the last day Israel will no longer call her God Baali which means my Lord, but Ishi which means my Husband, she shall rightly worship and serve Jehovah. Here the 'barren who did not bear' are exulted to sing and rejoice because although Israel gave birth to many sons in the first part of her history she came out of relationship with her God, and was therefore the spiritually barren woman. At the return of Christ she, as the married wife of Christ will give birth to countless multitudes, so God is encouraging her to sing. In Galatians 4: 27 Paul used this very chapter to prove that more will be saved under the New Covenant than under the Old. In other words the Church has many more 'children' followers of the Lord, than Israel of old! Now the Gentiles who were once barren can now sing because they have been included in God's great plan of salvation.

The Church is spoken of as a man not a woman, Ephesians 2: 15 tells us that it was God's intention to bring the Jews and the Gentiles together, braking down that middle wall of partition to make **one new man** not one woman singular , so making peace.

Eph: 2: 13.

*But now in Christ Jesus you who were in times past were far off (From Salvation) are made near by the blood of Christ (at the cross) 14 For He is our peace Who has made both one (Jews and Gentiles) and has broken down the middle wall of partition between us. (Between the Jews and the Gentiles) 15 Having abolished in His flesh the enmity even the Law of Commandments contained in Ordinances for to make in Himself of twain (two) one **new man** so making peace.*

So what or who is the Bride of Christ? The Bride is the great city of God the Holy Jerusalem; this is what the Angel pointed out to John when he said he would show him the bride.

Revelation 21: 2

And I John saw the Holy City New Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

No one person is the bride, no one denomination is the bride, Israel is not the bride, the tribulation saints are not the bride, nor is the church the bride. The bride of Christ is the great city of God that comes out of heaven, all the redeemed of the Lord who will go and live in that city and will make up the bride and not just a part. The tribulation saints will go there, the 144,000 Jews will go there, every Christian is promised the city John 14: 1-3. Hebrews 13: 14. Revelation 3:12. Revelation 6: 9-11. & 15: 2-4, but that marriage is not yet complete.

Therefore all saints in the first resurrection from Abel to the last person who accepts Jesus in the future tribulation will all go to live in the New Jerusalem and make up the Bride of Christ.

Clothed with the sun

God sees National Israel as clothed with the sun, not the church; the church has been raptured some years earlier. There are only three sets of peoples we are dealing with here, the church, the Jews, and the Gentiles. The sun clothed woman could not be the Gentiles; it is the Gentiles who were persecuting the woman, nor is it the church the church has been raptured so that only leaves Israel (or the Jews) who could be the sun clothed woman. The sun speaks of God's glory that clothed her and the moon under her feet symbolises her dominion, and on her head a crown of twelve stars who represent the 12 tribes of Israel and all refer to when she is restored in that great day of the Lord. This shows the complete involvement of all Israel in the end time plan of the Lord for His people. This woman is also pictured in the dream that Joseph had centuries ago when he dreamed that his father and mother and all his brothers would bow down to him. His father and mother were the sun and moon and his

brothers were the stars who made obeisance to him the twelfth star. All the Jews spread all over the world in other nations as they are now, will in the end days be called by the Lord their God to join their fellow countrymen who set up their own Nation in 1948 in that great land of Israel complete with their own identifying Ensign recognised the world over.

Isaiah 11: 11&12.

And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros and from Cush and from Elam and from Shinar, and from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. 12. And He shall set up an ensign for the nations and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Revelation 12 Verse 2

And she, being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

God has chosen to use the birth of a baby, the travailing, the birth pangs and all that a natural birth entails to illustrate the bringing forth of the Man-child of the Nation of Israel. Only a woman can fully appreciate what that means, however when a husband and wife hold their new born baby for the first time with joy and happiness, all that has gone on before to produce such a wonder is put aside. God will feel exactly the same and more as He holds up His 'new born' to show the world what He has produced. A nation, who has rejected His Son, rebelled against Him, even crucified Him but in the fullness of time has come to recognise and accept Him as their Messiah. The woman in our study would have to produce after her own kind according to the law of God in Genesis 1: 21-28, so the woman being Jewish the Man-child must be Jewish and upon birth was caught up to be with the Lord around His throne.

Satan was standing before the woman ready to devour the child as soon as it was born. This gives me an indication how important this Man-child was to God and how important it was to Satan to be rid of it. Right from the start Satan has sought to destroy the woman (Israel) and her seed (Genesis chapter 3: 15). There are two seeds, one the seed of the woman who brings forth the Christ and the seed of the serpent the red dragon of our study, who brings forth the Antichrist. In Genesis the serpent attacks the woman and again she is attacked in our study in Revelation. But God prevailed in what must have been a fierce battle and took the Man-child alive to heaven. If we compare Revelation 12; 4-6 and Revelation 14; 1-5 it can be concluded the 144,000 and the Man-child are the same. Some teach that the Man-child is Jesus, but the Man-child was taken to heaven without seeing death. Jesus was also taken to heaven but He had to die for our sins first so He saw death. Revelation 14 verse one starts with John looking and seeing The Lamb and there is only one Lamb, and He, the Lamb,

stood on Mount Sion, and *with Him* One hundred and forty and four thousand all with the mark of God in their foreheads. So the Lamb and the 144,000 are different sets of beings.

We read the 144,000 were sealed by God with His mark in Revelation 7: 4 to be reserved to Himself in the last 3 ½ years of Daniels's 70th week. They played harps and sang a new song before the throne. Neither were they defiled with women, they were not involved with idolatry which is spiritual adultery, and they had faith in the cross and nothing else. The 144,000 are the first fruits unto God from Israel from among men after the rapture of the Church (Rev: 14: 1-5). They represent a company of people who will be translated to heaven without seeing death under the 7th trumpet just as the Man-child was. According to verse 5 the 144,000 or the Man-child will eventually rule all nations with a rod of iron and this will be under the leadership of Almighty God in His millennial Kingdom. It is interesting to note the nations will be ruled by none other than the Jews, the very people who the nations now reject. No wonder Satan wanted to kill this baby as soon as it was born, but it was caught up unto God and to His throne and to safety.

Is the Man-child Christ, or is the Man-child the 144,000, or are they one and the same. I would like you to study this yourselves. Who will rule with a rod of iron The Christ or the 144,000? It is important that you satisfy yourself of what you believe.

Psalms 2: 2.9

You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Revelation 2: 27

And He shall rule them with a rod of iron and the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers.

Revelation 12: 5

And she brought forth a Man-child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron and her child was caught up unto God.

We gather from these verses that in the new Kingdom of God there will be need of some kind of law and restraint because someone will rule all nations with a rod of iron. Some believe that the 144,000 will be Jews and that will be their work in the new millennium under Christ, others believe that the Man-child is Christ and therefore He will rule with a rod of iron.

Ezekiel 38: 18.

And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the

land of Israel, says the Lord God, that My fury shall come up in My face. For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath have I spoken, surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel. So the fish of the sea and the fowls of the air, and the beasts of the field and all creeping thing that creep upon the earth, and all the men who are upon the face of the earth shall shake at My presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down and the steep places shall fall and every wall shall fall to the ground.

This verse tells of the Second Coming of Christ which will be the most cataclysmic event of human history. The new Kingdom of God will be birthed in violence when the Lord will smite the nations in His wrath.

There are 5 raptures to consider 1. Christ and His resurrection along with many saints Eph. 4: 8-10. 2. They that are in Christ dead or alive 1. Thes: 4: 16-17. 3. The 144,000 Jews saved in the first 3 ½ years of Daniel's 70th week. 4. The great multitude of tribulation saints who are saved after the rapture. The first martyrs of this time are told to rest until the rest of the martyrs are killed when vengeance will be taken and all raptured in time for the marriage supper of the Lamb. 5. The rapture of the two witnesses,.

The Dragon with seven heads

Revelation 12 verse 3

And there appeared another wonder (or sign) in heaven and behold a great red dragon having seven heads and seven horns and seven crowns upon his head.

This dragon denotes Satan appearing with murderous intentions typified by the colour red. The seven heads refer to the Empires that have persecuted Israel right up until John's day. They are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. The ten horns represent the ten nations that will arise under the command of Antichrist and will greatly persecute Israel; the seventh head is the ten horns that Daniel tells us of in Daniel 7:7. These ten nations will represent the Old Roman Empire which is the Middle East and parts if not all of Europe and is the strongest of all, This powerful Empire lasted nearly 1000 years. These nations will be under the Antichrist's control indicated by the seven crowns upon his head.

The whole of the 70th week of Daniel 9: 27 where the Antichrist breaks a covenant with Israel causing their sacrifices and oblations to stop concerns Israel and Jerusalem. These sacrifices and oblations mean a lot to Israel given under covenant by God, and have been a part of their culture for very many hundreds of years. The Church is not mentioned once in connection with these last day events. Remember we are studying what happens after the Church age, Revelation chapters 4 to 22. (See study 8 Chapter 4). Isaiah 16: 1-5 predicts the flight of Israel into Moab and Edom and also mentions Sela or Petra the ancient capital of Edom as their shelter during the tribulation.

Israel will continue to travail in pain to be delivered until she gives 'birth' to her Messiah in the last of the last days. Remember it is through the Jewish blood line that the Messiah is to come, not in any way the Gentile race or the Church.

Isaiah 26: 20-21

Come my people, enter into your chambers and shut your doors about you: hide yourself as it were for a little moment until the indignation be over past. For behold the Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the Earth for their iniquity: the Earth also shall disclose her blood and shall no more cover her slain.

Israel, who is to flee to modern day Jordan who will welcome her at this time, is to make herself strong in defence by shutting all the 'doors' as God pours out His wrath upon the Earth.

Other supporting scriptures are:

Isaiah 63: 1-5. Isaiah 42: 11-13. Psalms 60: 6-12. Daniel 11: 36-45. Hosea 2: 14-23. Mathew 24: 15.

Revelation 12: 7.

And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and the dragon fought against his angels. And prevailed not, neither was their place found anymore in heaven.

Isn't it great not only to be on the winning side but also to know the outcome of the war before it has started! I understand Michael is a massive angel and has been in many wars and has won them all. Thank you Jesus that he is on our side!

Verse 9:

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the Devil, and Satan which deceives the whole world; he was cast out into the earth, and his angels with him.

From verse 7 we are reminded in an interlude, of the war in heaven with Michael as the leader against Satan. Satan and his angels are a formidable enemy, it takes two thirds of heavens might under the leadership of heavens mightiest angel Michael, to win the victory. We must not glorify Satan in any way, but neither must we underestimate him. Verse 8 says that Satan prevailed not and there was no place found in heaven for him. He was banished from heaven together with one third of heavens angels who became fallen angels under a defeated leader and they were cast out into the earth.

Verse 13

And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the Man-child.

Imagine how the dragon felt! From the dateless past he enjoyed the wonders of heaven, the beauty, the peace, the joy and fellowship of the trinity but now because of pride, has to fight heavens biggest angel only to be thrown out of heaven onto earth. He then failed to destroy the 144,000 or the Man-child, no wonder he was angry so he took his anger out on Israel and broke his covenant and persecuted them without mercy. The woman, Israel, had to fly in haste to the wilderness where the Lord had a place prepared for her. This place is called Petra in Jordan where she is fed and sheltered for 3 ½ years from the face of the serpent.

Verse 15

And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

The Antichrist will bring his mighty armies against Israel like a flood of water, where they will be unable to stand against such a force. Israel has one of the best armies in the world, the invention of their iron dome which destroys incoming rockets and missiles in mid- air, the superior aircraft and highly trained men and women will no doubt be swamped against the Antichrist millions. God will step in and cause the earth to open up and swallow the armies of the Antichrist.

Verse 16

And the earth helped the woman (Israel) and the earth opened her mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

Just like the Bible story of Korah in Numbers 16: 29-35 where a similar thing happened, now God uses the elements to bring about His will. The Antichrist loses a greater part of his armies through a hole in the ground! This makes him even more furious, and according to verse 17 he blames Israel and makes war on the remnant or the rest of Israel who did not go the Petra. It is this remnant that turned to the Lord and kept the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, who will not be taken from the world at any time.

I am grateful to my friend Graham Towse for his valuable support and contribution.

Be blessed

Bill@Holdstock.com

More studies on Google, www.wordlightmypath.com