

**Revelation Chapter 12**  
**The Woman, The Child & The Dragon**  
**Bible Study Notes**

*'And I will put **enmity** between **thee** and **the woman**, and between thy seed and **her Seed**; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise **his heel**.'*

**Genesis 3:15**

The Bible portrays the great controversy of enmity in terms three characters, namely: **The Woman, the Man-child & the Dragon**. The main enmity is between **the dragon [satan]** and **the Seed of the woman/ Man-child [Jesus]**, then it extends to the woman and the remnant of the woman's Seed. Chapter 12 of Revelation gives us an entire timeline of The Church [the bride of Christ], both in the Old & New Testament, the Bridegroom of the bride [Jesus] and the conflict with the great dragon satan. This entire narrative is condensed into this single chapter, and it shows us the entire drama, from its origins in Heaven, to Satan's attack on Jesus, to the entire history of God's Church from the early patriarchs until the last days. It shows us the great controversy between Christ and Satan.

**v.1-2**

*'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. Then being with child, she cried out in labour and in pain to give birth.**'*

Here John is in vision and sees a great and amazing sign. There appears in his view a woman of righteous character, pregnant with child, clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet and upon her head she wears an arrangement of twelve stars.

Compare this woman with the only other woman mentioned in the Book of Revelation, seen in **chapter 17:1-6**, who is referred to as a **whore/harlot** and is *'arrayed in purple and scarlet, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand [Revelation 17:4].'*

This *righteous* woman, which John sees, represents God's faithful believers, **His true Church**, stemming from the very days of the early patriarchs [Adam, Noah, Abraham, etc.] unto the last days of this earth's history before the Second Coming of Jesus in power and glory.

She is clothed with the sun, representing the righteousness of Christ and has the moon under her feet. As in the natural, where the moon reflects the light of the sun thus in the spiritual, the moon, represents the Old Testament Scriptures, which testify of Christ, reflecting the True Light which is Jesus.

She wears a garland of 12 stars, here representing the 12 sons of Jacob, who eventually founded the 12 tribes of Israel; it also represents the 12 apostles who went on to build the Church of the New Testament. There were twelve stones in the breastplate of the earthly high priest and as Jesus was inaugurated as the great High Priest in the Heavenly Sanctuary upon His ascension, He needed to have 12 apostles because the breastplate also has 12 stones. **Exodus 28:15-30, Hebrews 8:1-2.**

God's covenant-keeping people have always been referred to as **a woman who is married to the Lord**, whether in the Old or New Testament, see below Scriptures.

*'I have likened the daughter of Zion to a lovely and delicate woman.' **Jeremiah 6:2***

*When the LORD began to speak by Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea: "Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry And children of harlotry, for the land [Israel-OLD TESTAMENT CHURCH] has committed great harlotry by departing from the LORD." **Hosea 1:2***

*'Return, **O** backsliding children,' says the LORD; "for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.' **Jeremiah 3:14***

*'For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.' **2 Corinthians 11:2***

*'Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ also loved the church** and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.'*  
**Ephesians 5:25-27**

#### **She is clothed with the sun:**

The sun is the greater light, and the moon is the lesser light. **Genesis 1:16**

The sun here represents Jesus.

*"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch.*

*But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings..." **Malachi 4:1-2***

*'He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.' **Revelation 1:16***

*'For the LORD God is a sun and shield...' **Psalm 84:11***

#### **The moon is under her feet:**

The moon is the lesser light as stated above. It here represents the Scriptures that give witness to the Messiah and testify of Him, in essence reflecting the true light and character of Jesus Christ.

*'He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light... You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me... For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?' **John 5:35,39,46,47***

Many in the Church and the world wrongly teach that God has 2 separate people: **the Jews and the Church**. This is wrong and it is not Biblical. Firstly, God always had faithful followers and worshippers even before the existence of a literal Israelite [Adam, Seth, Noah, Enoch, Job, Lot, Abraham, Isaac, etc].

Secondly, the literal nation of Israel rejected the 1<sup>st</sup> Coming of Jesus and those in the actual Church who were supposed to be studying the Scriptures and looking forward to Jesus' coming as a babe in a manger, rejected Him as the Messiah and offered Him up to be persecuted and crucified as prophesied in **Daniel 8:24** and **Isaiah 53:3,4,5,6,12**. In addition to this, **only a remnant** out of the entire nation of Israel [God's Church of the Old Testament] faithfully followed Jesus and through them the gospel was spread to the entire world.

God has only ever had one covenant-keeping people, His true Bride, from the times of the Old Testament period until the times of the New Testament period, these are they **'which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ [Revelation 12:17].'** These faithful followers of Jesus Christ are here represented by the woman clothed with the sun, first in the Old Testament and then in the days of the New Testament.

**She is with child travailing in birth and pained to be delivered:**

Even though the woman represents the true Church, both Old & New Testament in Chapter 12, at this particular point in the chapter, where she is pregnant, she represents the Church of the Old Testament.

This Child that she is about to bear represents Jesus as we will notice later in the study, and it is at this point in history that the woman here symbolizes God's Church of the Old Testament.

She is travailing and in pain as she is about deliver, pointing us to the point in history just before the first coming of Jesus.

There is only **one woman:** before Jesus was born, when Jesus was born, when the Church was persecuted for 1260 years and when the final remnant in the last days is persecuted. **God has only one true Church in all ages [HIS BRIDE/THE WOMAN]**, and this is what we must come to realise from the study of the Scriptures. The saints in Heaven who are victorious at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus, will be made up of all those true, obedient, followers of God throughout all the ages, from the beginning of time to its end.

*'And **the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord.'** 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17*

**3-4**

*'And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems [crowns] on his heads. 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.'*

John sees yet another vision, a great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and upon each head a crown. This is a direct reference to satan as **verse 9** tells us that the dragon is the devil.

It is interesting to note that the first beast of **Revelation 13** has the same amount of heads, horns and crowns as the dragon. We are also told that this beast receives its power and seat and great authority from the dragon.

What this shows us is that this political-religious beast [*nation/world power*] of **Revelation 13/Revelation 17** is more or less controlled by the devil himself. That nation is Satan's primary kingdom here on earth which he has been using from its inception until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus.

*'Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw **a beast** rising up out of the sea, having **seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name... The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.**' **Revelation 13:1-2***

*'And I saw **a woman sitting on a scarlet beast** which was full of names of blasphemy, having **seven heads and ten horns.**' **Revelation 17:3***

By opposing God and causing a third of the angels of Heaven to side with him, the devil and the angels who sympathised with him to the point of causing war in Heaven, were thus cast out and banished to the earth.

Time now fast forwards to the point where the dragon [satan] stands before the woman as she is about to give birth with the intention of destroying Jesus at His birth.

We see this fulfilment in the Book of Matthew where the devil uses Herod in what is known in secular history as the [Massacre of the Innocents](#). He orders the killing of all baby boys two years old & under in the vicinity of Bethlehem to be killed with the intention that He would destroy the prophesied King.

However, Satan was not successful as God the Father provided a place of refuge in the land of Egypt for a time.

*'Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; **for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him**"... Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under.' **Matthew 2:13,16***

Satan is not permitted to appear to mankind physically, so he uses men of influence and political clout to execute his will. This is what he has been doing from the time he was cast out and this is what he will do until the very end.

**v.5**

*'**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.**'*

In this one verse we see the fulfilment of Jesus being born, as He came through the lineage of the Old Testament Church then was crucified and slain as the true Lamb for the sins of the world. He was then resurrected by the Father and after spending forty days more upon the earth [**Acts 1:3**], He ascended into Heaven upon His throne and began His ministry as the great High Priest of the Heavenly Sanctuary, to intercede for His people before the Father.

Speaking of the Son of God, David writes as he is led by the Holy Spirit:

*"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. **You shall break them with a rod of iron;** You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel." "* **Psalm 2:7,9**

**v.6**

*'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.**'*

Here ends the period of the Old Testament Church and commences the period of the New Testament Church, but notice, **it is the same woman**, clothed with the sun with the moon under her feet; all that has changed is that she now represents the faithful and true Church, in a different age.

John is told that she fled into the wilderness where she has a place prepared by God for her. This here symbolizes the persecution of the Church after the ascension of Christ, first during the days of the apostles, but fulfilled during the period of the dominion of the Roman Catholic Church, also called the Beast out of the sea from the year 538 AD until 1798 AD.

Seeing that the devil was not able to *'devour'* Christ at His birth, he then sought to destroy His followers after He ascended into Heaven, those that keep His commandments and have His testimony. We first see of this persecution after the martyrdom of the first Christian, the deacon Stephen.

*'Now Saul was consenting to his [Stephen] death.*

*At that time **a great persecution arose against the church** which was at Jerusalem; and **they were all scattered** throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles... Therefore, those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.' **Acts 8:1,4***

This persecution continued all the way up until the rise of Emperor Constantine of the Roman Empire, when he issued the [Edict of Milan](#) in the year 321 AD, thus making Christianity tolerable within his empire as subsequent to that edict, it had been prohibited. Having not been able to destroy true Bible believing Christianity from without, Satan sought to destroy it from within, thus *'A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.'* **Revelation 8:11**

It was during this time, which we have studied in our earlier studies on the 7 seals and 7 trumpets that we see that true Christianity as it was now accepted throughout the Roman Empire became corrupt and the Church apostatized from the truth by way of false teachings and church tradition. This continued all the way up until the fall of the Roman Empire and the rise of the Roman Papacy in **538AD**.

It was at this time that persecution resurfaced and those who chose to serve God according to the dictates of their conscience, choosing rather to obey God and His Word as opposed to the Papal standards and traditions were thus ostracised, maligned, persecuted and martyred for their faith. This then led to the true Church, all those faithful Bible believing Christians, to flee and escape from the Papal persecution, however even though the true Church was surviving in small companies and in hiding, God prepared a place for the woman and sustained her during that period of 1,260 years of which the Roman Catholic Church was in power. As a result, the light was never extinguished as Jesus is always in the midst of His people.

**v.7-9**



*'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. 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.'*

John takes us back to Heaven to the beginning of the great controversy, before creation of the earth. Satan rebels along with a third of the angels, and war breaks out in Heaven.

Michael, in the original Hebrew means 'who is like God.'

We see in **Daniel 12:1** that at the time of great tribulation, just before the Second Coming when probation closes for all mankind, He 'stands up', which in the original Hebrew is another way of saying 'begins to rule.'

We see Him in **Jude 9** rebuking satan over the body of Moses when satan was claiming possession over the body of Moses after his death. This was at the time when Moses was about to be resurrected to be taken to Heaven, as we know from **Deuteronomy 34:5** that Moses died, however, in **Matthew 17:3**, he appeared along with Elijah who never saw death **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 2:11**, upon the mount of transfiguration shortly before the crucifixion of Jesus.

By deep study of the Word, we see that the great controversy is primarily between Christ and Satan and as we see in **Genesis 3:15**, Christ will crush the head of the serpent however the serpent will bruise His heel.

Therefore, as we see, Michael & His angels at war with the Devil & his angels in Heaven, we get a clearer understanding that the name **Michael is another name that is used to refer to Jesus.**

Jesus is called *Emmanuel* [**Matthew 1:23**], the *Lamb of God* [**John 1:29**], the *Son of God* [**Daniel 3:25**], the *Prince of Peace* [**Isaiah 9:6**], the *Messiah* [**Daniel 9:25**], the *Son of Man* [**Revelation 1:13**]. **He goes by many names in the Bible depending on the context used**, therefore, to say that He is also referred to as Michael in certain contexts is not as farfetched as people think it is. We must let the Bible explain itself by comparing Scripture with Scripture.

#### **v.10-12**

*'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. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! **For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.**'*

Satan is an accuser, he accuses us before the presence of Jesus day and night, insinuating that we, who profess faith in the One, True God, are not able to live a life that is pleasing to Him; he suggest that it is pointless for us to profess faith in Jesus because we are not worthy.

Yes, we are not worthy, yes, we are sinners from the very womb, **Psalm 51:5**, and are not worthy of eternal life, but God 'so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, shall not perish, but have eternal life.' **John 3:16.**

Notice the accounts in **Zechariah 3:1-2** and **Job 1 & 2** where we see satan and his accusations.

*The event of the death, resurrection, and enthronement of Jesus constitutes the decisive battle of the great controversy. **It was at the cross that Satan was defeated** (John 12:31-32; Luke 10:17-19). The proclamation goes forth: "Now the salvation and power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down."*

*Satan is the "accuser of the brethren." **Zechariah 3:1**. He presents to us and to God every sin, mistake and character flaw as a reason that we should belong to him as his rightful prey, but "the blood of the lamb" "cleanseth us from all sin." **1 John 1:7**. His "blood," His strength and righteousness and sacrifice, joined to the "word of their testimony," is powerful to overcome Satan. Our personal knowledge and love of Jesus binds us to Christ and His saving power. Our advocate says to Satan, "The Lord rebuke thee. Is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?" **Zechariah 3:2**.*

*Christ's faithful people "loved not their lives unto the death." They would rather die than dishonour Him. They love Jesus more than the trivial pleasures to be gleaned from a few decades of mortal existence. With Jesus as their Shepherd, they do not fear the devil's "great wrath." Amazing Discoveries on Revelation 12*

*'Now is the judgment of this world; **now the ruler of this world will be cast out**. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.' **This He said, signifying by what death He would die.**' **John 12:31-33***

### **v.13-15**

*'Now when **the dragon** saw that he had been **cast to the earth**, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the **male Child**. But the woman was given **two wings of a great eagle**, that she might **fly into the wilderness** to her place, where she is nourished for **a time and times and half a time**, from the presence of the serpent. So, **the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman**, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But **the earth helped the woman**, and **the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood** which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.'*

Here John in **verses 13-15**, expounds upon what he says in **verse 6**, giving us more detail of the period of papal persecution upon the faithful Church which lasted from the year **538 AD to 1798 AD** [*time, times and half a time/1,260 years/42 months/time, times and a dividing of time*].

Notice that the dragon persecuted the woman **who gave birth to the male Child**, signifying that this is now the Church of the Old Testament. This is not a literal woman as some wrongly interpret, if it was, which woman would the devil be persecuting for 1,260 years? Precisely.

As we have shown from Scripture, the bride of Christ is His Church, she is a '*comely and delicate woman*.'

**[Jeremiah 6:2]**

She flees into the wilderness, symbolic of God's faithful children fleeing into the sparsely populated areas of western Europe in which the papacy ruled as the Church went underground as the persecution and execution of Christians was wide spread at that time.

The serpent spewed 'water out of his mouth'. Waters in the bible are representative of multitudes of wicked people.

*'Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.'* **Revelation 17:15**

*'Woe to the multitude of many people who make a noise like the roar of the seas, And to the rushing of nations that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters! The nations will rush like the rushing of many waters...'* **Isaiah 17:12-13**

Therefore, we can see here that satan used the nations of Europe, led by the Beast out of the sea [again we see waters here], to persecute God's faithful Church.

However, we are told that the earth helped the woman.

*'But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.'* **verse 16**

Now using basic logic, if the waters represent vast multitudes and densely populated areas, what then would the earth, where there are no waters represent? Naturally it would be symbolic of an area which is not densely populated, where there are not many 'peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.'

Therefore, since we know that the true Church of God was persecuted for 1,260 years, under papal rulership from the year 538-1798, we must then ask ourselves, what area on the earth did the Church of that time flee to.

Friends, history shows us that only one area on earth aligns with this area and that is the land of America. At the time it was still a colony of Great Britain and not yet independent, however, many persecuted Christians, especially during the late middle ages, fled the persecution in Europe to the newly discovered and thus sparsely populated continent of America that they may worship God according to their liberty of conscience.

Yes, it is true that many Christians fled to the mountains of Europe, [Albigenses, Waldenses] and to parts of Southern Africa, such as South Africa & Zimbabwe but the bulk of the true Bible believing Christians fled to the land of America to escape the martyrdom and persecution of the Catholic Church.

This topic will be studied more in our study on Revelation 13 as we will realise that America plays a major role in end time Bible prophecy, so for now I will leave it here.

**v.17**

*'And the dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.'*



Here is the final act in the drama. Satan was exceedingly wroth with the faithful believers because they were able to escape the persecution which he influenced the leaders of Europe headed by the Papacy to inflict upon them.

Therefore, At the end of time, shortly before Christ returns, the dragon will inspire his agents to make "war" on the "remnant," **those who have remained true and not apostatized**. This remnant [*Church in the last days*] is said to **"keep the commandments of God."** They are not trying to earn their way to heaven, but **they keep them because they love their Creator and Saviour**.

Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." **John 14:15**.

The Holy Spirit living in them brings them into harmony with God's law and with His character.

As Jesus says through His prophet, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." **Psalm 40:8**.

Jesus gives His "testimony" through His prophets.

**In the end of times the gift of prophecy will still be active in the remnant church.**

**Acts 2:17; Revelation 19:10; 22:9, Joel 2:28-29.**

*'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,  
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh.  
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
Your young men shall see visions,  
Your old men shall dream dreams.'*

**Acts 2:17**