

# Revelation 12

## Review of Ch. 11:

- Who were the 2 witnesses?** Elijah and Moses
- Proof?**
- What parallel did John use in the destruction of the Temple?** The actual destruction of Jerusalem by Gen. Titus in 67-70 AD
- Moral of resurrection of the 2 witnesses?** Christianity cannot be stamped out
- Sounding of seventh trumpet: **Read Rev. 11.15**
- What Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled by that verse?** *Dan. 2.44*
  - Gold = Babylon
  - Silver = Medes and Persians
  - Bronze = Alexander the Great (Greeks)
  - Iron and clay = Roman Empire
- Why is Rev. 11 called the watershed chapter?** The tables are turned against the Empire

## Rev. 12 – considered to be a major new section

- Why?** 7 seals and 7 trumpets are completed in *Ch. 11*
  - Could Revelation have ended with Ch. 11?** Yes, but we would not have known what was in the book with the 7 seals
- The action is much faster in *Ch. 12-22* (leading up to final battle with Satan in *Ch. 20*)
- Chs. 12-22* – the more detailed struggles of the church against the world
- Theme of *Ch. 12*: Satan makes war on Mary (mother of Jesus)
- Mary is a symbol for God's faithful people in the Old Testament, who prepared the way for the coming of Christ and his gospel – the New Testament church was the "child" of the Old Testament

## Revelation 12.1-6

### V1 – Description of the woman? Clothed with sun and moon under her feet

- Significance of this?** Place of importance in God's eyes
- 12 stars in her crown?** 12 tribes of Israel
- The woman is Israel of OT, giving birth to the NT church

### V2 – The physical condition of the lady? About to give birth, in labor (contractions)

### V3 – Description of dragon

- Red (color of blood)
- 7 heads = very smart/shrewd
- 10 horns = very powerful
- 7 diadems (crowns) = royalty and great authority
- What did the dragon want to do?** Devour the baby at birth
- What chance do a helpless woman and newborn child have against a dragon?** None (without God)
- The pregnant policewoman in the movie *Fargo* had a hard time dealing with the crime that she was investigating

**-Identity of the dragon?** Satan (*V 9*)

**V 4** – Great power available to the dragon

**V 5** – **What happened at birth?** God took over protecting the baby boy (possible reference to ascension of Jesus to heaven)

**-Rod of iron?** To protect the sheep in his fold

**V 6** – **What happened to the woman?** Fled to the wilderness 3½ years (represents a time of persecution)

-Also: Mary and Joseph going to Egypt after the birth of Jesus

-*V 1-6* = the battle is raging on earth over the church of Christ

**V 7** – The battle shifts to heaven

**-Can the persecution of the church be explained by *v 1-6*?** Yes – an attempt to kill the church at birth

**-How does Satan attack the church today?** Sowing discord in congregations, false doctrine, etc.

## **Revelation 12.7-9**

**V 7** – **War in the skies?** No, in heaven itself

-See *Jude 9* – Michael wrestled with Satan for the body of Moses

-Michael = the protector of Israel (*Dan. 10.21, 12.1*)

**V 8** – **How would this cheer Christians?** Good is stronger than evil

**V 9** – **Characteristics of Satan?** He deceives the whole world

**-Examples?** Drugs (no bad effects, etc.), adultery (looks enticing), stealing ("I won't get caught"), etc.

**-How did Satan deceive Eve?** By lying about the commandment of God (and by pointing out how attractive the fruit was)

## **Revelation 12.10-17**

**V 10-12** – Basically a song of praise and thanksgiving

**-What things was John grateful for?**

-*V 10* – The accuser had been thrown down

-*V 11* – The first century Christians had not denied the faith

-*V 12* – Satan had been defeated

**V 13** – War reporting returns to the earth

**-What is Satan now doing?** Persecuting the woman

**V 14** – Three and a half years = represents the period of intense persecution of the first century

church (parallel to the destruction of Jerusalem)  
-**Where did the woman go?** To the wilderness

**V 15** – **How did Satan try to kill the woman?** "River of lies"

**V 16** – **How is the woman saved?**

**V 17** – Satan's next plan – **Read John 15.18-21**

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