



Life More Abundant Bible Study

Bible Prophecy: Revelation Chapter 12A

Revelation Chapter 12 begins with John the Apostle being given a vision of two great wonders in heaven. The first wonder that appeared was of a woman who is in labor, soon to deliver. The second wonder to appear was of a great red dragon that is awaiting the woman's delivery so that it may devour her child once it is born. After the woman gave birth to a male child, the child was called up to God and the woman fled into the wilderness for 1260 prophetic days.

V1: "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:"

1. *Who is the woman that is being described here? Read 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:22, 23; and Revelation 19:7, 8.*
2. *What do the twelve stars upon the woman's head represent? Consider the following verses: Joshua 3:12; Revelation 7:5-8; Matthew 10:2; Luke 6:13; Revelation 21:14*
3. *What is the significance of the sun and the moon? Read the following verses: John 1:1-5, 14; John 1:7-9; 3:19 also Psalms 84:11; Malachi 4:2*

V2: "And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered."

1. *How long was the woman in labor, experiencing birth pangs? Read Genesis 3:14, 15*

The promise given in Genesis 3:15, often called the *Everlasting Covenant*, is the first promise upon which all other bible promises are based. After the fall of man, where Adam willfully chose to side with the devil against God and His government, God now speaks to the serpent (the devil) in the audience of Adam and Eve. God promises and declares that He will put a supernatural hatred, that is, a hatred born of God and not of man, between the serpent (devil) and the woman, between the seed of the serpent and the Seed of the woman. The woman's Seed is none other than Jesus Himself (Galatians 3:16). God proceeds to reveal that the woman's Seed, Jesus, will bruise the serpents head and the serpent will bruise Jesus' heel.

V3: And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

Here God is seeking to draw our attention to something of importance using the imagery of a great red dragon having 7 heads, 10 horns, and 7 crowns.

1. Where else in the bible have we seen the symbol of a dragon or serpent and what does it represent? Read Genesis 3:1-15
2. Where else have we seen the following symbols written in bible prophecy: the numbers ten followed by seven, horns upon the head? What do these combined symbols give reference to? Read Daniel 7:7-8

The great red dragon symbolically represents Satan working through the medium of Rome in its pagan phase, which was never conquered by another empire but rather divided into 10 kingdoms represented by the 10 horns on top of the head of the dragon. History affirms that 10 kingdoms arose out of the divided Pagan Roman Empire, but 3 of them were plucked up by the roots by another *Little Horn* according to the book of Daniel chapter seven. The seven crowns represent the remaining 7 kings of Pagan Rome that gave their power, seat, and authority to the Little Horn.

V4: “And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”

1. Because of the information given and the works of this dragon, who does the character of the fiery red dragon represent? Read the following: Isaiah 14: 12-14; Luke 10:18; Matthew 25:41
2. What medium is being used here to devour the male child; moreover what political system or world power? Matthew 2:1-4; Matthew 2:16

King Herod, who was partly of Jewish descent, was king over the land of Israel. Interestingly, Herod’s vicious rise to power through deceit and violence made him a likely candidate for his appointment to the throne **by Rome** over the Jews, despite the fact he was not of the Davidic family lineage. These truths of Herod’s partial Jewish heritage, cruel disposition, and his being a pawn of the detested Romans enraged the Jewish leadership. Herod, always weary of the Jewish leaderships mistrust and possible dissent, became very troubled when he heard of a “newborn king of the Jews”, and sought to kill the child before it became a threat (Matthew 2:1-4). Therefore, King Herod set a decree to kill all male children of the land, ages 2 and under in an attempt to keep his political power as ruler over Israel (Matthew 2:16). It is strongly encouraged that you to read Matthew chapter 2 in its entirety to see the fulfillment of this wonderful prophecy, namely, Satan working through the Pagan Roman king, Herod, whose greed for power caused an attempt “to devour the woman’s child as soon as it was born”. Remember, Herod was appointed King of the Jews by Rome! Therefore, Pagan Rome was a tool of Satan to do his biddings.

V5: “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, and to his throne.”

1. Who was the man child that the woman gave birth to? Read Revelation 19:13-16; Psalms 2:7-9
2. What is significant of a rod of iron?
3. When was this child called up unto God and his throne? Read 1 Peter 3:21-22, Acts 1:1-11).

V6: “And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.”

1. Where have we seen 1260 days mentioned before in our study of bible prophecy and what does it mean? Read Daniel 7:24, 25

Utilizing the literary technique of *Repeat and Enlarge*, we understand that it is during the 1,260 year reign of the Little Horn power of Daniel 7 who waged war against the people of God that the woman, the church of God, fled into the wilderness. Similarly, through the technique of *Line-upon-Line* bible interpretation, we understand that the bible in this verse identifies a transition in Satan’s chosen medium of persecution against the saints of God, namely a transition from Pagan Rome to the Little Horn, or Papal Rome. God through prophetic revelation in the bible has given a panoramic view of bible history and His provision for the church in the midst of the attacks of the enemy of souls.

For a better understanding of prophetic imagery, terms and symbols used in this bible study, refer to the study, [Interpreting Bible Prophecy](#), also located on the Life More Abundant Bible Study website.









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True Church in Wilderness



