

## Revelation 12:1-17

### A. The Mother (12:1)

1. First character in the vision: woman—she is a mother;
2. Who is this woman?
  - i. Some suggest a myth of a mother (Greek and Egyptian origins)
  - ii. Others suggest the woman is symbolic of God's creation through whom he brings the Messiah.
  - iii. Others suggest the woman represents Israel or the faithful remnant of Israel.
    - a. The prophets portrayed Israel as a mother of the restored future remnant of Israel. (Isa. 54:1; 66:7-10; Mic. 4:9-10)
    - b. Sun, moon, and stars confirm this is a vision of Israel or its faithful remnant (Gen 37:9)
    - c. Mother of Jesus—the Messiah
    - d. Could this be Mary? There is no explicit teaching on Mary in Revelation.
    - e. Some suggest this becomes more symbolic in Mary as the new Eve who was promised that her “seed” would ultimately crush the serpent (Gen 3:15).

### B. Labor Pains and the Dragon (12:2-3)

1. The Dead Sea Scrolls depict a great tribulation as childbirth—(1QH 3.7-12)
2. God promises Pregnant Israel will bear new life in the time of the resurrection (Isa. 26:17-19); the day of God's wrath which will slay the serpent (26:20-27:1)
3. Dragon is the ancient serpent (12:9) the one who led Adam and Eve to death through deception.
4. Serpents were referred to as Dragons in pagan religions.
5. Third of the stars—swept out of the sky—in Judaism stars were symbolic of the righteous. This may be describing apostasy (Dan. 8:10)
6. Or are the stars symbolic of angels;
  - i. Pagans viewed stars as divine beings; Judaism viewed them as angels; Jews believed satan's revolt had long ago led to the fall of many angels (Gen 6:2) supported in 1 Peter 3:19-22; 2 Peter 2:4.
  - ii. The revolt of Satan and the ultimate goal of angelic apostasy was opposition to Jesus' mission on earth (12:4). But Satan failed, and precisely at Jesus' exaltation Satan's kingdom received its complete notice of defeat (12:7-9).

### C. The Final Exodus (12:5-6)

1. Revelation does not focus on Jesus' birth but on his final exaltation. Jesus was “begotten” as king at his resurrection and enthronement (Ps. 2:7; Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:3-5)
2. Jesus' enthronement in the gospel of John—when Jesus was crowned the “King of the Jews” (John 19:19-21)
3. New Exodus—salvation and God's kingdom are completed in Christ's return, but were begun at his death, resurrection, and enthronement.

### D. Celestial Combat (12:7-17)

1. Michael fighting the spiritual battle; Sending Satan out of God's court.
2. The devil oppresses Jesus' followers and pursues the woman into the desert (12:10-12)
3. The devil's time will run out when God's purposes are complete.
4. Jesus' followers will pay the price of death for life in HIM! (Rom. 1:7; 8:27; 1 Cor. 1:2)