

Insights In Prophecy

Unlock The Ancient Mysteries Of Daniel & Revelation

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20

LESSON

Lesson 20

THE WOMAN & THE RED DRAGON

Read Revelation 12:1-6

- Examine Who Is Represented By The Woman
- Consider Why Satan Hates the Jews, And Why Anti-Semitism Is On The Rise

Revelation 12 is a challenging chapter steeped in symbolism and analogy. This prophecy has the potential of polarizing people into two camps during the last days based on the way it is interpreted. Conviction over the proper meaning of this chapter is crucial, and understanding the *personification of the woman* will shield us from the myth, which will cover the globe, that the Virgin Mary is earth's saving force—a playback to the unifying feminine goddesses of the past.

Some leaders in Catholicism have viewed the woman of chapter 12 a representation of Mary, Mother of God; hence, paintings and idols depict her with the sun surrounding her head, often with moon and stars. Visions and apparitions of the supposed Mary, which thousands are said to have seen, have include signs in the sun, which as a circular disk is said to pulsate, twirl and shoot off colorful beams of red, orange, yellow, blue and so forth.

Is the woman of chapter 12 a depiction of the Virgin? As always, the Bible is its own best interpreter, and so we turn to its pages for insight into these all-important predictions of the last days.



When theologians and students of prophecy forget the Scriptures were written by Hebrew prophets, then private interpretations and traditions of men supersede the plainest teachings found in the Word of God. Revelation 12 depicts both historical and future end-time events as though occurring simultaneously. In this cross-over symbolism, the chapter reveals that the confrontation between Michael and Satan in times past will be repeated during the appointed time of the end.

Revelation 12:1 introduces a "great and wondrous sign" in Heaven—a woman clothed with galactic light. Does she portray a historical personality, a personality from Heaven, or a symbol of events to come? In Revelation there are *two prominent women*. Understanding this one fact alone is enough to guide us to the truth. The woman of Revelation chapters 12 and 21 represents the righteous city and people; whereas, the woman of Revelation 17 and 18 depicts a sinful city and people.

1. The virtuous woman is clothed in the beautiful bright sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars upon her head. What was the sun and moon made for, according to Genesis 1:14-16?

The two great lights were made for "signs to mark seasons and days and years." While the world at large uses the sun to mark years, Israel uses a solar-lunar calendar to mark the seasonal Festivals of the LORD, along with days and years.

2. How did God use the symbolism of the stars, moon and sun to represent and set Israel apart from other nations (Genesis 37:9-11)?

Insights In Prophecy

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Joseph had a dream in which the sun, moon and eleven stars—representing his eleven Hebrew brothers—would bow down to him, which eventually came to pass in Egypt during a time of severe famine. Comparing the Scriptural passage from which John the Revelator would have drawn this imagery, the stars surrounding the woman in Revelation 12 clearly represent the twelve patriarchs of Israel. Jacob blessed his twelve sons individually (Genesis 49:1), and the dozen blossomed into the twelve tribes of Israel (v. 28).

3. Acts 7:8 verifies this fact. How? _____

4. Twelve is nearly always associated with the people of Israel. Exodus 28:21 says what? _____

The twelve stones in the priest's breastplate represented the twelve tribes.

There were *twelve* officers who ruled Israel (1 Kings 4:7); *twelve* Hebrew apostles perpetuated the lineage of the dozen (Matthew 10:2); according to Revelation 21 and 22, the foundation walls of the New Jerusalem will display the *twelve* names of the apostles (Revelation 21:14); the city will be comprised of the *twelve* gates, *twelve* guardian angels, *twelve* names of the *twelve* tribes, *twelve* foundations, *twelve* fruits and *twelve* thousand furlongs of the four-sided city.

The *moon* and *sun*, which adorn the woman of Revelation 12:1, symbolizes a truth much greater than these solar system spheres might at first evoke. As noted, Genesis 1:14-16 tells us that our Messiah Creator called into existence the sun and moon "*as signs to mark seasons and days and years.*" God, in turn, used these massive sky lights to institute His spring and fall Festivals based on their daily, yearly and seasonal movements—the relationship between the moon cycle and the rotation of the earth around the sun. Leviticus 23:4 reads, "these are the LORD's appointed feasts, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their *appointed times*," (NIV); or, "*in their seasons*," (KJV).



Therefore, the "*wondrous sign*" of the sun and moon depicted in Revelation 12 symbolizes the seasonal Feasts, which come and go each year according to the planetary movements. This fact, in turn, further establishes that the woman of Revelation 12 represents the *nation of Israel*. By instituting the Festivals over 3,000 years ago, the Holy One of Israel would weave a thread through the fabric of time that would connect Israel's conception to her birth as a "holy" nation, while helping to maintain the woman's unique identity as a chosen people throughout the centuries until the Kingdom of God was permanently established. The woman of Revelation 12, therefore, represents a protected Israel.

The Virtuous Woman & The Immoral Woman

Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, the people of Israel and the beloved city Jerusalem are often symbolized as either a virtuous or adulterous woman, depending on her response to God's leading through His prophets.

5. How do the references below symbolize Israel's spiritual condition?

Jeremiah 2:2-3 _____

Insights In Prophecy

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Jeremiah 3:8-9 _____
Jeremiah 3:20 _____
Jeremiah 6:1-8 _____
Ezekiel 23:1-4 _____
Lamentations 1 _____
Revelation 17:1-6 _____
Revelation 21:2, 9-10 _____

In multiple passages, Israel and Jerusalem are identified as the adulterer, the unfaithful and the prostitute slated for destruction, because of her rejection of truth and breaking of her Covenant with God.

The Hebrew prophets of old who delivered the messages of warning to Israel about her impending destruction for lack of obedience were often hated and killed. No one likes bad news; but when a prophet warns that God's people, city and land are subject to Divine discipline it seems far-fetched. Yet today, the cost of disobedience remains unlearned, in spite of all the historical lessons of the past and the prophetic portents foretold to come during the end days.

In the last days, God will send His two anointed ones to warn, but they will be rejected and killed in Jerusalem's streets. There will be a price to pay. Most devotees in the three Abrahamic religions—Judaism, Christianity and Islam—cannot comprehend that today's twenty-first century Jerusalem could be subject to complete ruin; however, the Scriptural evidence is abundantly clear on this matter. Jerusalem's first devastation may be due to a seismic earthquake early in the appointed times; but, the second will come about due to God's judgment. May we be among those who "grieve and lament over the detestable things that are done" on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem in the last days (Ezekiel 9:4), for destruction will begin with the people who claim to know God (Matthew 7:21; 1 Peter 4:17-18) and will quickly spread to the whole world (Ezekiel 9:6).

Yeshua cried out before His sham trial, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate," Matthew 23:37-38. Israel's rabbinic leadership, with the help of the Roman judicial system, made sure that Jesus was crucified and killed.

6. The "great city" in the book of Revelation is first identified as the location where what happened (Revelation 11:8)? _____

Where our LORD was crucified; there's no dispute—Jesus was crucified at Jerusalem. The Great City is also called derogatory names—Egypt and Sodom, for what the Hebrew Scriptures called the sins of idolatry and adultery; her leadership and inhabitants' compromise with other religions.

Covenant-breaking residents of Jerusalem are given a third insulting name in the book of Revelation. The rebellious woman is said to sit on the end-time world governments as though on display—the focus of the whole world. She is decked with the riches of the nations, but sadly she has on her forehead "MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH," Revelation 18:3-5.

7. How is her final desolation described in Revelation 18:2-8? _____

Insights In Prophecy

Unlock The Ancient Mysteries Of Daniel & Revelation

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The Virtuous Woman

In contrast, now we want to return to the honorable woman of Revelation 12. This woman is pregnant and in her last moments before birth. She is in birth pains and pushing to bring to completion her child/children. In Matthew 24:8 Jesus revealed, concerning the final destruction of the fallen city Jerusalem—which He had just declared would be left desolate, when wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes suddenly escalate they are signs that "all these things are the beginning of *birth pains*" for Israel, Jerusalem and the Jewish people. Birth pains ultimately lead to the birth of a child; and, in the larger context—a kingdom and people for God.

8. Revelation 12 is derived, in part, from Isaiah 66:6-10, which symbolizes parallel births. What two origins are depicted in these verses? _____

She delivers a "Son," which, in turn, leads to the birth of a virtuous "nation."

The birth of Messiah, and in the final moments of time the birth of a nation, is revealed in Isaiah's analogy of the woman, just as in the book of Revelation. A new and virtuous nation (144,000—Revelation 7:1; 7:4; 14:1-3) will emerge when Jerusalem is in intense sorrow and pain; and, when the voice of the LORD is heard from the Temple. For "suddenly the LORD... will come to His Temple... but who can endure the day of His coming?" Malachi 3:1-2.

In contrast, the majority of adherents in Judaism and Christianity will be Covenant-breakers. They will see in the self-exalting pope the long awaited savior, and consider him the son foretold to come to birth in Revelation 12. Many in synagogues and churches will consider themselves the righteous woman in travail, believing that God miraculously rose up a religious man to save the planet and to offer them protection. Nevertheless, the true virtuous woman symbolized and depicted in Revelation 12 will be *persecuted* by Satan, instead of sheltered; they will have to *run* into the wilderness for protection. From this larger group, the 144,000 elect (12,000 from each tribe) will emerge in that spiritual birth foretold long ago.

9. In Revelation 12:3 another sign appears in Heaven—an enormous red dragon. Who is represented by the dragon (Revelation 12:9)? _____

10. The dragon has "seven heads and ten horns." What do these symbolize (see Lesson 5, if need be)? _____

Earth's governments and military powers are carried by the supremacy of Satan during the final conflict; the political beast is Lucifer's heads and mouthpieces of destruction that will hurt and destroy the remnant of God's people. In truth, Satan is synonymous with governments, and the governments are Satan's means to his end—full control of Planet Earth. The Devil will even reach God's throne room, as depicted in this vision of the ferocious red dragon beast, and he will bring great turmoil upon Heaven and to the nations here on earth—war, bloodshed and mass destruction. The seven heads and ten horns (7X10) represent 70 nations of the world, indicating Satan's worldwide control of the planet during the last days. To Jews, the number 70 symbolizes the world. They believe there are 70 nations in the world, 70 languages, and 70 princely angels. It is said the Greek translation of the Bible, the first to make it available to the Gentile, was done by 70 Jewish scholars, who, though working separately, produced 70 identical translations.

Insights In Prophecy

Unlock The Ancient Mysteries Of Daniel & Revelation

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11. In Revelation 13:1 the ten horns (countries) are adorned with ten crowns (rulers); however, in Revelation 12:3 there are only seven crowns. Why (Daniel 7:7-8)? _____

Three nations of the Western Europe Union will collapse from attacks launched by the Old Soviet Bear (Daniel 7:5), that holds the three ribs (or tusks) in its mouth. Out of massive holocaust Satan will exalt a new, previously obscure, religious leader who will emerge from the ashes of war, accompanied by demonic apparitions and deceptions. In the middle of great tragedies of nuclear conflict, calamities by wind, fire, massive earthquakes, tsunamis, and widespread pestilence and disease, Satan will unleash his great supernatural trickery on humanity. And, shortly after Lucifer and the fallen angels, who once enjoyed Heaven's prestige, will make their final attempt to takeover the throne of God.

The Beast will take captive Planet Earth, while Satan marches with his campaign of destruction to Heaven's doors (Revelation 12:3). He is angry that his time is short. In past history, Satan used the heathen King Herod in an attempt to stamp out the promised Messiah (Matthew 2:12-16) at a young age. Later he exploited Rome's crucifixion cross (Luke 23:33), but the child who was to rule with a rod of iron (Revelation 2:27) rose again and was caught up to God and to His throne. At the appointed time, Satan will make one last attempt to stamp out the Kingdom of God in an attempted overthrow of Heaven, but to no avail. Then he will turn his attention back on the virtuous woman.

In spite of the battles that will rage in Heaven and on earth during the appointed time of the end, the woman—the twelve tribes of Israel—will receive divine protection for 1,260 days (42 months of 30 days). Yeshua the King, whom she gave birth to nearly 2,000 years ago, will soon after His coronation in Heaven, come down and visit the sins of the wicked woman. At the Day of Visitation, He will provide the divine sealing of the elect; however, He will once again be taken "up to God and to His throne." The righteous elect—the 144,000—of "all Israel" (Romans 11:26), promised from the time of Abraham (Genesis 22:15-18) to become a great spiritual nation, will be brought to birth in the final moments of time into the hands of the Living God.

As mentioned in other lessons, forty-two (42) holds special significance in Judaism. During the 42 months (1,260 days), the woman will flee into the wilderness where Israel will take refuge—both literally and symbolically. Jews associate the "forty-two" letter Name of God to the following: God at creation (Yeshua), the "visible" revelation of God (Angel of the Covenant) at Mt. Sinai, the eastern gate, the arrival of the Messiah, and the Shekinah coming to its final destination—the Temple in the land of Jerusalem. Therefore, the 1,260 days of the appointed times, divided into 42 segments of time, represents the prophetic period through which Israel and this world must travel until the Visitation of Messiah, the Creator, the Angel of the Covenant, Messiah ben David, who will arrive at the eastern gate—when the Name of God will be proclaimed in all of His redemptive glory, and when all Israel will be sealed and saved (*The Kingdom Calendar* Pt. 18).

As the appointed time of the end begins, Lucifer and his army will ascend to Heaven and take up battle regiment. A war will break out, and according to John, the Dragon's (Satan's) tail is so powerful that "a third of the stars" will be flung to the earth. The seer has made direct reference to Daniel's vision concerning the "little horn"—the little country—from which Antichrist will emerge. Satan, through the efforts of the Beast and his united forces, will quickly grow in power on earth, and then Lucifer's powerful forces will reach up to the "host [angels] of the Heavens."

Daniel was the first to see the conflict that will reach to the courts of Heaven in the last days in Daniel 8:9-12: "Out of one of them came another horn [Antichrist/Satan's military powers]... It grew until it reached the host [angels] of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host [angels] down to the earth, and

Insights In Prophecy

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trampled on them [in battle]. It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host [Michael]; it took away the daily [worship in Heaven] sacrifice (not in original text) from Him, and the place of His Sanctuary [in Heaven] was brought low. Because of rebellion [by Satan/Antichrist], the host of the believers and the daily [worship in Heaven] sacrifice was given over to it. It prospered in everything it did and truth was thrown to the ground."

Although Michael and His angels will be victorious in routing Satan and his fallen foe out of Heaven, on earth the angelic host will be drawn into the conflict to defend the Covenant-keepers here on earth. The battle will rage about us, both seen and unseen, during the appointed time of the end. Many virtuous angels will struggle with the forces of evil in high places, until Michael stands and unleashes His mighty wrath (Daniel 12:1-2) to finalize the defeat of Satan and his army. Both Daniel and John relay that the end-time governments, ruled by the Wicked One in triune power with the False Prophet and Satan the Dragon (Revelation 16:13-14), will grow ever stronger in power with supernatural demonic strength. In response, the general assembly in Heaven will bring the Court of Law into session (Daniel 7:8-10) for 2,300 evenings and mornings, meaning 1,150 days (8:14), to deal with the evil coup. The cast down thrones will be set up after the battle and the Books of evidence will be opened for review; however, the outcome in favor of Messiah and the overcomers has already been foretold (7:26).

12. Revelation 12:5 says Israel gave birth to a Son, a male child, who will rule all nations with an iron scepter. What does Isaiah 9:6 say of His birth and rule? _____

"For to us a Child is born, and to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Additional references: Luke 2:11; Matthew 28:18.

13. Genesis 49:10 identifies the Savior and scepter of iron will come from what tribe? _____

Messiah was to come through Judah; Matthew 1:1-16 offers the genealogy of Yeshua.

According to Revelation 12:5, Messiah was snatched up to God and to His throne. Acts 1:9 says the disciples saw Jesus "was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight."

14. What position has Christ been given in relation to the Father (Ephesians 1:20-22)? _____

15. Revelation 12:6 indicates Satan will pursue the woman to destroy her—those of Israel who will not break the Covenant Commandments of God. However, she will flee "into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for how many days? _____

She will be protected for 1,260 days, or three and one-half years—the same time period the two witnesses will be on earth as their divinely appointed guardians, during the appointed time of the end (Revelation 11:3-6).