

DAY 34: THE WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN AND HER CHILDREN

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. 2 She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. 4 His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. (Revelation 12:1-4)

I. UNPACKING THE WOMAN, THE CHILD, AND THE DRAGON

- A. The woman is Israel (like in Joseph's dream)
- B. The male-child is the Messiah
- C. The dragon is Satan
- D. When does this story take place? Both historical and looking to the last days
 - 1. King Herod, Jesus' birth (Matthew 2:13-21)
 - 2. Dragon pursuing the woman, final 3.5 years before Jesus' return
- E. "one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron" (v. 5)
 - 1. The Promised One is first called the Messiah (Psalm 2)
 - 2. Any first-century Jew would have immediately known this reference
 - 3. Yahweh, the cloud-rider, coming in the shape of a man (Daniel 7:13-14)
- F. "The stars" relates to The Abrahamic Covenant
- G. "Her child was caught up" sounds exactly like what happens in Acts 1:9
- H. Jesus makes the final sacrifice, and then is seated at the righthand of God as He waits for the moment to come for His return (Hebrews 10:12-13)

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II. THE WOMAN IN THE WILDERNESS

- A. The wilderness is best interpreted as the desert (v. 6)
- B. 1,260 days is the final 3.5 years before the return of Jesus (v. 6)
- C. God says that He will break the woman, but also says that a place is prepared for her (v. 6)
 - 1. Not everyone in Israel will experience the same fate
- D. The Lord lays out His case against Israel for her disobedience (just like all of us), but also declares that He will vindicate His people (Deuteronomy 32:36-39)
 - 1. The Lord will save His people after their strength has been exhausted
- E. The Lord is the ultimate source of their breaking and their healing

III. SATAN THROWN DOWN TO EARTH

- A. Currently, Satan is in heaven working as The Accuser
- B. A day is coming when he will be cast out alongside his angels (Revelation 12:7-9)
- C. When this happens, there will likely be an open heaven
- D. This event reminds us of what was prophesied in Daniel 8:9-12
- E. Satan knows that his time on the Earth is short (v. 12)

IV. SATAN PERSECUTES THE WOMAN

- A. Satan will go after Israel, but she will be given refuge, likely a remnant (v 13-14)
 - 1. “Wings of an eagle” (Exodus 19:3-5)
- B. Again the mention of 3.5 years (v. 14)
- C. “Like a flood” implies war, invasion (v. 15)
 - 1. Similar to Old Testament language when Israel enters into a “covenant with death” (Isaiah 28:18-19)
 - 2. You will be trampled by the Antichrist’s armies when he reneges on his covenant
- D. On the one hand, Satan will succeed, on the other hand, Israel will be given refuge
 - 1. Likely both at the same time, the fate of all is not the same

V. THE BRETHERN

- A. “for the accuser of our brothers” (v. 10) “...have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony,” (v. 11)
- B. “went off to make war on the rest of her offspring,” (v. 17) goes back to what was foretold in Genesis 3:15
- C. These people are described as followers of Jesus, who bear witness and testify of Him, who proclaim the Gospel, in the final days