

Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #23 | Revelation 12:1-6 | The Woman in the Wilderness

Revelation 12:1-2 | The Woman in the Wilderness

- Verses 1-6 give the story of mankind and the witness of the ages in summary fashion.
- These verses are *not* chronological to chapter 11. Instead, they go back to the earliest days of the Jewish people, even before they became a nation, and they look at the Jewish desire of a Messiah.
- Who is this woman who is **clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet** and wearing a **crown of twelve stars**?
 - Is it the Catholic church? Such has often been the claim, and the 1531 “vision” and painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe depicts this understanding.
 - Is it Mary, desiring to give birth to the Messiah?
- It is important to note that this was a **great wonder in heaven**. That is, a sign in the sky.
 - Interpretation by scripture reference: Genesis 37:9-10 depicts the embryonic nation of Israel in the sun, moon, and 12 stars of Joseph’s dream.
 - The sun, moon, and stars are for signs, seasons, days, and years (Gen. 1:14).
 - The 12 signs of the *Biblical Zodiac* speak virtually the same message as this passage.
 - Do not confuse the *astrological zodiac* today with the original Biblical message. Astrology is to be avoided.
- The sign clearly focused on the fact that the woman was **with child** and **pained to be delivered**. The Jewish nation (the woman) longed to see the birth of the Messiah (the child). This was her greatest desire.

Revelation 12:3-4 | The Great Red Dragon

- This is the first of 13 mentions of this dragon in Revelation. He is defined as Satan in verse 9.
- The dragon had seven heads.
 - There were seven Kingdoms that attempted to annihilate the Jewish people: Egypt, Syria, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome.
 - While it cannot be definitively determined from Scripture that this is the meaning of the seven heads, it is a likely candidate for interpretation.

- The Dragon had ten horns. These are almost certainly the horns of the final empire, Rome (Dan. 7:7).
- The first part of verse four is almost certainly a reference to the “fallen angels” that followed Satan in his activity.
- The desire of the dragon is to **devour her child** (v. 4). This verse explains 100% of antisemitism. It also is the interpretive key to...
 - the necessity of the flood
 - the difficulty of conception for Abraham and Sarah
 - the hatred of Ishmael and Esau toward Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants
 - the edicts of Pharaoh
 - the wilderness rebellions
 - the marriages of Solomon
 - the slaughter of the innocents under Herod

Revelation 12:5-6 | The Child and His Mother

- Verse 5 coincides with Galatians 4:4, and is the sounding note of victory for the Jewish nation.
 - This is the Child **who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron**. Revelation 2:27 defines this child as Christ.
 - This is the Child who **was caught up to God, and to his throne**. This is the throne of God, where Christ currently sits at the right hand (Hebrews 12:2, etc.)
- Between verses 5-6 is the age of grace and its conclusion (in rapture). The church and the rapture is not mentioned because it is not the subject of the book of Revelation.
- Verse 6 jumps directly to the tribulation and the persecution of the woman, Israel.
 - She has a place in the wilderness prepared by God. This is almost undoubtedly the “secret place” of Psalm 91.
 - In the wilderness, **they shall feed her**.
 - This solidifies the literal interpretation of Matthew 25:32-46.
 - Note that some translations *unacceptably* change the active **they shall feed her** into a passive, *she shall be fed*. This is unacceptable. It removes the responsibilities of the nations to feed her.
 - This wilderness time for Israel is 1,260 days. This coincides with the witness of the Two Witnesses and the second half of the tribulation.