

A History of Hatred

"The Untold Christmas Story"

Revelation 12 : 1 - 6

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. Pastor Joe's personal commentary is in brackets modifying the biblical text underlined with dots. You can find this passage in your Pew Bible on page 1199.

The Cast of Characters

1. The Woman

Revelation 12:1–2, TLB - ¹ Then a great pageant appeared in heaven, portraying things to come. I saw a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ² She was pregnant and screamed in the pain of her labor, awaiting her delivery.

The Woman Symbolizes Israel!

Revelation 12:1–2, NIV84 - ¹ A great and wondrous sign [Gk: σημεῖον, *sa-MA-ion*, describes a symbol that points to a reality] appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun [this describes Israel's unique 'glory' and exalted status as God's chosen nation, see Deut. 7:6; 14:2; 1 Kings 3:8; Psalm 33:12; 106:5; Isa. 43:20], with the moon under her feet [this may further describe Israel's exalted status, see Num. 29:5-6, Neh. 10:33, Isa. 1:13-14] and a crown [Gk: στέφανος, *steph-a-nos*, a temporary crown associated with triumph following a struggle or race] of twelve stars [illustrating the 12 Tribes of Israel, see Gen. 37:9; 35:22] on her head. ² She was pregnant and cried out in pain [Israel has been in travail since the beginning and is not finished with pain or suffering as she will go through the tribulation] as she was about to give birth [see the Savior, Jesus Christ].

I think I may say without exaggeration that I have read or carefully examined several hundred books purporting to expound on the Revelation. I have learned to look upon this Twelfth Chapter as the crucial test in regard to the correct prophetic understanding. If the interpreters are wrong as to the woman and the man-child's identity, it necessarily follows that they will be wrong as to many things connected with them. - Dr. H. A. Ironside

2. The Dragon

Revelation 12:3, ESV - ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon...

The Dragon Symbolizes Satan!

Revelation 12:3–4, NIV84 - ³ Then another sign [a symbol that points to a reality] appeared in heaven: an enormous [Ill., power, see Matt. 4:8-9] red [Ill., murderous, see Jn. 8:44] dragon [Ill., his vicious nature, see 1 Peter 5:8] with seven heads [Ill., his wisdom, see Ezk. 28:12] and ten horns [Ill., his power over the kingdoms of man] and seven crowns [Ill., authority in the world system, see 2 Cor. 4:4] on his heads. ⁴ His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth [Isa. 14:13-14 says a third of the angels fell with Satan when they rebelled against God]. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born [Point: Satan hates the child of the woman—Jesus Christ, see, Matt. 2:13-18, Gen 3:15, throughout the history of Israel, Satan has tried to corrupt or kill off the bloodline that would produce Jesus].

Truths about Satan and his hatred toward you and Jesus.

- A. Satan desires to kill you (v. 12:3a)
- B. Satan desires to know you (v. 12:3b)
- C. Satan desires to control you (v. 12:3c)
- D. Satan desires to rule you (v. 3d)
- E. Satan desires to frighten you (v. 12:4a)
- F. Satan desires to hurt you (v. 12:4b)
- H. Satan desire to devour you (v. 12:4c)

3. The Child

Revelation 12:5–6, NIV84 - ⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched [ἀρπάζω, *har-PAZ-o*, lit., "snatched" or "taken up"; from which we get our understanding of the "rapture" of the believers and the ascension of Christ, see, Mark 16:19] up to God and to his throne. ⁶ The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days [or, the last half of the Great Tribulation].

Isaiah 9:6, NIV84 - ⁶ For to us a child is born, 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, and Prince of Peace.

The Child Symbolizes Jesus—our Savior!