

November 16, 2010

# The Dragon Attacks Mother Church

## Rev 12:1-6

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. <sup>3</sup>And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>She gave birth to a male child, one who is to shepherd all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, <sup>6</sup>and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

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- 1      “great sign”- all over John’s Gospel he uses Sign in the place of miracles Jesus did  
“a woman”- representative of God’s people, the Church- Isaiah 7:14, 54:1, 62:5; 2 Cor 11:2  
“clothed with the sun”- showing she contains Christ (Rev 1:16); Luke 1:35  
“moon under her feet”- a statement of dominion- Ps 8:6  
“crown of twelve stars”- Crown (Rev 2:10), 12 stars- identifying her as the Church
- 2      TIME OUT!! Let’s Talk about MARY for a moment!
- 3      “great red dragon”- Red = color of murder/bloodshed (Rev 6:4); dragon → serpent in Gen 3  
“seven heads”- similar to the seven horns on the Lamb in 5:6- he’s imitating!  
“ten horns”- boastful claim of supreme authority; 4<sup>th</sup> beast in Daniel 7:23-24  
“on his heads seven diadems”- diadems represent royalty, seven- covenant completeness  
Satan, the usurper, tries to present himself as divine and worthy of God’s throne.
- 4      “a third of the stars of heaven”- stars often represent angels in Revelation  
“and cast them to the earth”- the original rebellion of Lucifer and his angels  
“he might devour it”- when Jesus becomes human, Satan takes the opportunity to try & thwart God’s plan of salvation. Matthew 2 and 4
- 5      “one who is to shepherd all the nations”- Mt 28:18  
“with a rod of iron”- Jesus describes himself with this in Rev 2:27, the letter to Thyatira  
“child was caught up to God and to his throne”- Jesus’ ascension to heaven
- 6      “fled into the wilderness”- the church fled in 70 AD, but also throughout OT and since  
“place prepared by God”- the fleeing should still be viewed as part of God’s plan  
“nourished for 1,260 days.” Remember 11:2-3

# The War in Heaven- Satan Cast Out

## Rev 12:7-17

<sup>7</sup>Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, <sup>8</sup>but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup>And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. <sup>10</sup>And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. <sup>11</sup>And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"

<sup>13</sup>And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. <sup>14</sup>But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. <sup>15</sup>The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. <sup>16</sup>But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. <sup>17</sup>Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

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- 7 "Michael and his angels"- Michael = *Who is like God?* he is the only named angel in Rev.  
"the dragon and his angels"- Satan and his demonic host
- 8 no place for them in heaven- the focal point of the war is for Satan & Co. to regain their place in heaven, accusing the saints of God (12:10) – Zech. 3:1-5
- 9 great dragon = ancient serpent from Genesis 3  
"the deceiver of the whole world"- lies to the woman in Genesis 3 and lies to us (Jn 8:44)  
"thrown down to the earth"- Satan is thrown out of the heavenly court along with his accusations
- 10 salvation, power, kingdom, authority = 4 from heavenly voice  
"accuser of our brothers"- accuses them before the pagan courts and also in our consciences
- 11 "conquered him by the blood of the Lamb"- 1 John 1:7, the blood of Jesus wins the victory!  
"and by the word of their testimony"- preaching the gospel brings that victory to generations  
"for they loved not their lives even unto death"- compare with John 12:25 (Mt 10:39, 16:24-25, Mk 8:34-35, Lk 9:23, 17:33)
- 12 "the devil has come down to you in great wrath"- he attacks and persecutes Christians in wrath  
"his time is short"- the devil's final banishment is yet to come (Rev. 20:12)
- 13 "pursued the woman"- his target is the Church and her saints
- 14 "2 wings of the great eagle"- Reminds of Ex 19:4, Deut 32:10-11- God cares for wandering Israel  
"time, times, and half a time"- same as verse 6 and 11:2-3
- 15 "river out of his mouth"- sin and evil given the imagery of a raging torrent and flood (Ps 124:2-5)
- 16 the earth swallows the river- reminds us of Korah's Rebellion in Numbers 16:1-3, 28-34
- 17 "the testimony of Jesus"- the revelation of Jesus which John sees and records  
"and he stood on the sand of the sea"- sets up chapter 13 with the Beast from the Sea

#### IMPORTANT POINTS OF DISTINCTION

- 1) This war is NOT the original rebellion of Satan & his angels
- 2) This war takes place after the ascension of the victorious Christ (12:5)
- 3) Before this war Satan could enter before God's council and make accusations (Job 1, Zech 3)
- 4) After the Ascension and this war Satan is cast down to earth no longer to accuse us before God
- 5) Now he roams the earth accusing us to ourselves and raising persecution
- 6) When Christ finally returns, Satan & his angels will have their full & final punishment (Rev 20:10, 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6)