

REVELATION: Lesson 111

Chapter 12:1-9 Identifying the Woman in Travail

9 October 2020

Comparing Revelation 12:1-9 with Genesis 37:1-11

- The woman connected with the sun, moon, and twelve stars (Rev 12:1) is identified with a generation of people who descended from Jacob (Gen 37:9).
 - The generation of people which descended from Jacob hated their brother. (Joseph/Jesus)
 - Their brother (Joseph/Jesus) was especially and particularly beloved of the father. (Jacob/God)
 - Their brother was specially chosen to rule and reign. (Joseph/Jesus) [see Gen 41:39-44, Mt 28:18]
 - They said, "We will not have you to reign over us" (Gen 37:8, 10; Luke 19:14).
 - God said these people will bow down and do obeisance to the beloved Son or be slain (Luke 19:27).
 - The woman is clearly identified as the nation of Israel.
-

FAULTY INTERPRETATIONS

#1 The woman of Revelation 12 is referring to **Mary** (Catholic opinion). Here is why it cannot be Mary:

1. The dragon (Satan) attempts to devour the child when it is born (vs 4). This did not happen at the birth of Jesus. Herod attempted to kill Him 2 years later when He was a "young child" (Mt 2:8, 11, 16)
 2. This woman flees into the wilderness (vs 6, 14). Mary and Joseph did not flee into the wilderness. They went to Egypt (Mt 2:14). (Also 2 years after Jesus' birth).
 3. Mary's child was not caught up to God (vs 5) before she fled into the wilderness (vs 6). He ascended to Heaven 33 ½ years after His birth (Mk 16:19, Lk 24:51, Acts 1:9).
 4. Mary did not bring forth the ruler with the rod of iron (vs 5). She brought forth the Savior in a body of human flesh so that He could die for our sins (Mt 1:21, Acts 4:12). God brought forth the ruler (Mt 11:27, 28:18, Eph 1:20-22).
 5. Mary and Joseph did not spend 3 ½ years in the wilderness or in Egypt (vs 6).
 6. The Dragon did not persecute Mary (vs 13).
 7. The Dragon did not make war with the remnant of Mary's seed (vs 17). Jesus' brethren, according to the flesh, would be Joseph's seed (Mark 6:3, Matthew 12:46, 13:55-56, Gal 1:19).
 8. Mary did not wear a crown (vs 1). Any crown she may obtain will be cast at Jesus' feet (Rev 4:10).
-

#2 Mary brought forth the **man child**, which is the **Church**. Here are the problems with that view:

1. Mary did not give birth to the Church. The Church was born out of Jesus' sufferings (Eph 5:2, 25; Mt 20:28, Acts 20:28, Rev 1:5).
 2. The Church doesn't "rule all nations" (vs 5). State church advocates teach this.
 3. If the man child is the Church, it gets caught up to heaven (vs 5) while the remnant [of the Church] stays behind to be persecuted by the dragon (vs 17). That is total nonsense. It forces you to divide the church into two: the faithful, and the unfaithful. There is only one Church (1 Cor 10:17).
-

#3 The WOMAN is the Church; the man child is Christ. Why doesn't this work?

1. The Church never fled into the wilderness for 3 ½ years (vs 6, 17).
 2. The Church did not produce Christ, Israel produced Christ (**Romans 9:3-5**). Christ produced the Church (Mt 16:18, Acts 2:47, Eph 5:27).
-

#4 The Woman is the professing Church and the man child represents a class of overcomers that escape the Tribulation. We've already discussed why the woman cannot be the church.

#5 The woman is Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy and the man child is the Christian Science Movement.

THE BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

- Israel is crowned as the head of nations (Zechariah 9:16, Isaiah 2:2-4)
 - The nation of Israel brought forth the man child (Rom 1:3, 9:5; Rev 22:16; Isa 11:1).
 - The Dragon desires to destroy the Messiah before He can establish His kingdom.
 - The remnant of Israel will flee into the wilderness for 3 ½ years during the Tribulation.
 - The Dragon makes war with Israel while their Ruler, Jesus Christ, is away in Heaven.
-

SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT

Jer 4:19-31 This Tribulation passage speaks of the daughter of Zion (Jerusalem, Isa 10:32) as a woman travailing to bring forth her first child (vs 31). This time of travail includes the sun being black, trumpets sounding, armies riding through the land, and every man fleeing the cities of Israel and running into the wilderness.

Isa 66:5-8 Here is a message to the remnant of Israel who've been cast out. **"Before she travailed she brought forth...a man child"** (vs 7). This is nonsense if it refers to natural childbirth. But since it refers to Israel bringing forth Christ first in Bethlehem's manger and then suffering travail afterward in the Tribulation, it makes perfect sense. After the travail of Zion **"she brought forth her children"** (vs 8). The ruler with a rod of iron delivers the Jewish remnant.

You cannot refer to Old Testament Prophecy to calculate the timing of the rapture of the Church (as some do). Old Testament Prophets never spoke of the Church. The Church is an entirely separate entity, not seen by the Prophets. (See "Mountain Peaks of Prophecy" drawing by Clarence Larkin).

THE WOMEN IN REVELATION

SPIRITUAL REALM

Jezebel (Rev 2:20)

{in conflict with}

The Bride (Rev 19:7-8).

EARTHLY REALM

The Harlot (Rev 17:1)

{In conflict with}

The woman (Israel) (Rev 12:1-6)

Isa 9:1-7 The nation of Israel is the focus of this passage. Verse 6 says, **"Unto US a child is born."** **"US"** certainly cannot be the Church. There is no Church at the birth of Jesus. He was born to the nation of Israel. **"A son is given."** This refers to the Second Coming and the subsequent establishment of the millennial kingdom (vs 6-7).

Christ could not be born until Israel had shown their true heart. The nation was taken through a time of prosperity (under the Kings) a time of decline (the captivities) and will face a time of resurrection (at the end of the Tribulation) when "A Son is given" after a time of travail.