

THE WOMAN OF REVELATION CHAPTER TWELVE

Part 5 The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

The book of Revelation discloses several significant and predominant characters that are a part of 'The Day of The Lord' in the 'End Times'.

Last week we looked at one of them – that sinister character, '**The Antichrist**' or 'The Man of Sin' or '**The Beast**' who deceives the nations and brings about the 'Abomination of Desolation' and the Great Tribulation.

But another very significant character that we need to look at is found in The Book of Revelation chapter 12.

This is the Woman clothed in the Sun and most of the chapter is dedicated to her ...

Revelation 12:1-5 **SLIDES x 2**

*Now a great sign appeared in heaven: **a woman clothed with the sun**, with the moon under her feet and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ²Then being with child, she cried out in labour and in pain to give birth. ³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon ... ⁴...And **the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.** ⁵**She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.***

WHO IS THIS WOMAN?

THERE ARE 4 WOMEN SPOKEN OF IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION ALL OF WHICH STAND FOR A COLLECTIVE GROUP

1. There's Jezebel - Revelation 2:20 = False Religion
2. The Great Harlot - Revelation 17:1 = The World & Economic system
3. The Bride of Christ - Revelation 19:7 = The Church
4. **The Women clothed in The Sun Revelation 12:1**

SO WHO IS THIS WOMAN?

We know she's a mother ... about to give birth to a boy

We know a dragon wants to eat her newborn boy

We know that she gives birth and her Boy is caught up into Heaven

WHO IS SHE AND WHO IS THE MALE CHILD?

THE CHILD WHO IS BORN AND WHO ASCENDS INTO HEAVEN TO SIT AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER, IS QUITE OBVIOUSLY JESUS OUR SAVIOUR, WHO DIED, ROSE FROM THE DEAD AND ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN.

FURTHER JUSTIFICATION THAT THIS CHILD IS JESUS IS SEEN IN THE FACT THAT THE DRAGON WAITS TO KILL THE CHILD AS SOON AS IT IS BORN –

Revelation 12:4 **SLIDE**

... **The dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.**

OF COURSE WE KNOW THIS WAS FULFILLED WHEN HEROD – THE INSTRUMENT OF SATAN – TRIED TO KILL JESUS WHEN HE WAS BORN.

Matthew 2:13 NIV **SLIDE**

*An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, **for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.**”*

Herod and ‘The Murder of The Innocents’

Matthew 2:16 NIV

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

THE DRAGON = SATAN

NB: Revelation 12:9 tells us plainly who this dragon is –

Revelation 12:9

... *The great dragon was cast out, **that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world ...***

SO, IF THE CHILD IS JESUS THE MESSIAH,
THEN WHO IS THE WOMAN?

Catholics believe it is Mary, but this can't be.

This woman, we know, appears on the earth at the end of time and we know Mary does not. She eventually died and is now one of the saints in heaven.

Most commentators say this woman is 'The Church'.

But she can't be, as 'The Church' did not give Birth to Jesus ...
The Church was born from His seed (He is The Everlasting Father
Isaiah 9:6)

SLIDE

I WANT TO SUGGEST THIS WOMAN IS THE 'TRUE ISRAEL OF GOD' FROM WHOM JESUS CHRIST THE MESSIAH WAS BORN

Matthew 2:6 Berean Study Bible

But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of My people Israel. (Quote from Micah 5:2)

THE GREATEST CALLING & PURPOSE OF ISRAEL WAS TO BRING FORTH THE PROMISED MESSIAH – THE PROMISED SEED (Genesis 3:15)

Galatians 4:26 **SLIDE**

*But the Jerusalem above is free, WHICH IS **THE MOTHER OF US ALL.***

Revelation 12:17 ALSO TALKS ABOUT THE REST OF HER OFFSPRING

Revelation 12:17 NIV

*Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the **REST OF HER OFFSPRING**—those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.*

HER HEAVENLY BLESSINGS

WE ALSO SEE SHE HAS BEEN GIVEN 3 HEAVENLY BODIES TO ESTABLISH HER IN HER PURPOSE.

NB: THESE ARE HEAVENLY BODIES ...

THEY ARE NOT OF THE EARTH.

THEY ARE NOT HUMAN ACHIEVEMENTS BUT GIFTS OF GOD'S GRACE

SO WHAT DO THESE HEAVENLY BODIES MEAN?

SLIDE

- **SHE IS CLOTHED WITH THE SUN.**
This is not her own Glory but GOD'S HEAVENLY GLORY.
She did not earn this glory.
ISRAEL HAD THE LIGHT OF GOD'S LAW & PRESENCE
- **SHE IS STANDING ON THE MOON.**
The moon is a symbol of Serenity. This means she has been established in Peace and Serenity (Jerusalem = The City of Peace).
ISRAEL WAS A PLACE OF PEACE FOR THE NATIONS
- **SHE IS CROWNED WITH A GARLAND OF 12 STARS**
This means her divine government is THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL ...
A GLORIOUS WOMAN INDEED AND ALSO A MOTHER

NB: HER CHILD IS NOT **IMMEDIATELY** CAUGHT UP TO HEAVEN AS IT SEEMS TO READ ... BUT **EVENTUALLY CAUGHT UP!**

Revelation 12:4

*...And **the dragon stood before the woman** who was ready to give birth, **to devour her Child as soon as it was born.***

But God saved the Child ... despite the threat of the dragon. (See Matthew 2:13&16 above)

WE SEE STRAIGHT AWAY AFTER THE CHILD IS CAUGHT UP TO HEAVEN, OUR FOCUS COMES BACK ONTO 'THE WOMAN'.
AND WE CONTINUE WITH THE WOMAN'S PLIGHT

NB: THE EMPHASIS HERE IS ON THE WOMAN ... NOT THE CHILD.
We see *it is Not the Child born of the Woman but **a Woman with Child.***

THE PURPOSE HERE IS NOT THE LIFE OR SACRIFICE OF CHRIST
THE PURPOSE HERE IS GOD'S PROVISION & PURPOSE FOR THE WOMAN ... THE TRUE ISRAEL

NOW WE COME TO A MOST PIVOTAL POINT

THERE IS A DRAMATIC TIME GAP OF 2000 YEARS BETWEEN VERSE 5 AND VERSE 6 OF Revelation 12.

Revelation 12:5 **SLIDE**

She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

TIME GAP OF 2000 YEARS

Revelation 12:6 Berean Study Bible

And the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place for her to be nourished for 1,260 days.

HOW DO WE KNOW THIS?

BECAUSE OF THAT NUMBER 1260 DAYS

According to the original Jewish Month in Genesis, where the months were 30 Days, this makes 3½ years.

It is the time when the Antichrist rules and brings about the Great Tribulation and The Abomination of Desolation

SLIDE - TIME LINE

SO WE GO FROM ISRAEL BEING USED OF GOD TO BRING THE MESSIAH TO EARTH TO ...

ISRAEL FLEEING FOR HER LIFE AT THE END OF TIME

SLIDE *It is like we see in a movie where the screen goes to black and displays the words '2000 YEARS LATER'*

BUT WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

IN REVELATION 12:5, THE WOMAN ACCOMPLISHES HER PURPOSE AS MOTHER OF THE MESSIAH ...

BUT GOD'S PURPOSE FOR HER IS NOT YET FINISHED AND WON'T BE FINALISED UNTIL THE END OF TIME ... UNTIL 'THE DAY OF THE LORD'.

THE NEXT SIGNIFICANT THING THAT WILL HAPPEN TO ISRAEL IS 2000 YEARS IN THE FUTURE **WHEN SHE WILL COME INTO HER**

FULLNESS ...

ISRAEL WILL, IN THAT DAY, COME INTO THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S PLAN FOR HER.

Romans 11:25-26 Berean Study Bible

*I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers ... A hardening in part has come to Israel, **until the full number of the***

Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ ***And so [at that time] all Israel will be saved ...***

NB: THE WORST TIME OF ISRAEL'S DESOLATION WILL BE THE GREATEST TIME OF HER SALVATION

LET'S LOOK AT HOW ALL THIS HAPPENS ...

NOTICE THE FIRST THING WE READ IN REVELATION 12:6 IS THE WOMAN OR ISRAEL FLEES INTO THE WILDERNESS FOR 1260 DAYS.

Revelation 12:6 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

And the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place for her to be nourished for 1,260 days.

WHY DOES SHE FLEE?

BECAUSE THAT TIME OF 1260 DAYS IS 3½ YEARS & IS THE TIME OF THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION & GREAT TRIBULATION THE PEOPLE IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL WILL BE DESTROYED AND THERE WILL BE GENOCIDE.

JESUS TALKS ABOUT THIS TIME ...

Matthew 24:15-21 Berean Study Bible **SLIDES x 2**

So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination of desolation,' described by the prophet Daniel ... ¹⁶then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷Let no one on the housetop come down to retrieve anything from his house. ^{18NKJ}And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes ... ^{21BSB}For at that time there will be great tribulation, unmatched from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be seen again.

There are three places where the prophet Daniel speaks about it. In Daniel 9:27, he says “on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate”. Daniel 11:31 says, “they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.” And in chapter 12:11, Daniel again talks about “the abomination that makes desolate”.

Daniel speaks of a [satanic] prince who will destroy Jerusalem, together with its temple and its sacrifices. He says that “forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and

shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate” (Daniel 11:31).

AT THIS TIME THE ELECT OF ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED & FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT ...

THE TIME OF JACOB’S TROUBLE

Jeremiah 30:7 NLT **SLIDE**

*In all history there has never been such a time of terror. It will be a time of trouble for my people Israel. **Yet in the end they will be saved!***

Isaiah 10:20

*And it shall come to pass **in that day**, that **the remnant of Israel** and such as are escaped of **the house of Jacob**, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but **shall stay upon the LORD**, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.*

There will be a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit for these people.

Zechariah 12:10 NIV **SLIDE**

I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for Him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

They will grieve because they have missed Him.

Notice Grace precedes repentance – God *‘will pour out on (them) a spirit of grace’* and that will turn their hearts.

They have never seen the grace of God. Because they have been caught up in law. And suddenly the grace of God will dawn upon Israel.

No one can repent or turn to God without God’s Grace.

GOD’S LOVE & LONGING FOR HIS PEOPLE ISRAEL

Following are lyrics from a song taken from Hosea 11, that a friend of mine – Steve Apirana wrote and sang back in the 1970s.

THIS SO BEAUTIFULLY EXPRESSES THE LONGING OF GOD’S HEART FOR HIS PEOPLE ISRAEL –

SLIDE *When Israel was a child ... Then I loved him as a son
With comforting words I fed him ... by The River of peace
Picked Him up ... dandled him upon my knee
I taught him as a little child ... I taught him how to walk
I held him in my arms*

SLIDE *But he doesn't know that it was I who loved and fed him ...
My people are determined to forsake Me
Oh how can I give you up My Israel
How can I let you go ... How can I forsake you
My heart cries out within Me ...
How I long to hold you*

GOD HAS NOT FINISHED WITH ISRAEL ...

SEE PART 2