

## REVELATION 12 THE GREAT DRAGON

WE HAVE COMPLETED ACT 1 OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION. JOHN INTRODUCED US TO JESUS AND HIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH. JESUS WARNED THE CHURCH TO REPENT AND FOLLOW HIM. THEN WE WERE SHOWN "TEAM LAMB" IN HEAVEN WITH THE LORD ON THE THRONE, THE LAMB WHO IS WORTHY, THE SEVEN SPIRITS, THE 24 ELDERS, THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES, THE MYRIAD OF WITNESSES AND WORSHIPPERS WHO ARE THE "SYMBOL OF THE CHURCH OF GOD AND OF GOD'S MESSIAH, THE CHURCH OF BOTH THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS, AND A WHOLE HOST OF ANGELS. THEY [THE WITNESSES] WEAR THE MARK OF THEIR FATHER'S NAME ON THEIR FOREHEADS. THESE WERE PURCHASED AWAY FROM THE WORLD, THE FIRST FRUITS FOR GOD AND FOR THE LAMB."<sup>[1]</sup> WE'VE WITNESSED THE SEVEN JUDGMENTS OR DISCIPLINES IN TWO DESCRIPTIVE NARRATIVES: THE SEVEN SEALED SCROLLS AND THE SEVEN TRUMPETS. AND WE WITNESSED A SPECIAL VISITATION TO GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE, ISRAEL, CALLING FOR THEIR REPENTANCE.

WE NOW BEGIN ACT 2, WHERE WE ARE INTRODUCED TO SEVERAL NEW CHARACTERS: THE WOMAN (REPRESENTING EVE, ISRAEL, MARY, AND/OR THE CHURCH) AND "TEAM DRAGON," WHOSE MEMBERS INCLUDE THE DRAGON (SATAN), BABYLON, THE WHORE OF BABYLON, AND THE TWO BEASTS (OR WILD THINGS). FOLLOWING THESE INTRODUCTIONS, UPCOMING VISIONS WILL DETAIL THE SEVEN JUDGMENTS, ALLOWING US TO OBSERVE THE ULTIMATE FATE OF THESE ANTI-LAMB FORCES. THE NARRATIVE CONTINUES IN REVELATION 12, INTRODUCING THE DRAGON, WHO POSSESSES SEVEN CROWNED HEADS SYMBOLIZING WORLD DOMINATION AND TEN HORNS DENOTING DESTRUCTIVE POWER

READ REVELATION 12:1-6; GENESIS 3:14-15, 20; PSALM 2:7-9

1. "...a great portent" vv.1 & 3 – Who are the characters in these portents?
2. In what ways does the woman represent Eve, Israel, and Mary?
3. Who is the male child, and what are some of the phrases describing him?
4. Read Luke 4:5-7. Compare Satan's claim of authority in Luke with the description of the Dragon in Revelation and consider what he's attempting to accomplish, as well as what he has tried to do since the dawn of creation.

[1] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael\\_\(archangel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_(archangel))

[2] Rev. Erling W. Hansen, Revelation Lecture #5

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Michael the chief of the angels and archangels, and he is the guardian prince of Israel and responsible for the care of the people of Israel. He is mentioned in last chapters of the Book of Daniel, and in some apocrypha literature.

Michael defends the people of God in the eschatological (i.e., end-time) battle as the commander of the heavenly armies; he intercedes between God and humanity and serves as high priest in the heavenly sanctuary; and he accompanies the souls of the righteous dead to paradise.<sup>[1]</sup> Michael is a busy angel.

Read Revelation 12: 7-12; Luke 10:17-20

1. Describe what is happening in these verses.
2. Besides trying to destroy God's Messiah, what else do verses 9 & 10 say about the Dragon?
3. What connections can you make between the Luke passage and vs. 11?

Read Revelation 12:13-17

1. Describe what is happening in these verses.
2. How might the woman ("and the rest of her children" vs. 17) be a metaphor for the church?

"MILLENNIUM" (which will come up later in the book): "This is the period in which the Church has the opportunity to witness and spread the kingdom, hence in a day-by-day operation, the term is 1260 days. [...] The Church takes refuge in the wilderness for a period that is called, 'time, times, and half a time.' Which accrued at Christ's first coming and will end at Christ's second coming... a time when Satan is curbed, yet, influential when we place ourselves within the orbit of his influence." This is a time that people never forget; a time of affliction and a time when the power of God's Word is revealed. During the reign of King Ahab (Jezebel's husband), God withholds rain for 3 ½ years as faithful Jews are persecuted by Jezebel. Daniel 7:25 and 12:7 describe this period as one of the Anti-Christ. In 1 John 4:3, we learn that the Anti-Christ is already in the world, indicating another connection to the Millennium.<sup>[2]</sup>

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