

REVIVAL NEWS

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THE WOMAN, THE MALE CHILD & THE DRAGON – Revelation 12:1-5

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[This teaching follows from the just published booklet "The Mystery of God would be finished – a journey through the Book of Revelation 1 -11". This is the first in a new series of teachings that will journey through the remaining chapters of Revelation. If you have not read the booklet and would like a copy, please reply by email and we will send an e-copy of the booklet to you.]

A Great Sign

The apostle John had just seen "*the two witnesses*" in **Revelation 11**. This was a vision of the *witnessing church* overcoming the world. This culminated in the kingdom of God consuming all the kingdoms of this world under the lordship and rule of Christ (**Rev.11:15**). As John continues to receive the vision, the revelation of Jesus Christ unfolds further, showing the victory of Christ and His church in another way as we come to **Revelation 12**. Do not get caught thinking that the Book of Revelation is written in a chronology of events on a timescale. It is revelation upon revelation of God's unfolding plan. It is the mystery of Christ and His church being revealed.

After the revelation of the *witnessing church* the apostle John says, "*Now a great sign appeared in heaven*" **Revelation 12:1a**. *Signs* are indicators, leading us to the destination. God shows *signs* to encourage us on the journey. *Signs* help us to stay on track. *Signs* reveal to us what we are about to encounter or experience. God created the sun, moon and stars for "*signs and seasons*" **Genesis 1:14-15**. John saw a sign in heaven that had the sun, moon and stars involved. This sign is cosmic in its scope! It was a sign *in heaven!* It is an awesome sign pointing to something with huge impact in the spiritual realm!

A Woman

The *sign in heaven* which John saw was, "*a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars*" **Revelation 12:1b**. This is a heavenly *woman!* The woman is described as:

- *clothed with the sun* – David in **Psalm 19:4-5** describes the sun like a "*Bridegroom coming out of His chamber*". Malachi prophesied of the Messiah as the "*Sun of Righteousness rising with healing in His wings*" **Malachi 4:2**. She is *clothed with the sun!* She is clothed with the Bridegroom, with the glory of the Messiah!
- *with the moon under her feet* – God "*appointed the moon for seasons*" **Psalm 104:19**. This woman is fulfilling God's appointed seasons. The *moon* was especially important to Israel to know the times of the feasts of Yahweh. The word for *feasts* in the Hebrew is the word *moed* which is the same word for *seasons* in **Psalm 104:19 and Genesis 1:14-15**. The *moon* points to God's appointed meeting times with his

people. The *moon* is *under her feet*. The *woman* brought forth a whole new season in fulfilment of God's appointed feasts.

- ***On her head a garland of twelve stars*** – Joseph, the son of Jacob, had a dream where the *sun, moon and stars* represented people (**Genesis 37:9**). In the dream, the *sun* was Jacob, the *moon* was his mother Rachel, and the *stars* were the sons of Jacob. These *twelve stars* on the head of the *woman*, represent the people of God. There were *twelve* sons of Israel and *twelve* apostles, or sons, that Jesus raised up to lead the nation of God, ***“the holy nation”*** (**1 Peter 2:9**). This woman is crowned with the people of God, the Messianic community. It is a *garland* which speaks of the *victor's crown*! She is destined and purposed to bring forth the sons of God. Her victor's crown is her sons, the sons of God to come forth from her! Speaking of the Bride in **Psalm 45:16** it says, ***“Instead of Your fathers will be Your sons, whom You shall make princes in all the earth”***! The *woman* can be seen as the Bride Church!

This woman has been a subject of the prophetic word of God for millennia. God spoke of her to the Serpent in the garden in the presence of Adam and Eve when He said, ***“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel”*** **Genesis 3:15**. God's plan has always involved a *woman*. It is the *Seed of the woman* that will bruise the head of the Serpent! This was fulfilled firstly in Christ Jesus coming forth from the virgin girl Mary as Immanuel, God-With-Us (**Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 7:14**). But there is more to this woman to understand than Mary alone.

She is in labour

“Then being with child, she cried out in labour and in pain to give birth” **Revelation 12:2**. There is a great travail and intercession to bring forth a child, a son. God prophesied that the Woman would have a Seed who would destroy the Serpent's power. God's Old Covenant people were described as ***“a woman with child...we have been with child, we have been in pain; we have, as it were, brought forth wind; we have not accomplished any deliverance in the earth”*** **Isaiah 26:17-18**. The labour and pain are to bring forth a child who will accomplish deliverance! But the Old Covenant people of God failed to be that *woman* except that it was from Israel and particularly Judah, ***“according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God”*** **Romans 9:5**.

Apostle Paul said to the Galatian church, ***“My little children, for whom I labour in birth again until Christ is formed in you”*** **Galatians 4:19**. The labour pains refers to a travail and intercession in prayer. Paul is part of God's people, the *woman*, the *Bride church*! He is labouring in the apostolic ministry and in prayer to see the Messiah, the Anointed King, formed in His people. He says again to the Roman church, ***“we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption [the placement as mature sons], the redemption of our body”*** **Romans 8:23**. There is an intercession to bring forth a mature son in the earth!

Another great sign

“And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.” John then sees another sign. John tells us that the *fiery red dragon* is ***“called the Devil and Satan”*** **Revelation 12:9**. He is seen as having *seven heads* which means he has a complete authority over the world, ***“we know that we are of God and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one”*** **1 John 5:19**. But this does not mean authority over the children of God who worship the Lamb who has ***“seven horns and seven eyes which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the***

earth” Revelation 5:6. This *fiery red dragon* also has *ten horns and seven diadems* which speak of governmental and political power as *horns* speak of kings and kingdoms (Daniel 7:24) and *diadems* are literally *crowns*. There is a company of kingdoms, *ten horns*, and full political authority, *diadems/crowns*, that the dragon exercises in the world. The *fiery red dragon* exercises rulership through human government.

The Spiritual Warfare

“His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.” Revelation 12:4a. This is an ancient spiritual warfare. Many immediately jump to conclude that the *stars of heaven* are referring to *angels*. In the Scriptures, stars mostly refer to the seed of Abraham. Joseph’s brothers in Genesis 39:7; the descendants of Abraham in Genesis 15:4-6, 22:17; a *“little horn”* of the male goat beast in Daniel 8 was seen to *“grow up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them”* Daniel 8:10. The *stars* were the people of God being trampled by a king of the *male goat* kingdom. This dragon had power to take down *a third of the stars of heaven*. It is partial. A portion of God’s people were drawn by the tail of the dragon.

“And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born” Revelation 12:4b. When the children of Israel were slaves in Egypt and God was beginning to move in answer to their groaning, a beautiful child named Moses was born. The *fiery red dragon* moved to destroy that child by causing Pharaoh to make an edict to kill all the Hebrew baby boys (Exodus 1:22). When Jesus was born, the King of Judea, named Herod, was moved by the *fiery red dragon* to again *devour the Child as soon as it was born* (Matthew 2:16). The *fiery red dragon* is terrified of the Child who comes forth from the *woman*. God is bringing forth a corporate Son today, a *“perfect Man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”* Ephesians 4:13. The *fiery red dragon* again is trying to devour the Child as soon as, and even before, it comes forth.

She bore a male Child

“She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron” Revelation 12:5a. The word for *Child* is the Greek word *huios* which means, *a son* (in maturity) and Vines Expository Dictionary says, *primarily this word stresses the quality and essence of one so resembling another that distinctions between the two are indiscernible*. This was seen in Christ Jesus, who was the *Son (Huios) of God*. We are also *“predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son that He might be the firstborn among many brethren”* Romans 8:29. This *male Child* coming forth is what all creation has been longing for, as *“creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons (huios) of God”* Romans 8:19.

In fact, we were saved for this purpose, *“God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law that we might receive the adoption (placement) as sons”* Galatians 4:4-5. Jesus, the Son, was *born of a woman* for the purpose of redeeming us to become sons (many, corporately) who inherit through Him, *“an heir of God through Christ”* Galatians 4:7. We *“as Isaac was, are children of promise”* having the *“Jerusalem above”* as *“the mother of us all”* Galatians 4:26-28. The *woman* was seen in Jesus’ time as Mary. The *woman* for us is the *Jerusalem above* which is *free!* Jesus the Christ is the *male Child* but it is more than Jesus alone! Christ is the *Seed of the woman*. Christ is the *Seed of Abraham* (Galatians 3:16). *“And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise”* Galatians 3:29. We who are in Christ are the Corporate Seed – the Son, the *male Child!*

A nation born in a day

Isaiah prophesied about the *woman* being in labour when he said, “*Before she was in labour, she gave birth; before her pain came, she delivered a male child...Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labour, she gave birth to her children*” Isaiah 66:7-8. The *woman* is Zion. Hebrews 12:22 tells us that “*we have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, to the heavenly Jerusalem*”. Isaiah says that *she delivered a male child*. And then he tells us that this is as a *nation being born at once*. We are a “*chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation*” 1 Peter 2:9. The apostle Peter described the church as a *holy nation*. Isaiah then said *Zion...gave birth to her children*. The *male child*, which is singular, is also *her children*, which is plural. The *male child* is a corporate body, a people, even *children*. This is a heavenly people, born from a heavenly origin! They are “*born from above*” (John 3:3). They are now growing in bearing the “*image of heavenly Man...the Lord from heaven*” 1 Corinthians 15:49, 47. The *woman*, the *Bride church* and *heavenly Jerusalem*, is bringing forth sons in the earth, mature sons who make up a corporate *perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ!* Ephesians 4:13

To shepherd all nations

This *male Child* was brought forth to “*rule all nations with a rod of iron*” Revelation 12:5a. The word for *rule* is the Greek word *poimaino* which means *to tend as a shepherd*. This brings a much different idea than *rule*. The *male Child* will shepherd *the nations with a rod of iron*. This promise was first made to the Son of God in Psalm 2:7-9 where the Messiah/King makes the decree that Yahweh said to Him, “*You are My Son...You shall break them [the nations] with a rod of iron*”. The promise is extended to the ones who overcome Jezebel, “*And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations – ‘He shall rule [shepherd] them with a rod of iron’...as I also have received from My Father*” Revelation 2:26-27.

The *male Child* is Christ and his Church – the corporate Messiah, “*For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ*” 1 Corinthians 12:12. The Christ is a many membered body now – Jesus is the Head and we are the Body! (Colossians 1:18) Jesus told us to “*Go and make disciples of all the nations*” Matthew 28:19. This is to *shepherd the nations!* He told us to do this after He established His authority saying, “*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth*” Matthew 28:18. We have all authority in Christ to *shepherd the nations* with the Word of God by discipling them. The *male Child* company, the sons of God, *rule/shepherd the nations* by discipling them to the Word of God. The *rod of iron* is that uncompromising word of God, the doctrine of Christ, “*the word of the Lord*” growing mightily and prevailing in regions and people groups (Acts 19:20).

He was caught up to God and to His Throne

“*And her Child was caught up to God and His throne*” Revelation 12:5b. The Son was brought forth to *rule*. When we are born again, “*washed from our sins in His own blood*”, we are also made to become “*kings and priests to His God and Father*” Revelation 1:6. Now Jesus is in the position of being “*raised from the dead and seated at His [God’s] right hand in the heavenlies, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named*” Ephesians 1:20-21. And God, when we were “*dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus*” Ephesians 2:5-6. We have been *caught up to God and His throne* by being raised up and seated together with Christ at the right hand of God in the heavenlies! This is the position

we were born again to occupy! We are to grow up into this position. It is by revelation we are *caught up* to the throne.

It is when we realise the awesome purpose of salvation and all that Christ has accomplished for us through His death and resurrection that we learn to take that place of rulership with Christ at the throne. Jesus told the Laodicean church that *“to him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne”* Revelation 3:21. This is something for us to enter into by faith and revelation of the Word. Jesus has *“all authority in heaven and on earth”* (Matthew 28:18). He is on the throne and we are to function out of that authority from the throne also. This is the *male Child company* that the devil is so scared of. The *male Child* is coming forth from the intercession and travail of the Bride church. She is bringing forth a corporate Son to rule and reign in the earth from the throne of God! The *woman* and the *male Child* company are another picture of God’s eternal purpose being achieved through Christ and His church – *“and has made us kings and priests and we shall reign on the earth”* Revelation 5:10.

The devil is angry at this and wants to stop the Son coming forth, being ready to *devour her Child as soon as it was born*. He will use political means, religious and denominational means, and any other method of human government, culture and traditions of men. But as you will see – the devil cannot stop the eternal purpose of God coming to manifestation!

**Knowing this makes us ready for the great spiritual warfare
revealed further in Revelation 12!**

**Knowing who we are, and God’s eternal purpose, strengthens us to
stand against the fiery red dragon and walk in the victory over all his
attacks!**