

## Revelation 12 – From the Perspective of Heaven

By Holly Effiom

### Rev 11:15-19 – The Last Trumpet

What happened when the 7th trumpet sounded?

What did John hear? What does this mean?

What is the significance of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet sounding? Rev 10:

According to 1 Cor 15:50-54, what else is supposed to happen when this 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet sounds?

If now the kingdoms of the world have become Christ's, would you say that taking back the kingdom was a "process"?

What did the 24 elders do after the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet was blown?

Why were they so thankful?

What does Jesus' conquest mean for the earth? V18

If Jesus fulfilled the Law, and the Law is no longer needed, why do you think God has kept the Ark of the Covenant?

**LESSON:** Based upon scripture, we know that at least 3 things will take place with the sounding of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet:

1. Rev 10:7 – The Mystery of God will have been completed.
2. 1 Cor 15:50-52; 1 Thes 4; Matt 24:29 – The translation or glorification of the church will take place.
3. Rev 11:15 – The kingdom of God will be established in the earth.

In our study of Rev 10 and 11, we explored these 3 events in depth, but something else significant is related in chapter 11 – the "Ark of the Covenant" makes an appearance again. NOTE: The Ark is NOT lost. God knows exactly where it is; and now, we also know. Why is God reminding us of His Ark? Revelation 12 opens with a view from the perspective of heaven, but the scene actually begins at the end of Chapter 11, with the revelation of the Ark of the Covenant. Ex 25:10-22

The "Ark of the Covenant", technically, included the Mercy Seat, and contained the Law given to the children of Israel via Moses. It was there that God met with Moses and Aaron and communicated with and judged Israel, as King of Israel. By allowing John to see the Ark of the Covenant in the temple in heaven, now, God is letting the church know that He is starting to judge, just as the 24 elders explained, and he will judge according to His Law. All will be without excuse, for the 2 witnesses will have suffered and gone to their deaths prophesying about salvation through Jesus Christ, every day during the 42 months that the Gentiles treaded down the outer court.

If God has kept the Ark of the Covenant, and plans to judge according to His Law, as He did with Israel, what should our attitude toward the Law be now?

The Mystery of God is multifaceted, but by the end of Rev 11, we know without a doubt that the kingdom of God is hidden in the church of Jesus Christ. Hidden in plain sight! Revelation 12 explains this more fully.

### Revelation 12:1-2 – Wonders in the Heaven

Who is the woman clothed in the sun, and standing on the moon and wearing a crown of 12 stars? How do you know?

Based upon this description of her, is she an old hag? What would you say are the feelings of the one doing the describing toward her? Does He hate this woman?

Who are the 12 stars? How do you know?

Why was the woman in pain?

What are some of the examples of her travail? Does God mention any of these things in telling this story?

Why did the birth have to be painful? Who was the first to experience this travail?

What does this teach us about travail?

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LESSON: When viewing the woman clothed in the sun, standing upon the moon, and wearing a crown of 12 stars as a picture of the nation Israel, from God's perspective, you see the great admiration He has for her. You especially see this in the way that He places Israel's failings, hardships, and turmoil under the rubric of "travail", as in childbirth. God doesn't include any of Israel's failings in the story of what this whole "thing" was about, from heaven's perspective. This tells us of how God looks at our own failings... with the eyes of love, not condemnation.

Understand, this is not a lovesick God. He is not deluded, as we delude ourselves into thinking that there is something innately special about ourselves which means we are owed god-like power without responsibility.

God sees the picture exactly as it is: a people destined for god-like power (which is why He created them in His own image) with an enemy who uses smoke and mirrors to urgently keep these same people from realizing their destiny because then the enemy will be supplanted. This was already done when Jesus came and fulfilled the Law perfectly and took ruler-ship over the earth. Hallelujah!

Revelation 12 is telling us the "travail" Israel went through was to birth the King of kings. What is the purpose of the "travail" of mankind? To what is the earth giving birth? The kingdom. Our prayer is that: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." If our total desire is to have God's kingdom in the earth, then bringing this desire to fruition will indeed be accomplished in pain.

So, looking at your own life: is "travail" a bad thing? Does it feel good? To what are you giving birth? Is it going to be easy? How do you know?

When God told Eve that she would birth children in great pain, was He only referring to "children"?

V3 (See Daniel 7)

Who is the red dragon? How do you know?

What is the meaning of the 7 heads, 10 horns, and 7 crowns?

Where else have we read about a creature with 10 horns? Dan 7:7-8

What do the horns represent? Dan 7:24

What happens to 3 of the 10 horns? Who supplants these horns?

What is unique about the "supplanter"?

Why do you think horns are used in this description?

Does Daniel write about crowns in his vision?

What do we know about crowns, based upon our study of Rev 2 and 3? How do crowns differ from horns?

Based upon this understanding of crowns and horns, and this description of the red dragon, what do we know about the red dragon?

Is the red dragon his horns?

LESSON: Do horns grow out of one's behind, or a foot? Horns are an outgrowth of one's head. So, what happens in the head? Ideas. So, looking at Daniel's vision in Chapter 7, we understand that the horns are an outgrowth from an idea generated from within the beast itself – self-will.

When we studied Jesus's words to the churches in Revelation 2 and 3, we compared crowns and horns: crowns are conferred on someone from One at a higher position. A person cannot make his own crown; however, a person can generate a horn out of self-will.

So, comparing Daniel's and John's visions, we understand the self-will of the beast that generated 10 kingdoms and the scramble for power that would take place among the kings (Dan 7:24); however, John's vision provides more information about the nature of the beast – the beast had been given 7 crowns.... *by God!* Why on earth would God give him *rewards*? What exactly are crowns, anyway? Do we know *when* these crowns were given?

When God gives you a gift, does He ever take it back?

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V4

What did he do with his tail?

What are stars, according to Rev 1:20?

Does this mean that the red dragon caused one-third of the angels to be cast into the earth? How did he do this?

Is this scripture a description of what takes place with the sounding of the fourth trumpet? Rev 8:12

Would this mean that some of the trumpet judgments might've taken place before Christ was born?

What is the dragon doing in this verse? Why?

Is it the woman the red dragon wanted? Why?

How does this understanding help us today, in our own lives?

Why didn't the red dragon destroy the woman before she gave birth?

Based on how this wonder in the heaven is described, what would you say the feelings of God are towards it?

**LESSON:** This description of the red dragon's tail drawing one-third of the stars and casting them in the earth is God providing the church the understanding of the red dragon's character, and relative power – he was able to convince one-third of the angels to follow after him, after being in God's very presence for an eternity!

We see that the red dragon isn't truly interested in the woman at all. He wants her child, her potential. Furthermore, his goal is not to take care of the woman's child; he wants to devour the child as soon as it is born.

Why didn't the red dragon save himself some trouble and just destroy the woman? In Job, we see that God gave satan a couple of gifts – the power to give and take Job's possessions, and power over Job's health and well-being; however, he was not permitted to take Job's life. And, so it is with the woman – mankind – satan can trouble us with our material and our health, but he is not allowed to take our life. Is it possible that the power given to satan, in Job, might be considered "crowns"?

Knowing the character of the red dragon and his goal, how do we apply this understanding to our own lives?

VV5-6

Did the woman finally give birth? What was the sex of the child?

What was this child born to do?

Did the red dragon devour the child? What happened to the child?

To Who's throne did the child go? Why? Ps 110:1

Is this throne, to which the child goes, the same as the child's own throne? Matt 19:28

Who is this child? Who is the woman? How do you know, based upon V5?

Remember Jesus' comments in Matt 22:41-46? Could David in Psalm 110:1 have been experiencing the conversation taking place between Father and Son at the point of Rev 12:5?

When the child is caught up to heaven, what happened to the woman?

Was this woman ever in the wilderness before? When was that? And, what happened to her?

Was the wilderness the first time a protection for the woman, or was it something meant to thwart her?

How long will the woman remain in this wilderness?

Is this the same time period as that of the witnesses in Rev 11:3? How are these different?

If the woman is Israel, and the purpose of her travail is to produce the Christ, the King, what is the purpose of the travail of the whole earth? To what is it giving birth?

**LESSON:** (Matt 13:11; Rom 11:7-12; Rev 11:1-2) It really isn't until verse 5 that we understand that the woman in this section of scripture is Israel because she gives birth the King of the earth. It's at that point that we can go

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back and understand that the crown of 12 stars are the 12 tribes of Israel, and the “travail” that she was experiencing were the pangs associated with bringing forth life, the promise – the King.

Verse 6 affirms our understanding of the woman as Israel by revisiting the “wilderness” in our consciousness in order to expand our understanding of what is meant by the term. We know that this “wilderness” is different than the book of Numbers wilderness because of when it takes place – after Jesus is caught up to His Father, and to His throne. So, what is it God wants us to understand about the “wilderness”?

In the book of Numbers, were the children of Israel walking through a land that was literally a wilderness? They had just left Egypt, running for their lives, and were heading to Canaan. Under normal circumstances at the time, an 11-day trip; however, we all remember how it turned into a 40-year odyssey. If you don’t remember, Moses reminds us in Deuteronomy!

The “wilderness” was a state of mind for the children of Israel then, and this is the connotation in Revelation 12 now. The “wilderness” will be a state of mind going on through the first 3.5 years of the tribulation. I believe that this “wilderness” is what Jesus was alluding to in Matthew 13:11, and is the “blindness of the Jew” that Paul discusses in Romans 11:7-12, and what John describes as the temple of God and altar and worshippers there being “measured” in Revelation 11:1.

From the perspective of heaven, the story being told is that the woman (Israel) produced the King of the earth (Jesus) in Revelation 12:5, her “work” was completed. She escaped to the wilderness to hide from the dragon for a time.

Israel’s completion of her work was not the end of the story, it’s actually the beginning of the reign of her Son as King of the earth, and from our analysis of “dominion”, we know that there is work to be completed on that front – NOTE: the two witnesses in Revelation 11:3 are *empowered* for their work when the temple of God was closed off.

In Matthew 13:11, Jesus explains to His disciples that knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven is given to them, but not to the Jew. Why would this be? To be a “faithful witness” (Rev 1:5) one must *know* of that which they speak. According to Rom 11:7-8, Paul explains why “...Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded (According as it is written (Isa 29:10-13), God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear) unto this day.” The Jew does not *know* about the mysteries of kingdom of heaven – he was not taught about such things; he *knows* the Law.

The Law is not thrown away with the advent of Jesus. Observance and promulgation of the Law is a necessary stepping stone to unlocking the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven! The woman is not being set aside, she is being protected in the wilderness until the kingdom of heaven is revealed.

VV7-9

What happened in heaven once the male child was caught up to His Father’s throne?

Who was doing the fighting? What is this battle about? Is it the earth?

From what perspective are we studying this section of scripture? (Hint: look at the title.) Why?

What exactly is being viewed from the perspective of heaven?

Who was the captain in this fight? Who is he? Dan 10:13, 21.

According to Daniel, what is this time when Michael and his angels are fighting called? Dan 12:1.

How many of the angels fought on satan’s side? How many of the angels fought on Michael’s side?

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Who won? Who is the red dragon? What is he called?  
What is the red dragon known for?  
Where did the red dragon go?

VV10-11

What was the loud voice in heaven saying once satan was cast out?  
What did satan used to do to the angels and God, to man?  
Who are the “brethren”?  
How did Michael and his angels overcome satan and his angels?  
Did the angels need salvation through Jesus Christ?

LESSON: This section of scripture made me consider something that to this point was unimaginable – Perhaps the angels in heaven needed the blood of Jesus, as much as we do.

Recently, God made me understand something that I didn’t include the first time I did this study. My approach in my understanding of the angels was of them having a different “estate” from mankind, and God has shown me that He has done a new thing through Jesus Christ. He has created a new order in which God (the heavenly order) and mankind (the earthly order) have been made brothers. Daniel 8:10 describes this new order as the “host of heaven”, citizens of heaven, which *includes* mankind, even though he is *in the earth*.

I don’t want to get sidetracked on just considering the implications of this very idea, but understand, in these verses of scripture, the heavens are declaring *solidarity* with mankind – “*brotherhood*”, “*kinship*” – in the battle against satan and his angels and the means through which victory will be accomplished. It gives a whole new meaning to “Emmanuel”, God with us!

V12

What is the voice in heaven saying to the heavens? Why?  
What is the voice in heaven saying to the earth and sea? Why?  
Why is the dragon angry?  
What does the voice mean when it said “he hath but a short time”?  
When did all of this take place?

V13

Is the red dragon a party to the new covenant? What would he have to do to be under the protection of the blood of Jesus?  
Did the red dragon place himself under the protection of the blood of Jesus?  
Where did he find himself because of his decision?  
Was the red dragon happy about his new digs? How do you know?  
Why did the woman have to go into the wilderness?  
Does the woman have any more work to do? Does Israel have any more work to do?

V14

How did God help the woman?  
What did the woman have to do?  
How long is a “...time, times, and half a time...”?  
Is verse 14 different from version 6? Or, are the two verses describing the same event?  
What do we gain from the second recitation?

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VV15-17

When did the serpent send a flood to destroy the woman? Was it after God gave her 2 eagles wings to fly away from the "... face of the serpent"?

Could the persecution mentioned in V13 actually be this "flood"?

Did the dragon send a literal "flood" after the woman?

How did the woman avoid drowning in the flood?

What happened when the dragon couldn't destroy the woman?

Who are the woman's seed? How do you know they're small in number? See Rev 7:4; Rev 11:3

Does anything in the section describe the remnant of the woman's seed escaping from the dragon?

Who keeps the commandments of God (or the Law of Moses)?

Who has the testimony of Jesus Christ?

What did God call those who obey His voice and kept His covenant? Ex19:5-6.

What did God call us who have the testimony of Jesus Christ – i.e., keeping God's new covenant? Rev 1:5-6

LESSON: Rev 1:5 provides a description of Jesus as:

1. The faithful witness;
2. The first begotten of the dead; and,
3. The Ruler of the kings of the earth.

By the sounding of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, Jesus has been revealed to indeed be all three of these accolades. Revelation 12 gives us the opportunity to witness this from the perspective of heaven; and the kingdom of God is revealed to us... *and we are part of it!* The "church" itself is not the foundation of the kingdom of God. In Matt 16:17, Jesus explained that what Peter said was the foundation, what Peter believe in was the foundation – that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God". That is the foundation. Peter's *word*, his *belief* in that foundation is what constitutes the church. "Upon that rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." And, it is the working out of that *word*, that *belief*, that establishes God's kingdom in the earth.

We pray "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven..." In the working out of that *word*, that *belief*, God gives the church the power and privilege to participate in the establishing of His kingdom in the earth.

To us on the earth, it appears to be anything but an orderly and peaceful time. Satan is wrathful wanting to hurt as many of the seed of the woman as possible. Let's just say, he's not going "quietly into the good night". Nonetheless, look at what the trying of the patience of the saints has revealed from the perspective of heaven... The kingdom of God in the earth. Our heartfelt prayers for God's kingdom to come, and for His will to be done on earth, as it is in heaven, have been answered.

Jesus is completely revealed as the Faithful Witness of God; the church in Jesus, is a faithful witness in the earth to the fact of the existence of God. If God exists then sinners *are* going to be judged for transgressing His Law.

Jesus is completely revealed as the First Begotten of the Dead, in willingly providing the blood needed for mankind's atonement for transgression of the Law of God; thereby providing the means of reconciliation to God.

Jesus is completely revealed as the Ruler of the kings of the earth, in taking the throne and dominion, and has made us kings and priests to our God and His God. Hallelujah!

The Mystery of God is complete! Hallelujah!!!!