

*“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. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. 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.” – Revelation 12:1-2,5*

### **Overview:**

Revelation 12 starts off with a great sign appearing in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet and a garland of twelve stars are on her head. Some people teach that this is a picture of the church or a picture of Mary the mother of Jesus but in this context, it is a picture of the nation of Israel. In Genesis 37, Joseph had a dream of the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowing down to him. Jacob rebukes his son Joseph and said, *“What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?”* - Genesis 37:10b Using scripture to interpret scripture, we see that Jacob identified the sun, moon, and stars in Joseph's dream to be his family, the nation of Israel.

Another sign appeared in heaven of a great, fiery red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and crowns on each of his heads. This is a picture of Satan. Revelation 12 teaches us about the war between God and Satan. First there is conflict in heaven where 1/3 of the angels are cast to the earth. Then Satan tried to destroy Jesus as soon as He was born. When that fails, Satan turns his wrath against the nation of Israel and tries to destroy them. But we read in Revelation 12:8a, *“but they did not prevail”*. While it may appear that Satan is winning, the bible clearly teaches that he will not prevail over God and His plan for our lives.

### **References:**

*Rev. 12:1 – The woman, a picture of Israel – Genesis 37:9-11, Isaiah 66:7-8*  
*Rev. 12:1 – The travail at Jesus' birth will pale by comparison – Matthew 24:21, Jeremiah 30:7*  
*Rev. 12:2 – Cried out, the longing for Messiah – Luke 1:50-55*  
*Rev. 12:3 – A great, fiery red dragon, a picture of Satan; Murder – John 8:44; absolute authority – John 12:31, 16:11, 1 John 5:19, Luke 4:5-7; Created being – Ezekiel 28:14-15*  
*Rev. 12:4 – Satan drew a third of the angels by his majesty – Ezekiel 28:12, Isaiah 14:12, 2 Corinthians 11:14; and threw them to the earth, miserable existence – Luke 8:28,31*  
*Rev. 12:4 – Mary chosen out of Israel, representative of Israel's hope – Luke 1:48-49; Satan's purpose, devour her Child – Matthew 2:16-18*  
*Rev. 12:5 – A male Child, Jesus the Messiah – Rule all nations with rod of iron – Psalm 2:9, Rev. 2:27, 19:15; Child was caught up – Acts 1:9-11*  
*Rev. 12:6 – Woman fled, future event – Matthew 24:15-22; Prepared by God – Proverbs 18:10; God providing for Israel – 1 Kings 17:1-6*  
*Rev. 12:7 – War in heaven – Ephesians 6; Michael – Chief prince – Daniel 10:13; Israel's prince – Daniel 10:21; Stands watch over Israel – Daniel 12:1; Chief angel – Jude 9*  
*Rev. 12:8 – Cast out of heaven – Job 1:6-7, Luke 22:21-32*  
*Rev. 12:9 – Serpent of old – Genesis 3:1; Who deceives about; Pride – 1 Chronicles 21:1; Proverbs 6:17; 1 Chronicles 21:14; Permanence of lust – 1 John 2:15-17; Galatians 5:16-17, 5:19; Ephesians 2:1-7; Character of God – Romans 8:31-32; Need for salvation – Acts 26:15-18; Ephesians 4:17-19; John 14:6, 1 Peter 3:18*  
*Rev. 12:9 – Don't be discouraged – Lamentations 3:22-24, 40-42*

### **Questions:**

- \* Who is the woman in Rev 12:1? Who is the male child in Rev 12:2,5? Who is the great dragon in Rev 12:3?
- \* What promise does God give concerning the male Child in Rev 12:5?
- \* How does God protect Israel in Rev 12:6? Take a few minutes and think of the times God has protected you and give God thanks for His protection.

### **Additional Study:**

#### **Rev. 12:1**

- \* Now a great sign (*semeion*)

#### **Rev. 12:4**

- \* His tail drew a third of the stars – drew (*surō*) – to draw or pull by force – force of personality
- \* threw (*ballō*) – sweep down them to the earth

#### **Rev. 12:6**

- \* wilderness (*eremos*) – isolated, solitary, lonely place could be mountains, desert

#### **Rev. 12:7**

- \* Michael – Jude 9 (*archangelos*) – chief angel