

Revelation 12:5-6 <sup>5</sup>"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. <sup>6</sup>Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days."



he Woman we have already shown to be Israel. This twelfth chapter of Revelation temporarily jumps back and symbolically gives us an overview of this eternal struggle between God and Satan. Verse five shows us the birth of Christ and His ascension into heaven (after His death on the cross).

There is then a gap of time between v5 and v6, this is the **CHURCH AGE**. The reason it is not mentioned here is because the tribulation is not a church event it is for the Jews and the city of Jerusalem (Daniel 9:24). In v6 Israel flees under the persecution of the Antichrist at the mid-point of the tribulation. We know this is the mid-point of the tribulation because we are told the woman (Israel) is taken care of for one thousand two hundred and sixty days or 3 ½ years.

Matthew 24:16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."

Mark 13:14 "So when you see the 'abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not" (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."

The fact that the church is left out of Tribulational prophecies is repeated several times in Scripture. In Daniel chapter nine the angel Gabriel does not mention the church in his prophecy to Daniel. He skips over it as if he knew nothing about it and goes straight from

the death of Christ to the abomination of the temple. The church (or bride of Christ) is never mentioned by Gabriel, yet we know that it exists today.

In this scene that is taking place in the heavens, John describes for us a picture of the eternal struggle of Satan to destroy God's plan. The scene is both historically and prophetically accurate: the Woman (Israel) about to give birth to the Son of God and Satan poised to destroy the child. The child is born and taken to heaven (the life and death of Christ).

The church age is not talked about here, but rather the next thing we are shown is the woman (Israel) fleeing into the wilderness because of the persecution by the dragon (Satan). This future persecution will be by the hand of the Antichrist. The "Sun-Clothed Woman" brought forth the "Man-Child" who would rule the nations (future) with a "Rod of Iron." There can be no question as to who is meant by the "Man-Child." He is no other than Jesus.

Psalms 2:8-9 "Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a **rod of iron**; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

## The fulfillment of this prophecy:

Revelation 19:15 "Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

## The Woman Flees

Revelation 12:6 "Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days."