



Chapter 12



Revelation 12:1-5 (NASB), ¹A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; ²and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. ³Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads *were* seven diadems. ⁴And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. ⁵And she gave birth to a son, a male *child*, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. ⁶Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared* by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

* Generally believed to be the city of Petra, in Jordan

The Sun-Clothed Woman (Israel)

In the middle of the tribulation week (3 ½ years), John tells us that two wonders will appear the sky. These two wonders are symbols and therefore should be interpreted as such. The first symbol is the “**Sun-Clothed Woman**.” Some have tried to interpret the woman as possibly the Virgin Mary and others claim she is the church. Neither one is a correct interpretation of who this women represents.

The Sun-Clothed Woman represents Israel. To show this we must go back and look at the story of Joseph and a dream he had.

Genesis 37:9 “Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.”

Remember this Sun-Clothed Woman is wearing a crown of twelve stars. Joseph was the twelfth star. The other stars represent the other eleven brothers. Together they represent the twelve tribes of Israel.

To get a better picture of the Jewish character of this Woman we must remember that Israel is described time and time again as a “woman” and a “married woman” (Isa. 54:1). During the time of her rejection she is spoken of as a “**WIDOW**” (Isa. 47:7-9, Luke 18:1-8) and a “**DIVORCED WOMAN**” (Isa. 50:1). Israel is mentioned as an “**ADULTEROUS WIFE**” (Jer. 3:1-25, Hosea 2:1-23).

The church, however, has never been referred to by any of these names. The church has always been referred to as a virgin, and an espoused virgin at that (II Cor. 11:2, Eph. 5:25-27). It is the church that is the bride of Jesus Christ and is given robes of white representing her purity. The Sun-Clothed Woman is described as being “with child,” and about to give birth. Nowhere in the Scriptures does it say that the church is supposed to become a mother, but it is so prophesied of Israel.

According to Paul,

Romans 9:4-5 ⁴“who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; ⁵of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.”

Here we see that Christ was to come from Israel. We also know the “promised seed” was to come through Israel, and the prophet Isaiah looked forward to the time when Israel could say, “Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given” Isa. 9:6-7. Before the promised heir could be born, Israel had to pass through many afflictions and judgments. This was her “**TRAVAIL TIME.**” This is certainly a description of who the Sun-Clothed Woman represents; she is Israel.