

The Man Child

The book of Revelation is a book of mystery, in which John tells about the past, present, and future (1:19). To interpret the book, we have to use literal and symbolic interpretation. There is much to learn in this book, but at the present, we only want to study the Chapter 12.

The traditional interpretation of this chapter is regarding Christ, his birth, his death and ascension. But with that kind of interpretation, we soon run into difficulty, because you have to shift from symbolic to literal, and that should not be done when the thoughts are in the same setting. It might fit our personal interpretation, and it might sound logical, but that is not sound scriptural interpretation. Will you be willing to take a new look at what John is writing about? If so, let us proceed.

1. Revelation 12:1

As we look at this verse, we first have to decide what kind of interpretation we are going to use to interpret John's writing. As you look at it, it speaks about woman being in heaven. The woman is clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet. We soon decide, trying to interpret it with a literal interpretation does not fit, for no literal woman has ever been in heaven, with a literal moon under her feet. So we have to go with symbolic interpretation.

A woman in scripture, many times refers to a church. In 2 Cor. 11:2, Paul said, *"...I have espoused you to one husband..."* In Rev. 19:7, *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife (the church) hath made herself ready."*

So the woman in this verse would have to refer to the church. This woman is clothed with the sun. The sun symbolizing true righteousness, as in Malachi 4:2, *"But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings..."*

This woman (church) has the moon under her feet. Now the moon has no light of itself. It reflects the light of the sun. In Hebrews 10:1, *"For the law (Moses law) having a shadow of good things to come..."* A shadow reflects of something or someone reflecting that light. So the law (in this reference, Moses law) is the moon under the woman's feet, indicating it no longer was in effect.

This woman has crown of twelve stars on her head. Stars in the Bible has a very familiar meaning. In Genesis 37:9-10, Joseph has a dream, and in the dream, he saw the sun, moon, and eleven star's. His father did not hesitate to understand the sun represented himself, the moon the mother, and the eleven star's his brethren. Daniel, in his writing, used star's frequently. Star's then can represent special people or individuals. The star's in Revelation 12:1, represent the twelve Apostles appointed by Christ (Luke 6:13).

In interpreting this verse we have to use symbolic terms to interpret the woman, the sun, moon and stars. This sets the stage for which we have to interpret the rest of the

chapter that is in this setting. To switch to another kind of reasoning would not be consistent bible interpretation.

2. Revelation 12:5

We will come back to the other references, but we need to skip down to verse five, as we are dealing with the man child. Here is where most switch to a literal interpretation, saying, the man child refers to Christ. As I said, this should not be done.

I will show another setting where most individuals switch interpretation, and we quickly say they can't do this. This is in Luke 16:19-31, referring to the rich man and Lazarus. Hell in verse 23 they say, is literal fire. But when they get to Abraham's bosom (in the same verse), they say, this refers to heaven. We tell them, "No, you can't do this. It either has to be all literal or all symbolic.

So in Revelation 12, verse 5, many switch to a literal interpretation saying, this refers the birth of Christ. But how can a symbolic woman give birth to a literal man? This kind of interpretation is not consistent. If the woman is symbolic, then she give birth to a symbolic man-child. Now we have to prove what the man-child could represent from scripture.

3. Isaiah 66:7-8

If you will look at verse 10, you will see that God is talking about Jerusalem. Now let's consider verses 7-8, "*Before she (Jerusalem) brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a **man child**. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such a things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth **her children**.*"

In this setting, the "man child" and "children" are used interchangeably. So the man-child can refer to children, and children can refer to off-spring that the woman (Jerusalem) gave birth to.

4. Back to Revelation 12:5

We have shown from scripture, a man-child can refer symbolically to the off-spring or children. So what could the man-child refer to in this verse, the children born on the day of Pentecost and shortly after or the 144,00 if you please, who were the firstfruits from Israel (Rev. 7:2-8, Rev. 14:1-5). This was what the woman (church) gave birth to, a new family. It was still the church, but with new children, family.

5. Revelation 12:2

"And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered."

The woman is with child, ready to be delivered. If the reasoning is true, when did the woman become pregnant? Please keep in mind, we are dealing in symbolic terms. This is not a natural pregnation, but a symbolic pregnancy.

In Daniel 9:27, it says, "*And he (the Messiah) shall confirm the covenant with*

many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease,...” From this it was foretold that Christ would preach (minister) for three and half years. In that three and half years, he taught the church of Israel, the new covenant. He sowed the seed (the word, Luke 8:5, 11) that impregnated the woman (the church)

In verse one, the woman is clothed with the sun, (true righteousness of God) the moon under her feet (Moses law coming to an end), crowned with twelve stars (the twelve apostles having been appointed), so everything is in order for the man-child (children) to be born.

6. Revelation 12:3-4

“And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads... And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”

To answer this one has to go back to Daniel, Chapter 7 and study the prophecy of that chapter. You will find that the Roman empire was to be the last empire to rule the earth. In Revelation 12:3-4, the dragon (the devil, verse 9) is interwoven with the Roman government to destroy the man child (children) as soon as it was born. The traditional teaching has been taught for so long, it is hard to clear the mind and think otherwise. But satan tried to destroy the new family as soon as it was born also.

In Acts 12:1-6, especially verses 1-2, *“Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.”* Then Herod arrested Peter intending to kill him after Pass-over. You want to remember, under the Roman rule, Israel could not put any one to death. They had to seek the approval of the government to carry out that sentence. So Satan was very busy trying to destroy the early church when the children (new family) were being born.

7. Revelation 12:5

“And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.”

With this verse seemingly so solidly supporting Christ and his ascension back to heaven, why would we want to think in other terms? Consistent bible interpretation tells us if one part is symbolic, then it all has to be symbolic. We are not to read as we think (former assumption), but think (with an open mind) as we read. Could this refer to the new children born to the woman (the church)?

Turn to Rev. 2:26-27, *“And he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; ...”* so you see, someone else will rule with the “rod of iron” also. It is the over-comer. As you check with other scriptures, you will see the over-comer will not be the supreme ruler, but we will “reign with Christ (Rev. 20:4-6).” Christ will be the supreme ruler, but we will carry out his commands.

But Rev. 12:5 says, "*the man child was caught up to God and to his throne.*" Again, it seemingly supports the traditional view, that Christ ascended to heaven. But remember, all along the way, it has been shown, these verses support a consistent bible interpretation of the new children (the new covenant family) that began on the day of Pentecost.

Turn to Hebrews 12:18, 22-23. "*For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, ...But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an unnumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,*"

This assures us, when we accept Christ as our Savior and live obediently, we are symbolically caught up and become a part of the heavenly body. We can look forward to being a part of God's eternal kingdom, because we are a part of his family now. We are referred to as his sons, his children, the saints.

We could explain the "war in heaven", but that is another Bible study. Suffice it to say, if the woman is symbolic, the sun, moon, great red dragon symbolic of things occurring on earth, then the war has to be symbolic also. Not a literal war in heaven.

In conclusion, I hope the reader will be able to see we have to study carefully, hold fast that which is true, but be willing to change, if suggested change is supported by the word.

