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Revelation

chapter

Twelve.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Revelation Chapter Twelve.

Topics.

- A great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns appeared in heaven.
- Michael and his angels fought against the dragon.
- The great dragon is cast to the earth.
- Salvation and the Kingdom of God has now come.
- The devil is come down having great wrath.
- The woman brought forth the man child.
- The dragon saw he was cast to the earth.
- The serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman.
- The dragon was wroth with the woman and made war with her seed.

INTRODUCTION

The language of this entire chapter is very symbolic, (i.e., there is no woman in heaven standing on the moon clothed in the sun), because of this the following study is in no way a legalistic or dogmatic interpretation of all the symbolisms, but hopefully will help and inspire those who are interested in biblical prophecy and symbolisms to take their Bibles and go on their own spiritual search to expand what is written here.

1

A PERSONAL NOTE

Though I have always loved reading and studying the Scriptures and have now walked with Christ and in God's grace for around fifty years the following studies should not be taken to be dogmatic, inflexible or the final word on the matter since I am fully aware that my mind is limited by mortality and that greater understanding of God's revelation is continually becoming clearer before our eyes as we move closer to the time of Christ's glorious return in glory.

A GREAT RED DRAGON WITH SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS APPEARED IN HEAVEN

- **Revelation 12:1-6:** And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ²She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. ³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. ⁵She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, ⁶and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished (by God and the Lord Jesus Christ) for 1,260 days.

The following symbolisms are by no means dogmatic since it is certain there are many other insights to be gained. The following is designed to serve two primary purposes:

1. To show that the dragon in view is not referring to a powerful, evil spirit creature called Satan (as many believe).
2. To give some insight into what John is seeing in this heavenly vision so that those who are interested in pursuing the symbolisms even further may be inspired to do their own study and gain even greater insights into this glorious vision of Johns.

A BASIC OVERVIEW OF THE SYMBOLISMS

- The woman is a symbol of Mary and the nation of Israel (because it is through Israel's bloodline Christ came) and by extension the body of Christ came and it was Mary who gave birth to the Lord.
- Clothed with the sun carries the idea of being clothed in the glory of God.
- The moon under the woman's feet symbolizes the earth.
- Upon the woman's head, a crown of twelve stars refers to the apostles.
- Travailing in birth to be delivered can refer to the persecution Israel as a nation suffered to give birth to Christ and to Mary giving birth to the Lord and by extension to the earth travailing and groaning to give birth to the sons and daughters of God at the resurrection (Rom. 8:19-25).
- The great red dragon refers to the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) who plotted to murder Jesus and by extension to every type of persecution from individuals and nations that are against God and against Christ and against those who follow him.
- Seven heads refer to seven powerful global nations that are against Christ and his Kingdom.
- Ten horns refer to the ten-powerful global king/rulers of the ten nations that are against Christ and his Kingdom.
- The tail refers to nations that are affiliated to the seven nations and the ten king/rulers.
- Cast down to the earth means their authority was taken, thus the words, "Cast a third of the stars to the earth" symbolizes both the Roman persecution and the persecution of the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) who had Jesus brutally and cruelly killed and aggressively set about to destroy the church (the body of Christ). By extension it can apply to all persecution against Christ Kingdom until he returns.
- The dragon stood before the woman to devour her child as soon as it was born refers to the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) who plotted his murder and to Rome and by extension to any individual or nation that sets out to destroy Christ's Kingdom and those that follow him.
- The Man Child refers to the Lord Jesus Christ and by extension would include his Kingdom.
- The woman refers to Mary, but can also refer to the nation of Israel since Jesus came through their bloodline.
- Who will rule the nations with a rod of iron means Christ (the Man Child) and his government will rule with great authority.
- The woman's child was caught up to God and his throne refers to the resurrection of Christ and by extension to the resurrection of the sons and daughters of God.

- The woman fled into the wilderness refers to Mary and to faithful Israel fleeing from their own land into the Gentile nations because of the persecution of Rome and the persecution of the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes. After Jesus death and resurrection Rome and the religious leaders aggressively set about to destroy the church and those who confessed to follow Jesus. By extension it can also refer to the body of Christ abiding in the world (the wilderness) until the Lord returns.
- Where God will feed them carries the idea that God and the Lord Jesus Christ will spiritually nourish and keep those who belong to His Kingdom while they dwell in the wilderness (the world) until Christ returns.

No one believes that there is a literal woman clothed with the sun and the moon standing in heaven this is a very symbolic vision. The words, "Appeared in heaven do not mean the battle is taking place in heaven" this is a vision that John says he sees appearing in heaven. The term appearing in heaven means that the events are spiritual this is a spiritual battle amongst the kingdoms of men taking place on earth. In this vision pride, ego, greed etc., are personified as the dragon, Satan, the serpent and devil being in a battle against those who belong to God. It is a spiritual battle between false religious leaders who want power and control over their followers and those who belong to Christ. In this vision lust for power and control is seen working through the religious leaders of Jesus day this craving for power and control is personified as the dragon, Satan, the serpent and the devil. The dragon, Satan the serpent and devil are different aspects of the same spirit they all represent various aspects of sin in the human heart and of the flesh (pride, ego and greed etc.)

JESUS CAUGHT UP TO GOD'S THRONE

Jesus has been caught up to God's throne and is seated at the right hand of his Father in heaven and the faithful of Israel and of God have fled into the world (the wilderness) (v6). The following events of John's vision are events that have taken place since Christ resurrection and events that are still to take place.

3

MICHAEL AND HIS ANGELS FOUGHT AGAINST THE DRAGON

- **Revelation 12:7-12:** Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸but he was defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he (the great dragon) was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹And they have conquered (overcome in KJV) him (the great dragon) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹²Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"

War in heaven does not actually mean that there is a literal war in heaven where God and the angels' dwell. There can be no war between God who not only created all things and who is the source of all life, but also holds all things together. He is the immortal, invisible, Almighty God to go against Him in battle would be like a five-year old boy trying to go to battle against a black belt karate instructor clearly there would be no battle. The real war is on earth it is referred to as being in heaven because the war is spiritual and against God's people and God's Kingdom. This is a picture of pride and spirit of mankind that is hostile toward God and His Kingdom personified as a great dragon whose character is that of a

serpent, a devil and of Satan. Those who are hostile toward God and are warring against God's Kingdom are referred to as a dragon because they have tremendous corrupting power and influence over multitudes of people and nations and because the word dragon presents a perfect picture of a monster that is to be feared and of creature that has the power to do great destructive damage. For these reasons, the word dragon is used figuratively to picture any evil powerful corrupt organization (secular or religious) government or nation that is hostile toward God and His Kingdom.

MICHAEL THE LORDS ANGEL (V7)

The following Scriptures show that Michael is God's angel that fights for the nation of Israel:

- I will tell you (Daniel) what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these (Great and powerful secular nations) except Michael your (Daniel's) prince (and thereby Israel's prince) (Dan. 12:21).
- At that time shall arise Michael the great prince who has charge of your (Daniels) people (Israel). And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your (Daniels) people (Israel) shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book (Dan. 12:1).
- Michael and his angels refer to faithful Jews who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ (and by extension all the faithful in Christ).
- The dragon refers to the chief priest, the Pharisees and the scribes.
- The angels of the dragon refer to those under the Pharisees authority.

The dragon primarily refers to Rome and the powerful religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) who plotted the murder of Jesus and then aggressively set about to brutally and cruelly destroy the church, and persecute, torture, imprison and put to death those who followed Christ, but by extension the dragon can apply to any powerful ruler or nation who is aggressively against the Lord Jesus Christ and his Kingdom. It is a spiritual battle for the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the battle between those who teach salvations is by works of the law and those who teach salvation is by faith and God's grace that comes to everyone who believes the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

4

THE GREAT DRAGON IS CAST TO THE EARTH

John states that the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the devil and Satan which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Here we see that the serpent, the devil and Satan are all part of the entity of the dragon. It could be said that the serpent, the devil and Satan are the body of the dragon. This, is why the dragon is presented as a most fearful and powerful creature. It is a symbol of powerful world ruler's and leaders of organizations (secular and religious) that have great power and deceptive and corrupting influence over the minds of the masses. The dragon the serpent, the devil and Satan are all different aspects of the same entity.

The dragon: is a symbol of the greatest power of evil.

The dragon's angels: refer to those under the authority of this great power of evil.

The ancient serpent: is a symbol of subtlety and seducing enticement, meaning the character is such that it entices and persuades somebody to do something by making it seem desirable or exciting.

The devil: refers to the evil and sin in the human heart and the mind.

Satan: generally, refers to the collective power of a group, organization (religious and secular) and of nations that are hostile toward God and aggressively against the Lord Jesus Christ and his Kingdom.

The accuser: refers to the devil personified through the chief priests, the Pharisees, the scribes, the Levitical priesthood and the law.

Those being accused: refers to the people of Israel and the faithful who belong to God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The place for them in heaven: refers to places of authority and rulership they had in God's kingdom.

Thrown down: means they are defeated and that their power and authority has been taken.

SALVATION AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS NOW COME

The dragon the serpent, the devil and Satan being cast down to earth brought about the following three things:

1. Salvation: obviously salvation has been available since the fall of Adam and Eve, but the Salvation in focus in this heavenly vision of John's refers to the New Covenant of Grace and salvation through faith in Christ and by God's grace.
2. The Kingdom of God: but the kingdom that is in focus is not the Kingdom of God that existed under the Old Testament Judges, David, Solomon and the kings, but the New Testament Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. The accuser of every brother and sister in Christ losing its condemning power.

There has only been one event in the history of mankind that brought about these three things and that single event was the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

CHRIST DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Christ death and resurrection gloriously ushered in the following three things:

1. Salvation by faith and by God's grace.
2. The Kingdom of God made up of Jews and Gentiles alike (also called the body of Christ and the church).
3. The destroying power of condemnation and the condemning voice of the enemy (spiritual and mental) to condemn since every brother and sister who faithfully follows Christ are saved by grace and not by works of the law.

All these have come about by the power of God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ (v10). We are told that the faithful in Christ overcome the dragon (the serpent, the devil and Satan) by the following three things:

1. By the blood of the Lamb referring to the Lord Jesus Christ. This clearly shows that the focus of this chapter is the death and resurrection of Christ and that the power that cast the dragon to earth was also the death and resurrection of Christ.

2. By the word of their testimony meaning they held fast to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and trusted in God's grace.
3. They loved not their lives unto the death meaning that their faith and love for Christ was of far more value than the things of this world and of persecution, hardships, sorrow and suffering.

REJOICE O HEAVENS AND WOE TO EARTH DWELLERS

The words, "rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them" (v12) is a call to all who are saved in Christ to rejoice in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and in their salvation. In contrast to this glory are the words, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea!" Because they have no hope of being resurrected to glory in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5) and ruling and reigning with Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords when he returns to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

THE DEVIL IS COME DOWN HAVING GREAT WRATH

The words, "the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath (v12), because he knows that he has a short time" can refer to the following two things:

1. The religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priest, the Pharisees and the scribes) who plotted the murder of Jesus and after they had Rome kill him, they aggressively set about to destroy the church and brutally and cruelly persecute those who followed Christ. It is certain they knew that if they did not destroy this new faith that was rapidly growing around them before it grew too large, they would have no hope of controlling it or stopping it mushrooming up amongst the nations surrounding them.
2. Any individual, group or organization (religious or secular) and any ruler or nation that is aggressively hostile toward God and aggressively against the Lord Jesus Christ and against those who follow him.

NOTE: because of the prophetic language of the Bible, this chapter can also be, seen as a future prophecy which means that symbolically the dragon can be, seen as any of the following: -

- The chief priest, Pharisees and scribes.
- The powerful worldwide false religious system that rises-up in the latter days and deceives those that belong to Christ.
- Global secular governments that seek to destroy Israel and those that belong to Christ.

VIEWING THE VISION

This vision can be viewed in the following two ways:

1. As the past spiritual battle between the prideful, hypocritical and false religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) (called the dragons and Satan's angels) and the faithful Jews that belonged to Christ (called Michael's angels) it was these angels (the apostles, Paul etc.,) who ushered in a new spiritual kingdom of faith and of grace and it was the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes who did everything they could to destroy these angels, they even plotted and succeeded in having the chief angel (the Lord Jesus Christ) murdered.

2. As a future battle between the false religious leaders and secular kings and governments (called the dragons or Satan's angels) and faithful Jews and Gentiles belonging to Christ (called Michael's angels) who will usher in the eternal and literal Kingdom of God on earth.

The spiritual kingdom that exist in the heart and mind of those who belong to Christ in this present age will be manifested outwardly and the remaining world will marvel at the glory of God manifested in the sons and daughters of God who will be revealed to the world at Christs return.

THE STORY OF THE VISION

Jesus has been resurrected and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is established, Jesus has become God's perfect eternal High Priest, no man or woman needs a religious organisation or human priest to be saved anymore because everyone now comes to God through faith and God's grace in the Lord Jesus Christ. Because of this glorious truth the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, the Pharisees and the scribes) power and control over the people has been taken away. Since the primary spirit of the dragon and Satan is power and control over people and the primary spirit of the serpent is deception clothed in beauty the religious leaders (the chief priests, the Pharisees and the scribes) know they have only a short while to regain their power so they not only immediately try to bring the Jewish people of Israel back under the law and the Old Testament ceremonial rites, holy days and Jewish religious customs and traditions, but also aggressively set about to destroy the church and put in prison or kill anyone who confessed to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

One of Paul's greatest concerns was that certain Jews with authority and the gift of oratory would entice his new converts away from the Gospel of grace and back under the law and the authority of the Jewish religious leaders. The death and resurrection of Jesus destroyed the Levitical priesthood, the law and the ceremonial rites as, a way to salvation. Those who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ have overcome the law because salvation in Christ is by faith and by grace and not by works of the Law and they have overcome the devil because regardless of persecution, suffering, and the hardships of life they are prepared to die rather than deny their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE WOMAN BROUGHT FORTH THE MAN CHILD

- **Revelation 12:13-17:** And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. ¹⁵The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. ¹⁶But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. ¹⁷Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

The serpent, the devil and Satan in these verses are personified as a dragon that has been cast down to earth. This is a personification and spiritual picture of the extreme brutal and cruel wrath and fury of the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) who were so hostile toward Christ they plotted his murder. When they heard people proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus the Man Child, they thought they had killed their fury and rage against those who proclaimed the message was unleashed upon them without mercy many were tortured, imprisoned and put to death.

This refers to the great and corrupting authority, power and control the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, the Pharisees and the scribes) had over the nation of Israel. Christ's death and resurrection totally abolished the entire Levitical Priesthood, the need for the temple and the services involved with it, the holy days, the sacrifices and the need for human priests. The prideful, hypocritical legalistic and dogmatic religious leaders of Jesus generation who held the religious power over the nation of Israel lost it all because of the death and resurrection of Christ. This is because Christ's death and resurrection totally abolished almost four-thousand years of Jewish ceremonial customs and traditions because no one today needs a literal temple or needs to adhere to ceremonial rites, holy days or keep religious customs and traditions nor does anyone need a human priest to be united to God or to be saved to eternal life and everlasting glory. The only priest anyone seeking God today needs to be reconciled to God and to receive eternal life is the Lord Jesus Christ.

NOTE: perhaps as a mental reminder it might be good to mention again that the dragon is not a literal powerful evil spirit being, but refers to all the evil in the human heart and the mind that is not only contrary to and against the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ, but is also hostile toward God and His most beloved Son and those who follow him.

THE WOMAN THAT BROUGHT FORTH THE MAN CHILD (V13)

The symbolisms:

The woman: who gave birth to the Man-Child can refer to Mary and to the nation of Israel (since it was through their bloodline Christ came).

The woman's offspring: refers to the Gentiles who believe in Christ.

Two wings: could refer to Jews and Gentiles in Christ or to faith and grace.

A great eagle: can refer to the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ and to the Gospel of faith and God's grace.

The river and the dragon: refer to the chief priest, Pharisees, scribes and by extension to all nations aggressively against Israel and the people of God.

A river poured out water: refers to wars and persecution and to religious propaganda and deception to destroy the faithful of Israel and the faithful honestly seeking God.

To sweep her away by a flood: refers to the faithful of Israel being swept away from God by wars and deception.

The serpent: refers to religious leaders and authorities aggressively against the faithful of Israel and those seeking Christ.

The mouth: refers to all the false teaching that comes out of the mouth of the false religious leaders.

The earth: refers to the secular populations of the world.

Stood on the sand of the sea: most likely means that he had power and influence over the populations of the world, but could also mean he had power over Israel and over those who belong to God's Kingdom (as certain Caesars of Rome did).

The dragon: is symbolic of all the evil in the human heart that is in rebellion to God and aggressively seeks to destroy those that belong to Christ. The dragon can refer to a very powerful false religious organisation or its leader or worldly governments that are opposed to God's will, plans and purposes or are seeking to destroy Israel or God's people. They are personified as a dragon because a dragon is a perfect picture of a creature that is not only very fierce and powerful, but also very destructive.

The woman might fly into the wilderness: most likely means because of the great persecution the faithful (especially the faithful who lived in the city of Jerusalem and the land of Israel) fled into the secular nations of the world where God nourishes them by His Spirit of love and grace until God draws them back to their own land or until the Lord Jesus Christ returns. Jerusalem is God's Holy city and the land of Israel is the land God promised them. The city and the land is the Jews spiritual home, because of this it would be proper and right to speak of a Jew who is separated from Jerusalem and the land of Israel and scattered amongst the Gentile nations as being in a wilderness (especially a spiritual wilderness).

The face of the serpent: refers to deception and enticing temptations. Mary and the nation of Israel gave birth to the Lord Jesus Christ, who proclaimed the Gospel of grace. Multitudes received Jesus and his message and great persecution arose against them (especially those in the city of Jerusalem and the land of Israel) so faithful Jews and Gentiles alike fled the aggressive and extremely hostile persecution and escaped into the secular world where God kept them by His Spirit of love and grace as He is keeping all who belong to the Kingdom of his beloved Son until the Lord returns.

THE SERPENT CAST OUT OF HIS MOUTH WATER AS A FLOOD AFTER THE WOMAN

The words, "the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood," (v15) means that from the time of Christ's death and resurrection those whose spirit denies God and is against Christ send out powerful messages that denies the God of creation, denies the Lord Jesus Christ and denies salvation by grace. During Christ generation, this message most likely referred to the teaching of the chief priests, the Pharisees, the scribes and the Jews who held fast to salvation by religious works, (i.e., no one could be saved apart from adhering to their ceremonial rites, their holy days and keeping their religious customs and traditions). This was one of the greatest spiritual battles Paul had with new converts. During the time of Paul there were certain powerful Jewish religious leaders that did accept many aspects of Christ and his teaching, but they still believed salvation could only be attained by adhering to Moses Law and by keeping their Jewish religious customs and traditions and were therefore constantly attempting to draw new converts back under the law.

THE FOLLOWING WORDS OF PAUL SHOW THE ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE OF TRUSTING IN GOD'S GRACE IN CHRIST

Paul in his letters wrote:

- I do not nullify the grace of God, for if justification were through the law (or any form of religious self-effort), then Christ died for no purpose (Gal. 2:21).

This means, when a brother or sister in Christ begin to justify themselves through the law and self-effort, they nullify the grace of God and by their actions declare that Christ's death was of no value. Equally as horrific as this Paul states:

- When we forsake grace, we separate ourselves from Christ because it was only by grace that God made us alive in Christ (Gal 5:4) (Eph. 2:5).

Paul to highlight even more the majestic glory of grace wrote with absolute boldness that:

- It is only by grace that any brother or sister has been saved (Eph. 2:8).

Paul in these verses is shining a brilliant floodlight on the truth that every brother and sister in Christ is saved, solely by faith and by grace and it is not their own doing, but the gift of God. This means that without grace no-one can be united to Christ and whoever is without Christ is separated from God and without God no-one can be saved to eternal life, which means that in, regard to eternal salvation, Christ, God, Grace and Faith, are all on an equal par with each other since no-one can be saved to eternal life without any one of them. Though salvation by works is still a great deception worldwide (especially religious works) in some Christian churches and religious originations there is another great flood of deception being proclaimed today that is deceiving the world and future generations on a global scale, this as many will have guessed is the worldwide teaching of evolution. This teaching denies the God of creation and is embraced and believed worldwide and not only does the global media, speak of it as scientific fact, but it is also taught in our schools as being scientifically proven.

NOTE: the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth is by no means limited to the teaching of salvation by works or the teaching of evolution, but embraces any message that entices people (Christian or secular) away from God, away from grace and away from the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE EARTH HELPED THE WOMAN

The words, "the earth helped the woman and opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth (v16). Is a difficult verse, but if we suppose that the flood refers to every kind of deception (i.e., salvation by works and evolution and such like teachings) and that those who are hostile toward God and aggressively against the Christian faith are represented by the dragon then the words, "The earth helped the woman could refer to the following two things:

1. To the men and woman in the secular world who helped the faithful in the Lord and protected them against the fury and wrath of those who were hostile toward Christ and who were aggressively going about seeking to persecute and destroy them.
2. To the return of Christ as King of king and Lord of lords and to the wrath and fury of the false, prideful, hypocritical religious leaders uniting with the secular rulers of the global world to make war against Christ and his Kingdom in the same way that the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) united with the secular world (Rome) to have Jesus killed when he appeared the first time and have his Kingdom destroyed. But there will be a big difference when the Lord returns this time because he is not coming as a Lamb to be slain, but as the King of kings and Lord of lords to conquer.

THE DRAGON WAS FURIOUS WITH THE WOMAN AND MADE WAR WITH HER SEED (V17)

John sees in this heavenly vision that the dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The symbolism:

- The remnant of the woman's seed refers to the faithful in Christ.

- The dragon refers to all who are hostile and aggressively against Christ.

The words, "the dragon made war with the woman's seed" can refer to the following two things:

1. Those who are hostile and aggressively against the Lord will continue to persecute the faithful in Christ until the Lord returns.
2. When Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice joy and peace on earth the kingdom of men will rise-up in fury and wrath against him and his Kingdom.

NOTICE: the dragon, Satan, the devil, the serpent and the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, the Pharisees and scribes) and those whose minds are hostile toward God and the Lord Jesus Christ and who do not submit to God's law all have the same character. The Scriptures teach that the mind that is set on the flesh (self, pride, ego and greed etc.,) is hostile to God and does not and cannot submit to God's law (Rom. 8:7). This, is why when the mind is set and focused only on the flesh it is always hostile toward God and the Lord Jesus Christ and hostile toward those who faithfully follow him. This is because a mind fixed upon ego, pride and greed etc., has only one focus in life and that is to gratify self and therefore will always aggressively oppose anyone or any message that is contrary to what self and the flesh crave after.

THE DRAGON, SATAN, THE DEVIL AND THE SERPENT

The character of the dragon, Satan and the devil is embraced and embodied in the serpent and the serpent is a liar and murder (Rev 12). It was the serpent who by lies spiritually murdered Adam and Eve (Gen. 3). Jesus himself calls the Scribes and Pharisees a generation of vipers and serpents and tells them they are of their father the devil who is a liar and murder (John 8). In the following verses Jesus calls the Pharisees and Sadducees, vipers and serpents identifying them with the dragon, Satan the devil and serpent (a viper from Strong's Concordance refers to an adder or other 'poisonous' snake (a serpent).

- When Jesus saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! (Matt. 3:7).
- Jesus said to the Pharisees, "You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34).
- Jesus said to the Scribes and Pharisees, "You serpents you brood of vipers (Matthew 23:33).

Jesus is basically calling the religious leaders of his generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) devils, serpents and Satan's. It would be proper and right to liken these religious leaders as a collective group to a fierce evil dragon that has flames of fire coming out of his mouth destroying everything in its path and by extension it is proper and right to apply this picture to any organisation or government (religious or secular) of all generations who has great power and influence and is hostile toward the Lord Jesus Christ and his Kingdom.

For further information see the titles:

- Dragon.
- Serpent.

Both titles are in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU)