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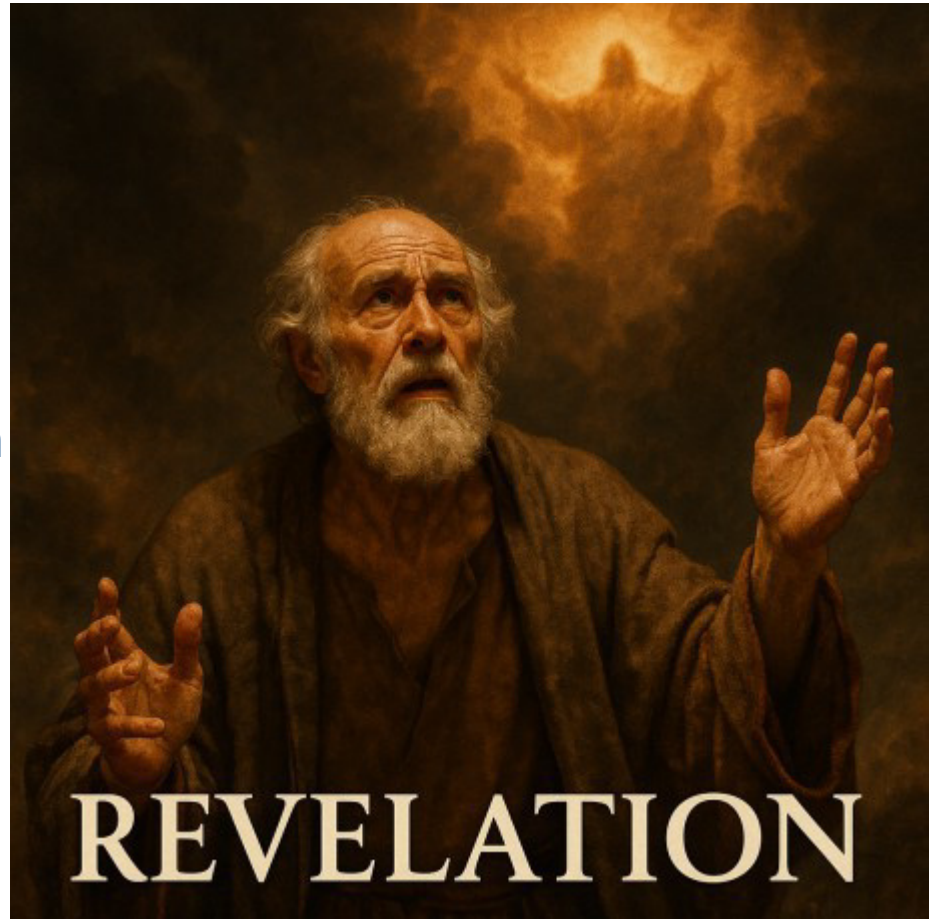
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By Dan Maines

Revelation 12

Revelation 12:1-2

A 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; and she was pregnant, and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

† The woman represents faithful Israel, the covenant community through whom the Messiah came. The twelve stars echo the twelve tribes of Israel, Genesis 37:9.

† Proof, Paul said Christ was born "from Israel according to the

flesh" (Romans 9:4-5). The imagery points to the faithful remnant awaiting the Messiah.

Revelation 12:3-4

Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven crowns. And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and hurled 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.

† The dragon is Satan, working through worldly empires. Seven heads and ten horns echo Daniel's beast imagery (Daniel 7:7).

† Proof, Herod's attempt to kill the infant Jesus (Matthew 2:16) fits the dragon's intent to devour the child at birth. The sweeping of stars shows Satan's influence over rulers and powers aligned against God's plan.

Revelation 12:5

And 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.

† The male child is Christ, fulfilling Psalm 2:9, "You shall break them with a rod of iron." His ascension to the throne shows victory over death and exaltation at God's right hand.

† Proof, this compresses Christ's mission, from birth to enthronement, emphasizing His authority and triumph.

Revelation 12:6

Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that she would be nourished there for 1,260 days.

† The wilderness symbolizes divine protection. Faithful believers fled Jerusalem before its fall, in obedience to Christ's warning in Matthew 24:15-16.

† Proof, Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 3.5.3) records that Christians fled to Pella before Jerusalem's destruction, fulfilling this prophecy.

Revelation 12:7-9

And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they did not prevail, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

† This war in heaven represents Christ's victory at the cross and resurrection. Satan's access as accuser is revoked.

† Proof, Jesus said, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Luke 10:18). His death rendered the devil powerless, Hebrews 2:14.

Revelation 12:10-11

Then 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 and sisters has been thrown down, the one who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death."

† The kingdom's arrival is declared. Satan's accusations are silenced by the blood of Christ. Believers overcome not by force, but by faithful testimony and sacrifice.

† Proof, the martyrs in Revelation 6:9-11 are the fulfillment of this victory, demonstrating the power of witness even unto death.

Revelation 12:12

For this reason, rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you with great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.

† Satan's rage is focused on the earthly realm. His "short time" reflects the brief period before Jerusalem's fall, confirming the nearness of judgment.

† Proof, Paul wrote, "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet" (Romans 16:20). This shows the first-century context.

Revelation 12:13-16

And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time, times, and half a time, away from the presence of the serpent. And the serpent hurled water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon had hurled out of his mouth.

† The imagery recalls Exodus, where God bore Israel on eagles' wings (Exodus 19:4). The faithful church is preserved despite Satan's assault.

† Proof, Josephus records rivers of blood and chaos in Jerusalem, yet the faithful remnant escaped, confirming God's preservation.

Revelation 12:17

So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

† Having failed to destroy the faithful remnant, Satan turns to persecute the wider church.

† Proof, persecution under Nero (Tacitus, Annals 15.44) demonstrates Satan's war against the saints in the first century.

How it applies to us today

† Christ has triumphed. Satan is cast down, and his power broken.

† God preserves His faithful people, even in times of tribulation.

† The church overcomes by the blood of the Lamb and faithful testimony.

† Our security is not in earthly systems but in Christ's heavenly reign.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Genesis 37:9 – twelve stars in Joseph's dream

† Romans 9:4-5 – Christ from Israel

† Daniel 7:7 – beast with horns

† Matthew 2:16 – Herod seeking the child

† Psalm 2:9 – rule with a rod of iron

† Matthew 24:15-16 – flight from Jerusalem

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5.3 – Christians fleeing to Pella

† Luke 10:18 – Satan falling from heaven

† Hebrews 2:14 – Christ rendering Satan powerless

† Romans 16:20 – Satan soon crushed

† Exodus 19:4 – borne on eagles' wings

† Tacitus, Annals 15.44 – persecution of Christians under Nero

† Josephus, Wars 6.5.3 – signs, blood, and chaos in Jerusalem

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