

# The Cause of Your Conflicts

## The Woman and the Dragon



- *Why is there conflict in the world? Why do we constantly face temptation? Why is it so hard for people to live right?*

The central theme of Revelation 12 is “conflict.” We see a war between the devil's evil and God's righteous forces. These forces are not visible to the natural eye because they exist in the spiritual realm. The Apostle Paul recognized this truth when he wrote: *“For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.”* (Ephesians 6:12 NLT).

This spiritual warfare explains the conflict in marriage, family, job, and the world. Also, Chapter 12 recaps **past** (Rev. 12:1-5) and **future** (Rev. 12:6-17) spiritual warfare. The future warfare occurs in the middle of the Tribulation (Rev. 10-14).

### The Central Lesson:

**There is a war between the spiritual forces of good and evil, and we are the target. We must claim the power of Christ for victory.**

### The Main Characters - Revelation 12

1. The **WOMAN** - represents the nation of Israel (12:1).

*“...I saw a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head. <sup>2</sup> She was pregnant, and she cried out because of her labor pains and the agony of giving birth.”*

The statement that the woman clothed with the sun, moon, and twelve stars is a flashback to the Old Testament story of Joseph. He had a dream and saw the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowing down to him (Gen. 37:9). The sun and moon refer to Jacob and Rachel, the parents of the twelve sons who became the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel. The twelve stars represent Israel's twelve tribes. The woman in Revelation 12 represents the nation of Israel.

2. The **Male CHILD** - represents Jesus Christ, the Messiah (12:2, 4-5. Also see Psalm 2:9; Rev. 19:15).

*“<sup>5</sup> She gave birth to a son who was to rule all nations with an iron rod...”*

The woman, Israel, is pregnant and in pain. This refers to the long wait and anticipation of the Messiah's coming to the world. The child is destined to rule all the nations with a **rod of iron** which pictures His absolute authority and unbending administration of justice & righteousness. The woman's child *“...was snatched away from the dragon and was caught up to God and to his throne”* (12:5) is a reference to the **ascension** of Jesus recorded in Acts 1:9. Jesus is reigning at the right hand of the Father where we see Him in Revelation 4-5.

3. The **Large Red DRAGON** - represents Satan (12:3).

*“<sup>3</sup> Then I witnessed in heaven another significant event. I saw a large red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, with seven crowns on his heads.”*

Revelation 13 will reveal more details about this symbolism of the 7 Heads, 10 Horns, and 7 Crowns. But for now, the 10 horns refer back to Daniel 7:24 where 10 world governments that will rule over the world along with the Antichrist.

4. The **STARS** - represent the angels who fell & followed Satan (12:4).

*“<sup>4</sup> His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky, and he threw them to the earth. He stood in front of the woman as she was about to give birth, ready to devour her baby as soon as it was born.”*

The dragon's tail will throw one-third of the stars to the earth. Since this is described as an event *before* the child's birth, the Messiah, it must refer to Satan's *original fall* at the beginning of time. The fall of the stars symbolizes fallen angels who joined Satan in his revolt against God (see 2 Pet. 2:4). The fall of Satan is recorded in Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:12-19.

5. **Michael** - symbolically represents the angels of God (12:7).

6. **The Woman's Other Offspring** - represents Christ's followers (12:17).

### Three Scenes to John's Vision

1. The **WONDERS** in Heaven - The Dragon Waits to Devour the Child & Israel Protected by God from the Antichrist (12:1-6).

2. The **WAR** in Heaven (12:7-12).

*“<sup>7</sup> Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. <sup>8</sup> And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. <sup>9</sup> This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.”*

This will be the second and final eviction of Satan and his fallen angels from heaven. Warren Wiersbe writes, “Scripture makes it clear that Satan has access to heaven even today (Job 1–2). Once he was the highest of God's angels, but he rebelled against God and was cast down (Isa. 14:12–15). Interestingly, as God's church faithfully serve Christ and wins the lost, Satan is also cast down and defeated (Luke 10:1–2, 17–20; Matt. 16:18; note also 12:29). Of course, when Jesus Christ died on the cross, it meant Satan's ultimate defeat (John 12:13–33). Satan will one day be cast out of heaven (Rev. 12:7–10), and then finally cast into hell (Rev. 20:10).”

3. The **WRATH** on Earth (12:13-16).

The anger and hate of Satan will be at an all-time high after being booted permanently from heaven. Satan will focus his anger against Israel and all Christ-followers. But God will miraculously protect Israel from Satan's attacks.

### The Believer's Weapons of Victory

The Tribulation Saints and today's Christ-followers can win over the devil's attacks and evil forces. Revelation 12:11 show us three weapons:

1. The **BLOOD** of the Lamb. The shed blood of Jesus on the cross provided forgiveness and redemption from sin (Eph. 1:7; Rev. 1:5).
2. The word of **TESTIMONY**. The story of Christ's love, salvation & life transformation is powerful in the spirit world. It exalts the victory of Jesus over sin, Satan, and death. A testimony is a tool that God can use to bring people to salvation and push back the darkness of Satan's kingdom.
3. **Total DEVOTION** to Christ even if it means death. The devil is powerless against love & devotion that would die for the Savior and the gospel message. *How devoted are you to Christ?*

**Conclusion:** There is a war between the spiritual forces of good and evil, and we are the target. We must claim the power of Christ for victory.

**Action Steps:** ► Receive Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's Bible study. ► Attend a small group. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.