

Christ's Peace Ends Hostility

Christmas In Revelation



- Do you sense increasing hostility in the world?

Revelation 12:1-14:20 is like a time out in the process of the narrative to orient us to the second half of Revelation. John sees two significant signs in heaven. The sky is like a movie screen. It is a snapshot of Genesis 3:15!

Central Lesson:
Satan is the author of hostility; Christ is the author of peace.

SIGNS of the Woman and the Dragon

I. The Beautiful **WOMAN** (Israel) (Rev. 12:1-2).

- A. **“Clothed with the Sun”** - Christ character.
Malachi 4:2 calls Messiah *“the Sun of Righteousness.”*
Luke 9:29 (Christ’s transfiguration) *“clothes dazzling white.”*
- B. **“Moon beneath her feet”** - a reflection of Christ in the Church, the seed of the woman.
Genesis 12:3 *“all families of the earth”* blessed through Abraham.
Luke 2:32 (Simeon) *“He is a light to reveal God to the nations.”*
Luke 2:78-79 (Zachariah) *“to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.”*
- C. **“Crown of twelve stars on her head”** - 12 Tribes of Israel. (Echos of Joseph’s vision in Genesis 37:9).
Romans 9:5 NIV *“Theirs are the patriarchs, from them is traced the human ancestry (NLT Israelites) of the Messiah, who is God overall, forever praised! Amen!”* John 4:22
- D. **“She was pregnant, and she cried out because of her labor pains and the agony of childbirth.”** This recalls all that was experienced in Israel’s past: Egypt, Wilderness, King’s, Captivity, Rome...

II. The Large Red **DRAGON** (Satan) (Rev. 12:3-5).

- A. **Identified:** Rev. 12:9 *“... the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan (Adversary), the one deceiving the whole world...”* Genesis 3:15

- B. **His Power, Throne, Authority:** (12:3; 13:2) **“with seven heads and 10 horns, with seven crowns on his heads.”**

Like but separate from 1st Beast, Revelation 13:1. These 7 heads, 10 horns have been identified with the emperors of Rome since Augustus. **Daniel 8:17, 26.** Cast out of heaven, Job 1; Ezekiel 28:16-19; Revelation 12:7-8, 10, 13-14; *“god of this world”* blinds; *“can’t see Christ glorious light”* 2 Corinthians 4:4

- C. **His Angel Army:** (Rev. 12:4, 7-8) **“tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky – to earth.”**

Limited in power by Michael (protector of Israel). Judged in Eden. Future world power through antichrist, Revelation 13:2.

- D. **Threat:** **“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.”** Revelation 12:4. See 1 Peter 5:8-9.

The devil tempted but would **fail to strike**. We also can resist the *“roaring lion”* who would threaten and kill us! Herod the Great murdered Bethlehem boys 2 years and younger, but was **too late!** Matthew 2:13-18 *“I called my son out of Egypt.”* (Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:15) The *“ruler (with rod of iron) of all nations,”* baby Jesus, was born safely. (Revelation 12:5; Micah 5:2). God intervened.

“And her child was snatched away from the dragon and was caught up to God and to his throne.” Revelation 12:5. Christ’s life and ministry is not given since Israel is the woman. **Christ arose and ascended.**

III. Our **PEACE** Is Secure In The Incarnation of Christ!

- A. **He came as God promised!**

“For a child is born to us (humanity), a son is given to us (divinity). The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called; wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting father, Prince of peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity.”

- B. **He will SHINE in our darkness!** *“The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in the land of the darkness a light will shine.”* Isaiah 9:2; *“The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.”* John 1:9 NLT.

- C. **Our GIFT for Christmas 2020!**

Before the resurrection Jesus said, *“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”* John 14:27

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Satan is the author of hostility; Christ is the author of peace.

► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday’s study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.