

**The Book of Revelation**  
**Revelation 12 (NIV)**  
**“The Lady, The Lizard, and The Lord of All”**

**Introduction**

***A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter”. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.***

***Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down — that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.***

***Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:***

***“Now have come the salvation and the power  
and the kingdom of our God,  
and the authority of his Messiah.***

***For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,  
who accuses them before our God day and night,  
has been hurled down.***

***They triumphed over him  
by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony;  
they did not love their lives so much  
as to shrink from death.***

***Therefore rejoice, you heavens  
and you who dwell in them!  
But woe to the earth and the sea,  
because the devil has gone down to you!  
He is filled with fury,  
because he knows that his time is short.”***

***When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach. Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring — those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.***

**Revelation Chapter 12** is the beginning of an interlude John places between the blowing of the seventh trumpet and the actual events/judgments that follow in **Chapters 15-18**. John is given a great sign (*mega semeione* gr.), that depicts a battle that has been waging in heaven and on earth throughout the ages. It is Satan's rebellion against God and his attempts to eradicate God's plan for the redemption of mankind.

The *Bible* plainly warns us that pride is the worst of sin. For it is pride that is at the root of all other sins. Pride convinces us that our way is superior to God's way. And for this reason, pride will lead us to destruction.

**Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.** **Proverbs 16:18**

There is no better example of this truth than that of Satan's rebellion against God and his subsequent fall from glory. He, being a ranking member of the heavenly hosts, determined within his lustful heart that he, rather than God, would be better suited to rule. And in his prideful misgivings, he managed to entice a full third of heaven's angels to join in his rebellion. And just as is promised in *Proverbs*, his pride led to his downfall.

In **Revelation Chapter 12**, which comes as a pause between the seventh trumpet sounding and the actual effects of its judgements described in **Chapters 15-18**, we are given insight into what took place as a result of Satan's rebellion. We see for ourselves his wicked schemes as he realizes his doom and tries to take down as much of God's creation as possible, along with him. Make no mistake, the devil knows full well the scope of his defeat. And yet, his sole focus is to embarrass The Father by confounding as much of mankind as he possibly can. This "war" on humanity began in the Garden of Eden and still rages on today. But it will intensify as Satan begins to realize that his time is nearing an end. In this portion of Revelation, John is shown three of the main characters, who are taking part in this ongoing cosmic struggle; the *Lady*, the *Lizard* (Dragon), and the *Lord of All*.

### **The Lady**

There are four symbolic women mentioned in the book of *Revelation*. The first, known as Jezebel, was an actual person, who was responsible for introducing false doctrine into the first century church (**Revelation 2:20**). The second "woman" is mentioned in this the **Twelfth Chapter of Revelation**, and she, unlike Jezebel, is not a single person, but rather a symbolic representation, hence John uses the Greek word for "sign". And the third and fourth symbolic women of Revelation are The Harlot of Babylon (**Revelation 17**), who symbolizes the false religion that will prevail during the tribulation. And of course the fourth "woman" is none other than The Church, The Bride of Christ, mentioned in **Revelation 21**.

The woman "clothed in the sun" from **Revelation 12** has been falsely identified by many well intentioned believers as the church of Jesus Christ. This, however, is not her identity. We must remember that the church will be presented as a spotless virgin (**2 Corinthians 11:2**) to become the bride of Christ in **Revelation 21**. The lady in John's vision is with child (**vs. 2**) so this eliminates the church as a possibility.

Others have identified her as the virgin Mary, which is also incorrect. The woman is pursued by the dragon into the wilderness in **vs. 13-16**, long after she has given birth to the male child, signifying persecution for an extended period of time. This reveals the woman to be more than just an ordinary person, she is so much more.

To find the true identity of the woman, we will look closely at her description. She is clothed with the sun; with the moon over her feet; with an over-comer's crown (stephanos); with 12 stars on her head. The imagery here is reminiscent of Joseph's dream about his family in **Genesis 37:9-11**. The sun was Jacob (Israel), the moon (Rachael), and the stars (his brothers).

**Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."**

**When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind. Genesis 37:9-11**

Therefore, the woman clothed in the sun represents the nation of Israel and the twelve stars in her crown represent the 12 tribes. The child she is preparing to deliver to is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah and Savior of the World.

Throughout the ages the devil has persecuted the nation of Israel. Since his rebellion, he has committed unspeakable atrocities against the chosen people of God. And even though he failed in his attempts to keep the promised Messiah from coming, he still to this very day is a persecutor of the Jewish people. Anti-Semitism is now and has always been demonically inspired. Nations and peoples have long despised God's chosen people Israel, and they are completely unaware that it is simply the influence of Satan that is the source of their hatred. The devil is indeed the prince of this world. And the people of God have suffered long from his reign.

### **The Lizard (Dragon)**

The identity of the lizard (dragon) is never in question, because his name is given in **vs. 9**. He is Satan, the accuser of the brethren. Satan led a rebellion against God and one third of the angelic host sided with him (**vs. 4**). He was kicked out of heaven for his trouble (**Luke 10:18**). He had intended to exalt himself above God, and therefore, become God. In so doing, he and his demonic host became as much unlike God as is possible (**Isaiah 14:12-15**).

The devil did everything within his power to keep the Messiah from ever being born. *The Old Testament* is filled with stories of how he has tried to wipe out Israel, and thereby, keep the promised One from coming. He has also continued his assault upon the nation of Israel (the woman) to keep her from being restored to God. We must acknowledge and understand that if there were no Israel, then there could have been no Redeemer. It is as simple as that. It was Satan who inspired Pharaoh to destroy Moses and all the male children of the Jews. It was Satan who possessed King Saul in order to kill David and end the Messianic line. It was Satan who incited Herod to kill the newborn King (the baby Jesus). It was Satan who convinced Hitler to destroy the Jews to keep Israel from her day of salvation promised in **Romans 11:26**, and the book of *Revelation*. He is still at war with Israel, the Mother of the Lamb of God.

At the present time, Satan still has access to God in order to accuse the people of God. When he failed to destroy the Messiah, he turned his rage against The Church, both to tempt her and accuse her before the throne. In fact, some church scholars have even speculated that the war for Satan's expulsion will take place at the rapture of the Church so that he can no longer stand before the throne and hurl accusations against the believers. The word used for "devil" in this passage is *diabolos*, which literally means the *slanderer* or *accuser*. For an example of how Satan slanders God's faithful servants, one needs simply to read the first chapter of the book of *Job*, as Satan appears before the throne to accuse God's faithful servant.

But in **Revelation 12**, John sees a time in the near future when Satan will be denied access to heaven's throne. The armies of The Archangel Michael will defeat him in an intense cosmic battle, and then Satan will be forever expelled from the heavenly realms. After being hurled to the earth, he will wage a final assault on the whole world, with the main thrust of his fury being unleashed upon the nation of Israel (**vs. 9-17**). Were it not for divine intervention, the nation of Israel would be destroyed, but God will miraculously provide a means of escape (**vs. 14-16**). This escape is described in **Matthew 24:15-24**. The Israelites will flee for their lives, and the mountains will open to provide them a passage of escape from the attack led by Satan (**Zechariah 14:3-5**).

**"So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand — then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get**

**their cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now — and never to be equaled again.**

**“If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.** **Matthew 24:15-24**

**Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.** **Zechariah 14:3-5**

This final assault on Israel will last for time, times, and half a time (3.5 years) (**vs. 14**), as also prophesied by Daniel in **Daniel 9:27** and **12:11-12**. This is known as the Great Tribulation period, also known as the time of Jacobs Trouble (**Jeremiah 30:7**).

The Devil is the driving force behind all the evil rulers of this world. He is described in **vs. 3** as having seven crowned heads. Each head represents a dominant world empire throughout the history of the world; Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and finally the 10 nation confederacy to be ruled by the anti-Christ (symbolized by the 10 horns). One only needs to study the book of *Daniel* to learn that there has been a demonic angel assigned to every empire this world has ever known (**Daniel 10:13; 10:20**). The serpent has been waging war since the Garden of Eden, but his day of judgment is rapidly approaching.

## **The Lord of All**

The male child that Israel had so labored to deliver, the one the serpent so longed to devour, is none other than Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God! He is the promised Messiah of the Scriptures. He is The Promised Seed, Who comes to crush the head of the great serpent (**Genesis 3:15**). He came as promised, lived a sinless life, and died on a cross for the forgiveness of sin. He arose from the dead, and was taken up to heaven (**vs. 5**), and will return at the end of the tribulation as the King of the Nations and Bridegroom of the Church. **“He will rule the nations with an Iron Scepter” (vs. 5)** is a reference to **Psalms 2:9**. It literally means he will shatter (put an end to) all nations until all the earth becomes one nation under God.

The Lord will be King of the Earth. Satan's hold will be broken forever. Jesus is The Lamb of God slain from before the foundation of the world (**Revelation 13:8**). He is The Lion of the Tribe of Judah that has triumphed (**Revelation 5:5**). And He is the “Rock” in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream that shatters the great statue representing the Satanic empires of this earth (**Daniel 2:31-40**). Satan's dominion will be crushed, and the Kingdom of our LORD shall never end.

Even so, Come Lord Jesus! **Revelation 22:20**.

**Truth!!!**