

Focus passage: Revelation 12:1-12

1 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. **2** She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. **3** Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. **4** 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. **5** 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. **6** 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.

7 Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. **8** But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. **9** 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.

10 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.

11 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.

12 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.”

What stands out to you from this passage?

*The child is one who rules and is now in heaven at the throne of God. Who does that sound like? **Read Psalm 2:7-9**, a psalm connected to Jesus (**Acts 13:32-33**), to see why else Jesus is this child.*

The woman isn't necessarily the literal mother of Jesus, for it is a sign. If we understand the woman to be the faithful people of God (Israel, from whom Jesus is born, and the church today), how does that help us to understand the attacks of the dragon?

*Israel was constantly under attack from God's enemies and the powers of Satan. Read and discuss **Matthew 2:7-15** to be reminded of an attack on Jesus that came at his birth.*

If you read one more verse in Revelation 12, what is the dragon Satan doing now? Have you thought about this before? How does it feel to know that Satan is actively pursuing the church? Even though evil still exists, who already has won the final victory?

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

