

The previous chapter concluded the seven trumpet judgments. With the sounding of **the seventh trumpet**, “**the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ**” was proclaimed **Revelation 11:15**. We are told that John now sees a great sign

Chapters 12-15 are the most **dramatic chapters** in the book of Revelation

Seven Key Figures appear in the Great Tribulation (the last 3 ½ years of the seven years, 42 months or 1260 days). **chapters 12-15** — a woman clothed with the sun, the red dragon, the male Child, Michael the archangel, the offspring of the woman, the beast out of the sea (the world dictator), and the beast out of the earth (the false prophet)

This is not just symbolic drama. This is spiritual reality being revealed. John is showing us the spiritual conflict behind world history

From **Genesis** to **Revelation**, satan has opposed the promised Seed, attacked God’s covenant people, and tried to stop the purposes of God

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places Ephesians 6:12 NKJV

The **Bible never** tells believers to pretend the **battle is not real**. But it also **never tells us to fear the enemy more than we trust the Lord**

Start by recognizing the battle correctly

Every spiritual battle will attack at least one of these areas: truth, holiness, peace, faith, assurance, Scripture, or prayer. So ask: Where is the enemy trying to get me uncovered?

Stand in the strength of the Lord, not your own

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Ephesians 6:10 NKJV

When the battle feels heavy, do not merely ask, “How do I get stronger?” Ask, “How do I depend more fully on the Lord?”

Sometimes the most spiritual thing you can say is, Lord, I do not have enough strength for this, but You do

Put on the whole armor of God

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil Ephesians 6:11 NKJV

Notice the goal: **stand!** Don't show off, don't win applause

Resist the devil by submitting to God

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. James 4:7 NKJV

In spiritual warfare, repentance is not optional. We cannot resist satan well while holding hands with the sin he uses against us

Stay sober and vigilant

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8 NKJV

In a spiritual battle, do not let your mind be disciplined by endless media, outrage, fear, and speculation. A distracted Christian becomes easy prey. Stay awake, but do not live frantic

Fight the battle with the Word of God

But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4 NKJV

satan's first recorded strategy was to question God's Word

And he said to the woman, Has God indeed said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? Genesis 3:1 NKJV

Keep praying with endurance

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. Ephesians 6:18 NKJV

Prayer is not the weak thing we do after the "real work" fails

Prayer is warfare. Prayer is dependence. Prayer is how the Church refuses to fight in human strength

Three - Walk in holiness, stay united as the body of Christ, **keep doing the next faithful thing**

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58 NKJV

Do not wait for the battle to feel easy before being faithful

Walk in the Spirit is to surrender each step of life to the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to **shape our character, direct our choices, and empower our obedience**

Obedience under pressure is still obedience, and often the most powerful kind

That same pattern of faithful obedience under pressure is seen most clearly in the life and mission of Jesus Christ

Revelation 12 compresses the life and mission of Christ into a few symbolic statements

She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. Revelation 12:5 NKJV

We are going to see layers of things - things happening on earth, things happening in heaven, all describing things that are happening at the same time, and intertwined

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. Revelation 12:1 NKJV

Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. Revelation 12:2 NKJV

John sees "a great sign appeared in heaven".

The word "sign" tells us that this vision is symbolic, but "symbolic" does not mean "imaginary"

The sign/symbol points to **real people, key figures, real events, and real spiritual realities**

The Greek word translated "sign" is also used in **Matthew 16:4**, where Jesus refers to His future resurrection as "the sign of Jonah." Jonah being in a whale for three days is a picture of Jesus being in the grave for three days. **The great sign** will be a picture that foreshadows future events

a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars

This imagery connects naturally with Joseph's dream in **Genesis 37:3-10**, where the sun, moon, and stars represented Jacob, Rachel, and the 12 tribes of Israel

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. 4 When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. 5 Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. 6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: 7 We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." 8 His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. 9 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." 10 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?” 11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind. Genesis 37:3-11 NIV

In Joseph’s dream in Genesis 37:9, the **sun** represented Jacob. The **moon** represented Rachel or the mother figure of Israel. The **stars** represented the sons of Jacob, the tribes of Israel

Who is the woman? Some traditionalists identify the woman as **Mary**, because Mary physically gave birth to Jesus

Others see a broader application to **the people of God**, including the Church

The best primary interpretation in context is **Israel**, because the imagery comes from Genesis 37 and because **Israel is the covenant nation** through whom the Messiah came

Important note: she is **not merely** one individual woman

She **represents** the **people of promise**, the line through which God brings forth **the Christ**

The phrase a “**woman clothed with the sun**” means she is pictured with **heavenly glory, divine favor, and God-given dignity**

She, representing the nation of Israel, is not glorious because of herself, but because of God’s covenant purpose

The representative woman is part of God’s redemptive plan

The phrase “**with the moon under her feet**” means the woman is pictured with **God-given dignity, authority, and exalted position**

The phrase “**on her head a garland of twelve stars**” points to **royal honor, covenant identity, and the twelve tribes of Israel**

Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth Revelation 12:2 NKJV

The **labor pains** point to the **suffering, waiting, and opposition** connected to the coming of the Messiah

The delivery room

When a woman enters labor, the increasing pain does not mean the pregnancy has failed. The moment of delivery is drawing nearer. No one in the delivery room says, “Something must be wrong because this is painful.” **They understand that the pain has a purpose.** The contractions are moving the child toward birth

The “**labor pains**” are not only physical birth pains. They symbolize the painful process of God bringing His redemptive promise into the world

Israel’s history shows this clearly

Pharaoh tried to destroy the Hebrew sons in **Exodus 1:22**, Athaliah tried to destroy the royal line of David in **2 Kings 11:1** Herod tried to kill the Christ Child in **Matthew 2:16**

So **Revelation 12:2** shows that the coming of Christ was surrounded by conflict. The Messiah did not enter a peaceful, welcoming world

He came into a world marked by sin, satanic opposition, political violence, and spiritual darkness

But here is the encouragement: labor pain means birth is coming

The pain was real, but it was not pointless. God was bringing forth the Savior

For the church today, the application is strong

God’s work is not always easy; pain does not mean God is absent; spiritual opposition often surrounds spiritual birth; but, the Church must learn to labor faithfully

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58 NKJV

Paul reminds us that our labor in the Lord is never wasted because Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and secured the victory

Yet our steadfastness does not begin with our strength; it begins with His sacrifice

As we come to the communion table, we pause from our labor to remember the One who completed the greatest work of all

The bread reminds us of His body given for us, and the cup reminds us of His blood shed for the forgiveness of our sins. Because Christ gave Himself fully for us, we can give ourselves faithfully to Him, knowing that nothing done in His name is ever in vain