

The Beginning of the End

Rev 12: 1-9

The Beginning of the End

- The trumpet of the 7th angel has sounded
 - It will reverberate throughout the next 3 1/2 years
 - This is the period of the bowls of wrath judgments
- Rev 12: 1....a great sign appeared
 - The passage is very clear that this is a sign or symbol of something else
 - What is unique about this it is that is declared a “sign”
 - That is because the things described heretofore
 - Are to be take literally not symbolically

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- Just because a passage is to be taken “symbolically” does not mean it cannot be understood from other passages in the Word
 - John is looking above into heaven (Rev 11: 19)
 - This sign also appears in heaven (Rev 12: 1)
 - A clear description is given
 - A woman clothed with the sun
 - A crown of 12 stars
 - With the moon beneath her feet

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- Since the meaning of the sign is not explained here, we must look elsewhere in Scripture.
 - Gen 37: 9-10.... And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told *it* to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What *is* this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

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- Interestingly, Rachel at the time of this dream is already dead
 - It was Leah, Jacob's other wife who bore Judah...
 - The tribe from whom would come the Messiah.....
 - Therefore this dream of Joseph is far more reaching
- From this we can deduct that this vision of the woman in Rev 12: 1 reaches back even beyond the nation of Israel
 - Gen 3: 15.... And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

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- Gen 3 tells us there is going to be an on-going conflict between the Serpent and the Woman (Rev 12)
 - That conflict will be between the “seed” of both
 - This woman then “represents” all believers from Eve forward
- Her clothing is the sun.....
 - John 8: 12.... Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
 - Rom 13: 12.... The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.
 - Rom 13: 14.... But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.

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- My dear friends, this passage describes an on-going spiritual war.....
 - Satan (Rev 12: 9) is out to deceive this entire world
 - He does not desire anything more than to control
 - Your children, your husband or wife
 - To control your emotions or reactions
 - To control your thoughts and attitudes
 - He intends to destroy anything that has to do with the “seed of the woman”

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- What about the “moon” under her feet?
 - What does this mean?
 - First of all the moon is not a light-giver.....
 - It only is a counterfeit of the true light.....
 - Interesting isn't it that the devil quotes Psa 91 in his temptation of Christ.....
 - Luke 4: 11-12.....For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: And in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

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- But he conveniently skips Psa 91: 13...
 - Psa 91: 13..... Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the **dragon shalt thou trample under feet.** (KJV)
- Oops.....
 - Rev 12: 9....and the great dragon was thrown down.....
 - Rom 16: 20...And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.
 - Matt 13: 43..... “Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

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- This woman also has a crown of 12 stars...
 - Many have understood this to mean the 12 tribes of Israel.....
 - Others say this represents the 12 apostles....
 - Catholicism claims this is Mary????
 - All views must be considered when we read Dan 12: 3
 - Dan 12: 3.... “And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

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- Vs 2....being in labor and in pain to deliver
 - This too is a furtherance of Gen 3: 15-16
 - Gen 3: 16...To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you shall bring forth children; Yet your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.”
 - Remember we are seeing a “great sign” (symbol)
 - Rom 8: 22.... For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

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- This great sign then, is the travail of the believing world waiting for the redemption of the “seed of the woman.”
 - It is the “seed of the woman” who will defeat forever the “seed of the serpent”
 - What this passage(Rev 12-20) is showing us is the ultimate defeat which will be complete....
 - Isa 9: 6.... For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

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- As we enter into our study of the final stage of the Tribulation period....
 - We must.....
 - Rejoice over the fact that our God reigns
 - Even when things look bleak and dark....
 - Psa 43: 3-4.... O send out Thy light and Thy truth, let them lead me; Let them bring me to Thy holy hill, And to Thy dwelling places. Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And upon the lyre I shall praise Thee, O God, my God.