

**THE CONFLICT IN HEAVEN AND EARTH, Part 1**  
(Revelation 12:1-9)

Introduction to this Parenthesis: Seven Key Characters of the Tribulation (Rev. 12:1-14:20)

1. The WOMAN represents ISRAEL
2. The DRAGON represents SATAN
3. The MALE CHILD refers to CHRIST
4. MICHAEL represents the ANGELS
5. The REMNANT of the Seed of the Woman depicts BELIEVING ISRAEL
6. The Beast out of the SEA is the WORLD DICTATOR
7. The Beast out of the EARTH is the WORLD RELIGIOUS LEADER

I. The First GREAT WONDER: The Woman Clothed with the Sun (Rev. 12:1-2)

- A. Called a “SIGN” (a symbol, or figure of speech)
  1. Distinguished by being called “GREAT”
  2. Seen in HEAVEN
  3. Portrays a reality on EARTH
- B. Described as CLOTHED with the SUN, the MOON under her FEET, and CROWNED with twelve STARS
  1. Sun and moon allude to JACOB and RACHEL
  2. Stars allude to the SONS of JACOB (Gen. 37:9-11)
  3. The Woman CANNOT represent CHRIST or the CHURCH, but must represent ISRAEL

II. The Second WONDER: The Great Red DRAGON (Rev. 12:3-4)

- A. Described as having seven HEADS, ten HORNS, and seven CROWNS (cf. Dan. 7:7-8, 24)
  1. Depicts the revived ROMAN EMPIRE
  2. Indicates government under SATAN’S CONTROL
- B. Seen drawing ONE THIRD of the STARS with his tail and casting them DOWN to EARTH

1. May refer to gathering POLITICAL POWER
  2. Probably refers to enticing ANGELS to FOLLOW him
- C. Seen awaiting the BIRTH of the child, intending to DESTROY Him

III. The MALE CHILD (Rev. 12:5-6)

- A. Produced by the WOMAN
- B. Destined to RULE all NATIONS with an IRON ROD
- C. Shown as CAUGHT UP by GOD, to His THRONE
  1. Possibly the CHURCH, growing out of ISRAEL and taken in the RAPTURE
  2. Probably CHRIST, born of ISRAEL and ascended to the FATHER
- D. Shows mother FLEEING to the WILDERNESS to be nurtured and protected by GOD for 1260 days (3 ½ years)
  1. Prophetic LEAP in TIME between verses 5 and 6
  2. Refers to preservation of REMNANT of ISRAEL through the Great Tribulation awaiting CHRIST'S RETURN

IV. MICHAEL vs. the DRAGON: God's Angels DEFEAT Satan (Rev. 12:7-9)

- A. Described as WAR in HEAVEN between opposing forces
  1. MICHAEL, defender of ISRAEL, and his band of ANGELS (cf. Dan. 10:21; 12:1)
  2. The DEVIL and his band of ANGELS
- B. Connects ALL the TITLES of Satan to ONE BEING
  1. The great red DRAGON applies to evil empire at end
  2. The "SERPENT of OLD" refers to man's FALL in EDEN
  3. The DEVIL means "SLANDERER"
  4. SATAN means "the ADVERSARY"
  5. The DECEIVER of the whole world, as a liar from the beginning
- C. Satan's DEFEAT
  1. BANISHED from HEAVEN
  2. RESTRICTED to EARTH