

THE SEVEN-FOLD VISIONS

(6:1 – 16:21)

FIRST VISION

SCENE 1-5 – Seals 1-5 (6:1-11)

SCENE 6 – Sixth Seal (6:12-17)
(End of this World) (NO Battle Scene)

The Interlude: Comfort and
and Protection of the Church (7:1-17)

SCENE 7 – Seventh Seal (8:1-5)
(Introduces the Second Vision)

SECOND VISION

SCENE 1-5 – Trumpets 1-5 (8:6 – 9:12)
Scene 5 (Fifth Trumpet-Angel)

SCENE 6 – Sixth Trumpet (9:13-21)
(The Great Battle)

The Interlude: The Church in Mission and
God's Protection (10:1-11:14)

SCENE 7 – Seventh Trumpet (11:15-19)
(End of this World)

The Interregnum
(Chapters 12-14)

THIRD VISION

SCENE 1-5 – Bowls 1-5 (15:1 – 16:11)

SCENE 6 – Sixth Bowl (16:12-16)
(The Battle of Armageddon)

SCENE 7 – Seventh Bowl (16:17-21)
(End of this World)

THE INTERREGNUM (REV. 12 – 14)

Chapters 12–14 are known as the **Interregnum**, that is, a pause between the second (8:6-11:19) and the third (15:1-16:21) sevenfold visions of events taking place on earth. The term, interregnum is Latin for: *“a period of time in between reigns.”*

While we know that Jesus is now enthroned in heaven (Ch. 5), the battle between His Lordship and the lords of evil still rages on earth, and this world has not yet been brought fully under our Lord’s reign. In the church, this time period is also known as the **Age of Grace**.

THE INTERREGNUM (REV. 12 – 14)

The events that are depicted in the **Interregnum**, are cosmic in nature; the events occur both above and on the earth! What John is seeing is a cosmic “war” between the Almighty and the prince of darkness. This war begins in heaven, then continues on earth.

This warfare between God and the devil is the ***source and cause*** of the warfare between God’s people (the Church) and the forces of evil.

Thusly, Chapters 12-14 is an exposition and explanation of all that John sees from the time of our Lord’s birth to His Second Advent!

THE INTERREGNUM (REV. 12 - 14)

Chapter 12 presents the awesome scene of the woman with Child;

The dragon's attempt to destroy the Child;

After the Child is taken to heaven, the war in heaven, the expulsion of the devil and his followers from the presence of the Almighty;

Lastly, the chapter concludes with the dragon venting his fury against the woman and her offspring.



REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)

Vv.1, 2 - A “*great sign*” (Greek: *σημείον* meaning a mark or a signal; a sign.). This very phrase points our attention to something of great importance; to something of divine importance!

The great sign is a “*woman clothed with the sun*” and “*with the moon under her feet.*” The sign of the woman appears “*in heaven,*” indicating that her presence is before God. She is from God, that is, she is related to His saving presence. Yet the woman and what she represents is also on earth.

REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)

Verse	Symbol	Explanation
12:1	The Woman	The Universal Church of Jesus Christ
12:1	Clothed with the Sun	The Glory of Christ; in Christ, the Church stands before God and is honored by God.
12:1	...moon under her feet	Dominion and authority given to her by God as she carries out her mission
12:1	...crown of twelve stars	The number of OT & NT church. She represents the entire people of God (Israel/Church of Christ)
12:2	The child	Jesus, The Christ
12:2	...cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.	Refers to the anxious waiting for the Messiah to come. The faithful had waited since the beginning for the Messiah; the Israelites waited with great anticipation.

REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)

12:3	...an enormous red dragon	The devil; red symbolizes murder and bloodshed both spiritual and physical.
12:3	seven heads	The devils deceptive claim that he, not Christ, has all knowledge.
12:3	ten horns	His boast that he has supreme earthly power.
12:3	seven crowns	His deceptive claim of all royalty and lordship
12:4	tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky... flung them to the earth	The casting of the angels out of heaven to the earth along with Satan due to his and their rebellion against and opposition to God.
12:4	dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child	The dragon's opposition is not at first against the woman, but against the Child (Christ), for the Child is the focus in the dragon's warfare against God.
12:5	a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter	Jesus! The iron scepter or rod is reference to Psalm 2:9 (cf. Gen 49:10).
12:5	her child was snatched up to God and to his throne	Here the incarnation and the entire ministry of Jesus, including His passion, death, resurrection, and ascension are compressed in the words, "snatched up." "His throne" refers to the enthronement and confirms His victory over the dragon.
12:6	woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days	Now the Church, as did Israel, is experiencing her desert wilderness, but will be sustained and defended by God. Notice that the time period is exactly the same amount of time the two witnesses (11:3) carry out their proclamation of the Gospel and the trampling of the temple of God (11:1-2). This period spans the church age: from ascension of Christ to the end of the age at our Lord's Second Advent!

REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)

Vv.7-12 – What now is announced and portrayed by John staggers our imagination. *⁷And there was war in heaven.* The warfare in heaven must be interpreted as a spiritual struggle in which the dragon attempts to displace Jesus, the victorious Lamb who was slain, in order to establish himself in the presence of God as the prince of angels and as the one who has dominion over humanity on earth, and specifically, as the one who has the authority to stand before God and accuse the human race for their sins. At the center of this warfare is Satan's ability to stand in God's holy presence and accuse the saints of God (cf. v.10).

REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)

It's a war of WORDS! The words which Satan uses are actually recorded (cf. Job 1-2; Zech 3:1-5).

Satan's argument is thrown out, along with himself, because of the Lamb and His victory, for Christ is the One "who loves us and set us free from our sins by His blood" (1:5). Because of the rightful claim of Jesus to represent God's people with His own sinlessness and righteousness, the very presence of Satan in heaven is now an offense to God and the entire heavenly host.

REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)

The war in heaven was concluded by *“Michael and his angels”* and it reached its climax when Michael cast the dragon out of heaven. The casting out of Satan took place as a result of our Lord’s victory and at His ascension and session at the right hand of God (5:1-14). Once Jesus, the Savior and Champion of His people, had defeated the dragon and had taken His seat at the right hand of God, the dragon was expelled, at the Father’s command, by Michael, and never again can Satan appear before God.

REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)

V.10 – This is the song of victory for “*the accuser*” of God’s saints “*has been hurled down.*” Notice that the saints are called “*our brothers.*” This leads us to the conclusion that the “*great voice*” is that of the twenty-four elders, since they represent the OT and NT church. The victory is won, for them and us, at the cross, and the completeness of our Lord’s victory is demonstrated by His resurrection for all to see and witness. Jesus now has full authority and no enemy can accuse His followers (you!) for by His authority His saints have been exonerated.

REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)

V.11 – How have we, His saints, overcome? “...by [*διὰ* - because of] the blood of the Lamb.” This is the actual cause of their (and our) acquittal and “the words of their witness” was the result that testified to their victory in Christ. The saints held to that witness even in the face of severe persecution, threats, suffering and death. Their faith was their victory in Christ because they stood firm (cf. 1 John 5:4-5).

REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)

V.12 – The “great voice” then calls upon the very “heavens” and all “you who dwell in them” to celebrate!!! They praise God because of the fulfillment of all His promises. The angels, archangels, and all the company heaven now celebrate. And even though the angels are not the recipients of the saving victory of Christ, they, nevertheless, celebrate with the followers of the Lamb (cf. 5:11-14). They also celebrate because their Lord, the Christ of God, has returned triumphantly to claim His rightful seat at the Father’s right hand in the council of angels.

REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)

V.12 – The “great voice” also cries out, *“But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you!”* Satan can no longer vent his hatred or plot evil against Jesus, so he will now take out his fury on the human race, specifically, the Church.

The dragon also knows, *“that his time is short”* in his attempt to destroy God’s creation. The End will soon come and Satan will be forever separated from all of God’s creation. And so the devil sets to work at once with redoubled zeal, goaded by his defeat to destroy that which God loves – the Church!

REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)



V.13 –Satan hates the woman because she has given birth to the Child, and now he vents his hatred of the Child upon the woman, the Church, because she puts her trust and life into the care of Christ and refuses to worship and serve the dragon.

REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)



V.14 –But the woman is cared for by God and is protected so that she will not be destroyed. The metaphorical imagery of this godly care, *“the two wings of the great eagle,”* is reminiscent of the care by which God helped the people of Israel in their wilderness journey (Ex. 19).

REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)



v.14 –The length of time of her fear and anxiety in the wilderness is given as “a time and times and half a time.” this period of the woman’s suffering is again equal to 42 months, or 1,260 days, as discussed in Ch. 11. This time period is the spiritual time of God from the Ascension of Jesus to His Second Advent.

REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)



V.15 – From his mouth, the devil will spew hatred, blasphemies and apostasy, in order to tempt the Church to turn from God and worship him. The crashing torrent of water reminds us of the crashing of the

Red Sea upon the Egyptians and the roaring waves of the Great Flood. But God protects His children, as He did with the Israelites, crossing on dry ground and the saving of eight souls upon the Ark.

REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)

V.16 – *The earth swallowed the river:* This brings to mind the earth opening its mouth to swallow Korah and those with him in his rebellion against Moses (Num 16:1-3, 28-34). The use of such imagery here suggests that God will rescue and defend His people, even by the use of miraculous events.



REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)

V.17 – Since even the earth takes part in God’s work of protection, the dragon becomes even more enraged. So now he focuses his full fury upon “the rest of her offspring.” He now attempts to destroy individual Christians with his lies, apostasies, and blasphemies. Satan is especially focused upon those Christians who faithfully obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus...you!

REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)

Next week: We will see that Satan's hatred is so great that he will now conjure up the beast of the sea (13:1) and the beast from the earth (13:11). With these two beasts and what they represent, the dragon will carry on his evil war against the offspring of Christ's Church. The two beasts under the control and inspiration of the devil will be the cause of all the tribulations and sufferings that the Church and her offspring (you) will endure throughout the remainder of the message of Revelation.

REVELATION 12

(THE WOMAN, THE CHILD & THE DRAGON)



SOOOOO...

ANY QUESTIONS?