

## Christmas in Revelation: The Cradle that Rocked the World

Revelation 12:1-6

📖 Revelation 12:1-6 (NIV84) “A great and wondrous 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.<sup>2</sup> She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.<sup>3</sup> Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads.<sup>4</sup> His 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 he might devour her child the moment it was born.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup> The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.”

### The Woman represents Israel and her role in history.

📖 Revelation 12:1-2 (NIV84) “A great and wondrous 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.<sup>2</sup> She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.”

📖 Genesis 37:5-10 (NIV84) “Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.<sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: <sup>7</sup> 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.”<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> 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.”<sup>10</sup> 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?”

### The Dragon represents Satan and his hatred for God.

📖 Revelation 12:3-4 (NIV84) “Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads.<sup>4</sup> His 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 he might devour her child the moment it was born.”

📖 1 Peter 5:8 (NIV84) “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

📖 John 8:44b (NIV84) “...He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

### The Child represents Jesus and His eternal reign.

📖 Revelation 12:5-6 (NIV84) “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.<sup>6</sup> The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.”

📖 Psalm 2:9 (NIV84) “You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”

📖 Genesis 3:15 (NIV84) “...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.”

**Digging Deeper:** In what ways has Satan attempted to keep you from doing what you were destined to do? Which is worse, to deny the devil's existence or to focus on him and his demons excessively? How well do you understand Israel's pivotal role in history? --Why is it important to understand that? What did your nativity set look like growing up? Was there a dragon in it? --Will there be one now?

