

# God's End-time Church

# The Pure Church of Christ

**Revelation 12:1-2:** And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a **woman** clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of **twelve stars:** And she being **with child** cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

# Revelation 12:1-2

- Woman = church (Jeremiah 6:2, 2 Kings 19:21, 2 Corinthians 11:2)
- God's pure message symbolized by heavenly light (Malachi 4:2 – “Sun of righteousness”)
- 12 = Church leadership (12 disciples, 24 elders, 144,000)
- Matthew 12:48-49 - But He answered and said to the one who told Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” And He stretched out His hand **toward His disciples** and said, “Here are My **mother** and My **brothers!**”

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**Revelation 12:3-4:** And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red **dragon**, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

And his **tail** drew the **third part of the stars of heaven**, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to **devour her child** as soon as it was born.

# Revelation 12:3-4

- Dragon in heaven
- Cast out of heaven
- His tail took a third of the heavenly host with him (“tail” is symbolic for deceit – Isaiah 9:15; Revelation 9:19)
- Positioned himself to kill the son (Jesus) of the woman (true church) upon His birth

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**Revelation 12:5-6:** And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a **rod of iron:** and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

And the **woman fled into the wilderness,** where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there **a thousand two hundred and threescore days.**

# Revelation 12:5-6

- Male child
- Ruled with an iron rod (Jesus Christ - Psalm 2:9)
- Ascended to the throne of God
- Christ's church fled to the wilderness (obscurity) for 1,260 prophetic days (literal years)

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**Revelation 12:7-9:** And there was **war** in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

And the great dragon was **cast out**, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

# Revelation 12:7-9

- War in heaven (Greek, *polemos* – war of words)
- Satan and his angels were cast “out” of heaven
- Satan still had access to heaven (Job 1:6-7; 2:1-2)
- References to “Michael” are always in conflict with Satan

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**Revelation 12:10-12:** And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, **Now is come** salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the **accuser** of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. **Therefore rejoice**, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! ***for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath***, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

# Revelation 12:10-12

- Salvation and strength – the Cross (Romans 5:6)
- Satan and his angels were permanently expelled from heaven and “cast down” to the earth
- Even amongst persecution, God’s people overcame by the power of Jesus’ blood
- Satan is angry now that Christ has been resurrected and he (Satan) is relegated to the earth with little time left

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**Revelation 12:13-16:** And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he **persecuted the woman** which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the **wilderness**, into her place, where she is nourished for **a time, and times, and half a time**, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

# Revelation 12:13-16

- Persecution was focused on Christ's true church
- Reiterates that Christ's church went into hiding for 1,260 prophetic days (literal years)
- The earth would provide protection for the church

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**Revelation 12:17:** And the dragon was **wroth** with the woman, and went to **make war** with the remnant of her seed, which **keep the commandments of God**, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

# Revelation 12:17

- Satan is more angry than ever because Christ's church has survived his attacks
- He now shifts his focus on those who are left over from the true church (the "remnant")
- The remnant keep all of God's commandments
- They also have the testimony of Jesus (Spirit of Prophecy - John 19:10)