

"She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne."

Revelation 12:5

Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad Baruch Shem k'vod malchutto, I'olam va'ed

Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God.
The LORD is One.
Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever.



Revelation 12

Part 1: The Woman, the Child, the Dragon



Three Parts to Revelation 12

PART 1:

The Woman, The Child, The Dragon (v 1-5)

PART 2:

Woman Flees, War in Heaven, Overcoming Saints (v 6-12)

PART 3:

Woman in the Wilderness, Dragon on the Hunt (v 13-17)



The Woman, The Child and the Dragon

- ¹ Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ² Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.
- ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

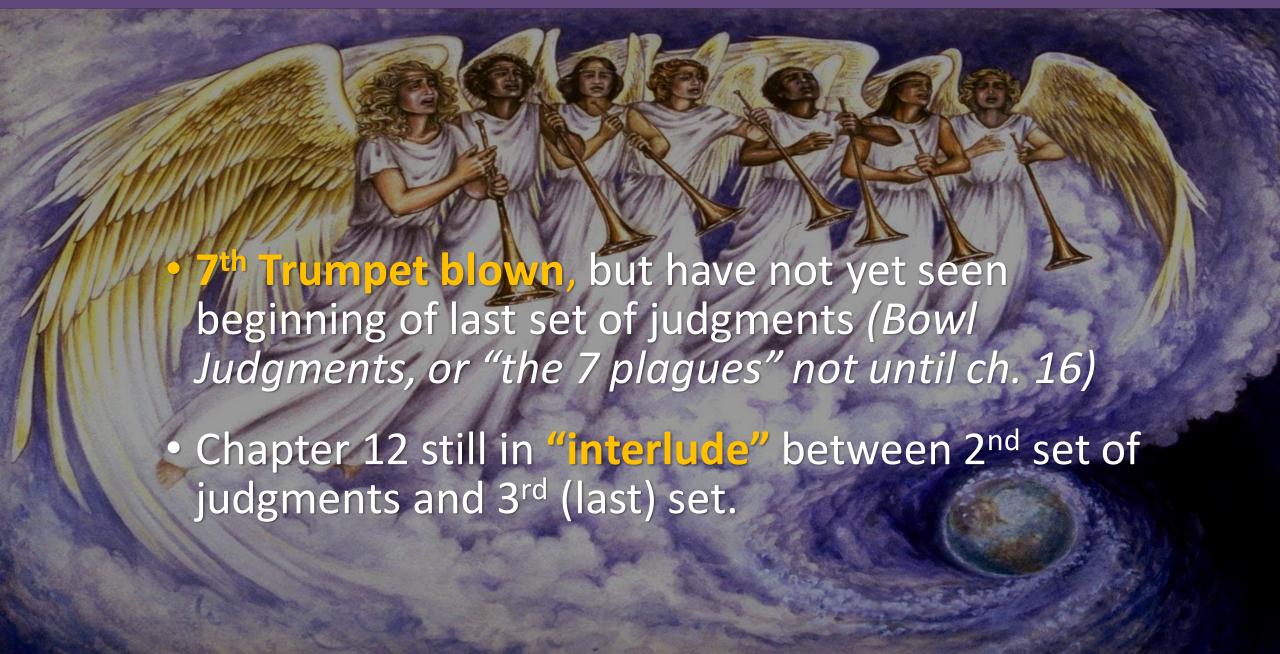
• Last chapter (11) about Temple in Jerusalem, and two witnesses. Focus on Israel, but measuring and convicting of entire lost world.

Overview of plan of God regarding Israel

• Given important "history lesson"past and future history. Glimpse of life of Israel during 2nd half of Tribulation.

Official seal of the State of Israel



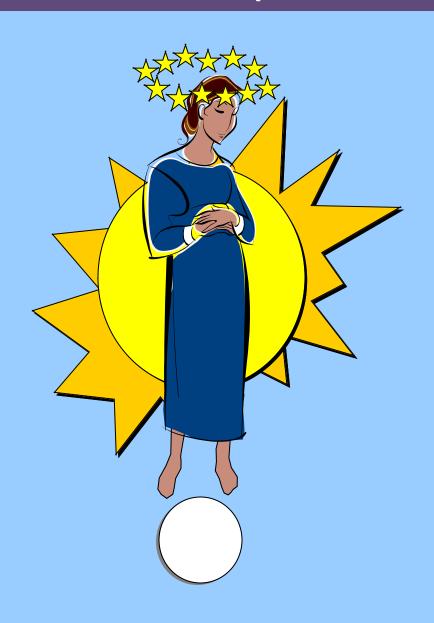


- Critical to interpret correctly. <u>Test for Bible</u> <u>commentators</u> (so is chapter 6). Don't get this right, probably won't get rest of book, or Bible, correct.
- Several characters/"identities" to correctly decipher.
 - 1. Pregnant Woman
 - 2. Her male child
 - 3. The dragon
 - 4. Michael

- Chapter/verse designations man-made (not inspired).
- Could say chapter 12 really begins in last chapter, v. 19:
 - "Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail."
- Chapter 11 ends in the heavenlies, chapter 12 begins there. (Original manuscript all ONE scroll...)

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¹ Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ² Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.





The Question of the Ages, full of Commentary and Controversy...

Who is this woman?

Some answers laughable, far fetched, way off base and self-serving. But it's really very simple.

- "a woman..." 4 women described Revelation: 1) Jezebel (2:20); 2) Harlot (ch 17/18); 3) Bride of Messiah (19:7, 21:2, 9) and 4) this pregnant woman. Getting her identity right is crucial.
- Who is this woman? Many interpretations/ideas.
- Most common error is that she is the Bride of Christ, or the Church (no scriptural basis). If so, in a lot of trouble, subject to stoning by Law!

- She's pregnant! "Bride" in Israel is engaged, not yet married, but covenant is binding. Church is, or is supposed to be, a virgin. This doesn't fit!
- Besides, where do we hear of the Bride of Messiah giving birth to anything or anyone??



- Another common error = Mary, mother of Jesus. Does not fit with 12 stars, sun and moon, wilderness flight, nor content/context of vision.
- Could go into all sorts of errors, but perhaps one of biggest, and most arrogant, Mary Baker Glover
 Patterson Eddy, claimed she was this woman.



• "Man child" she delivered supposedly *Christian Science*, her "new religion," dragon is "mortal mind" attempting to destroy her new religion.

Won't spend time with more errors.

Reminder, only way to correctly interpret scripture, is with scripture.



- Perhaps biggest clue in Genesis 37:9, Joseph has a dream: "Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."
- Joseph sees brothers, father and mother bowing down to him in dream. (Near and far prophecy)

- 12 tribes of Jacob (Israel) = 12 stars. <u>Joseph type for Jesus</u>, ultimate deliverer. Everyone will bow down to him one day.
- Isaiah 9:6, verse everyone knows from Christmas cards:
 "Unto us a child is born...." Unto whom? Unto Israel.
 Israel in labor thousands of years.
- Isaiah 66:7 clear: "Before she was in labor, she gave birth; Before her pain came, She delivered a male child."

- Very specific/clear reference to Israel giving birth to Messiah after much pain. Israel has been "in pain" most of its existence. Why? Disobedience. Idolatry. Rebellion. Rejection of Messiah.
- Even still, God has promised....
- First believers reading Revelation understood both the pain and the promises plainly.



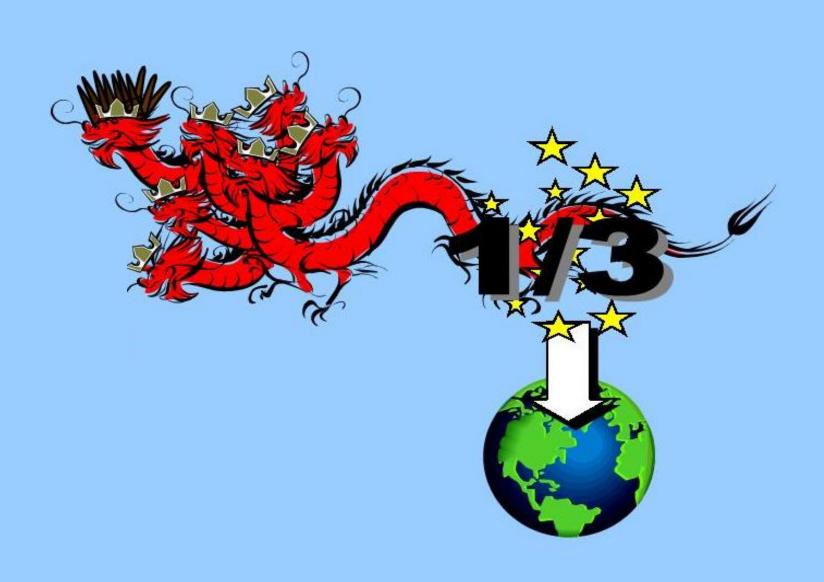


- Woman in vision = Israel (not the Church, not a constellation and not anyone or anything else).
- 12 stars = 12 tribes of Israel
- Child she delivers is Yeshua HaMashiach.
- Without correct interpretation, nothing will make sense. Figurative ID stretched, scripture twisted (or ignored) to make things fit



- When we understand woman = Israel, reveals picture of God's plan for His people.
- (Rest of this chapter makes no sense without this interpretation.)

³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.





• "a great, fiery red dragon..." dragon interpreted in v. 9:

"So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." No question who this is.

• Bible addresses this enemy several places, chiefly <u>Isaiah</u> <u>14:12-17</u> and <u>Ezekiel 28:2-15</u>. If you don't already know about his origins and intentions, read these passages carefully (also Genesis 3; Jude 13; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; John 8:44).



- "RED" used 2X in Rev, here and 2nd horse chapter 6. Red associated with war and death. Satan at war with God and with God's people since his downfall.
- "The adversary [accuser]" (literal meaning of "satan" or HaSatan in Hebrew) introduced what we call "spiritual warfare" (for more information on this see Ephesians 6:10-13; 2 Corinthians 2:11; Daniel 10:1-9; Amos 7:1; Isaiah 59:17; 2 Kings 6:16; Revelation 9 and more.)
- Many references throughout scripture to this warfare ...not now! (a lesson for another time)

- We are part of the war of the ages, the conflict between good and evil, God and the enemy.
- Enemy's biggest tactic is deceit, deception.
- God's weapon is truth.
- CRITICAL REMINDER: Don't make mistake of considering these two "generals" on equal terms! One = created being with limited power and an ultimate end. The other is Almighty, The Creator, All-Powerful, All-Knowing, and Eternal (no end). BIG DIFFERENCE!!!

• "seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads." description also in Revelation 13/17. Will defer discussion of heads and horns until then.

"to devour..." Satan (the dragon) trying to destroy Messiah (Child in vision) since beginning of time.
 Messianic line begins with Eve, where He is first promised.



- "...a third of the stars of heaven..." interpreted as 1/3 of heavenly host of angels that followed enemy in opposition to God.
- But WHEN did this happen? We assume at very beginning though scripture vague about this. Revelation 12:4 is only place one third mentioned. There are other mentions similar to this.

"Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven. ⁹ And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land. 10 And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them. 11 He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down. 12 Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered.

<u>Daniel 8:8-12</u> Prophecy [vision] by Daniel over kingdoms of Persia and Greece, <u>far fulfillment in AC</u>.

¹⁷ Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

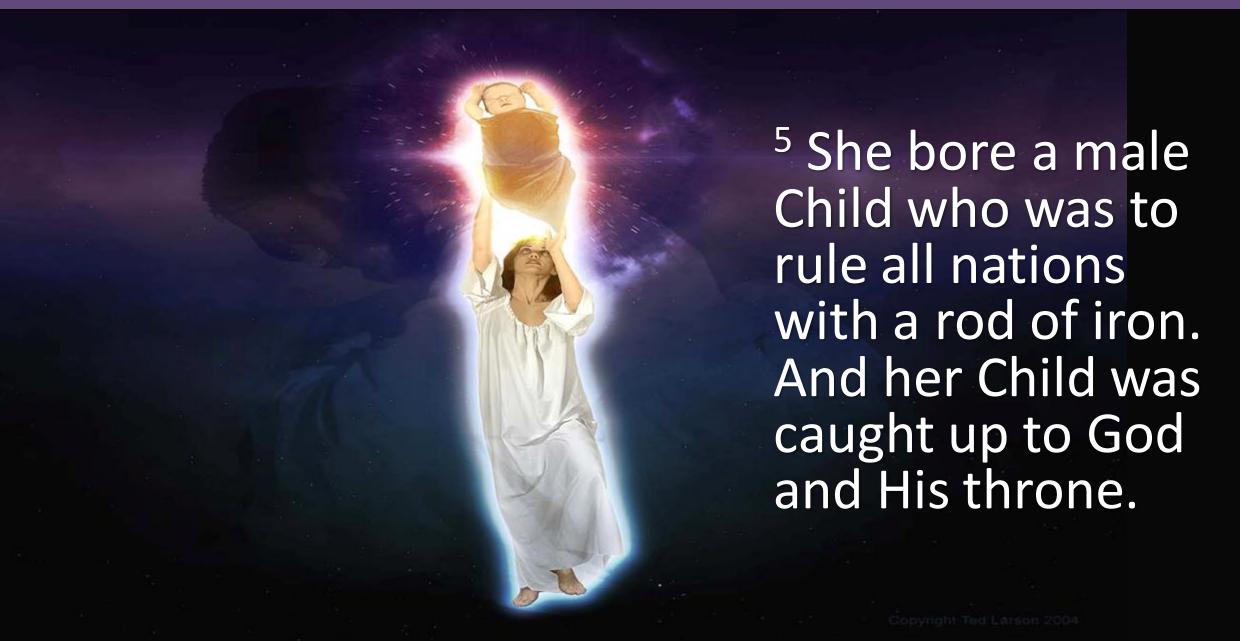
¹⁸ And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

Again...WHEN? Then? Before time? Now? WE DON'T KNOW!

COMMENTARY: "This vision of Satan standing before the woman 'who was ready to be delivered, to devour her child as soon as it was born' refers to the attitude of Satan ever since Genesis 3:15. This promise was given to humanity, predicting eventual deliverance from the domination of Satan....God guaranteed deliverance through the "seed of the woman." In response, Satan initiated what Bible scholars call "the conflict of the ages," attempting to stamp out the seed of the woman from the time of Adam and Eve to the Tribulation Period, from Genesis to Revelation. Satan tried to stop the seed by the murder of Abel by Cain (Gen. 4); by his effort to pollute the human race (Gen. 6, [Nephilim]); by his attempt to cut off the Hebrew nation in Egypt (Exodus 1, 2); and by the decree of Haman (Esther 3).

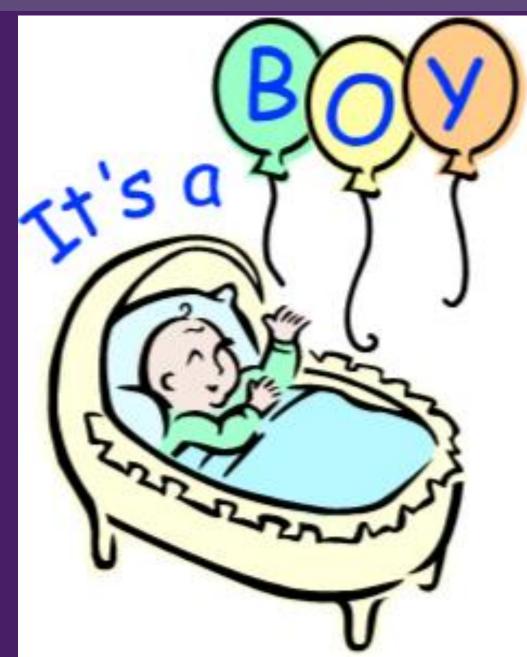
COMMENTARY: (continued)

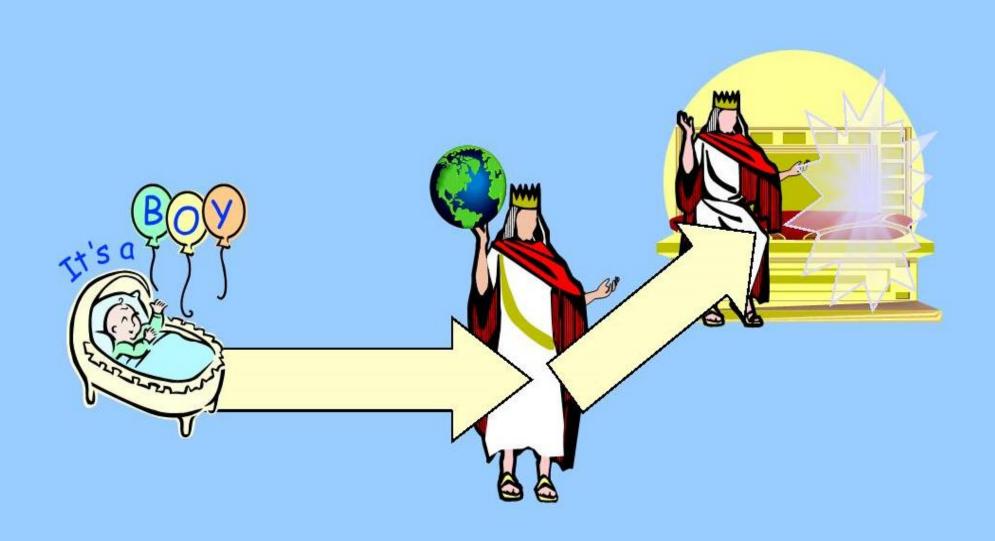
Several times during the life of Christ he tried to destroy the "seed of the woman" – Herod's decree to kill babies, the storm on the Sea of Galilee, and the attempts to throw Christ over a cliff. During the Christian dispensation the conflict is seen in Satan's persecution of the Church; his propagation of [false religions]; the Dark Ages, when the Word of God was kept from men; and false religions that spring up everywhere but offer no remedy for sin. This conflict will reach its climax during the Tribulation when Satan through the Antichrist will seek to get men to worship him." (LaHaye)

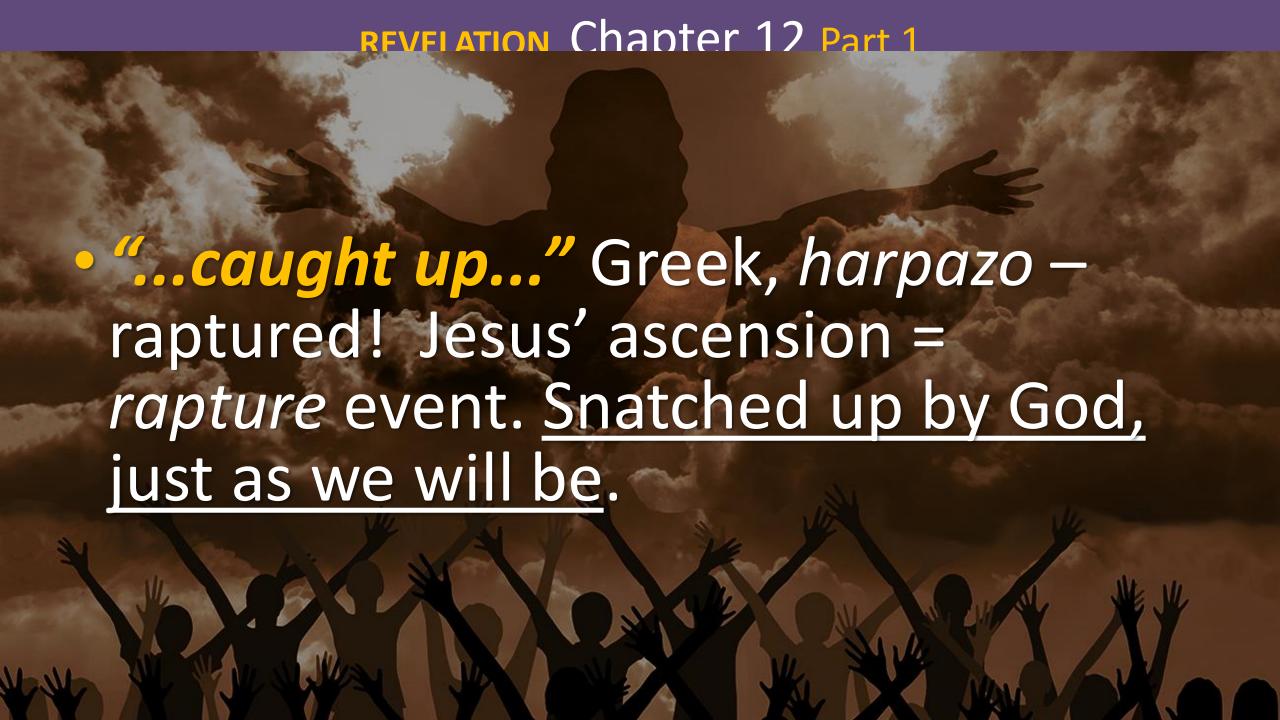


- "a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron.." Already ID'd male child, but this verse also identifies Him. Reference to Psalm 2:9 "You shall break [rule] them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."
- Verses provide identity: "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession." (Psalm 2:7-8

 Can only be speaking of Jesus, Messiah, Son of God, who will rule nations, male Child of this vision.



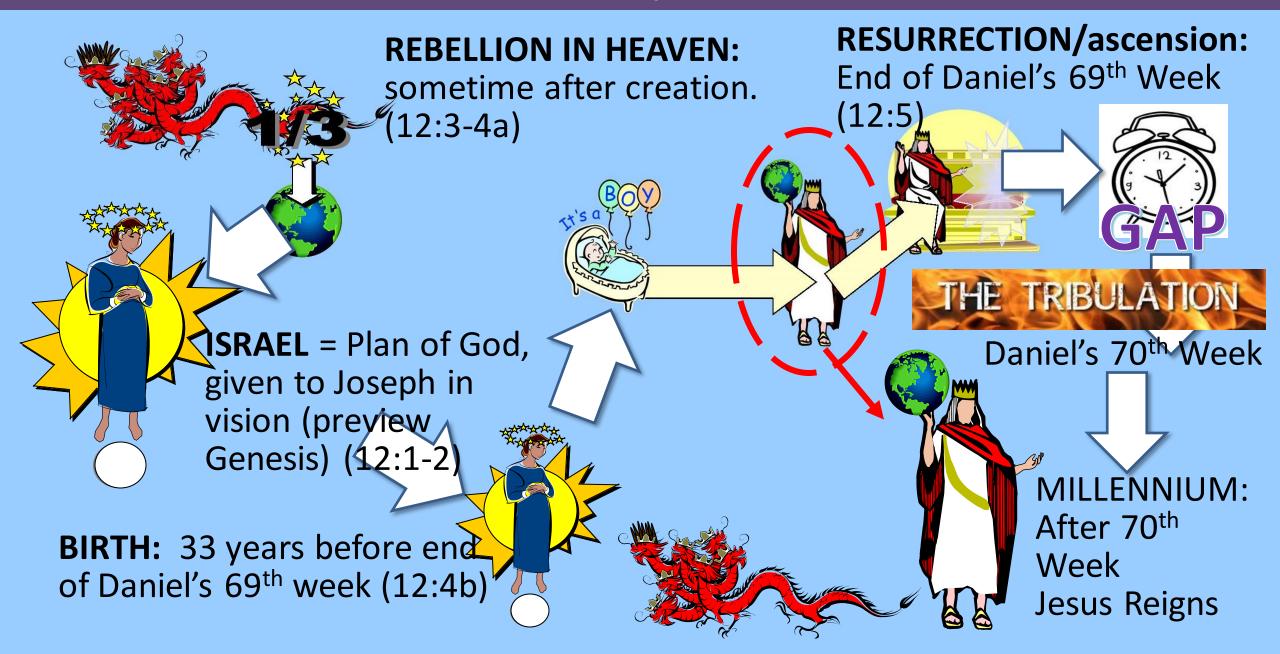




- HISTORY IN A NUTSHELL...Several "gaps" in time here.
 - 1) between woman "giving birth" and child being caught up (about 33 years),
 - 2) ruling the nations (almost 2,000 years and counting).
 - 3) between verses 5 and 6 (between ascension of Jesus and tribulation, again, 2,000 years+).
- Many gaps in scripture cover assumed periods of time.
 Daniel 9 ("70 weeks") large gap essential to understanding of that passage.

- Daniel's gap between 69^{th} and final 70^{th} week = time between Messiah "cut off" (His death) and time of "Jacob's Trouble" (Tribulation = 70^{th} week).
- Gap here (ch 12) between ascension and return to rule in Millennium.
- NO mention of Christian Era, Age of Grace, or Church itself in these verses (if interpreted correctly), except birth and ascension of male child born to this woman. Entire vision relates to Israel.

- First 5 verses occur <u>before end of Daniel's 69th week</u>, then a gap (where we live now, age of Church) followed by 70th week, tribulation period.
- Chapter 12 does not concern the Church, but Israel.
- "to God and His throne." Jesus is the only one who has ascended to heaven and to the throne of God (His authority). No question of His identity through these verses or throughout scripture.
- Any other interpretations are false.



Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha

May the LORD bless you and keep you

Ya'er Adonai panav elekha vihunneka

May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem lekha shalom.

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

