

## Wonders And Wars

(Revelation 12:1-17)

Intro: Revelation chapters 12—14 comprise another parenthetical section that introduces seven great personages of the Tribulation, particularly of the final 3 ½ years, generally referred to as the Great Tribulation. These seven personages of 12:1–14:20 are as follows: (1) the woman clothed with the sun, represents the nation Israel (vv. 1-2); (2) the great red dragon, represents Satan (vv. 3-4); (3) the male child, is the Lord Jesus Christ (v. 5); (4) the archangel Michael and his angels wage war against the dragon and banish him to the earth (vv. 7-12); (5) the remnant of the woman, is regenerate Israel (12:17); (6) the beast out of the sea, the future world dictator (13:1-10); and (7) the beast out of the earth, the false prophet and religious leader of the world (13:11-17).

**The First Personage: *A Woman Clothed With The Sun* (vv. 1-2)**

**The Second Personage: *A Great Red Dragon* (vv. 3-4)**

Isaiah 14:12-15—

Ezekiel 28:12-18—

**The Third Personage: *The Male Child, Jesus Christ* (vv. 5-6)**

**The Fourth Personage: *Michael Casts Satan Out Of Heaven* (vv. 7-12)**

**The Fifth Personage: *The Offspring Of The Woman Persecuted By The Dragon* (vv. 13-17)**

**Conclusion:**

### **A Word on signs or symbols in Revelation**

Revelation you will recall contains more symbols than any other book in the Bible. Revelation 12 is filled with symbols. Symbols are used as a vehicle for divine revelation. We don't need to be Bible scholars to be able to decode these divine symbols. *Rather, as a principle of first importance in biblical interpretation, we must remember that the meaning to every symbol used in Revelation is explained or alluded to either in the immediate context, or somewhere else in the Bible.*

Chapter 12 is not only filled with symbols, it also provides us with insights into the warfare that has gone on between Satan and God ever since Satan attempted to rebel against his Creator in the eternal ages past. The warfare described here is primarily a spiritual conflict involving angelic forces, particularly, those of Michael and his angels against Satan and the fallen angels or the demonic world under Satan's authority. While Satan often employs human means to accomplish his purposes (as with the persecution of Israel), what we must always keep in mind, as this chapter reinforces, is that behind the scenes is our arch enemy, Satan and his demonic forces. The angelic warfare of this chapter occurs first on earth (12:1-6), then in heaven (12:7-12), and back on earth again (12:13-17).