

The Cosmic Conflict of Christ's Birth Revelation 12:1-6

- Let's peel back the manger's peaceful layer and see the cosmic conflict at Christ's birth.
- In Revelation 12, the Apostle John spans centuries as he writes of the epic war of the ages between God and Satan.
- This passage answers this question: Where is the venomous hatred of Satan focused throughout history?

1. The STRUGGLE of Israel to Bring forth the Messiah, v.2

• The Woman is Israel and no one else, v.1-2

A. The nation of Israel is often pictured as a woman travailing and grievously pained in child birth: Isaiah 13:8; 21:3; 26:17-18; 66:7-10; Jer. 4:31; 13:21; 22:23; Hosea 13:13; Micah 4:10; 5:2,3.

Isaiah 26:17,18: Like as a woman with child, that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD. We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen.

B. These verses speak of the SUFFERINGS of Israel over its entire troublesome history to bring forth the seed of the woman to defeat Satan, sin, and death. Israel is a persecuted people by Satan himself as he has sought to prevent Christ's birth and destroy the people of God.

- 1.) HAMAN sought to destroy the entire nation in the Book of Esther.
- 2.) HEROD had all the male children killed in Bethlehem.
- 3.) HITLER committed genocide against Israel.

2. The SAVAGERY of Satan to Destroy God's Son

• This great Red Dragon is Satan (see v.9) and no one else, v.3-4

A. His Ugliness: Murderous and Mean!

- 1.) Seven heads (Seven successive world empires that have been instruments of Satanic deception: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media Persia, and Greece, Rome, and a Revived Roman Empire, Rev.13:1).
- 2.) Ten horns (Ruler of the Revived Roman empire). Daniel 7:7,8 and Daniel 7:24.
- 3.) Seven crowns upon his head

B. His Ultimate Desire: To devour Jesus Christ:

- Satan drew 1/3 of angels of heaven into his rebellion to destroy the Messiah.

3. The SUPREMACY of Jesus to Overcome, v.5-6

• The Man-Child is Christ and no one else, v.5-6

John HIGHLIGHTS of Messiah's Victory over Satan:

A. His **Birth**: INCARNATION

B. His **Rule**: CORONATION, Rev.2:27; Psalm 2:9

C. His **Ascension**: EXALTATION

- "Caught up" (*harpazo*) is the word used for the rapture of the church.
- Sometimes our love loses its flame; our faith fails, and worldly pleasures allure us. In those moments we easily forget we are in a great battle! May our feet never stumble, our sword never rest, our shield never rust, our helmet never shatter, keep the Word of God filling your mind and prayer guarding your heart, and the Lord will be your strength till you see Him, face to face!