

# Revelation 12: The Woman and the Dragon

**Overview:** This study shows the struggle between God's ever living church and Satan, especially in the New Testament era. It shows how the church will be delivered from Satan's attempts to destroy it.

**Prayer Thought:** *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 119

**Read:** **Rev. 12** (see charts on p. 3)

**What does a woman represent in scripture?**

- **Jer. 6:2, 31:4, GC 381**—a church

**What church is John describing at first?**

- the Jewish since it brought forth "the man child"
- compare v. 5 with **Rev. 19:15** and **Isa. 11:4**.
- Christ founded the Christian church so the woman cannot represent the Christian phase of the church alone since Jesus was not yet born. He was in the womb when John first saw her.

**The meaning of . . .**

- **sun**—**Ps. 119:105** represents the written word of God
- **moon**—**GC p. v** the oral tradition, the period without the Bible.
- **crown**—authority, power
- **12 stars**—12 is the symbol of God's government (**Matt. 19:28**). Stars denote leaders (**Rev. 1:20**). It represents the leaders of God's government from the beginning to the end. 12 patriarchs → 12 tribes → 12 apostles → 144,000 high priests (12 x 12,000).

**What does the dragon represent? Rev. 12:9**

**What is the meaning of the following symbols?**

- **red**—in this context, sin (**Isa. 1:18**)
- **7 heads**—seven denotes completeness (**AA 585**). Heads represent religious bodies, i.e. the Leopard like beast of **Rev. 13:1-3**. The head that received the deadly wound was the Catholic church. Satan has control over all the religious bodies of that day.
- **10 horns**—ten symbolizes universality (e.g., 10 toes, 10 virgins). Horns represent civil powers (**Dan. 8:20-1**).
- **crowns on heads**—authority placed on the religious bodies, not the civil.
- **stars**—in this context fallen angels
- **his tail drew . . . the stars**—the angels were not forcibly drawn, but willingly followed. This occurred before creation (**Story of Redemption, pp. 16-19**).

- **stood ready to devour her child**—Satan tries to destroy Christ using Herod. His first defeat.
- **caught to God and His throne**—Jesus overcame Satan by living a perfect sinless life. He died and then was resurrected, Satan fails again.

### **The church flees (v. 6, 14)**

- **Verses 6, 14**—after Satan was defeated he persecutes the early church, which flees her homeland (Jerusalem) and went among the Gentiles (the wilderness).

### **The church given two wings of a great eagle**

- **Verse 14**—the two wings helps her take flight
- represents two periods of church history.
- Adam to the cross.
- from the cross to the end of the world.
- proves that God has only one true church in all ages.

### **Satan is cast out of heaven for good**

- **Verses 7-13**—his second defeat
- **Job 1:6, 7; 2:1, 2; DA 761**—this casting out occurs *after* the cross.
- Satan persecuted the woman *after* Christ's birth, *not* before.

### **What is the flood? (v. 15)**

- **Verse 15**—flood of water (people, **Rev. 17:15**) into the church
- **TM 46**—must be tares

### **When does this happen? Where?**

- 46 years between verse 14 → 15. The end of the 1260 years brings us to 1798, so verse 15 must be fulfilled sometime after 1844.
- compare with **Dan. 7:8-9** which shows the same time gap.
- therefore this event must occur within the S. D. A. church.

### **What does it mean that the earth swallowed up the flood?**

- Satan's third defeat—the church is purified by Ezekiel 9—the tares removed.

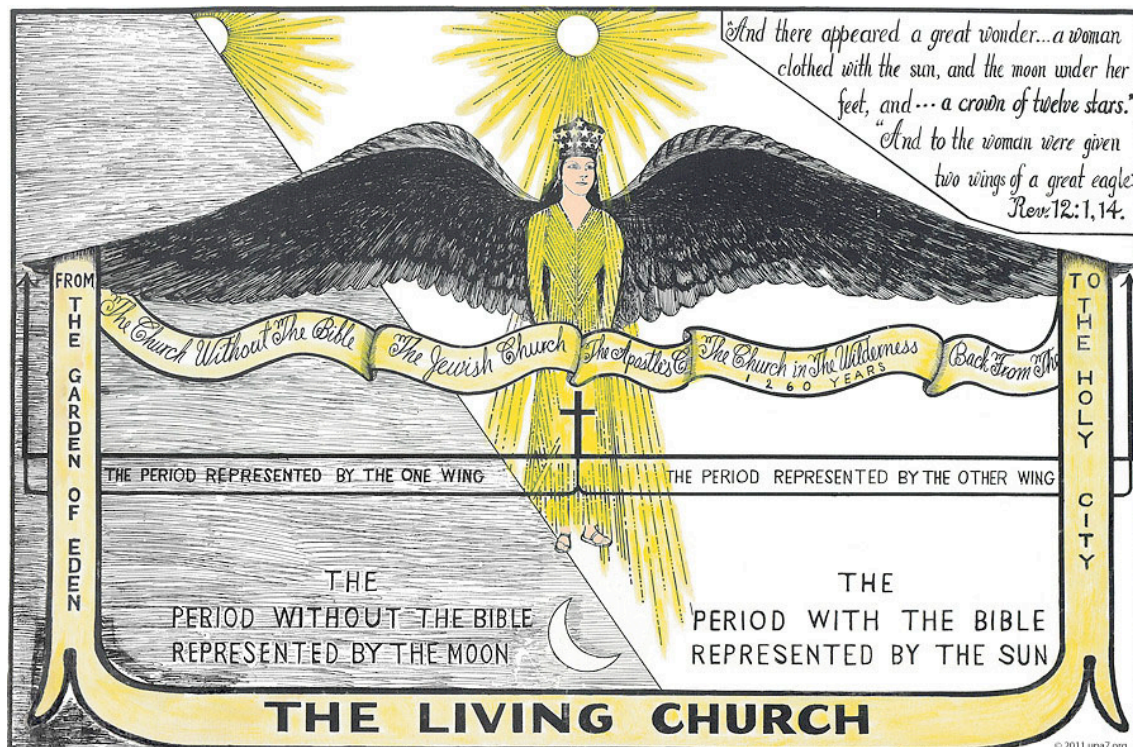
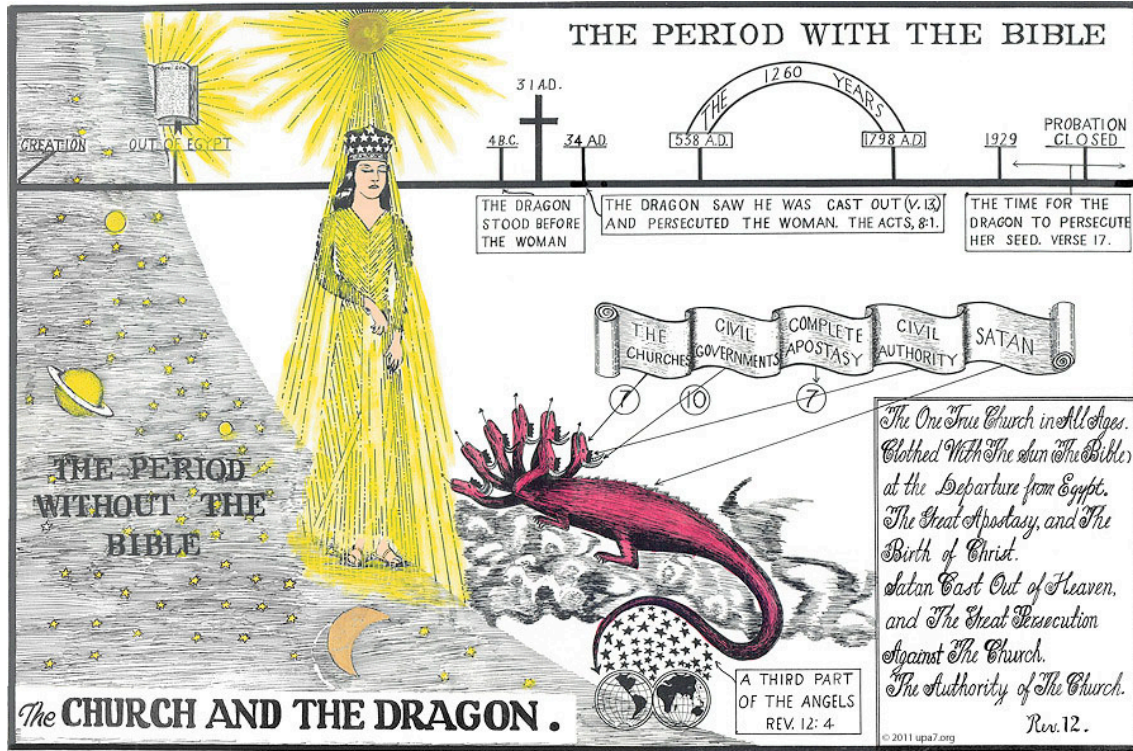
### **Satan's wars against the remnant of her seed, not the woman.**

- **Verse 17**—this is his effort to prevent the Great Multitude from joining God's purified church during the Loud Cry with the Sunday law death decree.

**Summary:** This study gives an overview of God's true living church through the ages. It portrays the birth of Christ and tells of the experience of the church during the Dark Ages up through the last days. It shows three attempts and subsequent defeats of Satan in his effort to destroy the church. Most importantly, for the last section of church history, is it's final purification from

the overwhelming flood of tares that have been brought in and the ingathering of saints from the fallen churches of Babylon.

**Further Reading:** [Tract No. 15, To the Seven Churches](#), pp. 68-90; *Shepherd's Rod*, Vol. 2, pp. 65-76, [Timely Greetings, Vol. 2, No. 16](#).



For questions or more information, please contact us at: [hosea21@gmail.com](mailto:hosea21@gmail.com) or ph: (001) 860 798-3672