

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“Israel: God’s Plan”

Revelation 12:1-5

Introduction

1. The 7th trumpet signals the anticipated establishment of the earthly kingdom of Messiah (11:15 - 18). The items mentioned lead right up to the end. Not in actuality, but as the intended plan of God.

2. The final verse of chapter 11 (v. 19) opens a new prophetic section which is the key to seven chapters (10-16). It brings up the Jewish character of the section (11:19). Listed here are: a) A literal temple (cf. Heb. 8:9; 9:22). b) A literal ark (cf. Jer. 3:16). These all are connected with Israel, not the Church (having been raptured).

3. God is acting from His heavenly temple according to His covenant arrangement (ark) to accomplish the restoration of His earthly kingdom (cf. 11:15-18). Five aspects of judgment are listed in this connection (lightnings, voices, thunderings, earthquake, hail). This is precisely what God promised (Ex. 34:10; 32:34 cf. 11:19; 15:5 - 8).

Note: There are four openings in this book: 1. Re: the throne of God (4:1). 2) Re: the temple of God (11:19). 3. Re: the wrath of God (15:5). 4. Re: the glory of God (19:11).

4. The unveiling of God’s purpose with Israel is the issue here. The conflict of the ages concerns personalities. The scope of time, both past and future, are compressed into a few verses. The Church is omitted. Look at the persons on center stage.

1. A WOMAN vv. 1, 2

Note: This is a “great wonder” (sign _____) which “appeared” (passive, _____). All of this is “in heaven.”

a. Her Appearance v. 1

Generally speaking, a woman is a symbol for “religion,” false or true. Think of 1) Jezebel (2:20), a symbol of paganism and idolatrous worship. 2) Scarlet (17:4) symbolizes ecumenical false associations. 3) Bride (19:7; 21:9) symbolizes the true Church. 4) Clothed woman (12:1) symbolizes Israel as a nation. This woman:

1) Sun arrayed. This is complete as the perfect passive tense indicates (_____).

2) Moon underfoot The lesser light also subjected to this woman.

3) Stars as crown on head The mention of “12 stars” brings up the only one other place where such details are presented (Gen. 37:9-11). The nation of Israel was just beginning then, but now it is about to come forth in splendor and glory.

* Make no mistake, this woman is the nation Israel.

b. Her Activity v. 12

Here is a dramatic verse! Except for the verb “delivered” (aorist), the other four verbs of the sentence (being, cried, travailing, being in pain) are present tenses. The force of this is that from the time of Abraham (the first Israelite) right up to the birth of our Lord, these verbs describe the amazing effort to bring forth Messiah as world Ruler. The entire message of the O.T. (Genesis to Malachi) is delineated in one verse!

2. A DRAGON vv. 3, 4

Note: This is also another (_____, of the same kind v. 1) and it is in heaven.

a. His Appearance v. 3

1) Great Dragon Twelve times dragon is used of Satan in Revelation. This points to hideousness and horror (cf. Ezek. 28:12ff; Jude 8, 9; 2 Cor. 11:13-15).

2) Red Dragon Suggests attractiveness, repulsiveness, and blood thirstiness (cf. John 8:44).

3) Multi-Headed, Horned, Crowned Dragon Incredible picture of wisdom, government, and despotism.

* What a breath-taking and formidable person!

b. His Activity v. 4

1) With stars (angels cf. v. 7). With his tail, the dragon (Satan) drags a third part of the angels and casts them into the earth. This may well be the precise number who followed Satan in his rebellion against God (Ezek. 28:12 - 19; Isa. 14: 12 - 17). Their number is fixed as is their judgment (Mt. 25:41).

2) With the woman The imperfect “stood” (_____) states the continuous activity of the dragon in the very face of the woman (Israel). Satan’s purpose (_____) is given: to eat up (down, _____) the child whom the woman (Israel) would bear. Check out Israel’s history and the life story of Jesus to approve of this intent!

* Make no mistake about it: Satan is out to disrupt and destroy the Christ of God!

3. A CHILD v. 5

a. His Birth

The woman (Israel) brings forth (_____) a child (_____, son). The use of “man” (_____) may seem redundant, but it has textual support. The fact is the Messiah is a “man,” not a woman. It is Israel who bears the Messiah (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Micah 5:2; Heb. 7:14). Neither Rome nor the Church travail for the Messiah.

b. His Future

Clearly God marks that Messiah will rule the nation with a rod of iron. The verb means to “shepherd” (_____), that is, He will order and guide. He does this with a crushing blow (Dan. 2:44). He will break all governments and be established as King of kings. We will share His exalted dignity (Rev. 2:26, 27; 1 Cor. 6:2, 3).

c. His Rapture

The child (_____) will be caught up (aorist passive _____) to (face to face, _____) with God (the Father) and His throne. The record is factual (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50, 51; Acts 1:9-11). He waits there for the coming expression of glory (Eph. 1:20 - 22; Heb. 2:9, 10, 13; Ps 110:1).

Conclusion Does God have a plan for Israel? Of course -- what a question. The anticipated kingdom (11:15 - 18) has an appended heavenly expression (11:19). This introduces a “sign” (wonder) concerning the nation (woman), Satan (dragon) and Messiah (son, man, child). This is God’s plan. He has a plan for you also i.e. to be saved from sin. We ask you to believe it -- NOW! Acts 10:43