

The Central Characters in the Great Tribulation

Revelation 12: 01–05

1. *The first character:*
A woman with child

- a. Her description
- b. Her cry:
For deliverance

2. *The second character:*
A great red dragon — Satan

- a. His description
- b. His power
- c. His aim:
To devour the child

3. *The main character:*
A man child — Jesus

- a. His purpose:
To rule
- b. His ascension:
To be exalted

1 A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven:
a woman clothed with the sun,
with the moon under her feet
and a crown of twelve stars on her head.

2 She was pregnant
and cried out in pain
as she was about to give birth.

3 Then another sign appeared in heaven:
an enormous red dragon
with seven heads and ten horns
and seven crowns on his heads.

4 His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky
and flung them to the earth.
The dragon stood in front of the woman
who was about to give birth,
so that he might devour her child
the moment it was born.

5 She gave birth to a son,
a male child,
who will rule all the nations
with an iron sceptre.
And her child was snatched up to God
and to his throne.

The Mighty Spiritual Struggle Behind the Great Tribulation

Revelation 12: 06–17

1 *The woman flees for her life*

- a. To a place prepared by God
- b. For three and one half years

2 *The great war over Israel and God's people is fought in heaven*

- a. The forces
 - 1) Michael and his angels
 - 2) Satan and his angels
- b. The outcome
 - 1) Satan will be defeated
 - 2) Satan will be barred from heaven
 - 3) Satan and his angels will be cast out of heaven

3 *The glorious victory and salvation are won*

- a. The victory:
Salvation
- b. The result:
Satan can no longer accuse believers before God
- c. The weapons used
 - 1) The Lamb's blood
 - 2) The believers' testimony
 - 3) The believers' loyalty

4 *The warning to earth is given*

- a. Because the devil is angered over his defeat
- b. Because the devil has not yet been destroyed;
he has a little time left

6 The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

7 And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.

9 The great dragon was hurled down — that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

5 <i>The dragon launches an attack upon the woman</i> a. The severe persecution b. The startling deliverance by the wings of a powerful eagle 1) To her place of safety 2) Kept for three and one half years c. The serpent's attempt to flood the woman: Uses every means d. The earth's enormous help e. The open attack upon the remaining seed	13 When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. 14 The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach. 15 Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. 16 But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17 Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring — those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.
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