

WHO IS THE “WOMAN” OF REVELATION CHAPTER 12?

(Excerpt from my book, “The Book of Revelation Decoded”, pages 385-390)

In Revelation 12:1, we read:

“^aAnd a great sign was seen in heaven, a woman draped with the sun, ^band the moon was under her feet; ^cand on her head she had a crown of twelve stars;” (AT)

Explanation of verse 1^a

“^aAnd a great sign was seen in heaven, a woman draped with the sun,”

Who is this symbolic “woman”?

In Genesis 3:15 we read:

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He will bruise (or crush) your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” (Author’s parenthesis)

From the above verse, we realize that the words of God towards the serpent are symbolic and prophetic. Women do not have seed; this is exclusive to men. Yet, God said that the “**Seed**”, the One who would crush the head of the serpent, **would come out of this symbolic “woman”**. For this reason, if we can identify the “**Seed**”, we will also be able to identify the “**woman**”!

The promised “Seed”

In Genesis 22:18, Moses wrote that the “**Seed**”, in which not only Israel, but, all the nations of the earth will be

blessed, **would come out of the seed of Abraham**. There we read:

"And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;" (KJV; also read Genesis 26:4).

Abraham fathered Isaac, Isaac fathered Jacob (whom God called **"Israel"**; Genesis 35:10), and Jacob fathered twelve sons. The twelve sons of Jacob became the Patriarchs of the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel. **Therefore, the promised "Seed" would come out of the nation of Israel.**

The coming of the promised **"Seed"** of Genesis 3:15 and 22:18, is the main theme of the Bible and it is carried over from the book of Genesis to the book of Revelation. From the numerous and accurate prophecies that were given about the timing of His coming (Daniel 9:24-26), about the place of His birth (Micah 5:2), about His Person (Isaiah 9:6) and about His work (Isaiah 53:4,5,11; Numbers 21:6-9; John 3:14), we learn that **the promised "Seed", the Messiah, would come out of the tribe of Judah and out of the bloodline of King David** (Genesis 49:8-10; Jeremiah 23:5,6; 33:14-16).

Are there any scriptures to prove that Israel became the symbolic "woman"?

Yes, there are! The Bible says that Yahweh, the God of Abraham, **made a covenant with the nation of Israel and thus Israel became God's symbolic "woman" or "wife"**. This statement is supported by Exodus 19:3-6; Jeremiah 2:2-4, Isaiah 54:1-8 and Ezekiel 16:2,3,8-14. Let us familiarize ourselves with Ezekiel 16:2,3,8-14:

*“²Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, ³and say, So says the Lord Jehovah to Jerusalem: Your origin and your birth is of the land of Canaan. Your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite ...
⁸And I passed by you, and I looked on you, and, behold, your time was the time of love. And I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness. And I swore to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord Jehovah. And you became Mine. ⁹And I washed you with water; I washed away your blood from you, and I anointed you with oil. ¹⁰And I dressed you with embroidered work, and I shod you with dugong sandals. And I wrapped you in fine linen, and I covered you with silk. ¹¹And I adorned you with ornaments, and I put bracelets on your hands and a chain on your neck. ¹²And I put a ring on your nose and earrings on your ears and a crown of beauty on your head. ¹³And you were adorned with gold and silver. And your clothing was fine linen and silk and embroidered work. Fine flour and honey and oil you ate. And you were very, very beautiful. And you advanced to regal estate. ¹⁴And your name went out among the nations, because of your beauty, for it was perfect by My splendor which I had set on you, declares the Lord Jehovah.”*

What does it mean that this symbolic “woman” was “draped with the sun”?

In the explanation of Revelation 1:14-16, **Description #9**, under the subtitle, ‘What does the “Sun” represent?’, we concluded that the term “sun” symbolizes **the LORD God and the shining splendor of His glory!** Therefore, the expression “draped with the sun”, reveals that this symbolic “woman” was **draped with God’s favor and glory!** This conclusion is also supported by verse 14 above. Let us read this verse again:

“¹⁴And your name went out among the nations, because of your beauty, for it was perfect by My splendor which I had set on you, declares the Lord Jehovah.”

Explanation of verse 1^b

“and the moon was under her feet;”

What do the above words signify?

They signify that **this symbolic “woman” stood on God’s promise that the “Seed” of Genesis 3:15 will definitely come out of her and that as the moon will be forever, so will His throne!** This statement is supported by Psalms 89: 29-37. There, it says:

“²⁹And I have established his Seed forever, and His throne as the days of the heavens. ³⁰If his sons forsake My Law, and do not walk in My judgments; ³¹if they profane My statutes and do not keep My commandments; ³²then I will visit their transgressions with the rod, and their sins with stripes. ³³But I will not annul My mercy from him, and I will not be false in My faithfulness. ³⁴I will not profane My covenant, nor change what goes from My lips. ³⁵Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. ³⁶His Seed shall be forever, and his throne as the sun before Me. ³⁷Like the moon, it shall be forever; and a faithful witness in the sky”

Explanation of verse 1^c

“and on her head she had a crown of twelve stars;”

In the explanation of Revelation 1:14-16, **Description #7**, under subtitle ‘**What do the “stars” symbolize**’, and in the explanation of Revelation 2:1^b, we concluded that the symbolic term “**stars**” refers to heavenly angelic beings and

individuals on earth who are used by God to be **His messengers** such as priests of the Old Testament time and overseers of Christian churches. However, from Daniel 12:3 and Genesis 37:9, we realize that the symbolic term "**stars**" also refers to individuals who turn people to righteousness and even to individuals who hold special positions of honor such as **the twelve Patriarchs** of the twelve tribes of Israel. Let us read the fore mentioned scriptures:

Daniel 12:3

"And those who act wisely shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and those turning many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever."

Genesis 37:9,10

"⁹And he (Joseph) dreamed still another dream, and told it to his brothers. And he said, Behold, I have dreamed another dream: And, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars were bowing themselves to me. ¹⁰And he told it to his father, and to his brothers. And his father rebuked him, and said to him, What is this dream which you have dreamed? Shall we indeed come to bow ourselves to the earth to you, I, your mother, and your brothers?" (Author's parenthesis)

Thus, the "**twelve stars**" which made up the crown that she had "**on her head**", is a symbol of **the twelve Patriarchs** of the twelve tribes of Israel!

And verse 2 says about this woman:

"and as she was pregnant, she cries, having labor pains and she was in distress to bear." (AT)

Explanation of verse 2

The above verse refers to the turbulent and painful times this symbolic "*woman*" went through until she gave birth, so to speak, to the promised "*Seed*".