

INTRODUCTION: Recall where we are in Revelation & Redemptive History: NCov. Warfare in heavenly places - Rv 12:1-6

1st: Two Signs Appeared in Heaven

1. See v1-6 - present realities till Christ's 2nd coming
2. *sign* - 7x in Rv: miraculous, supernatural power. False Prophet's false signs on earth [13:13-14;16:14;19:20]; *sign in heaven* [3x] = vision [12:1,3; 15:1].
3. *in heaven* - prophet's visions of symbols : transcendent created realm - 4:1-2; 11:15 & 19; God rules Creation & Christ directs history - angelic activity

2nd: The Sign of the Woman - Rv 12:1-2

1. v2 - pregnant wmn convulsing in *pain* - Gn 3:15-16 a metaphor:
 - i. childbirth - good creation - Gn 1:28 & salvaged after fall
 - ii. "travail" - labor & pain = curse
 - iii. symbol of redemptive grace = symbol of ultimate hope
2. Motif of pregnant wmn - OCov Israel [God's bride] - *seed* [singular & corporate]. Suffers birth-contractions.
 - i. Isa 26:17-19 Israel gives birth to resurrected people
 - ii. Isa 54:1 Like Sarah, Israel miraculously births promised seed [wife v6]
 - iii. Isa 66:7-13 tremblers [v2,5] are birthed & fed by Jerusalem
 - iv. Aspects mix & merge: individual & corporate mothers & seed. Wmn in Rv 12 is a mixture - life birthed in face of threat of death: resurrection.
3. RCC interps wmn of Rv 12:1-2 as Mary [seen in v5]. But wmn is not depicted as in RCC. In v2m wmn is writhing in birth-pangs.
4. Ambivalence: hope for promised seed & reality of curse. Wmn in Rv: symbol of Church/Jerusalem & apostasy/Babylon
5. Metaphor for pastoral ministry [Gal 4:19]; hope of cosmic res [Rm8]
6. Rv 12:1 *clothed, w/ the sun - moon under feet* - cosmic, transcendent glory
 - i. *crown* = symbol of royalty [queen] - wmn shares reign of X - Rv 5:10
 - ii. *12 stars* - #12 = People of God; *stars* [angels - Rv 1:20]
7. Let none underestimate the worth of Jesus' Bride: Church [19:7; 21:9; 22:17]

2nd: The Sign of the Dragon - Rv 12:3-4

1. Rv 12:9. Dragon = Satan = devil = serpent of old: Gn 3:15
2. *Dragon* - sea monster [Red Sea]: *Rahab* [Egypt], *Leviathan* - Isa 51:9-10
3. Rv 12:3 - *red, 7 heads w/ 7 diadems & 10 horns* - Rome comes into view.
 - i. *10 horns* - Dan 7:7,24 4th beast = Roman empire: the 2 Beasts [13:1]; Harlot rides beast w/ 10 horns [kings - 17:3,7,12,16].
 - ii. *7 heads & 7 crowns* - #10 = fulness of God's purposes; & #7 = creation's completion. But this is counterfeit - global: *ruler of this world & god of this age* [Jn 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2C4:4]. Powers & principalities.
 - iii. *red* - 2nd horseman Rv 6:4. Warfare, blood - Harlot: Rv 17:3-7
4. Rv 12:4a recall scorpion's tails [Rv 9:9-10]; dragon's tail flings *1/3 of stars to the earth*. Dif/ interps. When did Satan cast angels to earth?
 - i. 1st: angelic rebellion prior to Gn 3 - cast into abyss [watery chaos].
 - ii. 2nd: at the enthronement of Christ - Rv 12:7-9
5. Understand Church-Age as *enmity* of Gen 3:15.

Applic #1: Appreciate Abiding Significance of Creation, the Fall & Redemption

1. Satan's strategy - 1T4:1-5 refute God's good creation & man as *image of God*
2. Importance of the reality of Creation & Fall for promise of Redemption.
3. Contemporary confusion re: male/female is demonic - [2C 10:3-5]. Apostate Xnty began by discarding Gen 1-11. John begins 2nd 1/2 of Rv in Gen 1-4.

2nd: Appreciate the Cosmic Significance of the Church

1. "Be on the right side of history". Did John see this visions in "history" about historical realities? Ever since tower of Babel, men have attempted to make themselves out to be more historically important than God.
2. John didn't see Babylonian tower-builders as the sign in heaven. He saw you: the church! Do you see you? [Ps 16:3]. Eph 1:18-23.