

# ***Key Personalities in the Tribulation***

## **Revelation 12:1-13:18**

The most pivotal moment in the Unveiling – identifying the personalities and the “signs”.

### 1. The woman, the male child, the dragon. (12:1-6)

12:1) A great 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 labor and agony as she was about to give birth. 3) Then another sign appeared in heaven: There was a great fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven crowns. 4) Its tail swept away a third of the stars in heaven and hurled them to the earth. And the dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she did give birth it might devour her child. 5) She gave birth to a Son, a male who is going to rule all nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and to his throne. 6) The woman fled into the wilderness, where she had a place prepared by God, to be nourished there for 1,260 days.

- The woman = Israel. The male child = Jesus. The dragon = Satan.
- The woman = clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and a crown of 12 stars on her head.
  - ✓ Genesis 37:9 – Joseph’s dream: “*The sun, the moon, and the 11 stars bowing down to me.*” Joseph = the 12<sup>th</sup> star.
  - ✓ Isaiah 54:5-6 – Israel = the wife of Jehovah.
  - ✓ Romans 9:4-5 – Paul shared his burden for the Jews = “*They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the temple service, and the promises. The ancestors are theirs, and from them, by physical descent, came the Christ, who is God over all, praised forever.*”
- The male child = going to rule all the nations with an iron rod...caught up to God and to his throne. Jesus Messiah – born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on the cross, was buried, and rose from the tomb the victorious Savior.
- The dragon = warlike, fiery red in color, 7 heads, 10 horns, 7 crowns. Satan’s diabolical earthly power and wisdom. Satan is the ultimate rebel. Satan desired to devour Jesus as soon as He was born (Herod’s plot to kill Jesus).

### 2. War in Heaven and on Earth (12:7-12)

- War in Heaven = Michael – the leading angel of God (Jude 9 and Daniel 10) and his angels, fought against the dragon (the ancient serpent, the devil = accuser and Satan = adversary) and his angels (Ephesians 6). Satan thrown out of heaven for the second time. The first time – his rebellion. The second time – access denied.
- War on Earth = against the brothers and sisters (Christians). “*They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not love their lives to the point of death.*”
- “*Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you with great fury because he knows his time is short.*”

### 3. War against Israel (12:13-17)

- “*So the dragon was furious with the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring – those who keep the commands of God and hold firmly to the testimony about Jesus.*” Is the Christian faith the offspring of Judaism? Yes! Jesus is a Jewish Messiah, we who follow Him should be grateful to the Jewish people for birthing the Messiah and His salvation.

- The remnant – “the rest of her offspring” (17) Jews who will be saved!
4. The Beast from the Sea (13:1-10)
    - Given power, throne, and authority by the dragon (Satan).
    - The whole earth amazed, followed the beast and worshipped the beast
    - Uttered boasts and blasphemies against God, His name, His dwelling, and the inhabitants of heaven.
    - Allowed to exercise authority for the second half of the Tribulation.
    - Permitted to wage war against the saints.
    - Given authority over every tribe, nation, language, and nation.
    - Everyone whose name not written in the Lamb’s book of life will worship the beast.
    - A call for endurance and faithfulness from the saints.
    - Who is the beast from the sea? None other than the Antichrist. (1 John 2:18-22; 2 John 7)
  5. The Beast from the Earth (13:11-18)
    - Exercises authority on behalf of the first beast (Antichrist).
    - Compels earth’s inhabitants to worship the first beast.
    - Deceives those who live on the earth.
    - Empowers the image of the Antichrist.
    - Kills all who refuse to worship the Antichrist.
    - Controls all economic commerce and the mark of the beast.
    - Who is the beast from the Earth? The False Prophet = the spokesperson for the Antichrist.
    - 666 = mark of the beast. Six = the number of a man (Adam created on 6<sup>th</sup> day) Three = the divine number of God in His tri-unity. 666 = Man identifying himself as God.

Closing thoughts:

1. Satan is on his way down. Down from heaven, down to earth, and ultimately, down to the bottomless pit.
2. God has a plan for Israel – He has not forsaken His ancient people. God blessed Israel so that Israel might be a blessing to all the world.
3. How can we live in such a significant time in history and not follow Jesus with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength?
4. *“The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world!”* (1 John 4:4)