PRE-ADVENT 2026
CHRISTMAS FROM GOD'S POINT OF VIEW

[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 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 its heads. [4] Its 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 it might devour her child the moment he was born. [5] She gave birth to a son, a male child, who "will rule all the nations with an iron scepter." And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.

Revelation 12:1-5 KJV

In John's strange visionary version of the Christmas story there are three starring roles

*The woman
*The dragon
*The baby

I. The Woman

"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.

She was pregnant and cried out in pain
as she was about to give birth" (vv. 1-2).

A. This is certainly another version of the Christmas story!

B. When we read Revelation 12:1-5, the least we can say is that nothing was calm in heaven when Jesus was born!

C. "We love stories that feature a struggle between good and evil. Well, this radical text certainly portrays the age-long conflict between God and Satan." (Ray Prichard)

D. The twelve stars around the woman's head stand for the nation of Israel.

E. For centuries the Jewish people had waited for their Messiah to come. Galatians 4:4 says that *"when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law."*

F. The phrase "fully come" speaks of something complete and fully developed, like a ripe apple ready to be picked.

G. Like a pregnant woman feeling labor pains, it describes the moment in history when the stage is perfectly set.

H. The woman in the vision is Mary standing for the whole nation of Israel. As Mary literally went through labor pains, so the nation had agonized for generations, waiting and hoping and praying for the coming of their Messiah.

I. When the time was exactly right, Jesus was "born of a woman" and "born under the law."

II. The Dragon

"Then another sign appeared in heaven:
an enormous red dragon with seven heads
and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads"

Its 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 it might devour her child
the moment he was born" (vv. 3-4).

A. We know the dragon is the devil, because John presents him that way thirteen times in the book of Revelation.

B. Notice where the stars Satan cast down landed—on the earth! This world is now a demon-infested planet.

C. That's why Paul called Satan "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2). He is also the "god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4). And 1 John 5:19 tells us the whole world is under the control of the devil. He is the prince of the demons and head of the kingdom of darkness.

D. "The Devil loves death. He moved Cain to kill Abel. He moved Pharaoh to kill the Hebrew children. He moved Herod to kill the boys of Bethlehem." (Ray Prichard)

III. The Baby

"She gave birth to a son, a male child,
who 'will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.'

And her child was snatched up to God
and to his throne" (v. 5).

A. In Genesis 3:15 the Lord told the serpent there would be warfare between the woman (Eve) and the serpent.

B. Although the serpent would bruise the heel of her offspring, yet "He," "the Seed of the Woman," would crush the serpent's head.

C. The birth of Christ meant the end for the Dragon.

We need to remind ourselves that the devil will not have the final word in the battle over our lives!

IV. A Season of Satan's wrath increasing

[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." – (Revelation 12:12 NIV)

A. We combat evil by living a life of righteousness and love.

[6] But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." [7] Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. – (James 4:6-7 NIV)

B. We can counteract the negative influences of evil by practicing kindness, forgiveness, and compassion towards others.

[32] Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. – (Ephesians 4:32 NIV)

C. In today's fast-paced world, stay alert to the subtle ways negativity tries to dim your joy. Don't let fear, doubt, or distraction derail you.

D. Let the birds fly over your head, just don't let them nest in your hair.

E. God will protect and deliver you in this increasingly evil time.

[13] Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the LORD comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. – (Isaiah 49:13 NIV)

[10] And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. – (1 Peter 5:10 NIV)