

- Chapters 12-14 today
- Chapters 15-17 next week
- Garbers report on Elaine Pagels book?
- Other insights/questions?

The Woman

Revelation 12:1-2

A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ² She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth.

What parallels do you see between the woman of Revelation 12 and Mary, the mother of Jesus?



John's Vision: A Woman, Her Child, and the Dragon (Revelation 12:1-6)

RANDY HORST

Other Connections to the Woman

Christian Tradition: Israel and the Church

Greek/Roman Mythology: Leto

- She was the mother of Apollo and Artemis by Zeus.
- Hera was jealous and sent Python (a serpent/dragon) after her.
- She fled to a remote island (Delos).
- Her son, Apollo, killed Python.
- Her daughter, Artemis, was especially revered in Ephesus.

Egyptian Mythology: Isis

- She was the mother of Horus by Osiris, god of sun/sky/kingship.
- She flees to the marshlands to escape her brother, Set.
- Horus defeats Set (identified with a sea monster, Typhon).

They all fit a pattern:

Woman of Revelation 12

Mary, mother of Jesus

Leto

Isis

A woman... impregnated by a god

Child is the heir to the throne.

Threatened and pursued by a usurper/serpent.

Escapes to safety in the desert (or Island)

Divine rescue/victory

Mary's Magnificat ~Luke 1

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Hannah's Prayer~1 Sam. 2

“My heart rejoices in the Lord;
in the Lord my horn^[a] is lifted high.

My mouth boasts over my enemies,
for I delight in your deliverance.

² “There is no one holy like the Lord;
there is no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.

³ “Do not keep talking so proudly
or let your mouth speak such arrogance,
for the Lord is a God who knows,
and by him deeds are weighed.

⁴ “The bows of the warriors are broken,
but those who stumbled are armed with
strength.

⁵ Those who were full hire themselves out for food,
but those who were hungry are hungry no more.
She who was barren has borne seven children,
but she who has had many sons pines away.

⁶ “The Lord brings death and makes alive;
he brings down to the grave and raises up.

⁷ The Lord sends poverty and wealth;
he humbles and he exalts.

⁸ He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;
he seats them with princes
and has them inherit a throne of honor.

“For the foundations of the earth are the Lord’s;
on them he has set the world.

⁹ He will guard the feet of his faithful servants,
but the wicked will be silenced in the place of
darkness.

“It is not by strength that one prevails;
¹⁰ those who oppose the Lord will be broken.

The Most High will thunder from heaven;
the Lord will judge the ends of the earth.

“He will give strength to his king
and exalt the horn of his anointed.”



William Butler Yeats

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The Second Coming

TURNING and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.
Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
When a vast image out of *Spiritus Mundi*
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.
The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?



Verses Advocating Nonviolence

Rev. 12:11:

But they have conquered [the dragon] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.

Rev. 13:10:

If you are to be taken captive,
into captivity you go;
if you kill with the sword,
with the sword you must be killed.
Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

Rev. 13:16: “brand on the right hand or the forehead”

- Jewish tefillin/phylacteries worn on arm or forehead
- Deut. 11:18: “You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and fix them as an emblem on your forehead.”
- Referencing coins



Battle Hymn of the Republic by Julia Ward Howe, 1861

See Revelation
14:20

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored
He hath loosed the fateful lightening of His terrible swift sword--His truth is marching on

I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps
I have read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps--His day is marching on

I have read a fiery gospel writ in burnished rows of steel
As ye deal with My contemners, so with you My grace shall deal
Let the Hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with His heel--Since my God is marching on

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment-seat
Oh, be swift, my soul to answer Him, be jubilant, my feet
Our God is marching on--Glory, glory, hallelujah . . . His truth is marching on