

# 'Spiritual Conflict'

Revelation 12:1-6

**Review** & Chapter 12's four parts: Main Characters – 12:1-6

The Woman - Revelation 12:1-2, 6 – This is Israel, not the Church, these are God's Old Testament people and he protects them from the dragon.

'Women' in Revelation – First, Jezebel in 2:20; Second, this woman (12:2). Third, the harlot in 17:1-7 and finally, the Bride of Christ in 19:7-8.

The Dragon - Revelation 12:3-4 - The spirit world has two critical characters, God the creator and Satan, a creature, the Dragon.

**Concept:** Satan has two aims: First, to gather as many followers as he can; and second, to distract and derail as many followers of God making them ineffective.

The Male Child - Revelation 12:5 - This male child is Jesus Christ.

**Concept:** All that Satan hates is wrapped up in this 'male child' who came to rescue and redeem his children.

**Precept:** It is an axiom that those who stand with this male child, Jesus Christ, will be the object of the dragon's ill will and wicked designs and those who stand with anyone or anything else will be ignored and left alone. (1 Peter 4:12-19)

**Conclusion:** First, spiritual warfare is real. Second, neutrality is the same as compliance with Satan. Third, the body of Christ, the New Testament Church is aware and prepared to do spiritual battle. They resist the devil and battle for those who are in his clutches and under his influence.

We will learn in chapters 13-18 that Satan uses earthly kingdoms to harm and destroy the people of God. Our task is to endure to the end, faithful to God and aware of the devil's designs.

In the Old Testament God's chosen people were Satan's target; in the New Testament the Bride of Christ is Satan's target but with both Satan is at war with God and often the battle wreaks havoc on those that serve God and his purposes. The reason why is that Satan knows that his time is eventually up and he must face the Creator. We know that the foundation for this victory was won by Jesus Christ at the cross.

The wilderness is not the protector but can serve as an invisible place where God alone protects. There is no guarantee that his protection will be physical but we are spiritually protected.

The closer we grow to the return of Jesus Christ the more we can expect Satan's attacks, therefore we are called to greater resolve and faithfulness.

God is not resigned to Satan's evil; he sent his Son to redeem lost mankind and we must expect that if Satan is God's enemy that we are in the crosshairs of his evil designs.