

THE WOMAN & MANCHILD

Once again, this week I was planning on doing a study on the heart, the soul, and the flesh nature, but something was brought to my attention which really grieved me, so much so, I feel compelled to speak about it tonight. But before I begin I need to say “I’m sorry” to *brother Bill*, who told me he was really looking forward to the study I was planning to do. Don’t worry, eventually I will do it.

I want to share a little something with you all, but I hope it doesn’t sound like I’m tooting my own horn because in my heart, I’m certainly not. In my heart, I give God *all* the glory whenever He uses me to help another brother or sister in Christ. The last few weeks I have really been hammering away at some of the errors of certain people, who I believe have been seduced by religious spirits. It was not my desire to do this. In myself, I had other things I wanted to teach on the last month, but I felt *compelled* to expose these dangerous errors. As it turns out, there were *two* people who, without realizing it, had come under the influence of the very things I have been exposing. They do not attend the chat room sessions, but they do read my notes occasionally. The Lord used what I have been sharing to open their eyes to what was happening and they have both come out from under the influence of those errors.

Also, I know that before the election, I said I wasn’t going to be getting on here every week and ranting about how terrible things are getting under *Der Fuhrer*, but I would like to make just a few comments about where I think we are headed. I believe we will soon be under Martial Law in this nation. It could be precipitated by the total economic collapse that’s coming. Or it could come as a result of what’s happening in the southern part of the country and California, where Mexican bandits, gangs, and illegal immigrants are causing such chaos and anarchy, the local and state police can no longer handle them. Or it could come as a result of the civil and/or racial war that’s been brewing in this country for years, which the policies of *Der Fuhrer* will certainly ignite. Or it could come as a result of a terrorist strike, which is much more probable now that *Der Fuhrer* is licking the boots of Muslims, everywhere.

As I said a few months back, “*the end of our world is coming, very quickly*” and there is nothing we can do about it. It’s out of our control, and what everyone sees coming will come, unless God steps in, and for His own sovereign purpose decides to delay the inevitable. So I encourage everyone to make sure we are ready *spiritually* for what lies ahead. There is really no kind of natural preparation we can make that will sustain us for any length of time through the chaos and social upheaval that’s coming. If we are to be sustained over the long haul, it will have to be through supernatural means.

And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Revelation 13:7-10

In Revelation chapter thirteen, you see a description of the final beast government rising up. John tells how this beast government will make war with the saints and overcome many of them. He also tells how all the world will not just wonder after the beast but “worship” it. The people of the nations will not care one bit that the beast is killing the saints. It is at this point that John says: “*Here is the patience and the faith of the saints*”—and then warns that those who kill with the sword will be killed by the sword.

In other words, when this terrible time begins; when everywhere you turn, good is being called evil and evil is being called good, when true Christians are being shut out of society and persecuted, when evil is having a heyday and is winning on all fronts; *that’s* the time when the saints must have patience and faith. *That’s* the time when we must resist the urge to fight evil with evil, or the urge to go out and kill the evil-doers. That’s the time when you have to know deep in your heart that all this is *being allowed* by God and that it is part of His over-all plan to let the cup of iniquity come to its fulness so He can establish His kingdom. So my point is simply this: in the coming days, don’t let all the evil you are about to witness (or even experience) drive you crazy. Rather, let it drive you *deeper* into Jesus.

I just wanted to share that with you because even though I focus on getting free and staying free from all the religious spirits and all the doctrinal errors that are overcoming God’s people right now, I’m not ignorant of what’s happening in the real world. The reason I focus on spiritual matters is because remaining spiritually pure, remaining undeceived, and being spiritually prepared for what’s coming is *the only thing* you and I have any power to affect or change. Our choices will determine whether or not we remain pure. Our choices will determine whether or not we are kept from deception. Our choices will determine whether or not we are spiritually prepared to face the coming events. We have *no choice* concerning what’s happening in the world or in our nation. None of us can do a thing to stop the rise of the Global Police State. So, while it’s not wrong to know what’s happening to this nation and so forth, it won’t profit us to sit around and fret about things we can’t stop.

Now, as I said, something was brought to my attention this week which was very grieving to me, and it concerns a message one of my fellow watchmen gave the other week. In that message, this brother denounced as error the whole idea that the “manchild” in Revelation chapter twelve is a *group* of saints. After believing the manchild represents a group of believers within the overall Church, and even teaching this truth publicly for a time, he now believes this was all an error and that he has been under a wrong influence regarding the whole issue.

I’m sure most of you in this room know who I am referring to. So let me say right up front that I am *not* trying to start a public war between this brother and myself. Neither am I trying to turn people against him. My only concern is for God’s truth. You can say it’s just my “perception” of the truth if you like—that’s fine. But I believe it’s more than just my perception of truth. I think it’s God’s truth, and as such, I believe it needs to be defended.

I’m not going to mention the brother’s name because many of those who listen to the chat room messages from off the web site will have *no idea* who I am talking about—and I think that’s the way it should be. However, there is no point in trying to be coy with those of you in the room who *already* know who I am talking about. Just let me say one more time; the issue for me is the truth. I believe God is asking me to defend HIS truth. You all have free wills. You are all free to choose which of the two views of the manchild you will accept. I won’t hate you if you choose *not* to accept the one I present tonight.

Let me begin with some general observations regarding the various interpretations of Revelation. You probably all know this, but there are four schools of interpretation regarding this book. The four different views are: (1) the *Preterist* view; (2) the *Historicist* view; (3) the *Idealist* view; and (4) the *Futurist* view.

Preterist — The term “Preterist” comes from Latin word “praeter” which means “past”. This view holds that the events in Revelation *were fulfilled* in John's time, and that it was written primarily to provide hope and comfort to the first century church, which was persecuted by Rome. For example, this view interprets the beasts of Revelation thirteen as Imperial Rome and the Imperial Priesthood. The Preterist view is held by many modern scholars.

Historicist — The Historical view holds that the events in Revelation are a survey of church history (in symbolic or allegorical language) from the First Century up to the Second Coming of Jesus. This view was held by most of the Reformers, so it dominated Protestant Christianity for many centuries. However, this view has been largely discounted as it does not adequately address the prophesy in the Revelation. The Historicist view is reflected in most of the older commentaries, many of which are now in the public domain and are easily accessible on the Internet. These would include the works of John Knox, Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield, C. H. Spurgeon, Matthew Henry, Adam Clarke and Albert Barnes.

Idealist — The Idealist view maintains that the events in Revelation are not predictive prophecy, but are merely a *symbolic portrait* of the cosmic conflict between the forces of good and evil. In this view the events in Revelation become just a collection of stories designed to teach us spiritual truths. Some refer to this method of interpretation as “spiritual”.

Futurist — The Futurist view sees the events in Revelation as end-time events which will take place immediately preceding the return of the Lord, as well as during and after His return. They speak of a literal kingdom that is to be established on this earth for a thousand years on this present earth; followed by the creation of a new heaven and new earth. The Futurist approach has enjoyed a revival since the 19th Century—particularly with the rise of Dispensationalism—and is widely held among Evangelicals today.

For those who may be interested, at *the end* of this study I have provided a list of various commentators, Bible teachers, Pastors and authors who have become relatively famous down through the years, and which view of Revelation they hold.

Of course, I, as do most of you I suspect, hold to the *futurist* view of Revelation. I believe that most of the things Jesus described to John after chapter four of that book pertain to the very end of this present Church Age. They will take place—and are even now beginning to take place—just before the physical, literal, return of the Lord, and they will continue to take place on into the next age (which is the Kingdom Age), and into the age beyond that (which is the age of the New World), after the Great White Throne judgement transpires.

As we begin our study, I want you to take particular notice of a little phrase that most people seem to ignore (for whatever reason), which is very important, which should govern our whole approach to the book. It's repeated twice, which should tell us that it is important. The first instance of this phrase is in the first chapter of Revelation:

*And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. **Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.***

Revelation 1:17-19

When Jesus appears to John, the Lord tells him to write the things he HAS seen, and the things which ARE, and the things that SHALL BE HEREAFTER. The things he “has seen” is a reference to the coming and the appearance of Jesus. The Lord wanted John to tell the brethren what He looked like and so forth—which he did; which is the content of chapter one.

The things “which are” concerns the letters to the seven churches of Asia Minor, which Jesus was about to dictate to John—which again, he did; which are the contents of chapters two and three. The things “which are” concern the *present condition* of the churches at *that time* and the events in the societies in which those churches had been planted. The things “which are” also include the contents of chapter four, where John is caught up in the spirit-realm and sees the throne of God and all the heavenly creatures. Now, at the beginning of chapter four, please notice what is said:

*After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and **I will shew thee things which must be hereafter**. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.*

Revelation 4:1-2

John hears a voice which says he is going to be shown things which “*must be hereafter*”. So that’s TWICE John is told he is going to be shown things which will come to pass in the future. That is, in the future from his day. Chapter one of Revelation pertains to the things which John HAS seen; chapters two through four pertain to the things WHICH ARE (ie: presently in John’s day); and chapters five onwards pertain to the things that SHALL BE HEREAFTER (ie: after John’s time).

This is a very important point to keep in mind as you proceed through the book of Revelation because everything that’s described *after* chapter four, happens after John’s time. Again, *everything* John was about to see was going to happen in the future. So when you get to chapter twelve, and John describes the woman and the manchild, these were *future* events from his day; not past events, not even present events, but future events. That’s a pretty hard fact to deny, or get around, or explain away.

There is one more very important thing to understand when we read the book of Revelation; and if we don’t understand this, we are going to get all kinds of crazy ideas and interpretations as to the meaning of all these visions and symbolic language. There is a major division of the book at the end of chapter eleven. At the end of chapter eleven you have “the end”—the blowing of the seventh trumpet, which is the “last” trumpet. When you have some spare time, look back in chapter *eight* of Revelation and you will see that there are THREE “woes” spoken of by the angel. These three woe’s are actually the LAST THREE (# five,

six and seven) of the SEVEN trumpets (*See: Rev. 8:12-13*). These last three woes (or trumpets) run from Revelation 9:1 to Revelation 11:19. The FIFTH trumpet (angel) sounds in Rev. 9:1. This is the trumpet that opens the bottomless pit and releases a swarm of locust-like creatures. Rev. 9:12 says: “*One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter*”. The two more “woe’s” are the last two trumpets (# 6 and 7). The SIXTH trumpet (angel) sounds in Rev. 9:13; and everything from chapter 9:13 to chapter 11:14 makes up the sixth trumpet. This includes:

(1) The loosing of the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

(2) A mighty angel who is clothed with a cloud, a rainbow on his head, his face like the sun, his feet like as pillars of fire, comes down from heaven with a little book in his hand, which tells John to eat the book, and that he will have to *Thou must prophesy again* before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings. The angel has his right foot on sea his left foot on the earth, and when he cried with a loud voice, seven thunders uttered their voices.

(3) The ministry and martyrdom of the Two Witnesses company.

Immediately after the Two Witnesses are raised, the angel says: “*The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly*” (*Rev. 11:14*). The third “woe” is the seventh trumpet. The SEVENTH trumpet (angel) sounds in Rev. 11:15, but the description of this trumpet is actually back in Revelation chapter ten. When the last (seventh) angel sounds the last trumpet, John said he saw the angel that was standing on the sea and on the land, raise his right hand to heaven and swore by the name of the Lord that: “*...there will be no more delay! But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets*” (*Rev. 10:5-7*).

In other words, everything you read from Revelation 11:20 to Revelation 19:1 does not follow the last trumpet chronologically. You can’t have the end of this age taking place twice. There is only one END of this age. The chapters of Revelation which follow the seventh trumpet don’t actually follow that trumpet. Rather, those chapters *overlap back* into the preceding chapters. What you are reading from the end of chapter eleven to chapter nineteen are the events that take place in the *same time frame* as chapter eight through eleven. The angel is filling in the blanks, so to speak. He is simply adding more information to the overall sketch that has just been drawn.

So, if you were to read all these chapters in chronological order, the next thing you would read after Revelation 11:20 would be Revelation 19:1. Everything in between these chapters overlaps back into the previous chapters. What you are seeing is different views and additional information regarding the same events that will transpire during the final 3½ years of this age. What all this means is that the vision of the woman and the manchild is actually *part of* one of the seven trumpets.

I won’t say which trumpet it’s part of, or give you the reasons why I think that particular one is the right one, since that’s not my point. My point is that chapter twelve of Revelation *overlaps back* into the preceding chapters, and those preceding chapters are the events of the seven trumpets during the last 3½ years of this age. The key time frame to keep in mind is that three and a half years.

Let me give you a couple clear examples of this overlapping backwards.

*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw **a beast** rise up out of the sea, **having seven heads and ten horns**, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

Revelation 13:1-4

*And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a **thousand two hundred and threescore days**, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. **And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.***

Revelation 11:3-7

In chapter *thirteen* of Revelation, John is shown the rise of the Beast and the False Prophet. In chapter *eleven* that same Beast has *already* killed the Two Witnesses *after* their 3½ year ministry. What does this tell you? It tells you that even though the Beast is not initially seen rising up from the sea until the *thirteenth* chapter, in reality, it's *already* been in existence and controlling the world, back in chapter *eleven*. In other words, there is an overlapping backwards in these chapters. Chapter thirteen *overlaps back* into the preceding chapters.

Another example of this overlapping back can be seen in chapter twelve itself.

*And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. **And the woman fled into the wilderness**, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*

Revelation 12:5-6

Notice how the text flows here. John said that once the child is born of the woman, the woman flees into the wilderness, where a place has been prepared for her. Then war breaks out in heaven:

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

*Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. **And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.** And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.*

Revelation 12:7-16

John says that once the manchild is caught up into heaven, war breaks out and the Dragon is cast out of heaven once and for all. Once the Dragon realizes he has been cast out of heaven, he becomes furious and tries to destroy the woman. Then, the woman is given two wings to fly into the wilderness.

But wait! The woman *already* fled into the wilderness back in verse six! Did the woman come back in from the wilderness after verse six, and now she is fleeing to that same wilderness again a second time? Of course not! Everything from verse seven to verse sixteen actually takes place *between* verse five and six. It overlaps backwards. In verse *five*, the woman births the manchild and it is caught up to God. Then verses seven through sixteen take place. Then the woman flees into the wilderness.

Again, first the angel shows John an outline or an overview of some event. Then he fills in the blanks. He shows John other things that will *also* take place in that same event and during that same time frame. First comes the outline—then there is an overlapping back in order to fill in the details of *that* outline. In this instance, the angel first gives John the *outline* of the woman bringing forth the manchild and then fleeing to the wilderness. Then he goes back and fills in *some more details* of what will *also* happen at that *same* time. The details of verses seven through sixteen overlap backwards into the previous verses.

Now, let's look at the vision itself. I have gone over this before, but it needs to be said again because of the confusion that comes from insisting that the woman in this vision is National Israel and the manchild is Jesus.

The ONLY WAY you can support this view is by *inserting* a period of 2000 years *between* the time the child is caught up to the throne, and the time the woman flees into the wilderness. Otherwise, the rest of what is said about the woman makes no sense at all, and in fact, becomes absurd. When you read the entire twelfth chapter and try to fit all of it—not just the manchild’s birth, but all of it—into a purely natural Israel scenario, it simply doesn’t work. Too many things don’t fit and are out of place.

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12:1-9

I’m going to try and establish once and for all that John is not referring here to the historical event of Jesus being born out of National Israel. The Woman is *not* National Israel—it’s the Church. The manchild is *not* the Person, Jesus—it’s a remnant of the Church, who have come out of the Church. That this is not a picture of Jesus coming out of National Israel is very clear for the following reasons:

~ ***The Woman is clothed the Sun.*** The sun is her raiment. The sun is the garment that she has on—and the sun, of course, points to Jesus Christ and his righteousness. Paul said: “*For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ*” (Gal. 3:27). Jesus *Himself* is the sun. He is the light of the world. The Lord is called “the sun of righteousness” in Malachi 4:2. It says that unto you that fear His name, the Sun of righteousness will arise—that is, arise *on* you. The Son is going to shine in you and through you and upon you. In Matthew 17:2, when Jesus was transfigured, His face shone like the sun. Revelation 1:16 says: “*And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength*”.

The righteousness and glory of Jesus Christ is compared to the sun over and over again in the Scripture. It’s the Church, not National Israel, which has been CLOTHED with Christ and His righteousness. It’s the Church, not national Israel, which has been given the revelation (light) of Jesus Christ.

~ ***The Woman travails in birth.*** This is very interesting because even though there are places in the Old Testament where National Israel is seen in travail and distress, these are the result of her rebellion and sin. She is in travail because God has judged her and she is in bondage to the nations she has played the harlot with. However, when it comes to bringing forth the Deliverer, or the Messiah for the nation, the Old Testament says just the opposite of what is pictured in Revelation chapter twelve.

*Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but **he** [ie: Messiah] **shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed. A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence to his enemies. Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.***

Isaiah 66:5-7

BEFORE she travailed, prophesied Isaiah, Israel would bring forth a “manchild”. BEFORE her pain came, she would bring forth her Messiah. If the woman in Revelation chapter twelve is National Israel, then a crystal clear prophecy regarding the birth of God’s Messiah has *failed* and your Bible is a lie!

~ ***The Woman stands on the Moon.*** The moon is symbolic of the Old Testament economy. Just as the Moon borrows its light from the Sun, so the Law and Prophets were not the light of the New Testament, but a mere reflection of it. All the types and shadows of the Law and the Jewish ceremonies are fulfilled in Christ and realized by the Church. The Tabernacle and all its vessels; they all point to Christ. The sacrifices point to Christ. It even says the spirit of Christ was in them and it signified things concerning Christ. David signified Christ. The kings signified Christ. They all pointed to Christ.

Boaz, when he took Ruth, pointed to Christ taking His bride. Enoch, who walked with God and was not; that points to Christ who walked with God and God took him. The whole Old Covenant was borrowing light from the New Covenant which was going to come. The woman has her foundation upon the promises of God, spoken in the Old Testament. God laid a foundation in the Old Testament that is for the New Testament Church. This *cannot* apply to National Israel, either at this present time, or the birth of Jesus.

~ ***The Woman has a crown of twelve stars.*** The word for crown is “*stephanos*”, and one of it’s meanings has the sense of a “victor’s wreath”. So the “crown” on the woman’s head symbolizes *victory* as well as authority. Twelve represents completeness of government. Stars speak of God’s people; and in this instance, the *leaders* of the original Church, the twelve apostles. The twelve apostles hold a special place of honor in the Church, for to them was given the authority and the power (by Jesus and the Holy Spirit) to establish the Church. In the book of Daniel, it talks about those who turn many to righteousness and it says they shall shine *as the stars* of heaven (*Dan. 12:3*). The little horn will cast many of the “stars” of heaven to the ground (*Dan. 8:9, 10*). In Genesis 15:5, God gives Abraham a promise and he says his seed is going to be *as the stars* of the heaven. The Dragon in Revelation chapter thirteen, like the little horn in Daniel, will cast many of the “stars” of heaven to the ground. This speaks of pulling the saints down from their heavenly position in Christ through deception or sin.

~ ***The manchild is immediately caught up to heaven.*** There is no gap here. Jesus Christ was not caught up to the throne when He was born. There was a considerable interval.

~ ***The result of the manchild’s ascension.*** Immediately after the manchild is caught up to the throne there is war in heaven, and the Dragon is cast into the earth. This did not happen when Jesus ascended to the father. We see that *after* the ascension, the Scripture *still* calls Satan the “prince of the power of the air” (*Eph. 2:2*); and his “principalities and powers” are *still* in “heavenly places” (*Eph. 3:10*).

~ ***The Woman goes into the wilderness for 3½ years.*** This is a clear reference to the *last* 3½ years of this present age. National Israel has been in her wilderness for over 1900 years.

Now, before I continue, let me share a little something with you about viewing this woman as the church, and the manchild as a group of believers from the church. I have literally dozens of links to “*Discernment*” web sites on my computer. A Discernment web site is a site that specifically expose the false doctrines of religious cults, and/or the current apostasy inside the churches. Most of these sites are run by Fundamentalist believers or ministers; so you have to use caution when reading their views and exposes. However, a few of them are Pentecostal.

If you go to any of these sites and type the term “manchild” into their internal search engines, I promise you, you will get the same basic information from EVERY one of them. They will all say that anyone who believes the manchild in Revelation twelve is anything other than Jesus, has come under the influence of the old Latter Rain error because they all trace the belief that the woman is the church back to the Latter Rain Movement of 1948. Viewing the manchild as Jesus is the only acceptable and orthodox view as far as they are concerned, and they are very quick to say so.

This universal attitude among Discernment ministries reveals a profound ignorance of Church History. So my advise to them is that they do their homework better, before making fools of themselves. Below is a short list of famous ministers and Bible Commentators who believed the woman in Revelation chapter twelve represents the church—and I can assure you that none of them were infected by the Latter Rain error because they lived centuries *before* that movement started:

Adam Clarke - (1760–1832) - a British Methodist theologian and author of one of the most respected interdenominational commentaries ever written, published in 1831. Concerning this woman, he wrote: “...*That the woman here represents the true Church of Christ most commentators are agreed*”.

Albert Barnes - (1798–1870) - an American Presbyterian minister and theologian. He wrote his Bible commentaries from 1832-1872 and they were published after his death in 1875. Concerning this woman, he wrote: “*The woman, beyond all question, represents the church. Jesus Christ is represented as the Husband and the Head of the church, not the son of the Church*”.

John Gill - (1697–1771) - was a Baptist, hyper-Calvinist theologian from England who became the pastor of the church that Charles Spurgeon would later pastor. His New Testament Commentary was published from 1746-1748 and his Old Testament commentary was published from 1748-1763. Concerning this woman, he wrote: “*This vision begins a new account of things, and represents the church in the apostles' times, and purer ages of Christianity...*”

Matthew Henry - (1662–1714) - Theologian and Presbyterian minister from England. His commentary was published in 1706. Concerning this woman, he wrote: “*The attempts of Satan and his agents to prevent the increase of the church, by devouring her offspring as soon as it was born. . . We see how the church is represented in this vision. . . She was pregnant, and now in pain to bring forth a holy progeny to Christ.*”

Barton W. Johnson - (1833-1894) - Former Baptist president of Eureka College and one of the founders of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination. Author of the “Peoples New Testament Commentary”, published in 1891. Concerning this woman, he wrote: *“This symbol, then, is a common one to represent the Church, and we are justified in declaring that to be its meaning in this passage. The fact that she is clothed with the sun symbolizes the fact that the true Church shines with the light of the sun of righteousness”*.

Of course, since most of these brethren were under the influence of the views of the Reformation when they wrote their commentaries, they adopted the same Historical view of Revelation. Therefore, even though they all agree that the woman in Revelation chapter twelve represents the New Testament church, their understanding of exactly what the manchild represented, differed.

Adam Clarke - *“The man child mentioned in this verse is the dynasty of Christians emperors, beginning with Constantine’s public acknowledgment of his belief in the divinity of the Christian religion, which happened in the latter part of AD. 312, after the defeat of the Emperor Maxentius.”*

Albert Barnes - *“The manchild represents, according to the view above taken, the church in its increase and prosperity - as if a child were born that was to rule over all nations.”*

John Gill - *“The Manchild is not Christ, literally and personally...but is Christ mystically, or Christ in his members, who are called by his name, because he is formed in them, and they are the seed of the woman, the church”*.

Matthew Henry - *“She was delivered of a man-child, by which some understand Christ, others Constantine, but others, with greater propriety (ie: more correctly), a race of true believers, strong and united, resembling Christ, and designed, under him, to rule the nations with a rod of iron.”*

Barton W. Johnson - *“The man child is a symbol of the faithful members of the Church”*.

So don’t let anyone pigeon-hole you as a Latter Rain heretic, or as one who is under the influence of Latter Rain error without realizing it, just because you believe the woman represents the church and the manchild represents a group of believers out from the church.

As I said, the only way you can hold that this woman is National Israel is if you insert a space of 2000 years *between* the time that she gives birth to the child (Jesus) and it ascends into heaven (in 33 AD.), and the time when she goes into the wilderness for protection for the last 3½ years of this age. But that’s not only problem with this view. If the woman represents National Israel in verses one, five and six, on what authority do people *change her identity* to the end-time Church in verses thirteen through seventeen? Excuse me! If the woman represents National Israel at the beginning of chapter twelve, then she *also* represents National Israel at the end of chapter twelve.

So if you believe the woman birthing the manchild is National Israel bringing forth Jesus, then don’t even bother reading the *rest* of that chapter—with the possible exception of the very last verse, which talks about the *other* “seed” of the woman, which might possibly be a reference to Christians. But as for the rest

of chapter twelve, don't even bother because it has nothing to do with you! It's all about *National* Israel. It's all about what will happen to the Restored Jewish Nation over there in the Middle East, during the last 3½ years of this age. And of course, this view is the Dispensational view that is propagated by all the leading Evangelical ministers of today, like Charles Ryrie and John MacArthur. The explanatory notes in the Study Bibles of Dr. Ryrie and Dr. MacArthur present the same kind of Dispensational/Pre-tribulation view of the woman and the manchild:

"She [the woman] **represents Israel**, who gave Christ to the world, and who will be persecuted severely during the tribulation...The **last** three and one half years of the tribulation period will see intense persecution **of Israel**. Details are given in vv. 13-17. No mention is made of the many hundreds of years **between** the ascension (v. 5) and the future tribulation (v. 6)."

Ryrie Study Bible
Pg. 1909

"She [the woman] is not an actual woman, but a symbolic representation of Israel...[The male child] is Jesus Christ in his incarnation...her Child was caught up to God [represents] Christ's ascension...God will protect Israel from Satan by hideing her in the wilderness, perhaps in the region of Moab, Ammon, and Edom, east of Palestine.[for] three and one half years; the second half of the tribulation."

MacArthur Study Bible
Pgs. 2006-2007

Another commentator, named Tony Garland, says the same thing as Ryrie and MacArthur; but he adds more theological terms in his explanation (for those of you who like to use your brains).

The connective, "Then," indicates **a sequence between the catching up of the child and the fleeing of the woman**. But are these two events necessarily **closely correlated in time**? **How soon must the flight be to the catching up of the child**? Some interpreters relate this flight to that of the Jews from Jerusalem in the destruction by Rome in 70 A.D. Yet even that flight was approximately four decades after the ascension of Christ. Nor was there any indication of supernatural assistance as this passage describes. Certainly nothing like the Exodus occurred in relation to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. which would allow for the use of similar phraseology involving "wings of a great eagle."

Here we are faced with **one of the characteristics of prophetic passages**: events which appear side-by-side in the text **can often be separated by long ages**. This occurs because the prophetic vision has two characteristics which we need to be aware of. First, the prophets were only shown important highlights of the final development. Second, the **full range of history was often collapsed in their view**, much as when looking through a telescope. "Somewhat as a picture lacks the dimension of depth, the prophecy often lacks the dimension of time: **events appear together on the screen of prophecy which in their fulfillment may be widely separated in time**."

At least these died-in-the-wool, Evangelical and Dispensational ministers are *consistent* in their interpretation of Revelation chapter twelve. They don't try to change the identity of the woman in the middle of the chapter. In their eyes, she is National Israel the whole way through.

But in order for this to be true, you MUST insert a 2000 year gap between verse five (when the child ascends to heaven) and verse six (when the woman flees to the wilderness), or else the whole view collapses. Now, let's get back to what I said about certain events in Revelation overlapping back into previous chapters, or in some cases, back into previous verses. As we just saw, those who view the woman as National Israel are forced say there is a 2000 year gap between verse five and six of chapter twelve. For those of you who download the notes, I have written out the whole chapter and inserted a line between verse five and verse six, which represents this supposed 2000 year gap.

Rev. 12:1-5 -- And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

----- 2000 YEAR GAP -----

Rev. 12:6-17 -- **And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days (the last 3½ years of this age).** And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not: neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. **And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent (the last 3½ years of this age).** And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

When you look at it this way, it immediately becomes clear that if this view is true, the woman will flee into the wilderness TWICE in last 3½ years of this age—once *before* the Dragon is cast out of heaven; and then again, *after* the Dragon is cast out of heaven.

I'm sorry guys: but no matter how you look at it, the idea that the woman is Israel and the manchild is Jesus just doesn't work. No matter how hard you try, you'll never make that view fit the whole chapter.

Now, if what I have just presented to you is the truth, then chapter twelve of Revelation presents us with a picture of *at least two* different groups of genuine believers. It also shows very clearly that *the destinies* of these two different groups of believers, during the last 3½ years of this age, are very different. You can argue over exactly what those different destinies are; you can argue over what being caught up into heaven *means* and what fleeing into the wilderness *means*; but those who say there is *no difference* between these two groups, or between their destinies during the last 3½ years of this age, are simply engaging in willful ignorance. They refuse to acknowledge the obvious truth this chapter reveals.

Once we accept the truth regarding the identity of the woman and the manchild in Revelation chapter twelve, then we need to consider carefully what is *actually stated* about these two groups of believers. The destiny of one group—the manchild—is to rule and reign over the nations with Jesus in the next age, with a rod of iron (*Rev. 12:5*).

This is *not* the case with the woman. All it says of her is that she will flee into the wilderness and be protected by God there during the last days. It says this woman must be “fed” by someone else. She must be taken care of by someone else. She is not in the heavenly realm; she is in the wilderness, and she had to be protected and fed.

Next, we see *the result* of the manchild being caught up to God—“...*there was war in heaven*”. Michael and his angels fight against the Dragon and his angels, and the Dragon loses. He is cast out of heaven. I think it's pretty clear that the ascension of the manchild is *the occasion* for the final dethroning of Satan. They themselves don't dethrone him, but their being caught up to the heavenly realm brings about the war that dislodges him once and for all from heaven.

This is *the reason* there has been such hostility and resentment against the true interpretation of this vision. The Dragon hates this truth more than anything else because he knows what it means. He knows that the birth of this manchild signals the end of his time in heaven. He knows that the birth of this manchild means he only has 3½ more years to deceive the nations. Therefore, he is obsessed with devouring the manchild before it has a chance to come forth. He's obsessed with devouring any TRUTH that will cause those who are currently part of the woman, to come forth in that manchild company. He's obsessed with devouring anything that will bring people forth in manchild life and manchild authority, and he is constantly using Christian preachers and Bible teachers to *discredit* anything that causes people to understand that the manchild in Revelation 12 represents a corporate group of believers in the last days.

I'm not going to present my own view of exactly what the manchild will do during the tribulation, or what I think being caught up into the heavens means, tonight because these details are not the issue. The issue tonight is whether or not viewing the woman as the church and the manchild as a group of end time believers is Scripturally sound—and my position is that it is *much more sound* than viewing the woman as Israel and the manchild as Jesus.

In closing, let me say that those who have allowed the Spirit to show them the truth that's contained in this vision of the woman and the manchild do not necessarily agree on all the details surrounding the overall

picture. As a matter of fact, there are some who have added many strange and unscriptural ideas to the basic truth of that vision. That is certainly a shame because it gives all of us a bad name—and that is precisely what Satan wants. However, just because there are those who have adopted wrong ideas or teachings about the manchild, that does not mean we should reject the basic truths in that chapter. If we do, that's being very childish and immature.

Many Pentecostals have put a black mark on the whole idea of “speaking in tongues” because of some of the things they teach in that regard. Much spiritual *damage* has been done in the body of Christ by zealous, but ignorant, people who claim that those who don't speak in tongues can't possibly have the Baptism of the Holy Spirit; or that those who don't speak in tongues aren't even saved! Should we reject the whole idea of speaking in tongues, just because of the ignorance, the error, and the arrogance of certain people who have *perverted* that Biblical truth?

Listen, right now I have a little group of people out here who are really against me. For a couple of months now, one of them has been telling anyone who will listen that I am nothing but a self-righteous, judgmental, know-it-all, who is obsessed with proving I am always right—and people are listening to her. This woman got bent out of shape when I said the “death to self” message is not a silver-bullet-cure-all, and that anyone who teaches it is, is moving in deception. She instantly became my bitter enemy because she believes death to self *is* a cure-all.

I certainly believe in the death to self message—I've been trying to walk in that message my whole Christian life. Moreover, I teach about the necessity of death to self all through my writings. But this woman's *view* of death to self is skewed and unbalanced. In addition, she is using this unbalanced view to deceive God's people. But just because she has an unbalanced view of death to self, and just because she is using that unbalanced view to deceive others, that doesn't mean I should *over-react* and reject the truth of death to self! Just because she is propagating a *perverted view* of God's truth and is very much against me, that doesn't mean I should reject the truth she has perverted! Reacting that way would be childish and, quite frankly, pretty stupid.

Likewise, just because there are people out here who are propagating a *perverted view* of the manchild message, that doesn't mean we should reject *the truth* they have perverted! To do so is immature. Don't judge *God's truth* by the reactions and over-reactions of men. Judge it by the Spirit. Get alone with God and ask Him to show you what the woman and the manchild of Revelation 12 represents.

Amen!

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