

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

An Ancient Conflict

Revelation 12:1-6

1. _____
The woman here is representative of the nation of Israel. God had promised that a seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent which deceived Eve (Gen 3:15), and He later said that this savior would come through the line of Abraham (Gen. 22:18; cf. Gal 3:8, 16). The anticipation of the savior is clear in the Old Testament (Micah 5:2-3; Matt 2:6). The specific symbolic description of Israel here is connected with Joseph's dream where his entire family would bow down to him (Gen. 37:9-10).
2. _____
The dragon is explicitly identified as the devil who is the same as the ancient serpent (Rev. 12:9; 20:2). Some of the imagery of the activities of the devil extend far back to his original fall from glory (Rev. 12:4; cf. Dan 8:10). He is the adversary and accuser of believers (Rev. 12:10; cf. Job 1:9-12; 2:4-6) and he was the chief antagonist of the Lord Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry (Luke 4:1ff; John 13:27). He connected to, and the power behind, the wicked world system and its ruler during Daniel's 70th week (Dan 9:27). One of his primary intentions throughout the history of the world has been to destroy the woman so that she could not give birth to the child.
3. _____
It is very plain and obvious that the child in view here is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ (cf. Rev. 2:27; Ps. 2:7-9). He is the long expected one (Luke 2:25ff; Gal. 3:16). He is the one who will fulfill God's promises of ruling and reigning (Isa. 9:6-7). It is noteworthy that the primary aspect of the earthly ministry of Jesus which is highlighted is His ascension to heaven (Acts 1:9-11) where He is no longer able to be assaulted by the devil.