

Handout 1: Revelation Lesson 15

Yahweh to the serpent in Eden: *“I shall put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; she-he-it (indefinite pronoun) will crush (or bruise) your head, and you will strike her-his-its (indefinite pronoun) heel.”*

Genesis 3:15

The three disasters/woes coming with the blowing of the fifth, sixth, and seven trumpets:

1. Satan and his demons coming from the Abyss (Rev 9:1-12)
2. The release of the demon-driven army and the death of the two witnesses (Rev 9:13-11:14)
3. Announcing the end of the Sinai Covenant as heavenly voices proclaimed the beginning of *the Kingdom of our Lord and his Christ* (His Anointed), who *will reign forever and ever* (Rev 11:15-18)

In the second half of the Book of Revelation, John will use the word **sign** seven times in Chapters 12-19 (Greek text*), revealing three signs in Heaven (12:1, 3; 15:1), and four on earth (13:13, 14; 16:14; 19:20):

1. a woman in Heaven (Rev 12:1).
2. a red dragon in Heaven (Rev 12:3)
3. the second Beast on earth (13:13)
4. the first Beast on earth (13:14)
5. the seven angels in Heaven bring seven plagues (Rev 15:1)
6. demon spirits on earth (16:14)
7. the false prophet on earth (19:20)

The covenant treaty format reflects the purpose of the book, which is to nullify the Old Covenant with the establishment of the New Covenant in Christ. But it is also possible to divide the book into two major sections:

1. The Bridegroom: Chapters 1-11 with the victory of Christ over His enemies, culminating in the blowing of the Seventh Trumpet and the establishment of the New Covenant Church as His holy Temple, and the second major division
2. The Bride: Chapters 12-22, dealing with the victory of the Universal (Catholic) New Covenant Church over her enemies, which ends with the glorious establishment of the “Bride” as God’s Holy Temple.

This second half of John’s revelations is the “Apocalypse,” as the word was used in the first century, in the unveiling of the Bride by the Bridegroom. In this second half of John’s visions, what will be unveiled and revealed to John will cover much of the same revelation as the first part of the book but from a different perspective:

- ◆ The great red dragon of Rev 12:3 is not different from the Satan/angel of the Abyss in 9:11.
- ◆ The 144,000 on Mount Zion in Rev 14:1 are the same as the “sealed” Israelites of Revelation 7:4-8
- ◆ The last seven plagues of Chapters 15-16 correspond to the seven trumpets of Rev Chapters 8-11.
- ◆ The city identified as “Babylon the Great” in 14:8 and 18:2 is the same as *the great city where the Lord was crucified* in 11:8.

- ◆ The New Jerusalem filled with the glory of God and the Lamb in Rev 21:2 and 10 is the Sanctuary of God in Heaven in 3:12 and 11:19, as reflected in its earthly counterpart in the heavenly liturgy of the Eucharist as the New Covenant Universal (Catholic) Church is drawn up to heavenly worship of the Lamb!

In Revelation 12:1, John announces a GREAT sign—a Woman! The word appears 17 times in the Book of Revelation (2:20; 12:1, 4, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17; 9:8; 14:4; 17:3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 18, making it almost as important a symbol as that of the “Lamb,” (*arnion*), used 29 times (Rev 5:6, 8, 12, 13; 6:1, 16; 7:9, 10, 14, 17; 12:11; 13:8, 11; 14:1, 4 twice, 10; 15:3; 17:14 twice; 19:7, 9; 21:9, 14, 27; 22:22; 21:23; 22:1; 23:3).

Catholic Church affirms Mary’s role as the daughter of Zion (Old Covenant Church), who became the Ark of the New Covenant.: “Mary, in whom the Lord himself has just made his dwelling, is the daughter of Zion in person, the Ark of the Covenant, the place where the glory of the Lord dwells. She is the dwelling of God ...with men (CCC 2676; also see CCC 410-411). The constellation Virgo is wreathed in twelve stars. The only time the constellation Virgo is “clothed” with the sun and has the moon “under her feet” is in the month that is the sign of Virgo that corresponds with the Feast of Trumpets in September (late August-mid Sept)!

To help with the symbolism and imagery in this chapter, keep in mind the major players:

The Sign	Identity of the Sign	Identifying Verse
The Woman	Mary (Spouse of the Holy Spirit) and the Church	verse 5
The Dragon	Satan	verse 9
The Son	Jesus the Messiah	verse 5
The Angel	Michael	verse 7

Scripture names the angel Michael five times: in the Book of Daniel 10:13, 21 and 12:1, in Jude 1:9 and Rev 12:7.

The result of Michael’s victory over Satan in verses 7-12 is fourfold:

1. Satan is no longer the prince of the world.
2. His dominion over the earth has ended.
3. He has not been able to prevent God’s divine plan for humanity’s salvation.
4. However, his influence and the power to do damage remains.

In verses 15-16, water is a familiar Biblical image for both death and life. It was the means of both death and salvation in the Flood narrative, renewed life in St. John the Baptist’s immersion of repentance, and Jesus’ spiritual baptism of new life. In this case, it is an image of peril as a deadly river of Satan’s wrath threatening to overwhelm God’s people, but the “land” *came to her rescue* because it *opened its mouth and swallowed the river* of destruction that came from Satan. “The land” symbolically represents Israel in Scripture. The wrath of Satan turned on Israel (Judea). The New Covenant Church escaped Satan’s power while his instruments, the Romans and their allies, spent their violence on Judea. After Satan’s defeat in his plan to destroy both the Mother and her Seed, he turned in rage against the **rest of her seed**, the firstborn children and their siblings in future generations (verse 17).

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THE VIRGIN MARY AS THE ARK OF THE NEW COVENANT

“Mary, in whom the Lord himself has just made his dwelling, is the daughter of Zion in person, the Ark of the Covenant, the place where the glory of God dwells. She is ‘the dwelling of God [...] with men.’” CCC#2676

God the Holy Spirit overshadowed and then indwelled the Ark. The Ark became the dwelling place of the presence of God. Exodus 40:34-35	God the Holy Spirit overshadowed and then indwelled Mary. At that time, Mary’s womb became the dwelling place of the presence of God. Luke 1:35
The Ark contained the 10 Commandments [the words of God in stone], a pot of manna, and Aaron’s rod that came back to life. Deuteronomy 10:3-5; Hebrews 9:4	The womb of the Virgin contained Jesus: the living Word of God enfleshed, the living bread from heaven, “the Branch” (Messianic title) who would die but come back to life. Luke 1:35
The Ark traveled to the hill country of Judah to rest in the house of Obed-edom. 2 Samuel 6:1-11	Mary traveled to the hill country of Judah (Judea) to the home of Elizabeth. Luke 1:39
Dressed in a priestly ephod, King David approached the Ark and danced and leaped for joy. 2 Samuel 6:14	John the Baptist, son of a priest who would himself become a priest, leaped for joy in Elizabeth’s womb at the approach of Mary. Luke 1:43
David shouted for joy in the presence of God and the holy Ark. 2 Samuel 6:15	Elizabeth exclaimed with a cry of joy in the presence of God within Mary. Luke 1:42
David asked, “How is it that the Ark of the Lord comes to me?” 2 Samuel 6:9	Elizabeth asks, “Why is this granted unto me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” Luke 1:43
The Ark remained in the house of Obed-edom for three months. 2 Samuel 6:11	Mary remained in the house of her cousin Elizabeth for three months. Luke 1:56
God blessed the house of Obed-edom by the presence of the Ark. 2 Samuel 6:11	The word “blessed” appears three times in Luke 1:39-45 concerning Mary at Elizabeth’s house.
The Ark returned to the Sanctuary and eventually came to the newly built Jerusalem Temple. 2 Samuel 6:12; 1 Kings 8:9-11	Mary returned home after visiting Elizabeth and eventually came to Jerusalem, where she presented God the Son at the Temple. Luke 1:56; 2:21-22
God made Aaron’s rod return to life and bud to prove he was the legitimate High Priest. Later it was kept in the Holy of Holies and then in the Ark. Numbers 17:8	God would resurrect His Son, who had become enfleshed in Mary’s womb and born to bring salvation to all humankind, to prove He is the eternal High Priest. Hebrews 4:14
The Ark was covered with a blue veil when it was outside the Holy of Holies. Numbers 4:4-6	In Mary’s appearances outside of Heaven, visionaries testify that she wears a blue veil.
In Revelation 11:19, John saw the Ark of the Covenant in Heaven in the last verse of Chapter 11.	In Revelation 12:1, John saw Mary in Heaven. It is the same vision Juan Diego saw of Mary in 1531: a Woman clothed with the sun and standing on the moon.