

'Least and Greatest' – an idiom for social inclusivity in heaven (Acts 8.10; 26.22)

19 – akin to the Seventh plague of Exodus 9.22-26

## **12: The Woman, the Dragon, the Child, and the Angel**

The Heavenly Battle: Isaiah 14.12-15; Ezekiel 28.11-19

### **12.1-2: Sign 1 - The Woman**

Genesis 3.15-16; In OT, the ideal Zion is described as the mother of God's people – Isa. 54.1-3; 66.7-9; and the Church - Galatians 4.26-27; Ephes.5.31-32

A radiant woman reflecting the sun, moon, and stars (1.16, 20) (Joseph's dream in Genesis 37.9); also *Song of Solomon* 6.4-10 and Isaiah 60.19-20; the medieval church connected this woman to the Virgin Mary.

12 stars – like 12 tribes, 12 apostles (Rev. 21.12-14); crowns (2.10; 3.11; 4.4, 10; 14.14)

Israel as Pregnant woman – Isaiah 26.17-18; 51.2; 66.7-9; Jeremiah 4.31; birth pangs represent the pain of the Church before the return of Christ;

### **12.3-6: Sign 2 - The *Megas* Dragon**

Looks similar to Tiamat, a Babylonian god-like mythological monster

Used of Pharaoh/Egypt (Ps. 74.13-14; Ezek. 29.3; 32.2-3; also Job 26.12-13; 41.1-34)

The Devil – 12.9; 20.2 – the ultimate force opposed to goodness and God; seven heads represent complete and comprehensive evil

4 stars hurled from the sky – Daniel 8.10; mass carnage wreaked by the devil, perhaps looking back at the ruin of Israel and Judah and the 1C persecution of the Church

**5-6 The Child is Born** – Song of Simeon (Luke 2.34-35; Psalm 2.9)

Snatched/caught up into heaven – the Ascension of Christ (Acts 1.2-22);

Foreshadows the victory of God and the defeat of the Dragon/Devil

1260 days, 11.2-3; 13.5 – established as a period of tribulation (Daniel 7, 9, 12)

### **12.7-9: Sign 3 - War in Heaven**

Describes the defeat of the devil and his angels by Michael and the angels of God

Daniel 7.21; 10.13-21; 12.1f; *1 Enoch*, *4 Ezra*, *2 Baruch*; In *Assumption of Moses* 10, Michael defeats Satan at the end time.

Can read this as both a supernatural battle and a battle between the wicked and the saints of God on earth.

### **12.10-12: A Song of Praise from the Saints**