

The Day of Great Power

The Lord has been granting me revelation into the events of Revelation 12, and the identity of the 'woman' giving birth, her 'child,' and the events of the chapter as a whole as they relate to events at the end of the age. I believe that this 'woman' is the true spiritual church, the bride of Christ. She reflects a spiritual reality on earth that few have the eyes to see--and even those few still perceive her dimly. Nonetheless, we can see that she is a single entity, though represented on earth by many thousands of genuine, blood bought Christian souls **all over the earth**. Actually there are two such spiritual entities depicted in the Book of Revelation. The woman of Rev. 12, whom we are here considering, is the counterpart to 'Mystery Babylon' of Rev. 17. This latter is a single spiritual entity that is represented on earth, **all over the earth**, by many thousands of deceived and deceiving persons operating out of the spirit of antichrist. Like the Spirit of Christ, she is to be found neither 'here nor there,' but is, rather, represented in every place on earth. The woman of Revelation 17, 'Mystery Babylon,' is the embodiment of the church of antichrist-- trying to masquerade as the real 'body,' but actually persecuting the church.

Rev. 17:1-6: 1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. {harlots: or, fornications} 6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

--while the woman of Rev. 12 is the spiritual representation of the true church of Christ, her 'seed' being sought after by the same beast that we see described as the mode of transportation, or empowerment, for the antichrist system.

Rev. 12:1-4: 1 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: 2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

3 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. 4 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.

This 'sign in heaven,' the pregnant woman, represents the church. She is 'clothed with the sun,' i.e.: covered by the glory/protection of God the Father, with the 'moon under her feet' representing the foundation of Jesus Christ upon which the church stands, and the 'twelve stars' in her crown representing her status--a queen of spiritual Israel destined to bring forth the world's future King.

Genesis 1:14a: And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs. . . (The sun is a symbol (sign) of God the Father:

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Psalms 84:11a For the LORD God is a sun and shield:

The moon is a symbol (sign) of Jesus Christ, who reflects the glory of His Heavenly Father, as a witness to that great light:

Psalms 89:37 It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.

Revelation 1:5a And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness. . .

Stars represent the governing or ruling 'sons' of God:

Psalms 136:9a The moon and stars to rule by night:

Daniel 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

It's no secret that the church, from its inception, has had hidden within her the 'mystery' of Christ: this mystery is the manifest spiritual entity of Jesus Christ that she (the church) is gestating within her body. Her union with Christ has produced an offspring (again, one representing many) that will, when manifest in the earth, be the very likeness of Him. What the Lord has given me to understand is that these 'sons of Zion' will be both spiritually **and** physically related to Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

Ephesians 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Just as Satan, that old serpent (dragon/beast) tried to kill Jesus Christ at His birth 2,000 years ago, so will he attempt to murder the spiritual child brought forth by the church at the end of the age, the 'seed of the woman.'

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel

Rev. 12:4-6: 4b and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. 5 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. 6 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.

This 'child' will be brought forth as a result of great tribulation that comes upon the church ('woman'):

Rev. 12:2 2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

Out of this great tribulation (travail) will come the birth of something entirely new. This shouldn't surprise us. It is always through great trials and sufferings that we press into the Lord Jesus Christ. As we do so, His character is formed within us. As the church as a whole goes through the greatest persecution of all history, there are those formed within her who will press into the Lord so diligently that they will actually become *one with Him*, sharing His very nature, power and righteousness. It is *this perfect reflection of Christ* that will be 'born' into the world out of the midst of the 'woman' (church).

This resemblance to our Lord will not only be because of their spiritual heritage. They will be naturally able to be so perfectly grafted into Him because they will also share His *physical heritage*, being the natural sons of Israel. It is my understanding that this 'Christ child' will be the manifest representation of Jesus Christ upon the earth, exhibited among 144,000 believers (see below) who are both 'called' and 'chosen.' What this means is that the 144,000 in question are both born-again believers in Jesus Christ—and also of the natural seed of Israel. They will most likely be unaware of this relationship in the natural, since the tribes of Israel have been dispersed and 'lost' since the Assyrian/Babylonian captivities. Today a few from the tribes of Judas and Benjamin—and some Levites—are known as "Jews," living in Israel. These are *not*, however, *all the people of Israel*. Only God knows the whereabouts of all those who still carry the pure, untainted blood of His covenant people. . .this for the purpose of keeping them 'hidden' within the Christian church until their 'sealing,' or perfection. Of course the blood of the covenant people has been much dispersed among all the races of the world. . .but I believe that at the time being referred to there are those (perhaps exactly 144,000) whose blood is still PURELY that of the lineage of Israel.

Psalms 83:3 They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones.

Isaiah 49:2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

Romans 8:19 19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

To reiterate: when the woman brings forth her child, he/they will be the physical manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the earth, being both born-again, Holy Spirit filled believers, and of the natural blood of Israel. By reason of the purity of their Abrahamic blood—and their divine enablement to keep themselves 'unspotted' from the harlotries of the world—these 'hidden ones' will, in effect, be 'untainted,' or virginal—as are the 144,000 described in Revelation 7.

Revelation 7 holds the key to this understanding. Note below that the 144,000 are first 'sealed,' or given a visible sign of their special relationship with God. Immediately after this there is great celebration in heaven (also see Rev. 12: 10-11, a parallel to this event). John is then informed that those who are standing before the throne are believers who have come through 'great tribulation.' This is the tribulation of the church OUT OF WHICH the 144,000 were born.

Rev. 7:4-14 4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. 5 Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. 6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. 7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. 8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. 13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Note now the similarities between the events of Rev. 7:10-12, above, and Rev. 12:10-12a:

10 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. 11 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. 12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them.

When we take all these things together, it appears that as the saints on earth are martyred and their blood shed for the cause of Christ, the strength of God Almighty is more and more imparted both in the heavenlies, where there is a war going on, and

into his 'chosen and elect' offspring on earth, culminating in the birth of a special group or body of believers who are the very likeness of Jesus Christ, both spiritually and in their natural inheritance. The child is born **out of** or **through** great tribulation/travail. Is this not in fact a parallel to the death of Jesus Christ, and the overcoming victory we have through His shed blood?

Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

Has Jesus not promised His disciples that we would 'drink this cup'—ie: His cup of martyrdom—ourselves? At the same time He tells us that it is not necessarily those who are martyred who will be granted the right to rule in His Kingdom.

Matthew 20:23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but [it shall be given to them] for whom it is prepared of my Father.

There is yet another Scriptural foreshadowing of these last-days events in the Old Testament, where God came to fill the permanent temple that had been build by Solomon. This account is given in II Chronicles 5:1-7:5. Now as the temporary tabernacle instituted by the Lord when His people were in the desert represented His 'temporary' first covenant with Israel, this second temple, built by Solomon after they had entered and possessed the land promised to them, foreshadows the 'better covenant' made with God's people through the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ.

While the ark of God's covenant was within both tabernacles, the only thing within the ark itself when it is placed within Solomon's temple are the tablets of stone containing God's laws. Previous to this the ark had also contained a golden pot of manna and Aaron's rod that budded (Heb. 9:4). Now, however, these items which were to be a REMINDER of God's continual provision were no longer necessary, for the Lord Himself would be continually present within this 'better' covenant, His laws permanently inscribed within the 'heart' of this better tabernacle—a type of His law being inscribed within the heart of blood-bought Christians. Hallelujah, what a covenant!

The account of the dedication of this temple is filled with important symbology, but there is one particular aspect that is particularly germane to this study—that is the aspect of God's glory coming to fill His house, or temple—not once, but TWICE! First God's glory comes after all the preparations have been made, the sacrifices given, the articles of the temple set in place, and the priests and Levites (all sanctified) have come out of the temple. But note (at the end of the following passage) that it isn't until all the people are praising Him WITH ONE ACCORD that His glory comes to fill the temple:

II Chronicles 5:1-14 1 Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the LORD was finished: and Solomon brought in all the things that David his father had dedicated; and the silver, and the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of the house of God. 2 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. 3 Wherefore all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto the king in the feast which was in the seventh month. 4 And all the elders of Israel came; and the Levites took up the ark. 5 And they brought up the ark, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle, these did the priests and the Levites bring up. 6 Also king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel that were assembled unto him before the ark, sacrificed sheep and oxen, which could not be told nor numbered for multitude. 7 And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims: 8 For the cherubims spread forth their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above. 9 And they drew out the staves of the ark, that the ends of the staves were seen from the ark before the oracle; but they were not seen without. And there it is unto this day. {there...: or, they are there} 10 There was nothing in the ark save the two tables which Moses put therein at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of Egypt. 11 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place: (for all the priests that were present were sanctified, and did not then wait by course: 12 Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:) 13 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; 14 So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God. (emphasis author's)

This glory came at 'the fullness of time,' when all things were prepared and ready for the new habitation of God; after the sacrifices had been made, (foreshadowing the sacrifice of Jesus Christ), and when everyone called to this new ministry came before the Lord in one accord. This, then, is a foreshadowing of the events of Pentecost in Acts 2, when the Lord's glorious Holy Spirit came to 'fill the temple,' or indwell His believing people, at the institution or dedication of the New Covenant.

Acts 2:1-4 1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

So now, by right of the New Covenant, the glory of God has come to fill His true temple. Note in verse 3 that the 'cloven tongues like as of fire' did not ENTER INTO the believers at this time. Rather, it 'sat upon' each of them. They were not 'baptised' or permeated into the fire, as had been foretold by John the Baptist:

Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Luke 3:16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

Now to get back to the lesson in II Chronicles, which will help explain all of this more clearly. As we've seen, the glory of the Lord comes to fill the temple (II Chr. 5:13-14). Chapter 6 gives the account of Solomon's dedication prayer and supplication for God's people. After Solomon is through praying, a rather strange event takes place:

II Chronicles 6:1 Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

This is the foreshadowing of yet another event during the time of the New Covenant—the 'baptism by fire' foretold by John the Baptist, and again foreshadowed by the cloven tongues of fire that rested upon the disciples at Pentecost. This baptism will come upon the church as a great testing and purifying, a time of great tribulation such as the church has never before experienced. This, I believe, is the 'great travail' of the woman of Revelation 12—the travail that results in the birth (or open manifestation upon the earth) of those hidden ones within her who will be the perfected (as through fire) representation of the Spirit of God upon the earth.

Let's take a look at another description of these people:

Rev. 14:1-5 1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: 3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. 4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. 5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

They alone stand with Jesus on Mount Zion, with the name (or seal) of His Father (note that it doesn't say their Father, who is Christ) on their foreheads. They are undefiled virgins who have not partaken of the spiritual idolatry of the Babylonian religious system in any way, but have known God in pureness of heart and conscience. These, then, are the firstfruits of God upon the earth, the first full manifestation of all that was sown to be a perfect representation of their Father, Jesus Christ our Lord, husband of His church, Father of her Child.

Now back to our study of the rest of the events of Revelation 12, following the birth, or manifestation, of these 144,000 out of the persecuted church:

Rev. 12:5 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.

Of course this 'man child' is the 144,000. . .who are immediately 'caught up to God, and to His throne,' as in Revelation 14:3 & 5. This 'catching up,' however, is not a literal physical event, but rather a spiritual one. Spiritually these are to stand directly in the presence of God, to receive special revelation of Him, and be wholly devoted to Him. I believe that, physically, these people will still be with their 'mother,' the church. This is the reason why she is now granted a special place of protection from the beast. . .

Rev. 12:6 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.

Now that the child has been manifest on earth, and been given a place of refuge with His mother, the battle of the ages is taking place in heaven:

Rev. 12:7-11 7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 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. 11 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.

Wow! Just as the 'sons of God' come on the scene on earth—AND IN HEAVEN BEFORE THE THRONE—Satan and his angels are cast out of heaven to earth. Verse 11 again gives us to understand that part of this spiritual victory is won thanks to the perseverance of the saints who are martyred for their Christian testimony. Our blood is never shed in vain!

Will this be a time of great conflict on earth, or what? But listen. . .now we're about to see the beginning of a new era for God's people. . .a time of great salvation, strength and power—when the Kingdom of God will be manifest upon the earth as never before! A TIME FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF ALL THE CHRIST SAID HIS CHURCH WOULD BE! Hallelujah!

Rev. 12:10 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.

I believe that this time is foretold by Isaiah in the Old Testament:

Isaiah 60:1-2 1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. {shine...: or, be enlightened; for thy light cometh} 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

For as long as Satan stands before the throne, accusing the brethren, there is an effective hindrance to the manifestation of the full power of salvation through them. The book of Job gives us an eye opening insight into the way this works. (You may read Job 1:6-12 if you have questions regarding this.) At last, during these last final years of history there's no place for Satan in heaven (his place being no doubt usurped by the 144,000 standing before the throne), and he is cast to earth.

Rev. 12:12-14 12 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. 13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. 14 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 woman (church) is still physically upon the earth at the time that Satan is cast down—and so, naturally enough, he begins to persecute her. But here comes another mystery. . . God has prepared a place of refuge for her during this time, so that she will be kept safe from the threat of the serpent (Satan). The time of her persecution is finished, and God will hide her in the shadow of His wings, until the fulfillment of all things be past. As an aside—if this 'woman' is indeed the mother of those manifest sons of God on earth, who spiritually stand perfectly before the very throne of God. . . would not her sons be interceding for her safety and protection during this time?

Rev. 12:15-17 15 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. 16 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. 17 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.

I believe that the 'remnant of her seed' is not only those who are the 'perfect man' upon earth, but ALL of the perfected saints of the church, bought by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Here is the time of fulfillment for many of those things prophesied by Isaiah:

Is. 59:19 19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

Is. 60:1-2 1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

At the time when the world is the darkest, the Lord will manifest Himself on earth through the 'child' of the 'woman,' His firstfruits of the New Covenant with man. These will be a source of light such as the world has never seen, and will walk in the full manifest wisdom, power, and glory of their true father, Jesus Christ. Their mother, the church, will be given a place of refuge during these darkest of days, kept safe in the tabernacle of God most high. We cannot know who these 'chosen ones' of God may be—but we may be quite certain that they are either already born on the earth, or they are about to be born. Is it any wonder that Satan has been working overtime in abortion clinics of the earth, trying to kill the 'seed of the woman' before their time? He knows our deliverer is about to be fully manifest in His sons! Does this not reflect the same type of methods he used when he inspired Herod to murder all the infants in Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth? He also tried to thwart God's purposes by murdering all the male children of Israel at the time when Moses was to be delivered into the world. Now, however, he knows that these 'deliverers' will be born all over the world, in various circumstances and into different families. He has no way to know where one might crop up! Frantic, he has been widening the scope of his baby-killing machinations. He will also try to kill the child's mother, the church, bringing unprecedented trials and persecution upon the saints. But the shedding of all this innocent blood will translate into an unexpected (to Satan) result—a more powerful victory for us in the heavenly realm!

Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

In light of all these things, I would encourage my brethren THIS DAY to strengthen themselves in the Lord! Be ready to face these times with faith, and with great courage in the Lord. Lean all of your understanding upon Him, trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for wisdom, strength and provision. If we will patiently endure, constantly looking to the author of our faith, then whether we live, or whether we die, our lives will not have passed in vain!

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

I Cor. 15:54-55, 58 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

I Pet. 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Additional Notes on this study:

Many who read this study do not understand how I can claim that the 'child' born of the church/woman could actually be of the literal seed of Israel. Though the initial understanding of this came by revelation as I read the Scriptures in Revelation, the Lord has granted me additional Scriptural authority regarding this. His promises to natural **and** spiritual Israel will be (and are being) *all fulfilled*.

Romans 11:23-29: 23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.

Note: the verse above **does specify** the need for faith; ie: those who are of the natural descent of Israel must **also come to Christ by faith** before they will be grafted in. There is no way to enter into the Kingdom of God, except through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Amen?

24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? 25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. 26 And so ***all Israel shall be saved***: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: (*emphasis author's*) 27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. 28 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. 29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Verse 25 mentions the 'mystery' of this particular counsel, which is probably why there has been so much misunderstanding among those who claim that the promises of God to Israel are to NATURAL and those who perceive them as being to SPIRITUAL. . .note verse 26--and so ALL Israel (natural and spiritual) shall be saved. I think a major error that so-called 'Messianic Jews' make is that they forget that the Jews are only a small part of the true 'seed of Abraham.' Most of Israel was scattered and 'lost' in the world, and so the salvation spoken of will likely not be in accord with their natural understanding of Israel (always referred to as 'the Jews') as it exists in the world today. It is especially noteworthy that Paul distinguishes here in v. 28 between those called by the gospel of Jesus Christ, and those who are beloved for the sake of their 'election.' Though I understand that NONE will be saved unless they come to true faith in Christ, I simply believe that those who are both called and chosen will be natural (lost) Israelites drawn by God unto Jesus, and from among whom will come forth those who will form His perfect government; ie: the manchild.

Another prophecy recorded in Micah also reflects these events of Rev. 12:

Micah 5 2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. 3 Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel. 4 And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth

We know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but there is a symbolic meaning to the name 'Bethlehem Ephratah.' Bethlehem translates to 'house of bread,' and Ephratah to 'place of fruitfulness.' In other words, the one that is to be ruler in (note: not *of*, but *in*) Israel will come forth from the 'house of bread's' 'place of fruitfulness.' Jesus referred to His body as. . .bread. We (the church) are His body, his temple or 'house.' Therefore WE ARE the 'house of bread' with a 'place of fruitfulness' out of which this ruler will 'come forth.'

Romans 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

1 Peter 1-5 1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ***ready to be revealed in the last time***. (*emphasis author's*)

Rev. 12:10 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.