

# THE DRAGON & THE WOMAN

## Revelation 12

The 12th chapter opens with two signs, and these signs work together to tell a single story concerning mid-Tribulation. The red dragon is symbolic of Satan's heightened activity on Earth at this point, and the woman with child represents Israel, from whom the Messiah came from.

The midpoint of Tribulation is the appointed time where God casts Satan out of Heaven, forever denying him access to God's throne room. Being expelled to the Earth, Satan knows his remaining time is short and immediately begins a vicious assault on Israel and other believers. However, God has a special place prepared for the believing Jews, protecting them from Satan's onslaught for the remainder of the Tribulation.



### 10 HORNS

From Daniel 7 we know that the 10 horns represent 10 kings that will rule the world at the start of Tribulation.

### 7 HEADS

Daniel 7 also tells us that by mid-Tribulation, only 7 of these rulers will remain as the Antichrist causes 3 kings to fall.

### THE CHILD

In verse 5, we're told that the child is a son who will rule all the nations with a rod of iron, which is a reference to the Messiah as described in Psalm 2:9

### THE WOMAN

The woman, with the sun, moon and 12 stars is a reference to Joseph's dream in Gen 37, where these celestial bodies represent the tribes or people of Israel. Scripture also depicts the nation of Israel as a woman.

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And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.

Rev 12:13-16

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Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak... For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

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### WHERE WILL THEY GO?

Micah 2:12 gives us the name of this place:

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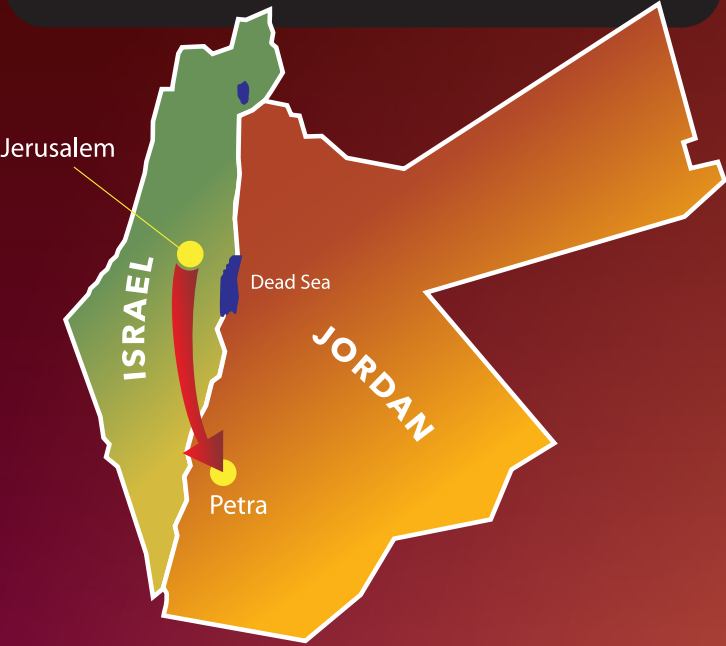
I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel. I will put them together like **sheep in the fold**.

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The Hebrew word for “sheep in the fold” is **Bozrah** (or Botzrah), the name of a place in the wilderness near Jerusalem. It's modern name is **Petra**. It is here that the believing Jews wait out the remainder of Tribulation in safety.

But not all Jews are in Petra, and when Satan realises he can't touch the remnant, his anger is directed at the unbelieving Jews and all believing Gentiles.

For correct interpretation, it's important to realise that symbology is used extensively in Rev 12. The devil isn't literally a red dragon, and the woman doesn't depict Mary with baby Jesus. When the woman flies into the wilderness aided by the great eagle, the same metaphor was used when God delivered Israel from the Egyptians and bore them on eagles' wings - Ex 19:4.



### PETRA

Petra is approximately 100 miles (162km) south of Jerusalem and is a rocky place with high cliffs and a maze of narrow canyons and wadis. If fleeing on foot from Jerusalem, it would require God's supernatural providence to protect the remnant, in a similar way to the exodus from Egypt.