***Revelation***

**Ch. 12** ----begins with “a great wonder in heaven”.

“Wonder” in Greek means “a sign, mark, token … an unusual occurrence, transcending the common course of nature”

 In order to understand this chapter, we need to understand the symbolism.

**I. The Woman**

 A. Her Identity

 1. Because John plainly said this is a sign, we don't expect this woman to appear literally on the earth.

 2. Women often represent religious systems in Revelation.

 a) Jezebel is associated with false teaching ---**Revelation 2:20**

 b) The Great Harlot is associated with false religion---**Revelation 17:2**

 c) The Bride is associated with the Church---**Revelation 19:7-8**

 3. Theories:

 1. Mary---Catholics actually contradict their own doctrine to say it is her!

 2. Mary Baker Eddy claimed she was the woman and the child was her movement, Christian Science

 3. The Church

 4. Israel

 a) A woman clothed with the sun would be identified with Israel, according to Joseph's dream (**Gen. 37:9-11**)

 b) Israel is often represented as a woman (**Isa. 54:1-6, Jer. 3:20, Eze. 16:8-14,** and **Hosea 2:19-20**)

 B. Her Delivery Vs**.** 2; 5

 1. It is clear that this child is Jesus (a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron---**Rev.19:15**

 2. At the end of His ministry, Jesus was caught up to God and His throne.

 a. By stating the starting and ending points of Jesus' earthly work, John alluded to all that stood in between.

 b. This cannot be the Church because Jesus "gives birth" to the church, not the other way around!

 C. Her Danger Vs. 2-3

 1. Persecuted by the dragon, the woman is protected by God in a prepared place for 1260 days

 a. Again, this never happened to Mary

 b. **Rev. 12:5** describes the ascension, and **Rev. 12:6** describes events in the 70th week of Daniel

 c. Between these two verses lie hundreds of years (our current period).

 d. Daniel's seventy week prophecy has such a gap (**Daniel 9:24-27**)

 2. The Dragon is revealed to us in **Rev. 12:9**

 a. He is given at least five titles and subtitles in Rev. 12 alone---**12:3; 12:9** (4X)

 b. His tail drags stars ---apparently a reference to the number of angels--- **Job 38:7**

 a. Plots to kill the child---Satan has been doing this since the beginning

 b. Persecutes the Jews--- **Vs. 15** depicts the attacks of Satan being like a great flood of water.

 1. He will pull out all the stops and try everything at his disposal to destroy Israel.

 2. **V. 16**--- may mean that some friendly nations will reach out and give to their need

 D. Her Deliverance---Possibly to Petra

 1. On Eagles wings----possibly some kind of airlift

 2. **Zech. 13:9**---Suggests at least 1/3 remnant of Israel escapes to a hiding place for the duration of the tribulation

**II. The War**  Vs. 7-8

 A. Possibly yet future---**Daniel 12:1**

 1. Satan’s access to heaven cancelled

 2. Comes to earth knowing his time is short---**Vs. 12**