

Journey to Christmas

How *Heaven* Saw Christmas!
Revelation 12

It's hard to see it amidst all the festivities of the season, and it's certainly not real popular to point it out, but the Christmas story really makes no sense apart from the cross. In the past few years, we have looked at the Christmas event through the eyes of contemporary movies & from the perspective of the participants- Mary, Joseph, Anna, Simeon, the shepherds, even the devastated parents of Bethlehem's slain babies. Today we'll consider a passage of scripture that I've never heard preached at Christmas (or any other time of year, actually!) We'll go "behind the scenes" & look at how *Heaven* saw the events of that silent night, so long ago!

The Book of Revelation provides an **INTERPRETATION** of Christmas.

A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. (Revelation 12:1-5)

Who is . . .

- the woman? **EVE. ISRAEL. FAITHFUL BELIEVERS. MARY. ALL OF THEM?**
- the child? **JESUS**
- the seven-headed dragon? **THE DEVIL**



Song of Praise (Revelation 12:10-12) reflects back on what Jesus **ACCOMPLISHED (BIRTH, DEATH, RESURRECTION, ASCENSION)**

Some insights:

1. The birth of Jesus was a **DECLARATION OF WAR.**

Eugene Peterson

"This is not the nativity story we grew up with . . .
Jesus' birth excites more than wonder, it excites evil."

2. The birth of Jesus brought the world's rightful **RULER** to Earth.
3. The birth of Jesus signaled an **INVITATION** to the human race.
4. Jesus Christ has already overcome the **POWER OF SIN.**

Larry King, when asked what he would ask Jesus: "I'd like to ask him if he was really born of a virgin, because how he answered that question would define history for me."