

CREATION AND THE WOMAN IN TRAVAIL

1. CREATION IS IN TRAVAIL, waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body”; Romans 8:19-22-23
2. Jesus said “A WOMAN WHEN SHE IS IN TRAVAIL HATH SORROW, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world; John 16:21
 - a. The Woman in travail is a picture of Christ being formed in the saints. Jesus Christ has been conceived in us and now is increasing in us; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 4:13
 - b. This Woman is clothed with the “sun” (the Lord Jesus Christ). God reveals Himself to the world through her; Rev. 12:1-2. She includes all the saints from the ages of the law and the patriarchs into the present Age of Grace.
3. The “Woman” (pointing to both Israel and the Church) in scripture is significant:
 - a. Eve was the “Woman”, the one to whom the promise was given; Genesis 3:14-15
 - b. The “Woman” in the Age of Grace is the Body of Christ; Galatians 4:30-31
 - c. The “Woman” at the end of the Age is described in Revelation 12.
 - d. The “Woman” in eternity future is the New Jerusalem; Revelation 21:9-10
4. Contractions and dilations are stages of travail, the labor pain of childbirth; Rev. 12:1-29
 - a. Maternal contractions ease up and stop; there are interim periods of rest and respite, but they return with greater intensity. Every crisis and calamity can be a vehicle to help refine the Church.
5. The “beginning of sorrows” progresses to “great tribulation”; Rev. 6:1-14 (seals 1-6):
 - a. These sorrows include deception, wars and rumors of war, famines, pestilence, earthquakes, betrayal and persecution; (compare with Ezekiel 14:13-23); 1 Thessalonians 5:3
6. The Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24) and the apocalyptic breaking of the seals are related:
 - a. The 4 horsemen of Rev. 6:1-14 mark the beginning of birth pangs, the first 4 seals.
 - b. The breaking of the 5th seal marks a shift from the mere beginning of birth pangs to strong labor contractions; it reveals a plea by the martyrs for divine retribution in Rev. 6:10
 - c. The breaking of the 6th seal introduces a cosmic phenomenon and a great earthquake; Rev. 6:12-14, perhaps a side effect of the Rapture which is preceded by the dead in Christ rising first; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:51-52 (some will fall to the earth; some will rise to the heavens!)
 - d. Tremors, shaking and earthquakes (seismological events) are also the biblical language of travail, being associated with Resurrection and Rescue; Matt. 27:51-54; 28:2; Acts 16:26
 - e. The breaking of the 7th seal is not “tribulational”; it unleashes the wrath of God, and it brings silence in heaven ½ hour; Rev. 8:1-5. God’s saints are rescued prior to this; see Job 5:19
7. The dragon stands before the “Woman”, waiting to devour her “child” as soon as she delivers; Rev. 12:4; see also Exodus 1:16-17 and Matthew 2:16
 - a. The “dragon” points to satan, the persecutor; Rev. 12: 4, 9
 - b. The “serpent” points to satan, the seducer; Gen. 3:1, 13
8. The O.T. woman Rachel, is a prophetic picture of the Church at the end of the age. She was in “hard labor” to bring forth the brother of Joseph (a type of Jesus), named “Benjamin” (son of the right hand); Gen. 35:16-19; 45:22. The birth of this “son” will cause a TRAVAIL in all creation.
 - a. As the birth approaches, there will be a cry of pain and anguish, of great tribulation upon Earth, and the Manchild shall be born; Rev. 12:5.

b. The Manchild is IN the Woman, even as the “overcomer” is IN the church; Revelation, chapters 2 and 3. He who overcomes shall inherit all things; Rev. 21:7

c. The Manchild is “caught up” to the throne. This “corporate son”, consists of a governmental people who having overcome, will (with Jesus Christ) rule the nations with a “rod of iron”; Revelation 2:26-27; 12:5; 19:15; 20:6.

9. There will be a manifestation of God’s sons (Head and Body); this is what all of creation is waiting for; Romans 8:18-19

10. JESUS DECLARES THE END FROM THE BEGINNING; Isaiah 46:10. The symmetry of scripture is seen in the books of Genesis and Revelation; the end must match the beginning. Patterns illustrating the Rapture are taken directly from Genesis:

a. As it was in the days of Noah; Matt. 24:37-44. Noah (like Enoch) walked with God; Gen. 5:22, 24; 6:9. Noah was obedient, in fellowship with the Lord, while the wickedness of man was great in the Earth. He was a preacher of righteousness, 2 Pet. 2:5, who found a way out through an “open door”, seven days prior to the Flood; Gen. 6:5; 7:1-16; Rev. 3:10

b. As it was in the days of Lot; Luke 17:26-30. Lot, an official in the city of wickedness, was out of communion with God; he was a lukewarm believer, attached to “Egypt” in his heart. Lot was “snatched” as a brand from the burning, when the angels carried him to safety, just prior to the fire falling on Sodom; Gen. 13:5-13; 19:15-26; Matt. 24:31; Rev. 14:14-16

11. Even as the Magi (the wise ones) saw the sign in the sky related to Jesus’ birth in His first coming, Matt. 2:1-2, so will there be those who are wise, Matt. 25:4, who recognize the “sign” of the coming of the Son of Man; Dan. 12:3, 10. COSMIC SIGNS are observed; Joel 2:30-31

12. The wise discern a series of events which preceded previous “rescues”; these are described in scripture. EARTHLY SIGNS are observed:

a. God’s people enter into tribulation, but are rescued out of it; they are “surrounded” with no way out except by God’s intervention; Exod. 12:3-42; Josh. 6:17-25; Psalm 83; Acts 12:7-11

b. Increasing persecution of God’s people by political authorities, apostate religious institutions and betrayal by family members; 1 Sam. 19:1-2; 2 Sam. 15:1-12; 1 Kings 19:1-2; Matt. 10:36

c. Moral debauchery; that which is perverse or “strange”: strange “seed”; Gen. 6:4: strange gods; Jer. 2:28, strange fire; Num. 3:4, strange flesh; Jude 7, strange doctrine, Heb. 13:9

d. Violence, murder, devaluation of human life; Gen. 6:4-13; Ex. 1:22; Matt. 2:12-18

e. False doctrine, a spirit of error, heresy, counterfeit and occultic practices: in the O.T. Jannes and Jambres; Ex. 7:11-22; the witch of Endor; 1 Sam. 28:1-10. In the N.T. Simon Magnus and the false movements of Theudas and Judas of Galilee; Acts 5:36-37; 8:2-13.

f. There is a “famine” in the land of the true Word of the Lord, but there is also the eating of “unleavened bread” in preparation for departure; Gen. 19:3; Exod. 12:8; Amos 8:11; Acts 27:33

g. God’s people warn the others; they preach a need for repentance and preparing for coming destruction, while they are mocked by the wicked; Gen. 19:14; 2 Pet. 3:3-4

h. Use of the metaphor of “night” or “darkness” as a description of the spiritual climate prior to the “rescue”, and when Jesus appears; Matt. 25:6; 1 Thess. 5:2; Rev. 3:3

i. The “voyage” is difficult and dangerous with increasing storms; a tempest of opposition (of natural and spiritual forces) is described in the rescue of Paul and his colleagues; Acts 27-28

j. The 2 sources of “apocalyptic judgment” (from above and beneath), both the action of God and the activity of satan; Gen. 7:11; 19:24, Revelation, chapters 6-20

k. An instruction is given to flee to the “mountain” (the resting place of Noah’s Ark), as in the Olivet Discourse; Luke 21:21; Lot was told to escape to the mountain; Gen. 8:1-16; 19:17

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