**A Woman, A Dragon, and A Male Child, are Metaphors**

In [Revelation 12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12&t=NKJV), three main metaphors are used — one to describe “Israel” (*a woman*), one to describe “Satan” (*a dragon*), and one to describe “the 144,000” (*a male child*, that the woman brings forth near the middle of the Tribulation). All three metaphors are identified in the chapter, and the manner in which the male child is identified not only connects this metaphor with the 144,000 but it also provides the connection that the 144,000 have with the two witnesses in the previous chapter, in [Revelation 11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11&t=NKJV).

(*The male child*, in commentaries and other studies on the book of Revelation, is usually identified as “Christ.” But this identification is not possible. Note that Israel brings forth the male child in [Revelation 12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12&t=NKJV) after all seven heads of the beast in [Revelation 13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+13&t=NKJV) have been crowned, *with diadems*, which cannot occur until near the middle of the Tribulation [[Revelation 12:3-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.3-5&t=NKJV)]; Israel brings forth the male child shortly after Satan and his angels have been cast out of the heavens onto the earth, which, contextually, will occur near the middle of the Tribulation [[Revelation 12:4-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.4-5&t=NKJV)]; and Israel brings forth the male child shortly before Antichrist breaks his covenant with the nation and the Jewish people flee for their lives [[Revelation 12:5-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.5-6&t=NKJV), [13ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.13ff&t=NKJV)].)

The identities of all three metaphors in [Revelation 12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12&t=NKJV) are easily seen. *The woman* can be identified with “Israel” several ways. One way would be through statements made about her fleeing into the wilderness ([Revelation 12:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.6&t=NKJV), [14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.14&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Matthew 24:16ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24.16ff&t=NKJV)). And *the dragon* is specifically stated to be “Satan” ([Revelation 12:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.9&t=NKJV)).

(Note that Satan and the kingdom of Antichrist are spoken of in an inseparable manner in this chapter, [[Revelation 12:3-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.3-4&t=NKJV)], which is easy to understand from that which is revealed about Satan and Antichrist in the next chapter. After Antichrist comes into the power that he sought by riding out on a white horse in [Revelation 6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+6&t=NKJV), Satan gives to this man “his power, his throne [giving him regal power over the earth], and great authority” [[Revelation 13:2b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+13.2b&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Luke 4:5-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+4.5-6&t=NKJV)].)