

The Woman That Brought Forth The Man Child

"We believe in the historical, literal interpretation of scripture!"

You'll find this declaration made in articles of faith amongst some Baptists.

Does this method of interpretation give a right understanding of scripture?

Let us listen to what the scripture says, shall we?

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

John 6:63

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things..."

1 Corinthians 2:14-15

"I have many things to say unto you, but you cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth..."

John 16:12-13

"But the anointing which you have received of him abideth in you, and you need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, ye shall abide in him."

1 John 2:27

"But...Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them Love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Romans 8:1

"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

Romans 8:5-6

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

2 Corinthians 4:18

"(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)"

2 Corinthians 5:7

So in conclusion, I think it has been clearly demonstrated from scripture that a correct understanding of scripture is a spiritual rather than a physical or natural understanding of it.

Now that we have established such, let us move on to the text in question, shall we?

"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: and she travailing with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered...And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God and to his throne."

Revelation 12:1-2 and 5

The general consensus amongst theologians and the church, seems to be, that the woman that brought forth the man child is Israel according to the flesh, that is, national Israel. The purpose of this writing, is to biblically, and therefore, accurately identify the woman that brought forth the man child.

My objective is to demonstrate from scripture that the woman that brought forth the man child is indeed the church, the bride of Christ, the heavenly Jerusalem.

We must first deal with the false argument that will no doubt be hurled at this teaching. It will be said that the woman that brought forth the man child cannot be the church, for the church was not yet in existence when Christ was born.

To show the fallacy of this argument, I will ask a question: When did the church begin? They will usually give one of three answers.

1. The church began when Christ called his twelve disciples.
2. The church began when Christ purchased the church with his blood.
3. The church began when the Holy Spirit was given on the day of pentecost.

These all are answers worth consideration if the question posed had been:

When did the New Testament church begin?

I would submit to you that the church has, since the garden of Eden, been in existence. Let's consider some biblical evidence.

"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

Ephesians 3:21

I would ask: How could there be glory unto him in the church throughout all ages if the church has not existed throughout all ages?

Paul is writing here to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus.

“And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican.”

Matthew 18:17

The above verse is taken from our Lord’s teaching on church discipline. Our Lord spake as though the church was in existence at the time of the teaching, which was no doubt before his death, burial, and resurrection.

“This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us.”

Acts 7:38

This verse, when read in context (Acts 7:30-39), teaches that Moses was part of the church in the wilderness and the Lord was there.

“And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant...but Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.”

Hebrews 3:5-6

“My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.”

Numbers 12:7

We learn here when we compare Hebrews 3:5-6 to Numbers 12:7, that the church in the wilderness is the same house of the living God that we as New Testament saints are a part of. Consider the following verse:

“...that thou mayest know how thou oughtest behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of truth.”

1 Timothy 3:15

This was written by the apostle Paul to Timothy, the pastor of a New Testament church.

I believe we have clearly demonstrated, from multiple biblical witnesses, that the church of God has existed throughout all ages. But if some doubt still exists, let’s consider another verse, shall we?

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Matthew 18:20

This verse is found in the same passage and context of the verse we’ve looked at earlier: Matthew 18:17; where our Lord, giving the protocol for church discipline, says: “...tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church...”

Considering the context of Matthew 18:20: Does our Lord not, in this verse, give the criterion for a local church? I am open to challenges on this, but I think it would be difficult,

if not impossible, to demonstrate from scripture, that two or three believers gathered together in the name of our Lord, does not constitute church, that is a local body or assembly of believers.

This list of verses is in no wise an exhaustive list on the subject, for the whole of scripture teaches that the congregation and or assembly of the saints has existed since there has been saints of God.

Now that we have demonstrated that the church was in existence before the first appearing of the Messiah, let us return our attention to the woman that brought forth the man child. It is written of her:

“...a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head, a crown of twelve stars”.

Revelation 12:1

I think it would do a great injustice to the passage to skip over the first descriptor mentioned.

“a great wonder in heaven”

The woman in our discussion is in heaven.

This alone poses great difficulty to the dispensational teaching that the woman is national Israel. They teach that national Israel is God’s earthly people and the church, as they define it, is God’s heavenly people, and yet, the woman is seen “in heaven”. At this point I would like to turn our attention to another passage in Revelation.

“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

Revelation 21:2

The point here is simple: for the new Jerusalem as a bride adorned for her husband to come down from God out of heaven, she must first be with God in heaven. I see a direct correlation between this woman and the woman of our discussion. Seems they are two representations or depictions of the same woman! Both visions are of the church, the bride of Christ, the heavenly Jerusalem.

In the description: “clothed with the sun...”, the sun is no doubt a reference to our Lord, “...the Sun of righteousness...”

Malachi 4:2.

There is a multitude of other scriptures that would affirm and confirm this. Lets look at a few, shall we?

“...In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.”

Psalm 19:4a-6

When this passage is compared to Hebrews 12:1-2 and Malachi 4:1-2, it becomes evident that this sun of Psalm 19 is a reference to our Lord. In Psalm 19, the sun is likened to a strong man that runs a race.

In Hebrews 12:1-2 the saint of God is admonished to run with patience the race that is set before him, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

Our Lord, authored the race. He began it and finished it. The finish line for our Lord was the cross of Calvary. Our Lord served His Father, bearing witness unto the truth right up to his dying breath. That was the race set before Him, and He finished it!

“The LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory...”

Psalm 84:11

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.”

Isaiah 60:1

“...whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness.”

Luke 1:78b-79a

KJV translators footnote here says “dayspring” could have been rendered “sunrising” and given the context of the verse, one would be hard pressed to demonstrate from scripture, that this verse is referring to someone other than our Lord!

“In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

John 1:4

“That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”

John 1:9

“Then spake Jesus unto them saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

John 8:12

“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light...but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ...”

Romans 13:12-14a

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Galatians 3:27

I think we have demonstrated from scripture that the “sun” is symbolic of Christ and “Sun”, in Malachi 4:2, is a proper name or title of honour for our Lord.

So we understand now, that “a woman clothed in the sun” is a spiritual statement declaring that the woman was, in fact, clothed in Christ. She had in obedience put on the armour of light, that is, she had by faith put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

At this point, I think it would be enlightening to back up to the beginning of the book. Jesus says at the end of the book:

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last...I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.”
Revelation 22:13 and 22:16b

So then if our Lord is the beginning, let us turn our attention there and see if He is there.

“And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night...”
Genesis 1:16

“And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night...”
Genesis 1:5

In this passage we find that the sun is to rule the day, that is the light, and the moon is to rule the night, that is the darkness.

The words “rule” and “rulers” show up in scripture as a reference to bishops and or pastors.

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief, for that is unprofitable for you.”

Hebrews 13:17

“For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him to death. And they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain.”

Acts 13:27-28

To this agrees Peter:

“...his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; and killed the prince of life...and now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.”

Acts 3:13b-15a & 17

“Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”

John 12:42-43

So we see then that “them that have the rule” and “rulers” are both in reference to the religious rulers and leaders, hence; pastors and teachers. In light of this we are exhorted and admonished:

“Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. And that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness...but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ...”

Romans 13:10-13a and 14a

“But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.”

Ephesians 5:13-13

“But of the times and seasons, brethren,...yourselves know perfectly...ye, brethren, are not in darkness...ye are all children of the light, and children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunk in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2a and 4-8

So now that we have begun to understand the symbolism of and the illustrations used, by the words, light, darkness, day, night, rule , and rulers: we can begin to understand the spiritual meaning of the symbolic language used in text we are studying, that being Revelation 12 and the woman that brought forth the man child. It is also also helpful in understanding the warfare we are engaged in:

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

Ephesians 6:12

So our warfare is against the rulers of the darkness of this world. That would be those of the lesser light that rules the night. We are not of the darkness of this world, but rather, we are children of the day and of the light.

Our Lord said:

“...where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!”

Matthew 6:21-23

So we see then, that there is a light that is darkness, and not only darkness, but great darkness. It is a great darkness because it comes as a light, but in reality, it is the false light or lesser light that rules the night.

In the text we are studying, the woman is not only clothed with the sun, but the moon is under her feet. The symbolism here is quite clear: the moon is under her feet signifying she has gotten victory over the rulers of the darkness of this world. She has not fallen away. She has not succumbed to the false teachers and their doctrine.

She has not left her first love, the Word of God, for the strange woman that through good words and fair speeches, deceives the simple.

She, the woman that brought forth the man child, has received the light of the world, Jesus, the word made flesh, the way, the truth, and the life.

To validate our understanding of

“...under her feet...”

Revelation 12:1,

I would turn to another New Testament passage:

“And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.”

Romans 16:20

And let's look at an Old Testament passage,

shall we?

“And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.”

Malachi 4:3

So we understand that the symbolism of “the moon under her feet” depicts her victory over the rulers of the darkness of this world. She has gotten victory over the teachings of the false church.

This brings us to the next symbol: “...and upon her head, a crown of twelve stars:”

See, they say, no doubt the woman is national Israel because the twelve stars represent the twelve tribes of Israel.

I would not be foolish enough to argue here, that the twelve stars do not represent the twelve tribes of Israel. I agree that they do. But what of the crown?

Let us first discuss the twelve stars.

The apostle Paul would ask:

“What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?”

His answer is :

“Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.”

Romans 3:1 and 2

Paul would also declare:

“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;”
Ephesians 2:19-20

Now we know:

“For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
1 Corinthians 3:11

So we see then, that the foundation is not the apostles and prophets but is of the apostles and prophets . They laid the foundation. The foundation is Jesus Christ and they laid it, by laying down in writing, the testimony of Jesus Christ and the oracles of God. The scriptures came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Our Lord said:

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: they are they which testify of me.”
John 5:39

“Then said he unto them, O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? and beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”

Luke 24:25-27

So it is clearly demonstrated from scripture that the foundation is Jesus Christ and that foundation is laid by apostles and prophets as they brought us the oracles of God. All the prophets and apostles were Israelites according to the flesh, save maybe one apostle and one prophet, but that is a study for another day.

Not only were the apostles and prophets Israelites according to the flesh, but they were Holy men of God. They were regenerate men filled with the Holy Ghost.

To this agrees Peter:

“Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.”

1 Peter 1:10-11

So then, the apostles and prophets were not only Israelites according to the flesh, but they were of the Israel of God.

“Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart”
Psalm 73:1

“...For they are not all Israel which are of Israel...That is, they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God.”

Romans 9:6a and 8a

“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”

Romans 2:28-29

So the woman that brought forth the man child had upon her head a crown of twelve stars and those twelve stars are representative of the twelve tribes of the Israel of God, unto whom were committed the oracles of God. Christ, the Word of God, came not only through a physical lineage, but through a spiritual lineage as well.

The patriarchs were men of faith. As did Abraham, they believed God, and it was counted unto them for righteousness.

We as believers are grafted in among them, while the unbelieving Jews, the natural branches, were broken off in unbelief.

So the woman that brought forth the man child is we who are clothed in Christ, that is we who have put on the armour of light. We have gotten victory over the false doctrines and teachings of the false teachers, the rulers of the darkness of this world; by taking heed to the word of God.

As the apostle Paul gives a defense against those Jews who accused him, he said:

“But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:”

Acts 24:14

But what of the crown in which the twelve stars are? A crown symbolizes royalty.

We, as believers, are the Sons of God.

We are children of the King. We are therefore, royalty.

To this agrees the apostle John:

“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But to as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God, even to them which believe on his name.”

John 1:10-12

So we see then, that those who receive him, even those who believe on his name, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God. If our Lord is King of kings and Lord of lords, and we are his children, then are we not, in deed, royalty? The definition of royalty is: “a member of a royal family”.

Paul wrote:

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."
Galatians 3:26

Paul also wrote:

"...I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,"
Ephesians 3:14-15

Peter wrote:

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people..."
1 Peter 2:9

Again we read what John wrote:

"...Jesus Christ who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

Revelation 1:5-6

So we see clearly from scripture who are royalty. I will give more scripture showing who it is that receives a crown, but before doing so I would return our attention back to John 1:11. We must take the time to observe a most important truth found in this passage.

"He came unto his own and his own received him not."

It would be an exercise in futility for one to argue that "his own" in this passage is not a reference to the Jewish people, that is national Israel or Israel according to the flesh. I believe we can agree on this most critical point in this discussion, that national Israel "received him not" and therefore they have not been given "the power to become the sons of God".

Therefore they are not royalty and have not been crowned as such. If this is true, and according to scripture it is, then who is crowned royalty? Let us turn our attention to the scriptures, shall we?

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible."

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself in the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man strive for masteries, yet he is not crowned, except he strive lawfully. The husbandman that laboureth must first be partaker of the fruits. Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding."
2 Timothy 2:3-7

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”
2Timothy 4:7-8

“Blessed is the man that endures temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”
James 1:12

“The elders which are among you I exhort,...And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”
1 Peter 5:1a and 4

Our Lord dictating to John in Revelation 2:10 says:

“Fear none of those things which thou shall suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

So we see clearly from scripture who are the children of God and therefore royalty and therefore crowned.

“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”
Matthew 25:34

The apostle of God writing to New Testament Jewish believers wrote:

“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. See that ye refuse him not that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:”
Hebrews 12:22-25

So we see then, that all true believers, old and new testament saints alike, are one in Christ Jesus and we are the heavenly Jerusalem.

“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all, and in you all.”
Ephesians 4:4-6

Just as there is one Father of all, there is one mother of us all.

"But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."
Galatians 4:26

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."
Revelation 21:2

The heavenly Jerusalem is the mother of us all, including Jesus Christ. The heavenly Jerusalem is the church of the firstborn, and Jesus is the firstborn among many brethren.

"For whom he did foreknow, he did also predestinate to be conformed to the image if his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."
Romans 8:29

We, the saints of God, the brethren, the church of the firstborn, the heavenly Jerusalem, the mother of us all, are the woman that brought forth the man child.
We are clothed in the sun, that is:

"...and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:"
Philippians 3:9

We have the moon under our feet, that is; we have gotten victory over the sweet waters and pleasant bread of the strange woman.

See Proverbs 9:17 in context concerning the sweet water and pleasant bread of the strange woman. Read also Proverbs, chapters 5 and 7.

We are crowned having submitted ourselves to the teachings of God rather than those of the harlot church

Yea, let God be true and every man a liar!

And if some still be not convinced, we ought turn our attention to our Lord Jesus Christ.

"But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? and he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Matthew 12:48-50

Concerning the will of the Father which is in heaven:

"While he yet spake, behold a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."
Matthew 17:5

“And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.”

Luke 18:21

I pray this has been helpful in your pursuit of truth.

May we continue in the word,

Shane Shaddix,

January 3rd, 2023