

General Church Education



Woman Clothed with the Sun

Revelation 12

Lesson 36

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN

REVELATION 12:1-16

The Book of Revelation has many visions full of wonder and dramatic action representing the spiritual events surrounding the second coming of the Lord. Children often appreciate the epic sense of conflict and bold imagery. The vision of the Woman Clothed with the Sun portrays the New Church, both in heaven and on earth. This prophecy shows the hatred that hell has for true faith in the Lord when expressed as useful service to the neighbor.

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- The Woman Clothed with the Sun and her Child are ferociously attacked by the dragon. This is a picture of the absolute hatred that evil has for all that is innocent and good. It is important to learn that evil, left unchecked, will eventually destroy goodness and innocence with our children and with us.
- The story of Michael defeating the dragon is a compelling picture of the power angels have to overcome the frightening threat of evil. We can use this story to help our children learn that angels are always on guard lest devils harm our spirits. An active awareness of this truth can help children remember to ask the Lord for protection during times of inner turmoil.

FROM THE WRITINGS

A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, means the Lord's New Church in the heavens, which is the New Heaven, and the Lord's New Church about to be upon earth, which is the New Jerusalem. The reason why she was "clothed with the sun," is because the church is in love to the Lord, for it acknowledges Him and does His commandments, and this is to love Him. The sun means love. *Apocalypse Revealed* 533

Angels that are mentioned in the Word as Michael and Raphael, refer to their ways of giving help and their functions. So here Michael means defending of that part of doctrine from the Word which teaches that the Human of the Lord is Divine, and also that man must live a life of love to the Lord and of charity towards the neighbor in order that he may receive salvation from the Lord. That part of the angelic function is therefore meant which fights against those who separate the Divine from the Human of the Lord, and who separate faith from the life of love and of charity; in fact those who show forth charity with the lips but not with the life. *Apocalypse Explained* 735

This New Church is the crown of all the churches which have up to now existed upon earth, because it will worship one visible God, in Whom is the invisible God, as the soul is in the body. *True Christian Religion* 787

WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN

IMPORTANT IDEAS

The Lord fights for us against evil with His army of angels.
Evil hates good and attacks it, but when we cooperate with the Lord,
goodness will always win and we will defeat evil.

John saw another vision in heaven while he was on the Island of Patmos. The Woman in this vision has a shining beauty. She pictures the beginning of the New Christian Church. As we read, listen to the detailed description of the Woman and about the fearful beast that wanted to harm her and her unborn Baby. Read Revelation 12:1-4.

What clues in the story tell you that the dragon was very strong? (*He had seven heads; he was fiery red; he used his tail to throw a third of the stars of heaven down to earth.*)

Do you think the Woman was able to defend herself and her Baby from the dragon? Was she strong enough to fight him by herself? Read Revelation 12:5.

The Woman would not have been able to fight against the dragon by herself, but the Lord was ready to help. He sent His guardian angels to protect the



Woman and her precious Baby. Can you picture the Baby being taken to heaven to be protected near the throne of God? He was very safe, indeed! The dragon was not allowed to hurt the

Baby or the Woman. Let us hear how the Lord saved the Woman. Read Revelation 12:6.

What a beautiful picture of the Lord, our Heavenly Father, providing a safe place for the Woman and giving her everything she needed to be cared for. Do you know who came to fight against the dragon? Could the dragon win this battle? Listen to find out if you are right. Read Revelation 12:7-12.

The dragon and all those fighting with him were cast down! Michael and his army of angels won the battle! There was great rejoicing in heaven because of this victory. Read Revelation 12:13-16.

The dragon in this story is called "the Devil and Satan." Devils want everyone to be selfish and follow them rather than obey the Lord and help the neighbor. They hate the beautiful things that the Lord teaches and they hate all goodness. This horrible "serpent" hated the Woman because she pictures the New Church. She was both beautiful and good. The Lord showed loving mercy as He protected and cared for the Woman clothed with the Sun and her Baby. This vision is a promise that He will protect His New Church from evil attacks.



This is a story of the Lord's great power and His tender love as He saved the Woman and her Baby from the beast. If we are afraid or feel threatened by evil, we can find comfort from the Lord. When we cooperate with Him, He makes certain that good will win every battle.

DISCUSSION

- Do you remember who cast the dragon out of heaven? (*Michael and his army of angels.*)
- "Now salvation, and strength and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come" (Revelation 12:10). It was Michael and his angels who won the battle over the dragon. Why then were the heavens giving praise to God for this heroic act? (*The angels know all of their power is given to them by the Lord. That is how the Lord lets angels help Him.*)
- Do you think that the Lord sends angels to fight battles against evil spirits for each of us here on earth? (*Yes. When we ask Him, the Lord always sends help to us. When we feel tempted to do something we know is against His commandments, we can ask Him for help. Our parents also can be a wonderful help.*)
- Do you think the dragon and the Woman could have learned to live together peacefully as friends? (*No. The devils in hell never get over the desire to hurt people on earth and in the spiritual world.*) That is why, when we ask for help, the Lord never leaves us to the mercy of evil spirits.
- This lesson is the last one in this series. We have learned many wonderful things about the way the Lord loves us. We know that He created us and cares for us as our Heavenly Father. He provides everything that we need in order to be able to choose to live a good life so that He can make us happy forever in heaven.
- This would be a good time to look back at the pictures in our Jacob's Ladder Lesson book. You might want to choose two or three favorite pictures. They may remind you of special things you learned about the Lord from the Word. Can you tell why you especially like the pictures that you chose?



WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN | Activities

Recitation

- Learn the recitation.

You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and are
created.

Revelation 4:11

When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.



Songs

- Behold, the Great Red Dragon!
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-behold-the-great-red-dragon/>
- The Lord God Jesus Christ Doth Reign!
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-the-lord-god-jesus-christ-doth-reign/>

Video

- The Woman Clothed with the Sun
Watch at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-woman-clothed-with-the-sun/>

Projects

- The Woman Clothed with the Sun Project
- Picture to color

The Woman Clothed with the Sun Project

This project helps children remember the vision of the woman clothed with the sun, an important symbol for the New Church.

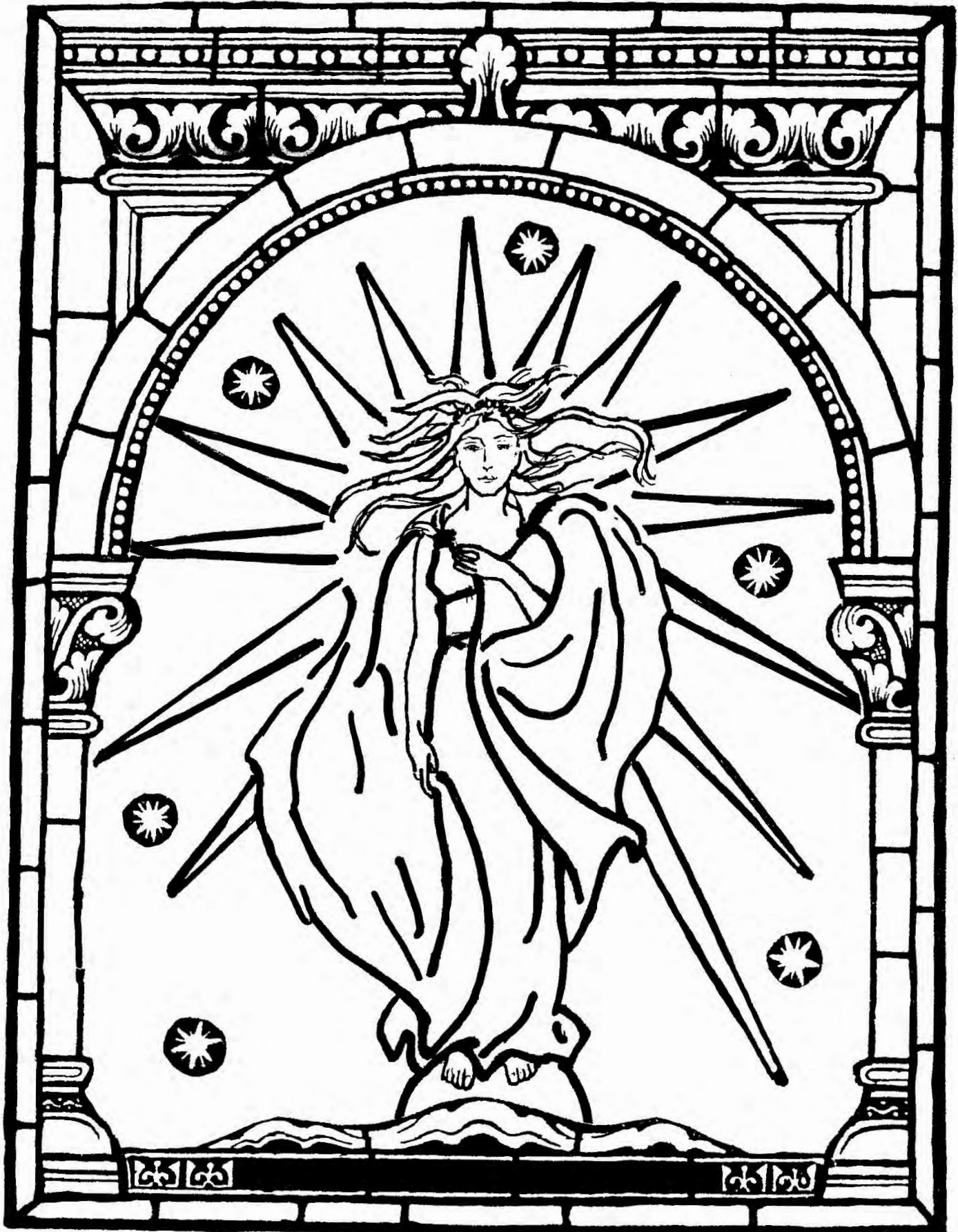
Supplies needed

- picture of the Woman Clothed with the Sun printed on white paper
- crayons or oil pastels
- cooking oil
- paper towels

Directions

1. Carefully color the picture of the Woman Clothed with the Sun using crayons or oil pastels. The heavy black lines are there to suggest the dark leading of a stained glass window that you might see in a church.
2. Turn the picture over. Brush the back of the picture with a paper towel soaked in cooking oil. This will make the picture translucent.
3. Display the "stained glass" picture in a window where light will illuminate it.





Lessons 35, 36

