

The Woman Clothed with the Sun and Her Baby



Read Revelation 12:1-5

Have you ever seen a newborn baby? If you have, you know how tiny and weak newborn babies are. When they first come into the world they are helpless. They cannot take care of themselves. Someone older and wiser must watch over them and feed them. For if a baby is not fed and kept warm, he will die.

Angels also take care of tiny babies. They protect them from wicked spirits. For evil spirits do not like babies. Babies are sweet and innocent. Evil spirits hate all heavenly things and want to harm them. That is why the Lord and the angels help all mothers and fathers to take care of their babies.

This is a story about a baby born a long time ago. The mother of this baby was very beautiful. Her dress shone like the sun; in her hair she wore a crown of twelve stars. And the moon was under her feet. Just by looking at her, you could see that she was a wonderful mother.

Near this beautiful woman was a terrible dragon. He was fierce and red, and as ugly as the woman was beautiful. He had seven heads, with a crown on each one. From his heads came ten ugly horns. Just by looking at him you could tell he was from hell and did not love children.

Do you know what this dragon wished to do? He wanted to eat the child of the beautiful woman. But the Lord knew what was in the dragon's mind, and, before he could even touch the baby, the Lord took the baby up into heaven. Then, of course, the dragon could not touch the baby or harm him in any way, for everyone in heaven is safe from hell.

Do you know why the Lord put this story in the Word? The reason is that the New Church is like a tiny baby. Although it has been on earth longer than you, the New Church is still very young. It must be protected by those who love it. It must be guarded and cared for like a little child.

For the Church is good and heavenly like a baby. That is why evil spirits hate the Church. And every spirit of hell is waiting, like the ugly dragon, to destroy the Lord's New Church. If we protect the Church and help it grow, someday it will be strong and great. It will become powerful from the Lord, and there will be many people in it. But now, while the New Church is still young and small, the Lord watches over it with special care, just as He protected the baby of the Woman Clothed with the Sun.