



# river west church

Christmas Story-Remix

Revelation 12:1-11

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## **The Final Word on Christmas**

Yes, the Christmas story does appear in the Book of Revelation, and yes, just like everything else in this Book, it is extremely intense! We shouldn't be surprised to find Christmas in the Book of Revelation. The first biblical reference to the birth of Christ actually appears in Genesis 3:15. It is known as the first promise of the Gospel in the whole Bible, and promises that the "seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent." From that verse onward, through all the pages of the Bible and the entire history of Israel, God is at work to fulfill this first Gospel promise. That's why you can find references to Christmas throughout the whole Bible. The birth of Christ is THE moment that all of history waited for.

The Bible is filled with references that relate to the Christmas story. But when we come to the Book of Revelation, something special happens. The Book of Revelation is God's final biblical word. Maybe that's why the Book of Revelation is so intense! So, in Revelation 12 we come to God's final word on the Christmas story. Here we find a radical, heavenly and thoroughly biblical perspective on the events of Christmas. I like to think of it as the Christmas story – remix.

## **What the Wise Men Could Not See**

Every detail of the Christmas story is precious and meaningful: Joseph, Mary, baby Jesus, the manger, shepherds, wise men and costly gifts. But there is more to this picture than meets the eye. The appearance of angels gave a clue to the grand scope of things; but even that did not reveal the full drama that was unfolding in the Christmas story. It takes the Book of Revelation to pull back the curtain and give us the full picture. It's not a picture you'll find gilded in gold leaf and printed on Christmas cards. It is "the rest of the story." It's a truth that even the wise men could not have imagined in their wildest dreams.

## **The Woman, the Child and the Dragon**

The Book of Revelation gives us truth in images. The images in Revelation 12:1-11 center on the woman, the child and the dragon. It's not too hard to interpret the images. The woman is the nation of Israel, the child is Jesus Christ the Messiah, the dragon is the devil, and the climactic moment is the birth of Jesus – Christmas day.

Once you have figured out the meaning of the images, you still have more work to do. It's not enough to just interpret the meaning of the images. God wants you to personally feel the drama of the story. What is at stake in this story? Why is the Satan in such a rage? Why is the birth of this child so crucial? What is the cosmic battle that unfolds? What does it mean for the world? What does it mean for YOU?

## **The Christmas Story – Remix**

Maybe it's time to shake up your thinking a bit. God is speaking to you through the Book of Revelation and asking you to look up and see the bigger picture. The point isn't to scare you. The point isn't to be all "edgy" and intense. The point is to actually see Jesus as He really is. God wants you to look up from your fixation on the details of your life so you can truly see and respond to the Gospel. The Christmas story ought to do that for you. But for many of us, the story has faded into the background or just become part of our yearly ritual. Thank God for the Book of Revelation! May the Lord open our eyes and get our attention through the Christmas story in the Revelation 12. Don't let this Christmas season go by without putting your faith fully in Jesus: the Messiah, the Hope of Israel, the fulfillment of the whole story of scripture, the Savior, the victor over sin and Satan, the Lamb of God and your King!