

2024-2025 BSP#11 Group Time Discussion

(A) 為查考和認識的題目 Questions for Studying and Understanding (10 minutes)

1. 《默示錄》12 章那女人的太陽、月亮和星星的形像，來自創世記 37:9 若瑟夢中所見同樣的形像。為什麼若望用這個形象將女人和約瑟相連？
 - a. 若瑟夢中的太陽、月亮和星星代表他的父親、母親和兄弟，即以以色列十二支派的聖祖。
 - b. 創世記的形像預告著若瑟對以色列的權能。
 - c. 默十二的女人「身披太陽，腳踏月亮，頭戴十二顆星的榮冠」，代表新以色列，天主的子民。
 - d. 她被賦予權能來實現天主對列國和整個創造的計劃。
 - e. 這相似並沒有特別意義。默 12 的故事只是若瑟故事的模仿。這是聖經作者犯抄襲之罪。

The image of the sun, moon, and stars of the woman of Revelation 12 is drawn from a similar image of Joseph, as depicted in his dream in Gen 37:9.

Why did John use this image to connect the woman and Joseph?

- a. The sun, moon, and stars in Joseph's dream represent his father, mother, and brothers, the patriarchs of the twelve tribes of Israel.
 - b. The Genesis image foretells Joseph's authority over Israel.
 - c. The Revelation 12 woman who is "clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" represents the new Israel, the people of God.
 - d. She is given the authority to carry forward God's plans for the nations and the whole creation.
 - e. The similarity bears no special meaning. The Revelation 12 story is simply a copycat of the story of Joseph. This is biblical plagiarism.
2. 從以下有關默示錄 12:5 的解釋中，選擇所有符合聖經的答案：
 - a. 那女人生下了默西亞 — 「那要以鐵杖牧放萬民的」男孩。
 - b. 那男孩就是耶穌。
 - c. 那女人就是瑪利亞。
 - d. 那女人像徵天主的子民，包括以色列和教會。
 - e. 創世記 3:15 裡的女人和默示錄 12:5 裡的女人是同一人，前者預示著後者。

Identify all interpretations of Revelation 12:5 below that are biblically correct:

- a. The woman gave birth to the Messiah – “a male child destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod” .
- b. The male child was Jesus.
- c. The woman was Mary.
- d. The woman symbolizes the people of God, including Israel and the Church.
- e. The woman in Genesis 3:15 and the woman in Rev 12:5 are one and the same; the former prefiguring the latter.

(B) 為反思和應用的題目。Reflection and application question (15 minutes)

默示錄 12 章，那個懷了孕的女人「在產痛和苦勞中，呼疼呻吟」（第 2 節）。耶穌也用臨產婦人的形象來警告他的追隨者，他們「將要憂愁，但你們的憂愁卻要變為喜樂」（參考若望福音 16:20-22）。雖然默示錄承諾未來的世界沒有苦難（21:4），但在今生，許多美好的事情，例如分娩，只能透過苦難來實現。身為基督徒，我們該如何面對苦難？建議您討論以下 3 個方法。請解釋哪一個您更喜歡以及原因。

1. 祈求脫離苦難，就像耶穌在伊甸園所做的（瑪 26:39-44）。
2. 如果神沒有消除我們的苦難，我們的呼喚就是勇敢地擁抱它，因為我們知道神允許他所愛的人受苦，並且他會支持我們並從中帶來好處（羅 8:28；哥林多前書 10：13）。
3. 跟隨聖保祿的腳步，將我們的苦難與基督的苦難結合起來，因為這樣我們就可以「為基督的身體，就是教會，補滿基督患難的缺欠」（哥 1:24）

In Revelation 12 the woman with child “wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth” (v.2). Jesus also uses the image of a woman in labor to warn his followers that they “will weep and mourn...but your grief will become joy” (cf. John 16:20-22). Although Revelation promises a future world without suffering (21:4), in this life many good things, like childbirth, come only through suffering. As Christians, how should we approach suffering? The 3 approaches below are suggested for your discussion. Explain which one is your preference and why.

1. Pray to be delivered from suffering, as Jesus did in the garden (Mt. 26:39-44).
2. If God does not remove our suffering, our call is to embrace it with courage, knowing that God allows those he loves to suffer, and that he will both sustain us and bring good from it (Rm 8:28; 1 Cor 10:13).
3. Follow St. Paul’s footsteps and unite our sufferings to Christ’s because in doing so we can “fill up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church” (Col 1:24).