

# The Message

Pastor Ron Smith

*Birth Pangs*

Revelation 12:1-6



## Revelation 12:1-6

Now a **great sign** appeared in heaven: **a woman** clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. <sup>2</sup> Then being with child, she cried out **in labor and in pain to give birth**. <sup>3</sup> And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. <sup>4</sup> His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. <sup>5</sup> She **bore a male Child** who was **to rule all nations** with a rod of iron. And her Child was **caught up** to God and His throne. <sup>6</sup> Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has **a place prepared by God**, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days



**Who is this woman?**

**She is identified by the big  
“sign;” the sun, moon,  
and 12 stars.**

**Joseph’s Dream**



**Be in pain, and labor to bring  
forth, O daughter of Zion ...**

**Micah 4:10**



**“Her child was caught up to  
God and His throne.”**

**Then to Him was given dominion  
and glory and a kingdom,  
That all peoples, nations, and  
languages should serve Him  
(Daniel 7:14).**



# Because of Adam's Fall, God Has Ordained Birth Pangs.

To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children.” (Genesis 3:16)

God promised that the seed of the woman would crush the serpent's head, but in the process her son would bruise his heel (Genesis 3:15).

This is what history is all about.



# The Old Testament Church Suffered Birth Pangs to Bring Forth the Promised Seed of Eve

“We have been with child, we have  
been in pain;  
We have, as it were, brought forth wind;  
We have not accomplished any  
deliverance in the earth,  
Nor have the inhabitants of the world  
fallen” (Isaiah 26:18).



# But Later He Prophesied the Future Success to the Church.

“Sing, O barren, You who have not borne!  
Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You  
who have not labored with child! For more are  
the children of the desolate than the children of  
the married woman,” says the LORD. “Enlarge  
the place of your tent, Do not spare; . . . For  
you shall expand to the right and to the left,  
And your descendants will inherit that nations”  
(Isaiah 54:1-3).



# **In What Way Is Zion Now in Labor Pains?**

- 1. One way is our longing for new bodies.**
- 2. Another way is when we labor for Christ to be formed in others.**

**“I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you” (Galatians 4:19).**



# Two Roads

The painful way

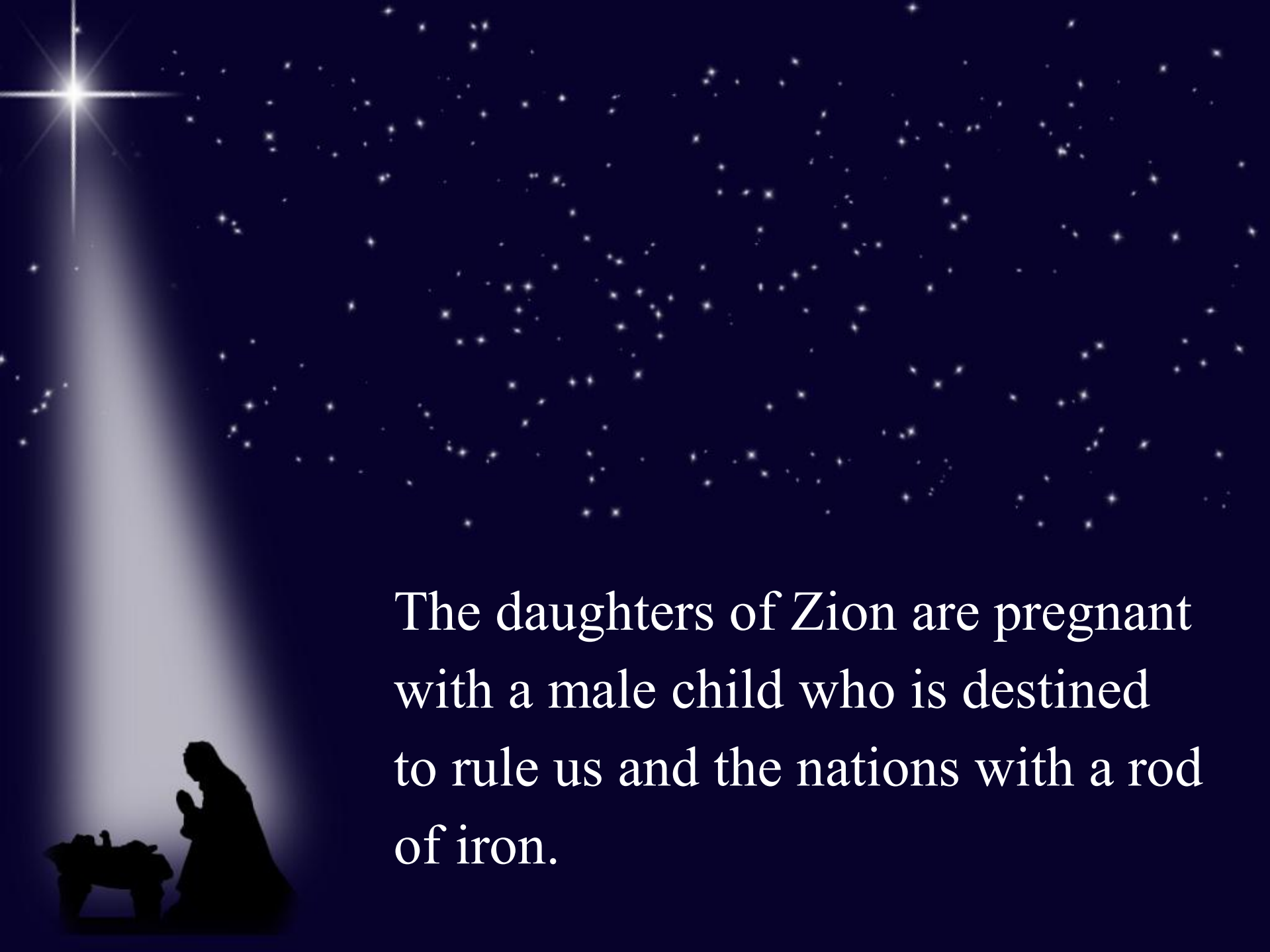
The party way



# Christians Are the Daughters of Zion

“Be in pain, and labor to bring  
forth, O daughter of Zion . . .”  
(Micah 4:10)





The daughters of Zion are pregnant  
with a male child who is destined  
to rule us and the nations with a rod  
of iron.

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