

PETRA IS TOO SMALL

The Revelation 12.14

To the woman were given two wings of a great eagle,
that she might fly into the wilderness,
into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time,
from the face of the serpent.

The Revelation 12:14

Just a couple small observations about the Jordanian city of Petra.

1. The context of the chapter leads us to believe that the woman who is being pursued by the serpent is the nation of Israel, rather than Mary the mother of Jesus. Yes, it is Jesus who is “to rule all nations with a rod of iron.” *Rev 12.5*
2. The question which arises is where is the wilderness where she is to flee to? During the twentieth century it was first suggested that the city of Petra might be the ideal place for Israel to find refuge.
3. There are several reasons why some suggested it as the biblical solution for Israel’s safety.
 - * Popularized by H.W. Armstrong, Worldwide Church of God (*heretical group*)
 - * It’s nearby, 155 miles due south of Jerusalem accessible by bus. Some arrive by plane.
 - * It is within a 7-day walk by scared people.
 - * It seemed to be an answer to Jesus’ instruction to “flee to the mountains,” *Matt 24.26*.
 - * It is in a wilderness region of Jordan.
 - * There are already many dwellings carved into the walls of canyons.
 - * There is also the town of Wadi Musa nearby, population about 7,000 with many hotels.
 - * We don’t know how the “two wings” factors into the evacuation equation. *Rev 12.14*
4. Problems.
 - * At its zenith as a town, it only accommodated 20,000 to 30,000.
 - * Israel is a nation with about 7 million Jews. Millions of terror-stricken Jews will leave town, I presume.
 - * Food and its distribution would be a nightmare. However, Rev 12.14 does say “she is nourished” when she flees into the wilderness. I presume this sustenance will be divinely provided to the millions.
 - * The Bible doesn’t say the wilderness is nearby.
 - * Israel will stay there for 3 ^{1/2} years.
 - * Perhaps those who flee are only the believers??