

## SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 12:1-17 we are shown 3 coinciding views of Christ defeating Satan and God protecting His people during Satan's ensuing attack.

- I. The story is shown through a heavenly vision.
  - A. Main characters introduced.
    1. God's faithful people (the woman in labor, vs. 1-2).
    2. Satan (the great red dragon, vs. 3-4).
    3. The Messiah (the male child, v. 5a).
  - B. The battle takes place (v. 5b).
  - C. The aftermath is described (v. 6).
- II. The story is shown through heavenly activity.
  - A. The battle takes place (vs. 7-9).
  - B. The battle is explained (vs. 10-12).
- III. The story is shown through earthly activity.
  - A. The aftermath: Part I.
    1. Pursuit (v. 13).
    2. Protection (v. 14).
    3. Attack (v. 15).
    4. Aid (v. 16).
  - B. The aftermath: Part II (v. 17).

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 14, 2018

Passage: Revelation 12:1-17

Memory Passage: Revelation 12:10-11

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 12:1-17.** If it is helpful for you to see my understanding of the primary referents to the scenes in this vision as well as the chronology of chapter 12 then proceed to Day 4. Otherwise, just answer the questions as usual. Who does the pregnant woman symbolize and what does her appearance (clothed with the sun, moon under her feet, a crown with 12 stars) tell us (for help cf. Gen. 37:9-10; Is. 26:16-21; 66:7-14; Micah 4:8-5:5a; Rev. 1:14-16, 20; 2:10; 3:11; 4:4, 10; 10:1; 21:23)?

(b) Who is the “great red dragon” and what does his appearance (7 heads & diadems, 10 horns) tell us (for help cf. Dan. 7:7-8, 19-27; Rev. 12:9; 19:12, 19-21)?

(c) Who does the newborn child portray (cf. Psalm 2:8-9; Rev. 19:15) and what time in history is referenced in vs. 4-5?

(d) To what events and what time in history does v. 6 refer (remember what we have learned from Daniel and so far in Revelation, as well as what you learn in vs. 13-17)?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 12:1-17.** When does the angelic warfare of vs. 7-9 take place, and when does the dragon’s defeat happen?

(b) Explain what you learn from the loud voice in heaven in v. 10 concerning the dragon’s defeat.

(c) According to v. 11, who conquered the dragon and how was this conquering accomplished?

(d) According to v. 12, who is to rejoice and who is to fear and why? What does this verse tell you about the dragon’s rage and why is this important for John, the 1<sup>st</sup>-century church, and for you today?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 12:1-17.** How does v. 13 connect with v. 12 (e.g. does it start a new thought? Continue the current thought? Interpret? Explain? Etc.)?

(b) Does v. 14 refer to a different timeframe than v. 6 or the same? How do you know?

(c) How was the woman “nourished” (vs. 6, 14) and who did the nourishing (cf. Ex. 16; 19:4; 1 Kings 19:4-8)?

(d) Explain the imagery found in vs. 15-16. Remember to use what you have already learned in Revelation (e.g. what the imagery of something coming out of ones’ mouth has meant) and think of OT examples of these images (e.g. Num. 16:30-33).

(e) Who are “the rest of her offspring” (lit. “seed”) in v. 17?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 12:1-17.** Summary of Revelation 12—Verses 1-6 present a broad description of the ages-long battle between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent (Gen. 3:15). The woman is first Eve, and secondly God’s faithful Israel, from whom Jesus, the Messiah comes (the baby to whom the woman gives birth). Though the great red dragon (Satan, vs. 2, 9) intends to use his wisdom and power (heads, horns, diadems) to kill the Messiah, he is a counterfeit and not wiser or more powerful than God and His chosen Messiah and God preserves Him and exalts Him to His right hand to rule (v. 5, fulfilling Psalm 2, and condensing the life, death, & resurrection of Christ into the exaltation). God’s faithful people are then protected and nourished by God as they live and minister the gospel in the wilderness of this age. Verses 7-9 describe the same timeframe from the heavenly spiritual warfare that takes place behind the veil and shows Satan’s defeat and loss of power. He once roamed the heavens, even entering into the heavenly throne room (cf. Job 1-2, Zech. 3), but now he has no authority over the faithful people of God and is no longer able or allowed to accuse them (cf. Rom. 8:1) because of the work of Christ on the cross. Verses 10-12 serve as an explanation of what has just been described: Because of the Messiah’s cross work and defeat of Satan, His faithful people are now able to conquer him by the blood of the Lamb. Even though they may give their physical lives in service of the Lamb, they will live and reign victoriously with Him forever. Verses 13-17 describe the defeated dragon attacking the faithful people of God, and his rage is fueled by his knowledge of his defeat (v. 13) and that he only has a short time left (v. 12). He attacks them with lies, but God will protect His true, faithful, nourished Israel as they are obedient to His word and hold to the testimony about Jesus until the time of this age is over and the Messiah returns.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Rev. 12:1-17.** Application Day! What do you learn (actually, continue to learn) about God's sovereignty in this age? How does this both help and motivate you to persevere in obedience as you hold fast to your testimony about Jesus?

(b) We see again the exodus/wilderness motive applied to God's faithful people. How do you reconcile the seemingly contradictory ideas of God's people being protected while at the same time Satan roams the earth seeking to devour them? What does it mean to be nourished by God in the wilderness of this age, and in what ways do you avail yourself of opportunities to be nourished both personally and corporately? How are you involved in helping nourish others?

(c) Consider the fact that at Jesus' exaltation to God's right hand Satan lost his prerogative and ability to accuse God's true people because we have conquered him through the blood of the Lamb. How does this fact (cf. Rom. 8:1) help you overcome doubts, fears, inadequacies, and any other manner of attacks on your identity in Christ? In what ways will you begin to send the devil away (James 4:7) during these false attacks? How will this truth help you minister to others in this day of confused identities?

(d) Consider what we learned about the 7 churches' successes and failures in chapters 2-3 and how they applied to you individually and the Bible Church of Cabot corporately. Now write down several ways in which you personally and BCC corporately might be strengthened and encouraged by the truths found in chapter 12. Be specific in your application (it's difficult to specifically apply general applications).

**DATE: October 14, 2018**

**PASSAGE: Revelation 12:1-17**

***The Defeated Dragon***