

# Revelation

(A Chapter-by-Chapter Overview of God's Picture Book)

## Lesson #12: Revelation Chapter 12

### Review

#### Act I: Understanding the Relationship with Christ (Revelation 1-3)

A glorified Jesus is shown "standing among the lampstands." This pictures Christ's presence in the midst of a hurting church.

#### Act II: Understanding the Judgment from God (Revelation 4-11)

Chapters 4 & 5 - Heaven, the Scroll, the Lamb

Chapter 6 – Opening of the First Six Seals

Chapter 7 – An Interlude

Chapters 8 & 9 -Opening of Seventh Seal, The First Six Trumpets

Chapters 10 & 11 -Interlude, Seventh Trumpet

### Continuing the Drama

#### Act III: Understanding Why There is Opposition (Revelation 12-14)

Revelation 12:1-17

#### The Reality of Opposition—From the Dragon

##### Verses 1-2

*great sign* - Referring to this as a great sign is to put the reader on the alert.

*a woman* - A new 'character' added to this drama.

*pregnant/in pain* - This image presents a paradox. Childbirth is a great moment, bringing life into the world. Childbirth is also a moment of temporary weakness.

##### Verse 3

*dragon* - The features of the dragon give evidence as to what the creature should be associated with.

*large and red* - could be compared to the horse and rider described in Revelation 6:4

*seven heads/ten horns/seven crowns* - Comparing the woman and the dragon, it appears they are on opposing sides.

*Woman* - Glorious, but seemingly in a venerable state.

*Dragon* - Large, intimidating. Seemingly unstoppable.

#### Verse 4

*tail* - Depicts strength and power.

*devour her child* - By all appearances, there would be nothing to stop the dragon from accomplishing his goal.

*about to give birth* - By all appearances, this woman in her weakened state, is utterly defenseless.

#### Verses 5-6

*son/who will rule nations* – See Revelation 2:27 and Psalm 2:9.

*child snatched up to God and to his throne* - The great red dragon was no match for the child protected by God.

*woman in wilderness 1260 days* - God provides protection for the woman as well as the child. The 1260 days is an image of the protection of God during temporary hardships.

### **The Background of Opposition**

#### Verses 7-9

*Michael* - A chief angel whose name means "one who is like God"

*dragon and his angels* - The dragon appears to represent Satan, 'his angels' represent all who rebelled against God in Heaven.

*he was not strong enough* - From the very beginning, the Devil was doomed to fail. This is to serve as a point of reassurance for the Christian.

*They lost their place* - See Jude 1:6 and 1 Timothy 3:6

Whatever the name, dragon, ancient serpent, devil, Satan, the purpose is the same, to \_\_\_\_\_ the work of God, that is, the \_\_\_\_\_ of His people.

### **The Power Greater Than Opposition**

#### Verse 10

*the accuser* - A fitting description of how the enemy attempts to operate in the life of a Christian.

#### Verse 11

*by the blood of the lamb* - The Christian is able to overcome because of his relationship to the Lamb.

*did not shrink from death* - The Lamb transforms death from a \_\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Verse 12

*heaven vs earth* - Two groups are contrasted here, the those who dwell in heaven (righteous), vs the earth (wicked).

*time is short* - Yet another reminder that the Christian's suffering is temporary.

## **Opposition and Protection Coexist**

### Verses 13-14

*pursued the woman* - The dragon's goal is to continue to cause trouble.

*wings of a great eagle* - Imagery sometimes used to symbolize the deliverance of God. See Exodus 19:4

*time, times and half a time* - This is a parallel to the 1260 days.

### Verses 15-16

*water from mouth of the serpent* - Another image of how the enemy seeks to oppose God's people.

*The earth helped the woman* - likely drawn from the image of waters flowing from the mountains of Lebanon only to be 'lapped up' by the desert.

God's \_\_\_\_\_ is real, but so also is the \_\_\_\_\_ from the serpent.

### Verse 17

*dragon was enraged* - The reality is the dragon never quits.

Targets of the dragon in this section

-the male child

-the woman

-the rest of her offspring

The enemy, who is constantly at war with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,  
is doomed to defeat.