

REVELATION

ALL • THINGS • NEW

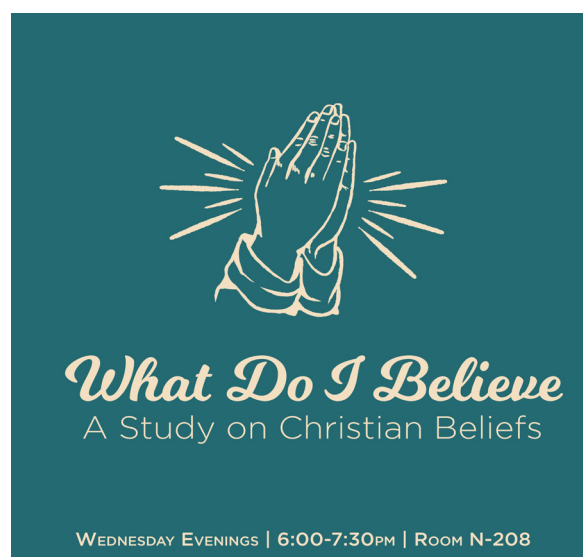
UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Week 7 – February 19-25 – *Revelation 12*

LEADER NOTES

We are entering the halfway point of our study on the book of Revelation. This is where many people get tired of a study such as this, especially in a book like Revelation with constant interpretive challenges and confusing images. As a group leader, it is your responsibility to challenge people to put in the hard work of Bible study and prayer to get the most out of their study and time with God, even when it's difficult.

Please ask your group if they had any gospel connections or gospel conversations this week and complete the form [here](#).



Join us for a new Bible study on Wednesday night. Register [here](#).

COMMUNITY

Open the group by caring for one another and allowing a moment for everyone to have a place to belong.

Start the group by taking prayer requests, finding out about people's week, and praying for one another.

Opening Questions:

- *If you had to pick just one, and it cannot be the birth or death of Christ, what would you say is the world's most significant historical event ?*

SCRIPTURE

Take this time to study the Bible together. Remember, the goal is not just to convey information, but to help people in your group learn to read the Bible for themselves.

THE POINT

God wants to give us hope by helping us see reality as it actually is.

Revelation 12

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. 2 She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. 4 His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. 5 She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, 6 and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

Satan Thrown Down to Earth

7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back,

8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

¹³ And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. ¹⁵ The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. ¹⁶ But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. ¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Revelation 12.

STUDY NOTES

This week's scripture is a history lesson. However, it's a history lesson unlike anything you've ever witnessed before. This is a history lesson regarding the cosmic battle between good and evil, right and wrong, God and Satan. This cosmic history lesson has two major dates that we all need to remember, the day the war started, and the day the Savior came to the earth.

The day the war started was a day that predates other human days. In Revelation 12, starting in verse 7 we are allowed a peek into the original rebellion through which sin entered the world. Satan was no longer content to be a subject of God, instead, he wanted to be like God. So, Satan rose up against God and convinced other angels to join him in his rebellion. Ultimately, the rebellion of Satan was ended, and the rebels were exiled. Their exile landed them on earth where the cosmic rebellion would soon spread to humanity in the garden. A second day is also mentioned in this cosmic history lesson, the day the Savior came to earth. Revelation 12 introduces us to the arrival of a baby who would defeat the dragon and Satan. This is another example of how Revelation shows us ultimate reality. We often think about that very first Christmas night as just like any other, but in reality the night Jesus arrived on earth for the salvation of sinners was a turning point in the cosmic war between good and evil.

A couple of teaching points should be communicated to our groups:

1. Jesus does not simply arrive as a Savior for humanity, Jesus arrives as a Warrior in a cosmic battle to defeat the enemies of God.

So often our imaginations conjure up images of a blonde haired, soft-spoken Jesus, and while Jesus was meek, we must remember that Jesus is not weak. Jesus arrives on the earth as a Warrior sent to accomplish His mission. That is the ultimate reality.

2. We must all choose a side in this cosmic war.

Revelation 12 makes very clear that in this battle there are only two sides, you are on the side of God or the side of Satan. You are either a servant or a rebel. There is no inbetween!

Be sure to help your group clearly see the lessons of history set before us in Revelation 12.

For more resources on this passage click the resources link [here](#).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Satan was cast down because he coveted a place of authority and honor. How are you tempted to covet places of honor, and how can you work to humble yourself in those areas?
- Consider each of the descriptors for Satan in 12:9. What do these tell us about his character and his goals for humanity?
- This passage shows that our salvation is secure and our enemy is defeated. How do Christians sometimes fail to rest in these realities? How can we learn to rest in them?
- What does it mean to have victory as described in Revelation 12:11-12? How can believers walk in this victory?
- Why does Satan want to destroy the people of God? This passage shows God's provision of means for the woman's escape.
- Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 and discuss how these passages relate to one another. What parallels does this passage have to the traditional Christmas story found in the Gospels?

COMMISSION

As you wrap up your group, it is imperative that everyone knows we go into the world on mission for Jesus. Use this time to focus everyone to live on mission as you leave.

We are told in this passage that we have a sure victory by the blood of Jesus. How can we help spread that victory to others?

Who in your life needs to know Jesus?