WEEK SEVEN

7

REVELATION 12-13

JESUS WINS

REVELATION · REVELATION · REVELATION

The Scenes in the Story of Revelation 12-13

THE BIRTH AND VICTORY ON EARTH

There's a woman, radiant but in pain. She's about to give birth. And standing in front of her, waiting, is a massive and violent dragon. He's not after her. He's after the Son who will be born. The moment the Son is born, the dragon plans to devour him, but the Son is caught up to God and to His throne. The dragon doesn't win. The Son is victorious and enthroned.

THE VICTORY IN HEAVEN

War breaks out in Heaven. The dragon fights, but he's defeated in Heaven too. A voice rings out: "The accuser has been cast down." The one who condemned and opposed the woman and the Child is thrown down "by the blood of the Lamb."

THE DRAGON REGROUPS

Now the dragon is furious. He has lost to the Son so he tries to destroy the woman, but she is carried away on the wings of an eagle and she's protected and nourished. So, the dragon adjusts his strategy. He will go after her descendants another way. He will bring beasts from the sea and the land.

THE FIRST BEAST RISES

Out of the sea, a beast emerges. It is powerful, impressive, and terrifying. The beast is allowed to blaspheme God and torment God's people. And people on the Earth follow, admire, and even trust him. Behind the beast, unseen, is the dragon.

THE SECOND BEAST AND ALLEGIANCE

Then another beast appears. This one doesn't look as threatening. It looks like a lamb, but its voice carries the message of the dragon. It doesn't conquer with force but persuades with signs and enticing messages. If people don't give their allegiance to the beast, if they are not marked by him, they won't be able to live in society.

IMAGES IN REVELATION 12-13

Image	Reality	References in Scripture
The Woman (12:1-2)	The people of God	Genesis 37:9-11; Matthew 2:16
The Dragon (12:3-4)	Satan	Genesis 3:1; Isaiah 27:1
The Child/Son (12:5)	Jesus	Psalm 2:7-9; Isaiah 9:6-7
Two wings of a great eagle (12:14)	God's protection	Exodus 19:4
Beast from the Sea (13:1-10)	Anti-Christ political power	Daniel 7:1-7, 19, 23
Beast from the Land (13:11-18)	False prophet/religion	Deuteronomy 13:1-3
Earth dwellers (13:8, 13:12, 14)	Belong to the world	
The mark of the beast	Complete devotion	Deuteronomy 6:6-8

12 THE WOMAN, THE CHILD, AND THE DRAGON

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under
her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. [2] She was pregnant and cried out in labor and
agony as she was about to give birth. [3] Then another sign appeared in heaven: There was a great
fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven crowns. [4] Its
tail swept away a third of the stars in heaven and hurled them to the earth. And the dragon
stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she did give birth it
might devour her child. [5] She gave birth to a Son, a male who is going to rule all nations with
an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and to his throne. [6] The woman fled into the
wilderness, where she had a place prepared by God, to be nourished there for 1,260 days.

THE DRAGON THROWN OUT OF HEAVEN

[7] Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon
and his angels also fought, [8] but he could not prevail, and there was no place for them in
heaven any longer. [9] So the great dragon was thrown out—the ancient serpent, who is called
the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his
angels with him. [10] Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say,

> The salvation and the power
> and the kingdom of our God
> and the authority of his Christ
> have now come,
> because the accuser of our brothers and sisters,
> who accuses them
> before our God day and night,
> has been thrown down.
> [11] They conquered him
> by the blood of the Lamb
> and by the word of their testimony;
> for they did not love their lives
> to the point of death.
> [12] Therefore rejoice, you heavens,
> and you who dwell in them!
> Woe to the earth and the sea,
> because the devil has come down to you
> with great fury,
> because he knows his time is short.

THE WOMAN PERSECUTED

[13] When the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman
who had given birth to the male child. [14] The woman was given two wings of a great eagle, so
that she could fly from the serpent's presence to her place in the wilderness, where she was
nourished for a time, times, and half a time. [15] From his mouth the serpent spewed water like
a river flowing after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. [16] But the earth helped the
woman. The earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river that the dragon had spewed
from his mouth. [17] So the dragon was furious with the woman and went off to wage war
against the rest of her offspring—those who keep the commands of God and hold firmly to the
testimony about Jesus.

THE BEAST FROM THE SEA

[18] The dragon stood on the sand of the sea.

13 And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten crowns, and on its heads were blasphemous names. [2] The beast I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. The dragon gave the beast his power, his throne, and great authority. [3] One of its heads appeared to be fatally wounded, but its fatal wound was healed.

The whole earth was amazed and followed the beast. [4] They worshiped the dragon because
he gave authority to the beast. And they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast?
Who is able to wage war against it?"

[5] The beast was given a mouth to utter boasts and blasphemies. It was allowed to exercise
authority for forty-two months. [6] It began to speak blasphemies against God: to blaspheme his
name and his dwelling—those who dwell in heaven. [7] And it was permitted to wage war against
the saints and to conquer them. It was also given authority over every tribe, people, language,
and nation. [8] All those who live on the earth will worship it, everyone whose name was not
written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slaughtered.

[9] If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen.

> [10] If anyone is to be taken captive,
> into captivity he goes.
> If anyone is to be killed with a sword,
> with a sword he will be killed.
> This calls for endurance and faithfulness from the saints.

THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; it had two horns like a lamb, but it
spoke like a dragon. 12 It exercises all the authority of the first beast on its behalf and compels
the earth and those who live on it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.
13 It also performs great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in front
of people. 14 It deceives those who live on the earth because of the signs that it is permitted to
perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who live on the earth to make an image of
the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. 15 It was permitted to give breath to the
image of the beast, so that the image of the beast could both speak and cause whoever would
not worship the image of the beast to be killed. 16 And it makes everyone—small and great, rich
and poor, free and slave—to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, 17 so that no
one can buy or sell unless he has the mark: the beast's name or the number of its name.

18 This calls for wisdom: Let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the
beast, because it is the number of a person. Its number is 666.

Message Notes

WEEK SEVEN

• Jesus silences the accuser

…the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been thrown down. (Revelation 12:10)

• Jesus sustains His people

The woman was given two wings of a great eagle, so that she could fly from the serpent's presence to her place in the wilderness, where she was nourished for a time, times, and half a time. (Revelation 12:14)

• Jesus sets the limits of evil

…[The beast] was <u>allowed</u> to exercise authority for forty-two months… (Revelation 13:5)

…was <u>permitted</u> to wage war against the saints and to conquer them… (Revelation 13:7)

The Trinity	Counterfeit Trinity
Father	Dragon
Son (Jesus)	Beast from the Sea
Holy Spirit	Beast from the Land/False Prophet

Life Group Discussion Guide

WEEK SEVEN

RHYTHM REMINDER

Prayer

LEAN IN

Think of one of your favorite underdog stories—a movie, a sports moment, or something from real life. What made it so satisfying to watch the underdog come out on top?

LOOK DOWN

Read Revelation 12:1-12 (pg. 98). The woman represents God's people, the child is Jesus, and the dragon is Satan. How does seeing the story of Jesus framed as a cosmic battle change or deepen the way you understand what happened when Jesus came to Earth?

LOOK OUT

In Revelation 12:9, Satan is described as "the one who deceives the whole world." What are some of the most effective lies our culture is believing right now? How do those lies pull people away from God?

LOOK IN

Revelation 12:11 says that God's people "did not love their lives to the point of death." What would it look like for you personally to hold your own life and comfort a little more loosely in light of what Jesus has done and what He has promised?

NOTES