

Lesson 15

The Third Angelic Explanation: This Is War Revelation 12-14

Invite the Holy Spirit to teach and speak to you through the Word of God as you meditate on Revelation 12-14 every day this week.

As you read through the verses presented this week, look for a special verse to make your memory verse for the week. We will share our verses at the end of our discussion time.

1. What was a new or interesting thought from last week's lesson?

“And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.”

Revelation 12:11

Revelation 12-14 marks the third interlude in the chronological unfolding of the events in Revelation. John may have been wondering why does God have to destroy all the governments of the earth, why does He pour out His wrath on the nations? Why does He have to go to this extent? How will the people of God be able to remain faithful during this terrible time? In this interlude, John learns about the depths of the Antichrist's hatred and violence toward the people of God and his utter opposition to the purposes of God. He also learns how the saints will persevere in triumph through this time.

The angelic interludes are the most symbolic parts of the book of Revelation. This passage contains the most symbolism of all. Each one of these symbols is clearly interpreted either in this text or elsewhere in the Word of God.

The *woman* in Revelation 12:1 is the faithful remnant of Israel throughout history.

2. What do you think the twelve stars on her crown represent?
See Genesis 37:5-10 for a hint.

3. Who do you think her male child is?

The *dragon* is Satan; this is consistent with many verses in Revelation including Revelation 12:9 and 20:2. The seven heads represent seven empires throughout time that have persecuted Israel. According to Revelation 17:12 the ten horns are ten kings who will rule during the time of the Antichrist (the Beast). From Daniel 7:23-24, the ten horns will come from the fourth kingdom (Rome).

4. In Revelation 12:4 the dragon tried to devour the woman's child as soon as he was born. Tell what happened in Matthew 2:1-18.

5. What is the destiny of this male child according to Revelation 12:5?

The phrase one thousand two hundred and sixty days is repeated several times in Daniel and Revelation. Other verses site forty-two months, time, times and half a time, and three and a half years. All of these are the exact same amount of time. This is the period of time known as the Great Tribulation.

6. According to Revelation 12:6 what will happen to the woman, faithful Israel, during the Great Tribulation?

7. During this time war breaks out in the heavenlies. Who is this war between according to Revelation 12:7-8? See also Daniel 10:12-21 and 12:1.

8. What is the result of this war in Revelation 12:9?

9. What is the description of Satan in Revelation 12:9-10?

10. What is the key to overcoming Satan according to Revelation 12:11?

11. What is the attitude of the dragon in Revelation 12:12-13?

Some commentators see the United States symbolically depicted in the two wings of the great eagle. We cannot be dogmatic about this, but certainly this is a picture of God's sovereign protection.

12. How did God describe His protection of the Israelites during the time of Exodus in Exodus 19:4?

13. Who do you think Revelation 12: 17 refers to?

The *beast* is the most commonly used name for the Antichrist in Scriptures. He is a man who will be totally opposed to the Lord Jesus Christ. He will be enraged against Israel and the Church. He will come to prominence before the Great Tribulation. He will be the leader of a worldwide empire. He will lead the nations politically, militarily, economically and spiritually. In II Thessalonians 2 he is called the man of sin, the son of perdition and the lawless one. He is called the little horn in Daniel 7, 8, 9 and 11.

In Revelation 13:1 the sea in the Scriptures usually depicts the nations of the world.

14. According to Revelation 13:2, where does the Antichrist receive his power and authority?

15. Describe the Antichrist and his actions in Revelation 13:3-8. See also Daniel 7:21-25.

Another beast in Revelation 13:11 is elsewhere called the False Prophet. He is the religious/spiritual leader for the Antichrist. He persuades people to worship the Antichrist. "Great signs" are the exact same words that are used to describe the miracles of Jesus in John 6:2, so these signs will be very persuasive.

16. What does this other beast do in Revelation 13:12-14?

17. Describe and discuss what happens in Revelation 13:13-18.

18. The image of the beast in Revelation 13:14-15 may be what Jesus and Daniel called the Abomination of Desolation. Read Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15 and II Thessalonians 2:3-4 and discuss what you learn.

In Revelation 14 John learns that believers will receive supernatural help so that they can remain faithful and victorious in this time of Great Tribulation.

19. Describe and discuss what John sees in Revelation 14:1-5.

20. What does the angel do in Revelation 14:6-7?

21. The angel in Revelation 14:8 declares that Babylon the Great will fall. We will look at Babylon the Great in detail later, but for now, how would it encourage the believers during the Great Tribulation to know ahead of time that the religious and economic headquarters of the Antichrist will meet certain destruction?

22. How does Revelation 14:9-11 “encourage” you not to take the mark of the beast?

23. How does Revelation 14:12-13 encourage you to persevere in faithfulness to the Lord?

24. How does the fact that the Lord will judge righteously and perfectly and will hold accountable those who hate and persecute the saints encourage you? See also Matthew 13:36-43.

25. Share the memory verse that you found through this week's study and why you chose it.

26. From your meditation this week on Revelation 12-14, what do you want to remember?

Lecture Notes: