

A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

January 3, 2021

Resources used:

- A Study Of The Book Of Revelation by Bob Dodson
- More Than Conquerors by William Hendriksen
- Overcoming With The Lamb, Florida College Annual Lectures, February 7-10, 1994
- Revelation: An Introduction and Commentary by Homer Hailey
- Revelation (Truth Commentaries) by Robert Harkrider
- Revelation (A Study Workbook) by Robert Harkrider
- Revelation by Donnie Rader
- Revelation charts by Keith Greer.
- Studies In The Book Of Revelation by Ferrell Jenkins
- The Old Testament In The Book Of Revelation by Ferrell Jenkins
- The Revelation Of Saint John The Divine by G.B. Caird
- The Book of Revelation by Foy E. Wallace
- The Avenging of the Apostles and Prophets by Arthur M. Ogden
- Worthy Is The Lamb by Ray Summers
- Written exchange on "The Domitian Persecution" between Arthur M. Ogden and Ferrell Jenkins presented in Searching The Scriptures, June 12, 1989, pages 7-12

Revelation

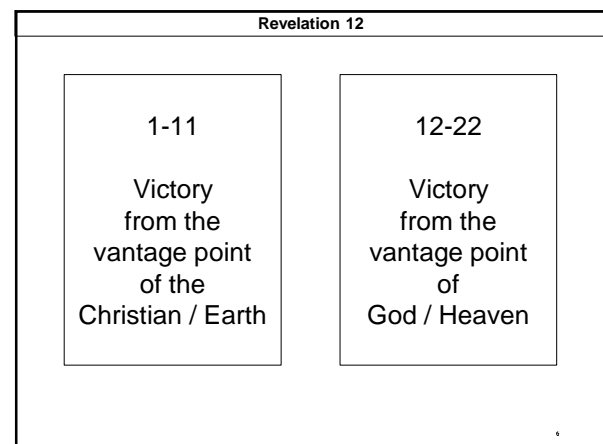
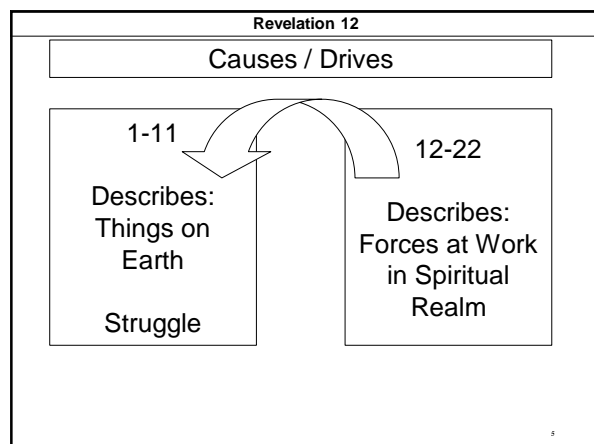
I. Struggle on Earth (1-11)

- A. *John's Vision* (1)
- B. *Letters to seven churches* (2-3)
- C. *God in control* (4-5)
- D. *Opening of seven seals* (6-11)

Revelation

II. Christ And The Dragon In Conflict (12-22) (Deeper Spiritual Meaning)

- A. *War – The Woman, the Dragon, and the Man-Child* (12-14)
- B. *Bowls of Wrath* (15-16)
- C. *Fall of Babylon the Harlot* (17-18)
- D. *Victory of God's people* (19-21)
- E. *Warnings about the Book* (22)



Revelation 12

“The Woman and The Dragon At War” Outline

- I. The Woman, the Dragon, and the Male Child (verses 1-6)
- II. War In Heaven (verses 7-12)
- III. Persecution of the Woman (verses 13-17)

“The Woman and The Dragon At War”

Key Verse
Revelation 12:17

“And the dragon waxed wroth (enraged NASV) with the woman, and went away to make war with the rest of her seed, that keep the commandments of God, and hold the testimony of Jesus”

Revelation 12

What Is The Point?


It’s all a battle with Satan

Fought Against Christ

- Birth
- Death
- Then his people

Revelation 12

Book of Revelation: Chapter 12



Basis of the Conflict – The Woman, The Dragon, and The Child

Revelation 12

Deeper Spiritual Background

- **Basic outline** of Revelation:
 - The church’s **conflict** in and with the world
 - **Chapters 1 – 11**
 - The inner **struggle** between Christ and Satan
 - **Chapters 12 – 22**

Revelation 12

Deeper Spiritual Background

- Chapter 12 begins **Part 2** of the Apocalypse.
- This part focuses on the **sins of the empire** and how **complete its overthrow will be.**

Revelation 12

Deeper Spiritual Background

Revelation was written in a **recapitulation pattern** ...

- First, the **outcome is revealed**; then scenes are **repeated** to give **additional information** that explains why a certain result is reached.
- We should be careful not to link the chapters in **chronological order**.
- Understand that the pageantry **recapitulates** earlier visions, **deepening** our insight.

Revelation 12

Deeper Spiritual Background

- Part One tells about **Rome's sins against the church**.
- God offered her time and opportunity to **repent** – salvation from doom and overthrow.
- First six trumpets – **partial judgments** against the empire
- Sadly, instead of repentance, hearts hardened, and repentance became **impossible**!

Revelation 12

Deeper Spiritual Background

- In the first **eleven chapters**:
 - *The assured final outcome is revealed.*
 - *Characters are introduced – the beast versus God's witnesses.*
 - *Winners are announced – Christ and the saints (church).*
 - *Several questions remain unanswered ... Introduction to Chapters 12ff*
 - *Why the hostility toward the church and persecution of the saints?*
 - *From whence comes the power that motivates the persecutors?*

Revelation 12

Deeper Spiritual Background

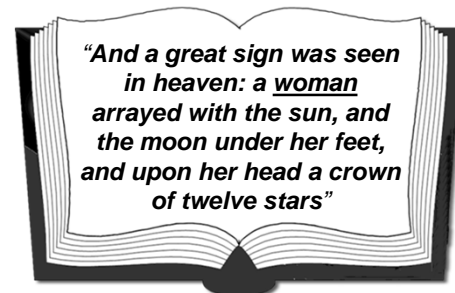
- In the first **eleven chapters**:
 - *Christ controls the world's destiny.*
 - *He walks in the midst of the churches.*
 - *He is aware of the struggles and conflicts they face.*
 - *He has authority to carry out God's plans.*
 - *Book opened – it summarizes, from the gospel's first message, God's dealings with those on earth.*
 - *Men are called to repentance.*
 - *There are warnings (trumpets). Time is running out.*
 - *A brief summary of the result in chapter 11 ... stay tuned; more details will be forthcoming!*

Revelation 12

Deeper Spiritual Background

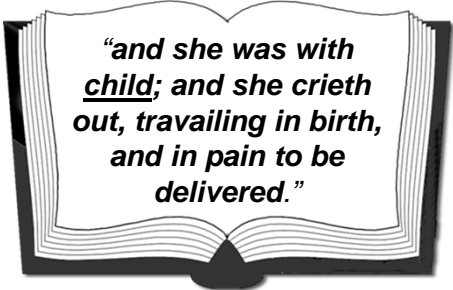
- The next **eleven chapters** will reveal:
 - *Does the struggle involve just the church and Rome?*
 - *Remaining visions that show the struggle "behind the scenes."*
 - *It actually originates in heaven.*
 - *The battle between God and Satan.*
 - *Righteousness versus evil.*
 - *The magnitude of the heavenly conflict.*
 - *The intent of Satan and his agents is real – not imagery!*

Revelation 12

Revelation 12:1

Revelation 12

Revelation 12:2



***“and she was with
child; and she crieth
out, travailing in birth,
and in pain to be
delivered.”***

Revelation 12

A Great Sign in Heaven

- This struggle began in **Genesis 3:15** ...
“Enmity” ‘eybah (ay-baw’); hostility: (Strong’s)
- The woman:
 - Her appearance:
 - In contrast to the great harlot, she is the “bearer of the light.”
 - “Clothed with the sun”] Heavenly bodies that rule day and night symbolize her exalted position in God’s order of things!
 - “Moon under her feet”]
 - “On her head a crown of 12 stars’ (victory crown) **stéphanos** In Class. Gr., not used of the kingly crown but of the crown of victory in games, of civic worth, military valor, nuptial joy, festival gladness. Woven of oak, ivy, myrtle, olive leaves or flowers. Used as a wreath or garland.” (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)
 - Note: Satan never wears such a crown in the Scriptures.
 - Glory and purity emanate from her.

Revelation 12

A Great Sign in Heaven

- This struggle began in **Genesis 3:15** ...
“Enmity” ‘eybah (ay-baw’); hostility: (Strong’s)
- The woman:
 - Her appearance:
 - “Throughout Scripture ‘light’ represents righteousness, the character of God (1 John 1:5-7).”
 - “Futurist interpreters who insist that Revelation should be understood literally have an enormous problem with this scene. It is impossible to clothe a woman with the sun, moon, and twelve stars.”
 - “But if this is understood figuratively, then these heavenly bodies that rule the day and night symbolize her exalted position in God’s order of things.” (Robert Harkrider, *Revelation*, Truth Commentaries, Page 206)

Revelation 12

A Great Sign in Heaven

- This struggle began in **Genesis 3:15** ...
- Her appearance: verse 2
 - With child
 - About to give birth

Revelation 12

A Great Sign in Heaven

- Who is the woman?
 - Some identify her as Mary, some as the Jewish nation, others as the church.
 - The woman is not a literal woman any more than the dragon is a literal dragon.
 - From the woman comes the “Man-child.” cf. verse 5
 - Not the nation of Israel as a whole. cf. 12:17 – The Jews rejected the Christ. Zechariah 11:10-13; cf. Matthew 23:38; Acts 3:14-15
 - Not the church. The church did not give birth to the “man-child,” but Christ created the church. (cf. Matthew 16:18)

Revelation 12

A Great Sign in Heaven

- Who is the woman?
 - At this point, she represents God’s faithful remnant. (cf. *Isaiah 1:5-9*)
Micah 4:9ff (cf. Deuteronomy 30:1-8)
Micah 5:1-3 (cf. Matthew 2:6 – Messianic)
 - After the birth of the man-child, she can best be thought of as the spiritual remnant of God’s people who in faithfulness, keep covenant with Him. (verse 17)
 - Isaiah 66:4-14 – Nation born in a day, beginning on Pentecost. (cf. Hebrews 9:15; 11:39-40; 12:22-23)