

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

chapter 12

Lesson 14

In Revelation 12 John saw how the spiritual world affects the things that happen in the physical world. Through powerful imagery and symbolism, Revelation 12 unmasks these invisible powers by showing their intent, force, and activity. As powerful as those forces may be, it is a glorious thing to bask in the wonder of our even more powerful God!

OBSERVATION: Read Revelation 12

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Mark any references to the *Child* in the same way you mark *Jesus*. Remember to mark any personal pronouns.

Key Words: *God, Jesus, and the woman*

Also mark any references to *Satan and his angels*. Note: verse 9 identifies the *dragon* as Satan.

3. Make a list of what the chapter reveals about *Satan*.
4. The contrasting word *but* is used three times in Revelation 12. They are significant contrasts. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted in each instance.

5. Using the text of Revelation 12, draw (on a separate sheet of paper) what you think John *saw*.
 - a. What did you observe by drawing the descriptions in chapter 12, that you had not noticed before drawing the chapter?

Read Revelation 12:1-6

1. In Revelation 12 we are introduced to several signs that symbolize persons and events that have taken place and will take place. Describe the first *great sign* that *appeared in heaven* according to Revelation 12:1.
 - a. The *woman* symbolizes the nation of Israel. Read Genesis 37:9-11 and record your findings.
2. What happened to the *woman* according to Revelation 12:2?
3. From Revelation 12:3, describe the next *sign* that appeared in *heaven*.
 - a. Compare this with Daniel 7:7. What similarities do you find?
4. According to Revelation 12:4a, what did *his tail* do?
 - a. Use 2 Peter 2:4 to comment on the *stars of heaven*.
 - b. According to Luke 10:18, what did Jesus witness?
 - c. Link these fallen *stars of heaven* with the powers in Ephesians 6:12. What forces are believers up against?
 - 1.) How can believers practically stand against such powerful opposition?
5. Why did the *dragon* stand before the *woman*? Revelation 12:4b
 - a. Note the animosity of the *dragon* against the *male Child*. What does this convey to you about Satan's intentions?
6. What would the *male Child* do? Revelation 12:5a
 - a. Read Isaiah 9:6 to identify this *Child*.

b. Compare this with Psalm 2:7-9 and Revelation 2:27. What do you see?

c. Where was the *Child* caught up? Revelation 12:5b

1.) How does this parallel the events of Acts 1:9-11?

7. What did the *woman* do after these things? Revelation 12:6a

a. What was *prepared* there? Revelation 12:6b

b. How long will she be fed there? Revelation 12:6c

c. How do you see God's providential care in this? See also Philippians 4:19.

1.) Share a way God has shown His providential care to you through tumultuous times.

Read Revelation 12:7-9

1. What happened *in heaven* according to Revelation 12:7a?

a. Who participated in this battle? Revelation 12:7b

1.) Use Daniel 10:12-13 and Jude 1:9 to identify *Michael*.

b. Use Daniel 12:1 to comment further on this war.

2. What was the outcome of this *war*? Revelation 12:8a

a. Who no longer had a *place in heaven*? Revelation 12:8b

b. What do these events communicate to you about *heaven*?

3. How is the *dragon* described in Revelation 12:9a?

a. Use these descriptions to comment on the nature of the *dragon*.

4. According to Revelation 12:9b, what happened to Satan and *his angels*?

a. How does this explain the power behind world events? See also 1 John 5:19.

5. How is your perspective of spiritual warfare enhanced by the events of Revelation 12:7-9?

a. How do these events move you to pray?

b. What encouragement concerning spiritual warfare do you find in 1 John 4:4?

Challenge: How would you describe spiritual warfare to a new believer?

Read Revelation 12:10-12

1. In Revelation 12:10 John heard a *loud voice* make a declaration. According to this *voice*, what things have come?

a. Using John 12:31 and Colossians 2:14-15 declare the victory Jesus accomplished on the cross against the powers of darkness.

2. From Revelation 12:10b identify the one who *has been cast down*.

a. In the Old Testament we see vivid examples of this accuser in action. Read the following Scriptures and share your thoughts:

Job 1:6-11; 2:1-5

Zechariah 3:1

b. In contrast to Satan's activity, what does Jesus do for you before the throne of God? See Romans 8:34 and Hebrews 7:25.

1.) How will you allow this reality to affect your life practically?

3. Use Revelation 12:11 to cite the three specific ways the believers *overcame* Satan.

a. Share what you learn from their example.

b. How are you continuing to overcome the devil?

4. To whom did the *voice* say, *Rejoice*? Revelation 12:12a

a. Why were the events in Revelation 12:10–11 a cause for rejoicing?

b. What cause do you have for rejoicing?

5. Upon whom did the *voice* pronounce *woe*? Revelation 12:12b

a. Why was *woe* pronounced upon them? Revelation 12:12c

1.) With this in mind, why are *the inhabitants of the earth* in trouble?

Revelation 12:13-17

1. What did the *dragon* do once he was cast to the earth? Revelation 12:13

a. How do you see this persecution taking place today?

2. What was the *woman* given? Revelation 12:14a

a. Where did she *fly*? Revelation 12:14b

b. How long was she *nourished*? Revelation 12:14c

1.) Compare Revelation 12:14 with Revelation 12:6 and record your observations.

c. To view God's continuous care of the Jews, link Exodus 19:4 and Deuteronomy 32:10–12 with Revelation 12:14. Write your observations.

- 1.) In what ways have you been blessed by God's faithful care?

3. Describe what the *serpent* did in Revelation 12:15.

4. How did the *earth* help the *woman*? Revelation 12:16
 - a. How is God's hand seen in these events? See also Isaiah 59:19b.

5. What did the *dragon* do after the *earth helped the woman*? Revelation 12:17
 - a. The *offspring* represent those who will come to faith in Jesus during the tribulation. According to Revelation 12:17, why will their plight be perilous?
 - b. There are those who say they will live for Jesus during the tribulation but refuse to live for Him now. Why is this an irrational mindset?
 - c. How are you encouraged to live for Jesus now?

REVIEW: Read Revelation 12

1. In light of this chapter, share your impression of the *power of God*.

*The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters,
than the mighty waves of the sea.
- Psalm 93:4*

Observation Worksheet

Revelation 12

¹ Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a *woman* clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ² Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red *dragon* having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the *dragon* stood before the *woman* who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. ⁶ Then the *woman* fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. ⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the *dragon*; and the *dragon* and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great *dragon* was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. ¹² Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." ¹³ Now when the *dragon* saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the *woman* who gave birth to the male *Child*. ¹⁴ But the *woman* was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. ¹⁵ So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the *woman*, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the *woman*, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the *dragon* had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷ And the *dragon* was enraged with the *woman*, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.