

Jesus Revealed: A Study of Revelation

Week#8: Beauty and the Beast

After the 7th trumpet blows, declaring that “the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever” (Rev 11:15), a vision appears in heaven that illustrates this victory in the spiritual realm.

Keep in mind, Revelation is a dramatic presentation, so the characters and the scene that unfolds in the vision are intended to generate intense emotion and a powerful message. We'll discover that message today.

Read Revelation Chapter 12

1. In Revelation 12:1–4, we see a woman about to give birth. Scholars either believe this to represent the nation of Israel or the Church (depending on which theological system they come from). Last weekend, we identified her as “God’s people by faith” since God’s people have *always* been by faith (see Galatians 3:6–9; 28–29; Romans 4:1–18 for further study).

Describe what you think Rev 12:1 means by the following descriptions of the woman (the people of God by faith).

- The “sun” represents the glory of God:
 - The “moon” represents nations of the earth:
 - The “crown” represents ruling earthly authority:
 - “Stars” usually represent spiritual authority:
 - “12” represents perfect order or perfect structure:
2. In Revelation 12:2, we see she’s about to give birth. Who is the offspring of the people of God (hint: the answer is specifically given in Rev 12:17)? What does it mean that the dragon (who we know is Satan in Rev 12:9) want to eat this child? Since this means *YOU*, how do you take this personally?
 3. In what ways do you see ongoing spiritual attacks on the ministry of the church worldwide? (for what it’s worth, keep in mind I don’t believe Satan causes us to sin (James 1:14), nor does he make our life’s plans go bad – see 1 Peter 4:12 – 1 Pet 5:9).

4. Have you experienced the work of the enemy in your life, either by persecution (“the sufferings of Christ”), or accusations (“you’re not good enough for God”)? What is the response that keeps us enduring suffering and keeps us Christ-centered (see Rev 12:10–11)

5. In Revelation 12:7–9 and Revelation 12:12–13 we see that the earth is Satan’s last stand. He was already expelled from the Kingdom of Heaven, and in the end, he’ll be expelled from the Kingdom of the Earth as “the kingdom of the world becomes the kingdom of our Lord...”. Based on this chapter, how would you summarize the spiritual battle on the earth as Satan fights to the death? How can you be prepared to do your part? What do you think *is* your part in this battle?

Responding in Prayer

- Pray for the persecuted church around the world who is targeted to be “consumed”.
- Pray that the fruit (“offspring”) of the church would be strong and advance with power and victory.
- Pray that you would find out and live out what your specific part might be in advancing the offspring of the people of God.
- Pray that you would not be discouraged by the accusation of the enemy that might say “you’re not good enough to do anything significant for the Kingdom of Heaven”.