



## PART 1:

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### Sermon Notes

**Text: Revelation 12:1-12**

#### Intro:

“Though St. John the evangelist saw many strange monsters in his vision, he saw no creature so wild as one of his own commentators”  
~G.K. Chesterton

The overall emphasis of the book of Revelation is not the end of the world. The emphasis is on living as a follower of Jesus *right now*.

“Revelation is not a crystal ball revealing esoteric secrets that enable one to escape the harsh realities of life on earth, but a down-to-earth manual on how to be a disciple of Jesus facing the harsh realities of life on earth.” ~Darrell Johnson

John is helping to answer the question, “If Jesus won the victory, why is it still so bad around here?”

“Apocalypse” means “unveiling”

#### Three Characters (v. 1-6)

##### 1. The Woman (v. 1)

Represents Israel, Mary & the church (i.e. the faithful people of God)

##### 2. The Dragon (v. 3)

Represents Satan (v. 9)

##### 3. The Son (v. 5)

The Son is Jesus (see Psalm 2:9)

##### War in Heaven (v. 7-8)

This is a war. THE war. The war behind all wars. Every act of violence and warfare is inspired by and initiated by this great war.

Luke 10:18-20

The dragon has been hurled down from heaven, and we have been enrolled in heaven!

##### Woe to the Earth (9-12)

The Dragon was cast down to earth, and now causes tribulation on earth while he thrashes in his death throes.

##### Conclusion:

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. What has been your experience with the book of Revelation? Do you find it confusing? Interesting? Weird? Have you heard any strange interpretations that leave you wondering?
2. Are you looking forward to this sermon series? Why or why not?

### Study & Discussion:

1. The book of Revelation was written to Christians who were struggling under persecution in Rome. They were wondering why life was so hard even after Jesus won the victory on the cross. Have you ever wondered the same thing? Why do you think Jesus hasn't come back yet? What's the delay?
2. Read these passages that reference the devil (John 8:42-45; Ephesians 6:11-12; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 3:8). What do these teach us about the work of the devil? How can we resist & overcome his schemes?
  - Read Revelation 12:11. What does this say about overcoming/triumphing over the devil? What is our "testimony"? Why does it have power to triumph?
  - C.S. Lewis once said "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight."
    - Which of these errors would you tend to land on? What is a healthier approach?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. This passage is a declaration of Jesus' victory over death. How does it relate to Revelation 12? In what way will our death be a victory? Paul offers a practical application in v. 58. What makes this a suitable application to Jesus' victory over death?

### Application:

1. Revelation 12 reminds us that behind the scenes of the Christmas Nativity was an unseen spiritual reality. How will this "revelation" of the hidden cosmic battle change the way you view the world this week?

### Prayer:

#### Requests

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