



House Church Study Questions Based on the SAC Sermon on June 12, 2022

Text: Revelation 12

Take some time to worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqBpifDpNKc> O Praise The Name

Read Revelation 12

Discussion Questions

Question #1: Revelation is a book that shows us things that are going on ‘behind the scenes’. The imagery used in chapter 12 continues this theme. The woman described here is surrounded by the sun and standing on the moon with 12 stars on her head. Why do you think God would choose to communicate in this way instead of just saying “Mary gave birth to the baby Jesus who comes from the nation of Israel.” Just as factual and much clearer, unless God is trying to say something more to us? What do you think about that?

Additional Question: Do you think that images can communicate more than words can? Do you think that words that build a story has more impact in a person’s life than do words that communicate data only? How does all this affect our approach to Scripture?

Question #2: The ‘Dragon’ described in this chapter is said to have 7 heads, 10 horns, and 7 crowns. Both 7 and 10 are used to communicate the idea of ‘completeness’ in scripture. This means that the Dragon has complete authority (head), complete strength (horns) and complete wealth (crowns). All this is allowed only because God allows it as He is supreme over all things. God has allowed the Dragon to exert incredible destruction on all created things.

Additional Question: Revelation can challenge many of our Christian perceptions. We talk about Jesus as ‘love’ and that is true. But we may struggle a bit more when we think of Him as one who comes in Revelation 19:11-16. What thoughts arise in you as you think about Jesus described here?

Does this make you feel that God is unjust or just? Why or why not?

Question #3: When the woman gives birth to her child (Jesus) we are told that the Dragon tries to kill it.

Interestingly, if we take the Bible as a *chronological* revelation, then we have some problems. Why?

Because Herod the Great has *already* sent out a decree that all boys two years and younger be killed in order that the One who is to be King of the Jews would not threaten Herod's throne. We need to remember that the themes of Scripture are meant to communicate a message that will affect our hearts and souls in order for us to be transformed into the image of Jesus Himself. Scripture is more about *essence* and less about *sequence*. How does this affect your view of Scripture?

Additional Question: Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Think about this passage in light of the incredible events taking place in Revelation, and then think about this passage in light of sitting in a comfy church service with padded seats. What thoughts come to mind about what Scripture is trying to say to us?

Question #4: In Revelation 12:9, 12:10, 12:12, 12:13 the Devil is described again and again as being hurled down. The Devil is dethroned! The Hebrew word for 'hurled' is *ebleth* which means 'bounced'. Just like a bouncer forcibly throws out a disturber from a bar, the Devil has been *bounced* from heaven! What thoughts arise in you when you think of this fact?

Additional Question: Read Luke 10:18-20. Jesus identifies that Satan has been thrown down to earth, and that he is now wreaking havoc on people there. But then he says to his disciples not to celebrate that they have authority over demons but that they have their names written in the book of life in heaven. How does this perspective affect how we might perceive the value of life in Jesus?

Question #5: The Devil goes after the church (you and I) in three ways: He *accuses* (guilt/condemnation 12:10); He *deceives* (tries to convince us to be our own gods 12:9); and he is a *killer* seeking to destroy us who bear the image of God.

We overcome the Enemy by three things: Blood of the Lamb (12:11); word of our testimony (Jesus! 12:11); Living with no fear in Him (12:11).

Additional Question: Chapter 12 ends with this chilling reminder that the Dragon is enraged at his heavenly defeat, and that he doesn't have much time to inflict as much pain as possible—and that pain is directed against the church, you and I. How can we help each other endure this trial and live with purpose that will glorify Jesus?

We may physically die in our commitment to Jesus but we will see victory in the end. What does this make you think is the call of the church today?

Invitation and Mission for this week

This week you are invited to pursue two things: 1. Take time to allow Holy Spirit to inspire you through the word of God to understand what life in Jesus really looks like through the lens of Revelation. 2. Take time to encourage your brothers and sisters in the Lord because they are enduring attacks from an Enemy that is infuriated with them and is at work to destroy them if he can. Encourage them and help them to overcome by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of testimony.

Pray for each other