



Q: Satan is living his final days in a state of frustrated rage. How might this also explain why he works so hard to cause havoc even within the church community? What effects does that have on the community when there is conflict in the church? _____

Q: Satan attacks us like a flood (with lies, deception, temptation, accusation, etc.). God promises to help carry us through those attacks (see Isa 43:2). How can we strengthen our faith in preparation, and help others do the same? _____

Q: Why is this chapter important (for Christians especially) to know our true enemy, Satan, and his schemes, as well as his demonic forces helping him, his limited power and also that his time is short? _____

READ Rom 8:35-39. Thank God that nothing will separate you from His great love for us! _____

==> *Lord help me be more aware of the devils schemes and attacks in my life. Thank you for your promise to protect us from these attacks when we turn to You. Help me put on your full armor, your truth, and be led by your Holy Spirit each day. Protect me and deliver me and my family (and church family) from the evil one, and give us strength to stand firm in your truth, stand firm for Jesus even if it means persecution. Help me to know that I have overcome by Jesus' shed blood on the cross for my sins, in my place. In gratitude, help me to be a faithful witness for you Jesus! In Jesus name, Amen!*

Week of February 20, 2022

Revelation 12

Chapter 12 symbolizes the heavenly battle between good and evil, between God and Satan. The woman (symbolizing God's people—Israel) gave birth to a Son (Jesus the promised Messiah/Christ). The dragon (Satan) sought to destroy Him at birth but was unsuccessful. He tried again to destroy Jesus at the cross, but lost again, once for all, when Jesus triumphantly rose from the dead. Satan's angels (demons—fallen stars) and God's angels fought in heaven and Satan and his demons lost and is now living in frustrated rage, trying to destroy people created in God's image. He knows his time is short. Satan was totally humiliated and defeated at the cross but his main weapon he still uses effectively is deception. He continues to deceive and destroy. But all Christ-followers can find victory in our daily lives through faith in Jesus, who conquered Satan through His death and resurrection, and our reliance on His Holy Spirit within us to help us live steadfast for Jesus, even unto death, We have overcome!

Q: Why do some people like to know the ending of a mystery novel before they reach the end?

Q: Why might becoming a Christian (or growing in your faith) seem to bring more conflict into our lives? Is this to be expected? (see John 16:33) _____

Q: Describe the “woman” mentioned in vv.1-2. Who does she symbolize (see Gen 37:9)?

Q: Describe the “dragon.” Who does he symbolize?

Q: The seven heads, ten horns, and seven crowns represent his self proclaimed authority over certain earthly powers. How does this relate to the vision in Daniel 7?

Q: v.4 gives us a clue as to Satan’s fall from heaven (Luke 10:18) and convincing a third of the stars (angels) to join him in his rebellion. (see Isa 14:12-15 & Ezek 28:12-19; These OT passages describe Satan’s character and power behind two evil earthly enemies of God’s people). Satan is a created being who chose to rebel against God, He can only be in one physical place at a time. But he commands perhaps millions of (also rebellious) evil angels (demons) to help him war against God and all that God loves. What was Satan’s goal in vv.1-6?

Q: (vv.5-6) How did God thwart Satan’s plans to destroy Jesus (both at his birth in Bethlehem, and at the cross)?

Q: What do we learn about Satan’s conflict with the church (God’s people)?

Q: (vv.7-10) What else do we learn about Satan, and who fought him and kicked him out of heaven?

Q: (vv. 10-12) There is a song of praise after Satan is kicked out of God’s presence. How have God’s people overcome (triumphed over) Satan?

Q: What are tactics that Satan and his minions use today and how can we overcome them?

Q: Read Eph 6:10-20. How is this helpful in helping Christians overcome temptation, lies, deceit, every day, throughout the day? How can we challenge other believers with this as well?

Q: (vv.13-17) Describe the battle between Satan and the “woman.” What does this tell us about God’s spiritual protection of His people? What also does this tell us about the struggles ahead for believers? (God promises that our eternity with Him, and our faith, is secure in Christ. But He doesn’t promise that we won’t be persecuted by those who don’t share our faith in Christ).

Q: Christians around the globe are persecuted every day by evil people, corrupt government, and zealots who hate Jesus. Is God letting those believers down, or is God actually using their faithful witness/testimonies to “put another nail in Satan’s coffin.” Explain. (the Greek word for witness and testimony is where we get the English term “martyr.”)
