



A Study of Revelation

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Week Seven – The Messianic Story, Satanic Beasts, & Voices of Victory (Revelation 12-14)

Revelation 12-13 introduce three key characters central to the last half of the Tribulation: Satan the dragon (whom we discussed last week), the false Christ (Antichrist), and the false prophet. Together, they make up the demonic trinity, counterfeiting the Godhead and opposing God and His people. Satan means “adversary,” and he works through deception. The Antichrist is the future world dictator who promises to solve the pressing problems of the nations; the false prophet is his “propaganda minister.”ⁱ

I. The Messianic Story: The Dragon, the Woman, & the Wars (Chapter 12)

Chapter 12 is a panoramic backstory of redemption history. While these events took place in human time, they are not perceived chronologically here, but one whole unit.

◆ **Two “signs” suddenly appear in heaven: a _____ and a _____.**

- The Woman is _____:
 - The family of Jacob are compared to the sun, moon, and stars (Genesis 37:9-10).
 - In the OT, Israel is often compared to a woman (Isaiah 54:5; 66:7; Jeremiah 3:6-10; Micah 4:10; 5:2-3).
 - The woman’s child is none other than Jesus (Revelation 12:5; 19:15) who is seen from His birth to His ascension.

- The Dragon is the _____:
 - Red is associated with death (Revelation 6:4), and Satan is a murderer (John 8:44).
 - He has seven heads (mountains; Rev. 17:9); ten horns (kings; Rev. 17:12), and seven crowns (see also Revelation 13:1).
 - He was cast out of heaven, taking a third of the “stars” (i.e., angels; see Dan. 8:10) with him. This is a reference to his first expulsion from heaven (Isaiah 14:12-15).
 - He has always been about trying to destroy the Redeemer before He even comes (Pharoah, Ezekiel 29:3; Nebuchadnezzar, Jeremiah 51:34; 2 Kings 11:1-3)!

- The War in _____ (7-12).
 - The archangel Michael (“who is like God?”), compare to Isaiah 14:14) is identified with the nation of Israel (Daniel 10:10-21; 12:1).
 - The dragon is called the “serpent of old” (Gen. 3), the Devil (“accuser”), and Satan (“adversary”).
 - The Devil (“accuser”) is defeated by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony (Revelation 2:10; 6:9).

- ◆ The War on _____:
 - Satan sets his sights on Israel, pouring out his wrath on them for the final 3 ½ years.
 - Even then, God protects His people from utter destruction (12:6; 13-17).
 - Finally, Satan finds his victims in Israel’s “offspring,” killing the rest of the redeemed (12:17; 14:1-5)
 - _____ describes this scene and the final 3 ½ years of the Tribulation, albeit it is cloaked with mystery as well.

II. The Reign and Wrath of Satan (Chapter 13)

◆ THE BEAST FROM THE _____: The Antichrist (1-10; Daniel 7)

You should remember that the Antichrist emerged as a peacemaker (Rev. 6:2) and even “settled” the Middle East disputes between the Arabs and Israel by making a covenant with the Jews to protect them for seven years (Dan. 9:27). This protection would permit the nation to rebuild the temple and reinstitute religious rituals (Rev. 11:1; Dan. 9:27). But in the middle of the seven-year period (Revelation 10-14), he will break that covenant, stop the sacrifices, and set up himself as god in the temple (Dan. 9:27; 2 Thess. 3:1-12).

• His Description (1-4)

- *He rose out of the _____.* The sea symbolizes the Gentile nations (Rev. 17:15), and out of one of them Satan will bring forth his world dictator.
- *He is a _____.* God does not reveal him to John as a human, but a wild animal under the control of Satan. He is a man, but he is energized from hell, coming out of the abyss (Rev. 11:7; 17:8).

- He has seven _____ and ten _____, and ten _____ on the horns.
 - Seven heads represent seven mountains (Rev. 17:9). Since _____ was built on seven hills, most understand the seven heads to represent the ancient Roman city (Rev. 17:18).
 - Ten crowned horns (horns symbolize authority) represent ten _____ (Dan. 7:24; Rev. 17:12), suggesting a newly revived Roman Empire—a coalition of ten European nations.
- He is described as three _____.

Daniel (Dan. 7:1-7, 15-27)	Lion	Bear	Leopard	“Terrible” Beast	John (Rev. 13:2)

- The message in the image is simple: all the previous empires will rise up as one final world empire, emboldened by Satan’s own rule and power.
- The _____ - _____ head.
 - One of the seven heads is fatally wounded; yet it has been healed and miraculously revives. The sight is so spectacular that it will cause the world to marvel, follow, and even worship the beast. This “wound” is clearly important, since John mentions it three times (13:3, 12, 14), including the fact that the wound was sword-inflicted.
- ❖ **What is the mortally-wounded head?**
 - **Rev. 17:9-14** – The seven heads represent seven mountains but also seven kings (or kingdoms). The first five “fallen” kingdoms are likely the previous nations who had dominated Israel in the past: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. The sixth kingdom that “is” is Rome during John’s day. The seventh kingdom “not yet come” is likely the revived form of the Roman Empire, first in its diversified form of ten kingdoms (i.e., a confederation of European nations), and eventually yielding to the eighth and final kingdom—the “Roman” empire of united nations under the rule of the Antichrist.
 - **Rev. 17:7-8, 11** – On his ascent to power, the beast will be slain in the process. Revelation 11:7 and 7:8 declare that the beast will ascend out of the abyss.
 - ✓ Option 1:
 - ✓ Option 2:

- **His Actions (5-10)**

- *He will speak _____ . Satan will make the beast a great orator who will mesmerize the crowds, yet his message will be nothing more than arrows of insults to God, His throne, and His people.*
- *He will _____ against the _____. God will permit the Antichrist to war against God’s saints (Rev. 12:17; see Dan. 7:25, “wear out the saints”).*

- ◆ **THE BEAST FROM THE _____ : The False Prophet (11-18)**

In Revelation 16:13, 19:20, and 20:10, the “beast coming out of the earth” is called “the false prophet”. As Satan is the counterfeit to the Father, and the Antichrist is the counterfeit to the Son (Messiah), so the false prophet is the counterfeit to the Holy Spirit. One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ and lead people to trust and worship Him (John 16:7-15). Similarly, the false prophet will point to the Antichrist and his image, compelling people to worship Satan through “the beast.”

- **His Description (11)**

- *He has two _____. He has authority, but the absence of crowns indicates that his authority is not political. He will also have the persona of a lamb (gentle and innocent) but the voice of a dragon (powerful and evil).*

- **His Actions (12-18)**

- *He will perform great _____ of deception.*
 - These signs are to imitate God’s miracles. Some of the signs imitate the work of the two witnesses (compare Rev. 13:13 with 11:5). Up to this time, the two witnesses have been prophesying at the temple of Jerusalem, but the beast from the abyss will slay them and take over the temple. When God raises up the two witnesses from death and takes them to heaven, the false prophet will respond by giving life to the image of “the beast,” not only making it move but speak!
- *He will force the world to worship the beast through _____ and _____ actions. Not only will he put to death those who will not worship the image of the beast, but he will require everyone to receive a special mark to “buy or sell”.*
 - _____ will escape these requirements, regardless of their status (13:16).
 - The mark of the beast is _____ (13:18). Numerous theories have been offered to explain the mark of the beast, but there is little that can be deemed definitive. Six is the number of man—whereas seven is the number of perfection, so the number of mankind falls

just short of it. Moreover, three is the number of wholeness/absoluteness. Placed together, a possible meaning of 666 is the “earth-dwellers” whole acceptance and celebration of their human state devoid of God.

III. The Voices of Victory (Chapters 14:1-15:4)

With Chapter 14, we are approaching the end of the middle segment of the Tribulation period. Before, Christ returns, it is revealed to John how this great cosmic drama climaxes, overlooking the great events to come. One of the themes of Revelation 14-16 is expressed by the word _____, which is used eleven times. Whether it is God speaking or His creatures, what is key in these chapters is that, despite the terror of the devil on earth, heaven is not silent.

◆ The Voice of the _____ (14:1-5)

- This special group of Jewish men was sealed by God before the seventh seal was opened (Rev. 7:1-8). Now, they are seen on Mount Zion with the Lord Jesus. A notable contrast to these sealed with the name of God on their foreheads (Rev. 7:3; 14:1) are the “earth-dwellers” who followed the beast by having his mark placed on their foreheads (Rev. 13:16).
- These sealed are _____ with Christ on Mount Zion. Most likely, this Mount Zion is the heavenly one (Heb. 12:22-24) rather than the earthly one (i.e., Jerusalem). One reason is that the scene anticipates Christ’s coronation and kingdom when he returns to earth (Zech. 14:4ff). Another reason, however, is the sudden shift in the beast’s ability to attack God’s saints—first, the two witnesses (11:7), as well as the rest of God’s followers (the woman’s “offspring”, Rev. 12:17; 13:7, 15). Considering that the Antichrist’s full reign on the earth is about to culminate, it seems likely that all of God’s holy representatives are fully removed.
- The sealed are also _____ a special song that no one else is allowed to share, since this group was a special representative of Christ and the firstfruits to God and the Lamb from the Tribulation period.
- They are _____, not only as the firstfruits of the Tribulation but also as the pure and redeemed from the corrupt world of the time.

◆ The Voices of the _____ (14:6-20)

- “_____ is _____!” (Rev. 14:6-7) – While the nations fear the “beast” and give honor to him, this angel summons them to fear and worship God alone. It is a reminder that God is the Creator and He alone deserves worship.
- “_____ is _____!” (Rev. 14:8) – This proclamation anticipates the events of Revelation 18 (see also Rev. 16:18-19). Babylon was viewed with special disfavor by the Hebrews due to their humiliation of their 70-year captivity, the gross immorality and idolatry of the Babylonians, and the influence of the Babylonian mystery religions. Here, “Babylon” is

God's name for the worldly system of the beast; that is, the entire political and economic organization by which Satan rules. The "harlot" (Rev. 17) is the religious system that the beast uses to help build his organization.

- "Escape God's _____!" (Rev. 14:9-13) – This message is directed especially to those who are deciding about following the beast. It is a stark warning against going the "easy way out," revealing that it is actually the destructive, condemning way. What is especially interesting, is that the Greek phrase in verse 9 reads, "If any man continues to worship the beast and his image," suggesting that there may be an opportunity for repentance and salvation. Also, to "drink of the cup/wine" is often used as an analogy for judgment or wrath (Jer. 25:15ff; 51:7ff; see also Rev. 14:8). This time, however, God's wine of wrath is full strength, undiluted with His mercy (Ps. 75:8; Hab. 3:2). Moreover, with all of the imagery of divine judgment and wrath (e.g., "fire and brimstone", "torment") what is especially noteworthy is the duration of the divine wrath: that "they have no rest day or night" (Rev. 14:11).
- "The _____ is Ripe!" (Rev. 14:14-20) – The person pictured here is clearly the Lord Jesus (see Dan. 7:13-14; Rev. 1:13). With Him, we have two images of harvest: _____ and _____, both anticipating the final judgment of the world. While a grain harvest is often used as an analogy for the salvation of souls (John 4:34-38), it is also used of God's judgment (Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43; Luke 3:8-17). Similarly, a grape harvest is often a picture of judgment (see Joel 3:13ff).

◆ **The Voice of the _____ (15:1-4)**

At this point, John saw the seven angels holding the seven vials of God's wrath, ready for the command. The wicked world is about to drink of "the cup of God's judgment" (Rev. 14:10); but before the angels pour out their judgments, there is one final interlude of praise. Before declaring the "third woe" (Rev. 11:14), God once again encourages his faithful saints.

- This voice is from those who "have victory over the beast, his image, his mark, and his number. Having "loved not their lives unto death" (Rev. 12:11), they refused to submit to the satanic system and receive the mark. Consequently, they were unable to acquire life's necessities, and some of them had been thrown in prison and put to death (Rev. 13:10).
- The scene is designed to be a flashback of the _____.

ⁱ Notes for this section have been taken and adapted from Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Victorious* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985).