



REVELATION

GOD IS IN CONTROL OF ALL THINGS

FAMILY CONVERSATION GUIDE

THE THEME

God wants us to know that all of history is in His hands.

MAY MEMORY VERSE

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Luke 19:10 ESV

MAY CHALLENGE VERSE

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ESV

MAY 26 - LIFE APPLICATION

We can stand strong because we know Jesus will defeat all evil in this world.

NOTE TO PARENTS

Scripture: **Revelation 12**

In the **Book of Revelation**, John, the disciple loved by Jesus, is given words and visions of heaven, Jesus, and prophecies about the End of Times. Please read the scripture and listen to the sermon, in person or online, before discussing with your family.

In this week's message we will look at **Revelation 12**. There is a lot to cover here, so you may want to break it up into **verses 1-6** and cover **verses 7-17** another day. This passage basically covers what happened from Genesis through Revelation. We will understand why Satan hated Jesus and the world has hated the Jews throughout history!

REVIEW

At the end of **Revelation 11**, after the Seventh Trumpet sounded, there were loud voices in heaven, and the twenty-four elders fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying that the time had come for the wrath of God to fall on those who had rejected Him.

Then, John saw God's temple in heaven as it opened. Read **Revelation 11:19**. **What did he see and hear in heaven?** (*The ark of the covenant, flashes of lightning, rumblings of thunder, an earthquake, and a severe hailstorm.*) There is great anticipation of what's going to happen next. All in heaven see the final 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation unfolding. God's final wrath is ready to be poured out and Satan readies himself to come against the Jews. All evil is about to be judged. **But first there is an interlude. John is taken back to how all evil began. And why Satan has hated the Jews from day one.**

DISCUSS REVELATION 12

1. Read **Revelation 12:1,2**. **What did John see next?** (*A great sign appears in heaven. It is a woman.*) **What does the woman look like and what is she doing?** (*She is clothed in bright garments like the sun. The moon is under her feet. She has twelve stars on her head. She is crying out as if she is in great pain, like a woman in childbirth.*)
2. **What do you think this means?** (*Let them guess, then discuss together.*) The woman is Israel, the people chosen by God. (See Joseph's dream in **Genesis 37:9**. *Israel has twelve tribes which are the stars.*) **Who could the woman (Israel) be giving birth to?** (*The woman is giving birth to Jesus, who will be the*

Savior of the world.)

3. Read **verse 3. Describe the dragon.** (*It is enormous and red, has seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns on its heads.*) **Who could this red dragon be?** (Satan.)
4. **In verse 4, what does the dragon do?** (*It sweeps a third of the stars out of the sky and flings them to the earth.*) **What did this mean?** (*Satan took 1/3 of the angels with him in his rebellion against God and they became the demons he used to do his evil work on earth.*) **Why is the dragon standing in front of the woman?** (*She was about to give birth to Jesus, the Son who will rule the nations. The dragon, or Satan, knows that Jesus is his enemy and will one day destroy him - see **Genesis 3:15** for the prophecy about this. Throughout history, he made every effort to keep Jesus from being born, by trying to destroy the Jews. But, God made sure to keep the seed of His people going, throughout generations, until finally Jesus was born to Mary.*)
5. **Verse 6** is a shift to the End Times and the final 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation, when the antichrist, Satan's man in the flesh (Satan is copying God's sending Jesus to the earth), starts pouring his rage on all the Jews. He knows that they are God's chosen people and he wants to destroy them all. He has since day one of his rebellion!

*That brings us to the war between Michael and his angels and the great dragon and his evil demons. We now go to **Revelation 12:7-17**.*

6. Read **verses 7-9. What happens when Michael and his angels fight the dragon?** (*He, the dragon, isn't strong enough and he and his evil angels are thrown out of heaven, down to the earth.*)
7. **In verses 10-12, what does the loud voice in heaven say?** (*That the dragon, the snake, Satan, who has been the accuser of God's people through the ages, has been hurled down from heaven to earth during the Great Tribulation.*) See **verse 11. How do Michael and the angels triumph over him? What happens next when the dragon is hurled down to earth?** (*There is great rejoicing. They all know that the time is coming soon that Satan will be destroyed.*) **These Christians in heaven had been able to withstand all Satan's attacks. How?**
 - **By the blood of the Lamb:** they know the power of Jesus's blood to forgive and protect
 - **The word of their testimony:** they had shared Jesus with others openly, and Satan flees when we do so
 - They didn't love this life more than being with Jesus - even in death. They knew that when they accepted Jesus that they might one day have to give

their lives for him. But why worry? That meant they would go to heaven and be with him forever. Death didn't scare them.

Christians today can use these same three methods today to defeat Satan!

8. See **verses 13, 14**. **What does the dragon do when he is thrown down from heaven?** (*He pursues the woman, Israel, who had given birth to Jesus. He wants to kill all of God's chosen people once and for all.*) **What does the woman (The Jews) do?**

She is given the wings of a great eagle and the woman (Jews) flees to the wilderness where God protects her (them) and cares for her (them) for 1,260 days, or 3 ½ years - to the end of the Great Tribulation.

9. **Where could this place be?** (*David Chadwick believes that the place may be the city of Petra. The entire city is built into a mountain and protected on all sides.*)
10. **What does the dragon (Satan) do next?** (**Verses 15-16** - *He sends a flood, but God opens the earth and it swallows the flood.*) God protects and provides for his people, as he did for them in their 40 years in the wilderness.
11. Finally, the dragon is enraged at his inability to kill the woman (Israel, the Jews) and decides to go elsewhere. **Who does he go after next?** (*He goes to war against her offspring, Christians, who have remained strong to keep God's commands and steadfastly testify for Jesus.*) Satan is becoming increasingly angry because he knows his time of defeat is nearer and nearer.

Main Point from our Pastor, David Chadwick:

Why are the Jews so hated throughout the ages? It's demonic. It's rooted in Satan's hatred of the woman (Israel). He tried to keep Jesus from being born throughout the OT in different ways (ie with Abel, Esau, pharaoh and Moses, Haman, etc) and with Herod in the NT. When that doesn't work, he has tried to keep the Jews out of their land, for he knows that Jesus will return (Satan reads the Bible!) and the only way to keep him from coming back is to keep them out of that land. The kingdom of the world (Satan's world) will soon become the kingdom of our Lord and of our Christ. **The kingdom of darkness will soon be overtaken by the kingdom of light.** This world under Satan's judgment will soon be ushered out. The squatter will be removed. Jesus will reign forever and ever! Here, Jesus has taken his great power and begun to reign. Remember: He who lives in us (Jesus) is greater than he who rules the world (Satan). **John 4:4**

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Look at this week's Life Application: "We can stand strong because we know Jesus will defeat all evil in this world."

Can you think of people in the Bible who were able to remain strong, keep God's commands, and testify to their faith? Name some. (*Abraham, Daniel, Esther, Peter, Paul, the disciples, etc.*)

If we love Jesus, it's important to live our lives following God's commands and telling others about Him. Sometimes, people will challenge what we believe or even make fun of us for being Christians. **How can we "stand strong" for Jesus?** (*Discuss as a family*)

Have a family member stand on one foot and challenge them to "stand strong" on that foot, no matter what. Then, give him or her a slight push. (They will easily lose their balance) Now, ask the same family member to stand with legs planted firmly and apart. And, give them a slight push, then push a little harder. They will be able to stand much stronger because both legs are planted firmly on the ground!

Remind your family it's important to:

- Know what we believe
- Share what we believe with others
- Stay grounded in God's Word and in prayer

PRAYER

Thank You, Jesus! We know You will defeat all the evil in this world and we want to be on Your team! Help us to remember to stand strong for You, no matter what! In Your Name we pray, Amen.