

SRMBC Family Bible Study

Revelation - The Triumph of God

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Lesson 9: Conflict with the Accuser Revelation 12 – 13

In Brave New World Aldous Huxley described a future too close for comfort: “As political and economic freedom diminishes, sexual freedom tends compensatingly to increase. And the dictator will do well to encourage that freedom.” Faithful Christianity inevitably involves conflict, tension and suffering for followers of Jesus. We cannot be fully at home in our own culture. Even where we do not face open hostility, we are pressured—indeed seduced—by a seemingly friendly society.

Group Discussion. Why do you think it is so difficult for believers to make substantial changes in society? (For example, in the areas of justice, protection of the unborn or making peace.)



Gladiator

Maximus is a powerful Roman general, loved by the people and the aging Emperor, Marcus Aurelius.

As Maximus leads his soldiers into battle against the barbarian horde; he tells them, "What we do in life, echoes in eternity."

Questions:

- What parallels can you draw from the Roman Army's preparations for battle with our spiritual warfare?
- What are the instructions Maximus gives to his troops? Why?
- Although mentioned in jest – “Elysium” the Roman version of paradise and place of rest. How did Gen. Maximus challenge His troops with this reference to the afterlife?
- The focus for this clip and for the movie “Gladiator” is “What we do in life echoes in eternity!” Do agree or disagree?

Revelation 12—13 demonstrates that the church must always deal with radical evil. In these visions John unmask the powers of darkness at work in everyday life and at the end of history.

Read Revelation 12.

1. Describe the various conflicts between the characters in this chapter? Why would the dragon seek to devour the child (v. 4)?



The Woman (God's People/Israel) The Child
(Jesus Christ)
Vs.
The Red Dragon (The Devil Satan)



The Angels (Lead By Michael)
Vs.
Lucifer (Satan) and the Rebellious Angels

Note: The Dragon (Satan) desires to destroy the child (Christ) to somehow thwart God's plan of redemption for sinful man and the setting up of God's Kingdom on earth which includes Satan's ultimate doom and destruction.

2. Why would Satan be so intent on accusing believers before God day and night (v. 10)?

- To attempt to bring dishonor to God and to Jesus Christ.
- He hates God and hates the people whom He has graciously saved.
- He knows He is doomed and wants to take his fate out on God's people.
- To try to drown out the praise that goes on in heaven at all times.
- To discourage and bring condemnation to God's people on earth.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus ..." (Rom. 8:1)

3. What does it mean to overcome Satan's accusations by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony (v. 11)?

- **The Blood:** Overcomes Satan's accusations because Jesus has already paid the penalty for our sins.
- **The Lamb:** Emphasizes the substitutionary work of His death, because the Passover Lamb died as a substitute for others.
- **The Word Of Their Testimony:** Knowing and remembering the Word/Work of God help them overcome against Satan's deceptions
- **Loving Not Their Lives.** Since to live is Christ, and **to die is gain** (Philippians 1:21), then how can Satan's violence against them be effective?

4. How can we help a fellow Christian who is no longer under God's condemnation but who still feels condemned and defeated?

We need to distinguish between genuine Conviction Of Sin and Condemnation:

Conviction is the work of the Holy Spirit (Jn 16:8)

- Leads to repentance
- Believing the gospel more deeply
- Freedom from guilt (Rom 8:1)

Condemnation Satan's lies he uses to harass God's children.

- We have no hope of forgiveness/restoration.
- We are never good enough.
- We are no longer loved By God.

The solution for condemnation is to discern the spirits and to have the discouraged Christian to apply the truth of the gospel to their hearts. *"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."* (Gal 6:2).

Read Revelation 13.

5. In what ways is the beast out of the sea (13:1-10) a satanic imitation of Christ?

<u>The Beast of Sea (Counterfeit)</u>	<u>The Lamb of God (Jesus)</u>
having seven heads	7 Stars – 7 lamps 7 Spirits of God (Rev. 1:1 – 12)
a blasphemous name	I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," (Rev. 1 :11)
The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority	Christ is worship at the Throne (Rev. 4 – 5)
heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed	I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore (Rev. 1:17). Lamb that was slain (Rev 5:4 – 5)
worship the dragon the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast?"	"Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"
Who is able to make war with him?"	For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Rev. 6:17)
opened his mouth in blasphemy against God	His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword Rev 1: 1 – 15
worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life	He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life (Rev. 3:5)

6. What new powers are given to the second beast, the beast out of the earth (13:11-18)?

- He performs great signs - even makes fire come down from heaven
- He deceives those who dwell on the earth to make an image of the beast
- Power to give life and speech to the image of the beast
- Power to put to death anyone who would not worship the image of the beast.
- Power make everyone to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads

- Power to control the world economy based on having or not having the mark of the Beast.

In the number 666 each digit falls short of perfection (7). Therefore 666 represents “failure upon failure upon failure.” the important thing is to direct the meaning of this vision to the reality of spiritual warfare in every age.

7. John seems to be describing a conflict with Satan and his puppets that is going on now but will one day be fully realized (see 1 John 2:18). How might we expect to see this satanic influence at work today?
 - I. John shows us that radical evil is centered in an evil spiritual being—the red dragon (Rev 12).
 - II. The two beasts (Rev 13), one from the sea and the other from the earth, combine secular authority and a religious system to support it.
 - III. We see this Satanic Influence in just about every world system:
 - Media/Entertainment
 - Economy
 - Politics/Government

Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time (1 John 2:18).

8. Religion/Church How can we prepare ourselves to face this conflict?
 - Be aware that we are in a spiritual battle against a real and powerful enemy.
 - We need to make every effort to continue in prayer, Bible Study worship and service.
 - A diligence to remain separate from the mindset and mores of world (Rom 12:1 – 2).
 - Using all of the spiritual resources for victory that God has made available to us (Eph. 6:1 – 10).
 - Keep “Short sin accounts” with the Lord and be ready to lift up discouraged believers
 - Instead of looking for the Antichrist – we need to look for Jesus’ Coming.

Pray that you will be willing to be God’s messenger to those around you.

Keys For Living



As followers of Jesus, we need to realize that the Christian Life is not a playground but a spiritual battleground. We need to be ready and prepared to engage in warfare.



Satan, the enemy of our souls, already knows that he is defeated. Because his time is short, Satan seeks to use any means necessary to wreak as much havoc in our lives as he can.



As the church moves forward with the mission of spreading the Gospel, we will run into satanic opposition. Thanks be to God, that He has provided the Armor of God for our protection and our victory (Eph. 6:10 – 19).