## Sermon Study Equipping Class

### Revelation 12:1-6

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

## ❖ Day 1

#### Read Revelation 12:1-6.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

[1] A great sign <u>appeared</u> in heaven:

a woman <u>clothed</u> with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;

[2] and she was with child;

and she \*cried out,

being in labor and in pain to give birth.

[3] Then another sign <u>appeared</u> in heaven:

and behold,

a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns,

and on his heads were seven diadems.

[4] And his tail \*swept away a third of the stars of heaven

and threw them to the earth.

And the dragon stood before the woman

who was about to give birth,

so that when she gave birth

he might devour her child.

[5] And she gave birth to a son, a male child,

who is to rule all the nations

with a rod of iron;

and her child was caught up

to God and

to His throne.

[6] Then the woman <u>fled</u> into the wilderness

where she \*had a place prepared by God,

so that there she would be nourished

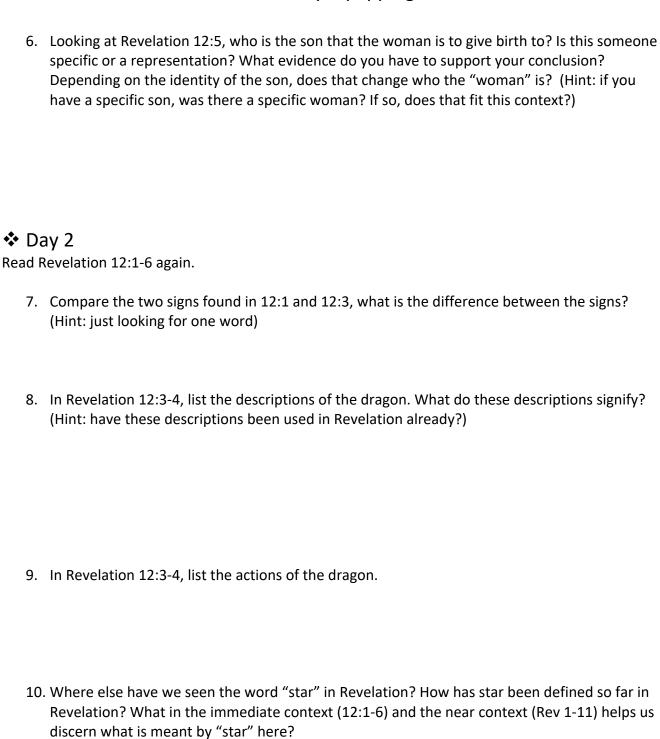
for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

<sup>\*</sup> Represents a "historical present" – it is present tense in the Greek for a historical event – so it is translated as a past tense verb in English

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1.	How many signs are seen in Revelation 12:1-6?
2.	What does the word "sign" mean? Try to use a tool like a concordance, blueletterbible.org, or the app "Literal Word". This word generally has two meanings primary meanings. Based on the context explain what you think it means, why, and what verses you might have referenced to come to that.
3.	Based on the definition you came to above in question 2; would you take this passage as symbolic or literal or some combination of both?
4.	Understanding the sign as a "representation" or "image" of a reality, can you think of anywhere else in the bible that there was another mention of a sun, moon, and numbered stars? Read through Genesis 37 and list out some similarities and differences.
5.	Based on reading through Genesis 37, who could the woman be? Is it a literal, specific woman or a representation of something else? What in this passage helps you to draw this conclusion? (Hint: look at the descriptive terms in verses 1-2, wrestle with the description of clothing and of giving birth to see if a single woman or something else can be identified)

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1	1. Is it significant that "a third" of the stars are swept to earth? What does this help us to understand about the dragon?
1	2. Is there a specific identity we can give to the dragon before we read the rest of Revelation 12?
1	3. Why is the dragon standing before the woman?
	Day 3 Revelation 12:1-6 again.
1	4. How long does the dragon stand before the woman? Explain your answer using the immediate context.
1	5. How is this child caught up to God and to his throne? <i>How</i> can you tie the context of these "signs" to other passages in Scripture to help define your answer? (Hint: find some passages and explain how you connected those passages, i.e. words, concepts, theology, etc.)
1	6. What can we say about the place the woman fled to definitively from verses 12:1-6?

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17. What do we learn from the specific amount of time given in verse 6 where the woman verse for "one thousand two hundred and sixty days"? Is this a literal number of date of figurative in nature?	
18. How can we identify the amount of time between 12:5 and 12:6? Is there anything we labout the timing of the events of verses 5 and 6?	(now
19. How do these verses help us to understand what is going on in Revelation 1-11? What these signs or symbols help us see through the entire corpus of Scripture?	do
20. Summarize these verses in 21 words or less.	
21. Meditate on how your heart <u>should</u> respond to this text and gauge how it <u>actually</u> respo it is heralded from the pulpit.	onds as
In preparation for Sunday, pray Lord, open our eyes to your Word of truth. You give your Word clear and for us to be able to use it now. Help us to see what kind of presuppositions we have typically interpret this text with and help us to try to lay those aside and see the text fresh and	d to be

examine what we hear according to the Scripture, just as the Bereans.