

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
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 appeared in heaven:  
    a woman clothed 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 appeared 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 fled 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.

\* 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](http://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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6. Looking at Revelation 12:5, who is the son that the woman is to give birth to? Is this someone specific or a representation? What evidence do you have to support your conclusion? Depending on the identity of the son, does that change who the “woman” is? (Hint: if you have a specific son, was there a specific woman? If so, does that fit this context?)

❖ Day 2

Read Revelation 12:1-6 again.

7. Compare the two signs found in 12:1 and 12:3, what is the difference between the signs? (Hint: just looking for one word)
8. In Revelation 12:3-4, list the descriptions of the dragon. What do these descriptions signify? (Hint: have these descriptions been used in Revelation already?)
9. In Revelation 12:3-4, list the actions of the dragon.
10. Where else have we seen the word “star” in Revelation? How has star been defined so far in Revelation? What in the immediate context (12:1-6) and the near context (Rev 1-11) helps us discern what is meant by “star” here?

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11. Is it significant that “a third” of the stars are swept to earth? What does this help us to understand about the dragon?

12. Is there a specific identity we can give to the dragon before we read the rest of Revelation 12?

13. Why is the dragon standing before the woman?

❖ Day 3

Read Revelation 12:1-6 again.

14. How long does the dragon stand before the woman? Explain your answer using the immediate context.

15. How is this child caught up to God and to his throne? *How* 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.)

16. 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 was nourished for “one thousand two hundred and sixty days”? Is this a literal number of days or figurative in nature?
  
18. How can we identify the amount of time between 12:5 and 12:6? Is there anything we know about the timing of the events of verses 5 and 6?
  
19. How do these verses help us to understand what is going on in Revelation 1-11? What do these signs or symbols help us see through the entire corpus of Scripture?
  
20. Summarize these verses in 21 words or less.
  
21. Meditate on how your heart should respond to this text and gauge how it actually responds as it is heralded from the pulpit.

In preparation for Sunday, pray Lord, open our eyes to your Word of truth. You give your Word to be 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 examine what we hear according to the Scripture, just as the Bereans.