

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Revelation 12:13-17

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 12:13-17.

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.

- [13] And when the dragon saw
that he was thrown down to the earth,
he persecuted the woman
who gave birth to the male child.
- [14] But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman,
so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place,
where she *was nourished
for a time and times and half a time,
from the presence of the serpent.
- [15] And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman,
so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.
- [16] But the earth helped the woman,
and the earth opened its mouth
and drank up the river
which the dragon poured out of his mouth.
- [17] So the dragon was enraged with the woman,
and went off to make war with the rest of her children,
who keep the commandments of God
and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

* 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

1. How many times are the words “thrown down” repeated from verses 7-13 in relation to the dragon and his angels?
2. What significance might be found because the words “thrown down” are repeated several times in these few verses? What is different between how it is used in verse 13 compared to the other instances. (Hint: shift the focal point)

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3. Based on verse 12:13, how is this woman described? Who is she? What other verse does this clearly tie to in chapter 12 that confirms this identify?
4. Review verse 12:5-6. Was there a clear reason why the woman fled into the wilderness? Can you identify in verse 12:13 what caused the woman to flee into the wilderness?
5. In verse 12:14, why does the woman receive the two wings of the great eagle? (Hint: look for the “so that”)
6. What is the purpose for the woman being “flown” into the wilderness according to verse 12:14? Compare this to verse 12:6 and list any similarities and differences you find.
7. What has changed in the focus of the dragon from 12:1 up through 12:13?
8. List any other “eagles” you can identify in the book of Revelation? Read some of the following verses (Exodus 19:4, Deuteronomy 32:11, Isaiah 40:11). From those Old Testament references what is the purpose of the eagle? What appears to be the purpose of the eagle in 12:14?

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❖ Day 2

Read Revelation 12:13-17 again.

9. Compare 12:14 to verse 12:6. Examine the last statement in both verses regarding the woman being “nourished.” What is the difference in the amount of time?
10. In verse 12:14, how long is “a time and times and half a time”? Read Daniel 7 and 10 and look for similarities to Revelation 12. What does John appear to be doing by using this reference of time?
11. List the different names used for Satan in verses 12:13-17.
12. Examine verse 12:15. Is the description of the serpent pouring out water from his mouth literal or imagery? What does the metaphor “like a river” describe?
13. What is the purpose of the serpent pouring out water from its mouth? (Hint: look at the “so that”). How does that affect the meaning of the water pouring out of the serpent’s mouth?
14. Read Jeremiah 46:5-10 (focus on verse 7-8) and Jeremiah 47:2-4 (focus on verse 2). What does the water symbolize in these verses?

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❖ Day 3

Read Revelation 12:13-17 again.

15. Read Psalm 18:4, Psalm 124:2-4, and Isaiah 43:2. What does the water symbolize in these passages.

16. Where else in the bible is water used in terms of judgment?

17. How definitively can we define the water coming out of the serpent's mouth based only on the use of the term water? What else in these verses (13-17) can help us narrow the possibilities (if anything)?

18. What is being contrasted in verse 15 and verse 16? What is the source of help according to verse 16?

19. What is the dragon's emotional response to verse 16? What other emotional responses has the dragon had in Chapter 12?

20. In 12:17, the dragon leaves the woman to make war with her children? What are the descriptions of the woman's children?

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21. Try to identify possibilities of who the children might be that the dragon is going to make war with based on the information in verse 17 and examining other texts in Revelation. (Hint: review chapter 7 for specific children of the woman who would be a target for war.)

22. Summarize these verses in 21 words or less.

In preparation for Sunday, pray Lord Jesus, come quickly. Help us to live expectantly and faithful to every word that precedes from the mouth of God. Let us hate sin in ourselves more and love and forgive others more, making disciples of every nation, tongue, and tribe.