

Link to Lonnie Woodruff's *Revelation for Christians Today*, online:

<http://www.abiblecommentary.com/howtounderstandthebookofrevelation.htm>

A Study of Revelation 12

- I. **Outline.** Adapted from Headings in *NJKV*
1. The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon (1-6).
 2. The Great Dragon Cast Out (7-12).
 3. The Woman Persecuted (13-17).

Questions on Chapter 12,

Revelation for Christians Today, by Lonnie Woodruff--page 215-16, Answers from DRL...

01. **Define the following symbolic descriptions of the glorious woman: (12:1-2)**
- 1) **Clothed with the sun** *ability to give spiritual light unto the world.*
 - 2) **Moon under her feet** *ability to give spiritual light unto the world.*
 - 3) **Crown of twelve stars** *The number TWELVE is used to represent organized religion. The crown of TWELVE stars represents the authority of the glorious woman, which was the law God gave to bring Christ into the world.*
 - 4) **Travail in birth** *just as a woman has great pain immediately prior to the birth of a baby, the world was in great need of a Messiah.*
02. **What does this glorious woman represent?**
First, she represents the Jewish system of religion, the old law, which was used to prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah (Galatians 3:24). Also, it must be that she is used to represent the church of the New Testament because she is spoken of in verse 6 as fleeing into the wilderness after Jesus is caught up to heaven.
03. **Who is the great red dragon? (12:3, 9).**
That old serpent called the Devil, and Satan.
04. **Considering the meaning of the symbolic third part, what is the meaning of the great red dragon having the ability to draw the third part of the stars of heaven? (12:4).**
Based upon 1:16, the stars must represent those people who are faithful to Him (reinforced by the use of HEAVEN in the rest of this chapter as being the symbolic dwelling place of the righteous). The THIRD PART has reference to the spiritual part of man. Thus Satan, before the birth of the Messiah, had power to destroy the spiritual part of mankind. This explains why Satan stood before this glorious woman ready to devour the child when it should be born.
05. **What chapters define the meaning of the dragon's seven heads and ten horns?**
Chapters 13 and 17.
06. **To whom did this woman give birth? (12:5).**
She would give birth to a child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. The child was the Son of God, with power to overcome the devil. Cf., 19:15-16.
07. **Briefly discuss the meaning of the great red dragon seeking to devour the child as soon as he was born (12:4).**
As long as the Law of Moses was in effect, Satan had power to destroy the spiritual part of man, but with the coming of the Messiah and the His New Law, that power would no longer be Satan's. Thus, Satan, the great red dragon, would want to devour the child.
08. **Where did the woman flee under the protection of God? (12:6).**
The woman fled into the wilderness.
09. **What is the symbolic meaning of the wilderness? (12:6).**

The wilderness matches up with the 40-years of wilderness wanderings of the children of Israel. Verse 6 is a description of the church entering into that PERIOD OF TIME comparable to the wanderings of the children of Israel in the Old Testament. During this time, the church will dwell in a world of sin. It will be attacked from every side by the forces of evil. The major difference in these times is that we are now in a spiritual kingdom rather than a physical kingdom. The physical kingdom of the Old Testament was a likeness of the spiritual kingdom which was established by Christ (Hebrews 10:1). The church wanders today in despair and dissatisfaction, yet longing and hoping for the second coming of Christ (Hebrews 10:1). The church wanders today in despair and dissatisfaction, yet longing and hoping for the 2nd Coming of Christ when he will take us out of this present world to our promised land of HEAVEN.

10. **Discuss the symbolic meaning of the thousand two hundred and threescore days (12:6)**
1260 is another form of the number 3 ½. The same as time (1), times (2), and half a time (½), which equals 3 ½. It is used to describe a time of despair, dissatisfaction, or longing. It is a figurative way of describing a period of time. The period of time is the entire gospel age and is not to be understood as a literal number!
11. **Discuss the overall meaning of the first six verses of this chapter.**
Just as Israel wandered in the wilderness and suffered the hardships of this physical world, the church is living in the spiritual wilderness of sin in the world today. We are constantly fighting battles against sin, just as they fought literal battles of warfare against their physical enemies. After the Law of Moses was given on Mount Sinai, the children of Israel wandered for 40 years as they awaited entrance into their promised land. Christ gave His law on spiritual Mount Zion and those who obey that law (Christians) begin a period of wanderings in a world of sin awaiting their promised land of Heaven. The time of this period of wandering is symbolically described in chapter 20 as 1000 years. In 12:5, Christ takes His place on the throne beside the Father, and in verse 6, the glorious woman (church) flees into the wilderness where she is nourished by God. Another parallel which may be drawn from this is the feeding of God's children. In the wilderness they were nourished on literal manna. Today the church is nourished on spiritual manna which is the Word of the Lord (cf., John 6:31-35).
12. **What are the two forces which fight the war in heaven? (12:7).**
Michael and his angels and the dragon and his angels.
13. **What happened to the dragon as a result of the war? (12:9).**
He was cast out into the earth. The EARTH is used to symbolize the dwelling place of the devil and his followers, in contrast to HEAVEN, which symbolizes the church, or the dwelling place of Jesus and His followers.
14. **Discuss the following results of the devil being cast out of heaven (12:10):**
 - 1) **Now is come salvation** when Christ died on the cross. There was no actual salvation from sin until Christ died on the cross as the Perfect Sacrifice.
 - 2) **Now is come strength** strength to defeat Satan is now possible.
 - 3) **Now is come the kingdom** Although the church was not established until the Day of Pentecost, the old law was fulfilled when Christ died. It came to an end (Colossians 2:14). The testament or will of our Lord went into effect when he died. The terms of that will were not "read" until the Day of Pentecost (cf., Hebrews 9:15-17).
 - 4) **Now is come the power of Christ** Cf., Romans 1:4. POWER came at the resurrection of Christ.
15. **When did all of these things occur?** *At the time of the resurrection of Christ.*
16. **From the information above, when was the devil cast out of heaven?**
When Christ was raised from the dead.
17. **What must be the meaning of the war in heaven? In what period of time was it occurring?**
We should not think of this war as an isolated event. It is obvious that the dragon, or devil, was defeated in this war when Jesus died for our sins, but this war had been in progress since the time of Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sinned. Since that time, the devil had contended with God for the

souls of man and was in control as long as there was no forgiveness of sins. When Christ died, He won that war, cast the devil out of heaven, and allowed him to have spiritual control of only those who are disobedient to God's law. Their dwelling place is represented as EARTH.

18. **How did the devil deceive the whole world? (12:9).**
UNTIL Christ made the sacrifice for our sins, the devil had the ability to deceive the whole world because forgiveness of sins was not available at that time.
19. **How did the devil accuse the brethren, before God, day and night? (12:10).**
DAY AND NIGHT simply means that the process was a continual one. He was able constantly to accuse God's people of sin until they received forgiveness.
20. **The devil was cast out of heaven to what place? (12:9, 12).**
THE EARTH.
21. **What must be the symbolic meaning of the following?**
 - 1) **Earth and sea** *The earth and sea represent the dwelling place of those who are living in sin (Ephesians 1:3, 20; 2:6). Christians are told to rejoice because they are dwelling in the spiritual heavenly place where the devil has no control over them.*
 - 2) **Heaven** *Heaven is symbolic of the spiritual dwelling place of Christians—THE CHURCH.*
22. **What does it mean for the devil to be cast out of heaven and down to the earth? (12:9, 12).**
The ONLY people the devil can control are those who are sinful in the sight of God. We must emphasize that this does not mean the devil cannot tempt God's people, because he can. it means that he has no power over them as long as they remain faithful.
23. **What is the symbolic dwelling place of the devil and his followers? (12:12).**
The earth and sea.
24. **What is the symbolic dwelling place of Christians? (12:12).**
Heaven.
25. **How do we overcome the devil? (12:11).**
By the blood of the Lamb.
26. **What did the devil do when he saw he was cast out into the earth? (12:13).**
He persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.
27. **How does God nourish the church today? (12:14).**
This verse pictures the church as fleeing into the wilderness, which is a place prepared by God, where He will feed and protect His people. The woman was given TWO WINGS OF A GREAT EAGLE, to fly into the wilderness. This indicates God protects His people and has made a way for them to escape the temptations of the devil. In Exodus 9:4, God uses this same type of symbolism to describe how He delivered the children of Israel from the hands of the Egyptians. This same situation applies to us today in the spiritual kingdom. God provides us a place of protection from the devil by making available the forgiveness of sins, and He nourishes us through His Word.
28. **What is the symbolic meaning of the devil casting out a flood to carry the woman away? (12:15).**
In 22:1, 17, the Word of God (the gospel) is referred to as the WATER OF LIFE proceeding out of the throne of God. Therefore, water out of the mouth of Satan would symbolize all manners of false teachings, lyings, and deceit which he and his followers use to attack and, if it were possible, to destroy the church.
29. **Discuss how the earth helps the woman. (12:16).**
Brother Woodruff adm its that it is hard to say exactly how this happens. Most likely, it means that there are people who are not members of the Lord's church, yet actually oppose many of the ways of the devil. If we look at the world today, we can observe this very situation. Many who believe in Jesus teach others about Him and vigorously oppose the ways of Satan, but they are not members of the Lord's church because they have not rendered complete obedience to His will. They have been deceived into believing that partial obedience is acceptable. These people actually make it easier for the true church to exist. If the world were completely void of any spirituality, other than those who are members of the church, it would be difficult for the church to exist at all because of the

unrestrained evil which would prevail. ... Those people who are spiritually-minded, yet not members of the Lord's church, actually serve a purpose here on earth by creating a situation which will enable the true church to exist. In this manner they assist the woman by swallowing up the flood cast out by the devil.

30. Against whom is the devil making war today? (12:17).

The remnant of the seed of the woman.

31. Who are the seed of the woman? (12:17).

The REMNANT OF HER SEED is defined as those who keep the commandments of God which must be Christians. They are referred to as the remainder of her seed because Jesus was the first Seed she brought forth (cf., vv., 2, 5). Galatians 3:16 describes Christ as the seed (singular) of Abraham, and Galatians 3:29 describes those who are IN CHRIST (Christians) as being the seed of Abraham. Therefore, the promise God made to Abraham that all nations would be blessed through him was fulfilled by his seed, which is Christ. As Christians we are the remnant of that seed because we keep the commandments of God.

<p>SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE</p> <p>Across: (1) Angels, 9; (3) Eagle, 14; (8) Clothed, 1; (9) Flood, 15; (10) Stars, 1; (12) Delivered, 4; (14) Dragon, 3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17).</p> <p>Down: (2) Seven, 3; (4) Accuser, 10; (5) Earth, 16; (6) Wilderness, 6; (7) Wonder, 1, 3; (11) Night, 10; (13) Red, 3.</p>

Questions Based on LW's End of Chapter 12 Questions

True/False

01. _____ The WHEN of the power of Christ is answered at Romans 1:4.
02. _____ Blood of the Lamb is needed in order to overcome the devil.
03. _____ The remnant mentioned in this chapter refers to Israelites.
04. _____ The dragon's seven heads and ten horns are defined in chapter 12.
05. _____ The great red dragon is Satan.

Fill in the Blanks

06. The glorious woman of this chapter represents the _____ system of religion, the _____, which was used to prepare the people for the coming of the _____, and also, the _____.
07. The symbolic dwelling place of the devil and his followers is the _____ and the _____.
08. When Christ died, He won the "war," cast the devil out of heaven, and allowed him to have spiritual control of only those who are _____ to _____.
09. _____ is another form of the number $3\frac{1}{2}$.
10. Verse 6 is a description of the church entering into that PERIOD OF TIME comparable to the _____ of the _____ of _____ in the Old Testament.

Place the symbol in the space next to its description:

11. _____ There was no actual salvation from sin until Christ died on the cross as the Perfect Sacrifice for sin.
12. _____ all manners of false teachings, lyings, and deceit.
13. _____ ability to give spiritual light unto the world.
14. _____ Where the woman fled under protection of God.
15. _____ Happened when Christ was raised from the dead.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

ANSWERS to Revelation 11 Questions... **01**—True (18); **02**—True (2); **03**—False (8); **04**—False (4-6); **05**—True (9-10); **06**—h (1); **07**—e (4-6); **08**—j (11); **09**—b (13); **10**—I (14-17); **11**—1260 (3); **12**— $3\frac{1}{2}$ (9); **13**—woe, woe (14); **14**—24 (16); **15**—six (19).

III. **Seek-A-Word Puzzle.** The words may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. -DRL



ACCUSER	ANGELS	APPEARED	BROUGHT	CAST
CHILD	CHRIST	COME	CROWN	DELIVERED
DEVIL	DRAGON	EARTH	FLOOD	FORTH
FOUGHT	GREAT	HAVING	HEAD	HEAVEN
MOUTH	PLACE	SERPENT	SEVEN	STARS
TESTIMONY	THERE	TIME	WILDERNESS	WOMAN

