

Where did the devil get thrown? What was the power that threw him down? Read vs. 11 and John 12:31-33 (1352).

### ***God Protects the Christian Church***

#### **Revelation 12:13-18**

The serpent (devil) failed to destroy Jesus. What is his goal now? Who does he persecute and try to destroy?

What did God give the woman (the church) to help her in verse 14? What does that mean? Read Isaiah 40:31 (906) and Exodus 19:4 (88).

How long will the devil persecute the church? Verse 14 is saying the same thing as verse 6.

How does the devil try to destroy the woman? (Raging waters means every kind of trouble and persecution.) What does God promise? Read Isaiah 43:1-2 (910) and Luke 6:47-49 (1297).

### ***To Think About...***

The devil already lost the war, and Christ already won. That is why the devil hates Christians so much, because he knows he lost. So when the devil tries to accuse you of your sins and make you doubt Jesus, you can just remind the devil he already lost and you are a winner in Jesus.

# The Book of Revelation God's Picture of History and Heaven

*Lesson 10, Revelation 12:1-18*

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### ***To Begin...***

Think of the 1991 Gulf War and the recent war with Iraq. The U.N. and U.S. forces were more powerful and Iraq had little or no chance of winning. But how did Saddam talk? Is the devil boastful the same?

### ***The Big Picture***

Do you sometimes feel lost in details? You need to step back and look at the big picture, you need to see it all together? In the visions so far (7 seals and 7 trumpets), we have seen a big picture of God's work on earth, His work to warn people of sin and to save His church. Now we see a bigger picture. This picture includes the heaven and the earth, Jesus and the devil, and the church. But no matter what view we see, the end is always the same. Jesus wins, and He shares His victory with the church.

### ***Two Signs***

#### **Revelation 12:1-6**

What was the first spectacular (amazing) sign?

John had an interesting description for this woman. Each part of the description is like a puzzle piece. First piece: She was dressed like the sun and had the moon under her feet. What does that mean? Read Song of Songs 6:10 (847) for help.

Second piece: This woman also had a crown of 12 stars. A crown can mean a ruler or king. Here, the crown means victory. What do the 12 stars mean?

Third piece: The woman was pregnant and ready to give birth. Who is this woman? The 12 stars should give you a clue. Read Isaiah 62:3-5 (940).

Last piece: Who is the baby boy she gave birth to? Read Isaiah 7:14 (860).

Who is this woman? Three possible meanings.

Another sign appeared in heaven. Notice this is only a sign, not a “spectacular” sign, not something wonderful to look at. What was it? Look ahead to Rev. 12:9 for help.

Look at the description of the serpent (or dragon), the devil.

1. Its color is \_\_\_\_\_. Compare with Revelation 6:4.
2. Seven \_\_\_\_\_. Compare with Rev. 5:6. The devil is trying to make it look like he is like Christ.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ horns. Horn = power. This number means the devil says he has all power on earth. Read Luke 4:5-7 (1291). Is that true? Read John 8:44 (1345).

4. \_\_\_\_\_ crowns. Crown = victory.

What did the devil want to do when Jesus was born? Can you name some examples of how the devil tried this? For help, read these verses. Did the devil succeed?

Matthew 2:13-18 (1211)

Matthew 4:1-11 (1212)

Luke 4:28-30 (1292)

John 10:31-40 (1348)

What happened to Jesus (the son in verse 5)?

Jesus has been born, grew up, died, rose, and ascended into heaven again. Now the woman means His church in the New Testament and today. What did God do for the woman? How long did God take care of her?

### ***War in Heaven***

#### Revelation 12:7-12

There was war in heaven. Michael and the angels fought to throw the devil out. (Michael is probably the leader of God’s angel army.) This makes a very interesting picture. Where was the devil before Jesus went back into heaven?

Read Job 1:6 (588) and Zechariah 3:1-3 (1190).

When the devil talked to God, what did he do? Can he continue doing that now, or is he finished? Read Romans 8:31-34 (1419).