

- I. Overview for Revelation 12-14
- A. So last week we saw the blowing of the 7th trumpet and the beginning of the return of Jesus to the planet for _____.
 - B. Now, just before launching into the bowls of wrath which the seventh trumpet releases, God hits the pause button for the third time in the book to begin another parenthetical section. This third parenthetical section is an explanation of why the judgment has to be so _____.
 - C. Here we get an explanation as to what motivated the hearts of men to choose wickedness and reject righteousness throughout history and a glimpse at the epic _____ between Satan and God.
- II. VERSE BY VERSE – The Woman and the Dragon (Rev 12:1-6) 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.*
- A. This section specifically answer the question, “What is the source of all the conflict of the earth?”
 - B. First we’re introduced to a sign in heaven. There are two “signs” in this section, both of which are depicted through the use of heavy _____.
 - C. These 2 signs communicate important spiritual _____.
 - D. So the first sign is a woman who directly connects with Joseph’s dream from Genesis 37. She is a sign that represents _____.
 - E. Her labor pains represent the many trials and challenges the nation of Israel experienced through persecution and judgment leading up to the birth of Jesus.
 - F. Next, the second sign appears, _____ in importance to the first.
 - G. The second sign is a dragon, and it clearly represents _____ as 12:9 tells us. He has seven heads, each with a crown and horns which represent the full authority of Satan.
 - H. Satan is then pictured as throwing a third of the stars in heaven down to earth. This is a portrayal of the historic _____ of Lucifer from the third heavens. Scripture tells us that Satan was kicked out of the 3rd heaven, which is the dwelling place of God, into the second heaven, which is the spiritual realm, where he influences the earth (Eph. 2:2) and accuses the saints to God (Job 1). It’s the angels who followed him that we call demons.
 - I. Satan is pictured as standing before the woman, ready to give birth. This shows that Satan has set himself to thwart and destroy God’s promises and purposes for His people. Why is this? Above all else, Satan lusts to be _____. He desires God’s position, God’s throne, God’s glory, God’s beauty, and the worship due God. At the fall of man God told him in Gen 3:15 that enmity would be between him and the woman and that ultimately her offspring would overcome and destroy him. Thus, ever since then, Satan tried to kill God’s people to keep the Messiah from being born who would destroy him.
 - J. Here in verse 5 Jesus is described as the one who will rule the earth with a rod of iron. This is from Psalm ____ and it symbolizes the fact that sin and unrighteousness will not be tolerated, but held in check under Jesus’ rule.
 - K. After being born Jesus is caught up to God and His throne. This is specifically referencing Jesus’ _____ to the right hand of the Father. God raised Him from the dead and seated him at His right hand, far above all the hosts of darkness (Eph. 1:20-21).
 - L. Next we see that the woman flees from Satan and is given protection for 1260 days. So, from the death and resurrection of Jesus, the rest of Israel’s history is skipped over and verse 6 is picking

up with Israel at the end of the age. This is clear from the time frame of 1260 days which is 3.5 years. Basically Israel will have 3.5 years of protection and provision in the wilderness. The wilderness in scripture often represents the nations of the earth. Thus, Israel will be surrounded by the nations of the earth and actually cared for by them for 3.5 years. This is the first 3.5 years of the last seven where the antichrist brokers a peace deal with Israel and the nations.

- III. VERSE BY VERSE – War in Heaven (12:7-12) 7 *And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,* 8 *and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.* 9 *And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.* 10 *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.* 11 *"And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.* 12 *"For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."*
- A. Satan, who still is in the heavenly realm – likely the second heaven (spiritual realm) and not the third heaven (abode of God) or the first heaven (sky and space) – is attacked by the Father’s angelic army. War breaks out with the end result being that Satan is cast out of the heavens and down to the _____. The result is the confining of Satan to the earth and the initiation of the Great tribulation period.
- B. The war in heaven will be a literal war that takes place during the same 1260 days of _____ on the earth. Thus, with the absence of demons and the presence of God on the earth, full peace encompasses the globe!
- C. But God’s people on the earth won’t be sitting around and waiting during this time. In a strange yet beautiful way, God has set things up on the spirit realm to necessitate _____ with the physical realm. Thus, God invites us to partner with Him in prayer and fasting to move angels and demons.
- D. Verses 8-10 tells us that the prayers of believers prevail and Michael is able to overcome Satan. They cast him down to the earth, in essence bringing the war from heaven to _____. The result is a time of massively increased spiritual activity on the earth by both the kingdoms of darkness and light. No longer will there be demonic resistance bringing about delay to prayers and faith in the earth, while at the same time demonic manifestation will sky rocket as every demon who ruled and operated from the heavenly realm is confined to the earth.
- E. In verse 10 we also see the declaration of this in heaven by all the saints who have already died and gone there (or been raptured if you’re pretrib). They say that now salvation has come, denoting the incredible harvest that will be reaped without heavenly demonic interference, now strength has come denoting the incredible miracles and acts of God which will manifest without heavenly demonic interference, now the kingdom is has come, denoting the fulfillment of what Jesus instructed us to pray in the Lord’ prayer as God’ perfect will is played out through His people without heavenly demonic interference, and now the authority of Jesus has come as it operates through His people and ultimately His physical return to the planet.
- F. Then, even though Michael and his angels did the actual fighting, God’s people are the ones credited with overcoming the enemy in verse 11. Then we’re told the three main weapons they used to do it.
1. The _____ of the Lamb – it’s by receiving, by faith what Jesus did for us on the cross that enables and empowers the saints to pray with authority and operate in signs and wonders.
 2. The _____ of their testimony – the ministry of proclamation, declaring who God is, what He is like, what He has done, and what He will do that sustains them and even adds to

their number

3. Did not love their life even when faced with _____ – it's the fact that they love Jesus more than their own lives and that they know that this life is short a fleeting in comparison with the life to come that enabled them to boldly stand for Jesus even in the face of massive persecution.
- G. Verse 12 then tells the heavens to rejoice for the fullness of the victory in the heavenly realms has finally been won. However, things are going to be a lot worse for the _____ from this point until the full victory is won in the earth as well.
- IV. VERSE BY VERSE – War on the Earth (Rev. 12:13-17)
 - 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.*
 - A. While the last section gave us a glimpse into the spiritual events that led up to the Great tribulation, this section is now giving us insight into the spiritual conflict taking place during it.
 - B. Having just been confined entirely to the earthly realm, Satan turns his attention first to venting his rage on the woman who he historically has hated, the _____, because he knows his time is short and he wants to thwart God's plans that include his utter defeat.
 - C. Yet once again Satan is unsuccessful. The symbolism continues as God supernaturally _____ Israel from the full brunt of Satan's fury. In fact, it's referred to as the two wings of a great eagle which is a direct reference to Exodus 19:4 where the same symbol is used in describing God's supernatural deliverance of Israel from Egypt.
 - D. The Jews are taken into the _____ then to a place where they are protected perfectly from Satan. This time will be much like the time they spent Mt. Sinai where they went after being delivered by God from Egypt. They will renew their covenant with God, and God will re-offer the chance to be a kingdom of priests to them and they will step into true intimacy with God. The 144,000 Jews will be the leaders of this who perfectly and powerfully follow Jesus' leadership throughout the Great Tribulation.
 - E. Satan's response is to spew forth anti-semitic words from the mouth of the antichrist, turning the nations of the earth against the Jews. However, the _____ of the earth stop up his intentions.
 - F. Thus, Satan turns to conquering the earth and venting his rage on God's people who are not divinely, physically protected – _____. They make an easier target and, if he can kill them all, he thinks he might be able to stop God's plans from fully coming to pass.
 - G. Thus through all of this we are given a powerful glimpse into the spiritual realm where we see the true battle that will rage during the end times. But the parenthetical section is not over. God now wants to spiritual insight into Satan's strategy, and as to why the judgments against the antichrist and his followers must be so severe.
- V. Overview of Chapter 13 – Satan's End Time Strategy
 - A. So Satan has _____ everything about God for centuries, leading Him to rebel and war against every plan of God in creation. Now, at the end of the age, he has lost his authority in both the third heaven and the second heaven, leaving him confined to the earthly realm. He is desperate because this is the final battle ground. Thus, he kicks his final plan into action.
 - B. While on the earth, Satan and his demons certainly are not _____ but they are spirit beings who can possess those who are not possessed by the Holy Spirit
 - C. This chapter gives us detailed information about the 2 principle leaders of Satan's army, the antichrist and the false prophet. It further explains the scope of the antichrist's authority and

gives his detailed plans to gain the worship of the earth and destroy God's people. Other chapters in the Bible that give detailed descriptions of the antichrist are Daniel 7 and 11 and 2 Thessalonians 2.

D. Satan's plan is established around creating a false trinity – Satan as the Father, the antichrist as Jesus, and the false prophet as the Holy Spirit. It's important to realize that the beast in this chapter represents _____ the man antichrist and the empire which he commands.

VI. VERSE BY VERSE: The Beast from the Sea (Rev. 13:1-10) *1 And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. 2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority. 3 I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; 4 they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" 5 There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.*

- A. Next we see the dragon stands on the sea shore to raise up his weapon of war from it. Often in the Bible the sea represents the fullness of humanity of the earth (Matt 13:47). The fact that the beast comes from the sea emphasizes the fact that he is a _____ arising from the sea of humanity.
- B. The beast has seven heads which represent the spiritual brotherhood of seven historical _____ who prepared the way for the authority of the beast. These seven kingdoms are identified by the fact that they all embraced the sins of Babylon and they all perpetrated great hatred towards Israel. They are likely Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and the seventh is unknown, thought it could be Germany who killed millions of Jews under Hitler in WWII.
- C. Each of these kingdoms were led by men who were forerunners of the _____, though none of them fully fulfilled what is prophesied about him. The text tells us that each of these heads had a blasphemous name on it denoting their opposition to God and His purposes.
- D. The beast also has 10 horns with crowns upon them. These represent not historical kings, but _____ kings who are contemporaries of the antichrist, who rule over the remnants of the aforementioned historical kingdoms.
- E. The beast is described as looking like a leopard with bear feet and a lion's mouth. This is a direct connection to Daniel 7 where he describes several kingdoms, comparing them to different beasts. The leopard kingdom is _____ and represents how quickly he is able to subjugate a large portion of the earth. Next, the bear kingdom is the _____ which represents the way he will utterly crush his enemies and make a spectacle of them. The lion kingdom was _____ which represents how he will be majestic and awe inspiring and how he'll conquer peoples who have never before been conquered.
- F. Satan will give the antichrist his power and throne and authority. Satan's power is his ability to delude the human race through lies and deception. His throne and authority represents His position of leadership in the kingdom of darkness.
- G. The antichrist will have all that Satan offered Jesus in Luke 4 and Matthew 4. The antichrist will bow down and worship Satan and receive supernatural power, position, and authority from Satan. With the exception of _____, the antichrist will be the most charismatic, strategic, brilliant,

and able leader the world has ever seen.

- H. Verse 3 tells us that one of his heads had been mortally wounded but was healed. The fulfillment of this has __ parts. The first is that one of the historical kingdoms was nearly extinct, yet was revived by the Antichrist. Secondly, the antichrist himself will likely suffer a head wound that should surely kill him. However, Satan raises him up and heals his wound creating awe in all who follow him.
- I. The response to all of this is that the majority of those on the earth _____ and follow him.
- J. So the chain of events is that at the beginning of the seven year period, the antichrist will be just another leader in the world who is able to broker a peace deal with all the nations of the earth. He will receive recognition and respect for this. Then around the 3.5 year mark he will suffer a head wound and likely die. But then he'll be raised back to life before everyone and be in perfect health. It is at this point that Satan will likely possess him and he will declare he is the true Messiah by marching on Jerusalem and setting up in the holy of holies the abomination of desolation. This is the moment of the opening of the _____ seal.
- K. The result will be the worship of the antichrist by the nations, the fleeing of the Jews into hiding and the safety of God, the beginning of the ministry of the 2 witnesses in Jerusalem, and the beginning of world-wide persecution of Christians, who refuse to worship the antichrist as Jesus.
- L. Verse 5 tells us that he will speak great blasphemies and continue in his authority, gaining greater and greater international support for 42 months or for the 3.5 year great tribulation period. Verse 7 says that he has the authority to make war with and kill most of the Christians on the earth. Many people struggle with this, not realizing that God is calling His people to live out the testimony of the _____ during this hour so that many will be brought in to the kingdom.
- M. So we see in verse 8 that all who dwell on the earth who aren't saved will _____ the beast.
- N. The phrase "names written in the lambs book of life from the foundations of the world" throws scholars for a loop. It seems to imply that the book of life contains the names of everyone that will ever be saved _____ they are even born, placed there by the foreknowledge of God. Or, it could be referring to Jesus having been slain before the foundation of the world and not to the names being in the book from then.
- O. The point of this passage, though, is that many will worship the beast and be excluded from eternal salvation, though many others will be saved.
- P. This section ends with a heavy admonishment from Jesus to the end time Christians. Just as Jesus says the same phrase here that He says to the seven churches - that whoever has an ear or the ability to hear His warning and comfort, should listen up. He says that the one who leads into captivity will ultimately be made a captive. This means that many Christians will be imprisoned and beaten and tortured for their faith. However, we should bear this with patience and love for our prisoners will answer for every thing that they do before the Lord. In the same way, many Christians will be slaughtered for their faith. However, we should bear this with trust and courage for our murderers will answer for everything that they do before the Lord and we will receive an exceeding reward for our persecution and martyrdom. Jesus calls us to be patient and have faith during this time. Our patience is shown in our unwillingness, no matter what to attack back and our faith is shown in our trust in God's sovereignty to protect us or allow us to be killed for the sake of His kingdom and purposes in the earth. For one soldier's life is sometimes best preserved and others best given for the sake of others. Only God knows which is best is any given moment. We must truly embrace patience and faith if we want to be overcomers at the end of the age. But oh, how small a cost to endure 3.5 years of extreme persecution to inherit an eternity of glory and joy and power and the fullness of the presence of God!