

What Happens When a Church Worships | Part 6

Lesson 8

Revelation 12-13

March 26, 2023

Defeat Our Unseen Enemy

INTRODUCTION

“Be alert and of a sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” This is sound advice from 1 Peter 5:8, for Satan is cunning in his tactics, being so audacious as to tempt even Jesus who solidly resisted him (Matthew 4:1-11).

Who else can resist? By the time the apostle John writes Revelation, the world is full of Satan’s victims. Can they possibly change their minds in this apocalyptic venue? No, it is too late; they are marked (Revelation 13:16).

Those who have eluded the devil need not worry further about his deceptive traps; they have a new concern. He will “wage war against God’s holy people” (Revelation 13:7). The good news is that they will not be forced to worship the beast because they are marked differently: their names are written in the Lamb’s book of life (Revelation 13:8).

Memory verse: “Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”—Revelation 12:12

Pray, and read Revelation chapters 12 and 13. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

OBSERVATION: What do the passages say?

1. Revelation 12:5 recounts history of Israel. Who is the principal of this narrative? What happens?
2. A more ancient history is retold in Revelation 12:7-9. What is the essence of this story?
3. The “beast coming out of the sea” (Revelation 13:1) has been variously identified by Biblical scholars as (1) the Roman empire, (2) the final antichrist, and (3) anti-Christian political power. From its description in Revelation 13:1-8, which of the above mentioned three, best matches the beast?
4. What is the primary responsibility of the “second beast” coming out of the earth? (Revelation 13:11-12, 14)
5. What is required of those living on earth if they need to buy food or sell their products? (Revelation 13:16-17)

4. The second beast coming out of the earth has two horns like a lamb. How is the reference to the lamb significant? (Matthew 7:15)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. When the dragon is unable to overtake the woman in Revelation 12:14-16, he is enraged and turns his attention to “her offspring” (i.e., “those who keep God’s commands...”; v. 17). In what settings does the devil prowl today to capture vulnerable Christians?

