PERSONAL REFLECTION

Attention | What caught my attention tonight?

Connection | How does this connect with my life right now?

Invitation | What is God inviting me to do in response?

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Sat, Oct 31 | *The Greatest Issue in the Book of Revelation*
Tues, Nov 3 | *Understanding the Antichrist*
Wed, Nov 4 | *How to Escape the Mark of the Beast*
Fri, Nov 6 | *America in Bible Prophecy*
Sat, Nov 7 | *What the World Needs Now*



DISCOVER BIBLE SCHOOL

Visit our Discover Bible School **online** or pick up study guides at the resource table to start deepening your Bible study journey at home!

Hope RISING

DISCOVERY TIME

1. What do you enjoy more: keeping a secret or revealing one?
2. Read **Revelation 1:1-3** and ask:
   a. What is God's intention in Revelation — to keep something unknown or make something clearly known?
   b. Who/what is the book of Revelation revealing/showing?
   c. What kind of person is promised a divine blessing in this passage?

While some may view Revelation as a "closed" book, the opening verses of Revelation 1:1-3 highlight God's intention to reveal, unveil, and disclose. Through this book, God is not trying to darken our lives with cryptic mystery but brighten our lives with divine revelation. As we turn our attention to the central chapters of John's apocalypse, let's pray that we would personally experience the special blessing promised to those who read, hear, and actually keep the words of this prophecy (Rev. 1:3).

PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION

- ☐ Singular focus — According to Revelation 1:1, the primary focus of God's prophetic revelation in this book is Jesus Christ.
- ☐ Broad foundation — The book of Revelation rests upon the broad foundation of Old Testament history, imagery, and prophecy, which not surprisingly also testifies of Jesus (see Jn. 5:39).

EPISODE 1 | THE WOMAN AND THE DRAGON

- ☐ Revelation 12:1-2 — The first "sign" John sees is a woman dressed in heavenly light, a symbolic representation of God's covenant _____ throughout Scripture (see Isa. 62:5; Jer. 3:20; Eph. 5:25-32).
  - Physical appearance — grounding the identity of God's people in the gospel and righteousness of Christ (2 Cor. 4:6; Mal. 4:2), the testimony of the prophetic Word (Ps. 89:37; Jn. 5:39), and a mission to lead others to righteousness (Dan. 12:3).
  - Physical anticipation — pointing to their steady hope in the Messiah's arrival (see Gen. 3:15).
- ☐ Revelation 12:3-4 — John also sees a great, red dragon, clearly symbolizing Satan (Rev. 12:9).
  - Physical appearance — depicting the devil's violent operations that are concretely manifested through political powers (horns) and kingdoms (crowns).
  - Physical anticipation — pointing to Satan's vigilant watch to destroy the Messiah upon arrival.
- ☐ Revelation 12:5-6 — In Cliffs Notes fashion, John sees two summaries that preview the next two episodes in this cosmic conflict: 1) the ascension of Christ, and 2) the preservation of God's people.

EPISODE 2 | WAR IN HEAVEN

- ☐ Revelation 12:7-9 — This war originates in heaven, but its effects spill over into our human experience here on earth (see Eph. 6:11-12), and it results in Satan's expulsion from heaven to earth.
- ☐ When did this war break out? When was Satan cast out?
  - Ezekiel 28:12-15; Isaiah 14:12-15 — Prophecy describes the origin story of Satan: a perfect angel whose inward pride festered into outward rebellion against God and His throne.
  - While Satan's rebellion resulted in the downfall of himself, a third of the angels (Rev. 12:4), and eventually humanity itself (Gen. 3), Satan still had limited access to heaven's councils (see Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7; Zech. 3:1) as the "ruler of this world" (Jn. 14:30).
  - After the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus (Rev. 12:5), this war in heaven intensified because Jesus was _____ in heaven and dominion given to Him (see Eph. 1:20-23; 1 Pet. 3:22; Rev. 5:5-7).
  - At Calvary, the true _____ of both Satan and God were clearly revealed to the entire universe — a revelation that cast Satan out of heaven for good. Jesus anticipated this cosmos-shifting moment (Jn 12:31-32), and the angels give voice to it (Rev 12:10)!

EPISODE 3 | SATAN'S FURY ON EARTH

- ☐ Revelation 12:13-16 — Satan's expulsion stirs him to attack God's covenant people in the apostolic era and beyond.
- ☐ Satan's two-fold attack: 1) violent <u>persecution</u> with dragon-like force, and 2) a flood of <u>deception</u> with serpent-like subtlety
- ☐ God's two-fold rescue: 1) nourishing His people in the wilderness, and 2) swallowing the flood waters with the <u>earth</u>

EPISODE 4 | SATAN'S ATTACK ON THE REMNANT

- ☐ Revelation 12:17 — Instead of admitting defeat, the archenemy turns his rage toward "the rest" of the woman's lineage. Their distinct faithfulness to God at the end of time is described by two defining characteristics (*more tomorrow*):
  - They keep the _____ of God.
  - They have the _____ of Jesus.

RISING HOPE

- ☐ Satan attacks, but Jesus wins (see 1 Jn. 4:4; Jn. 10:10).
- ☐ The cross changes everything (Rev. 12:11)!
- ☐ God has a faithful remnant at the end of time (Rev. 12:17).