

# LEAD SHEET

## REVELATION - WK 7 THE WOMEN, HER BABY AND A DRAGON NOVEMBER 13, 2016

### THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL: NAVIGATE THE BIBLE

If you want to know God better, read His Word!

### GETTING STARTED

We have arrived at the main point of the book of Revelation. Because of its structure, as we have discussed in previous lessons, it is clear that the rest of the content is pointing to this chapter as a key.

#### General Discussion:

- What do we need to remember about how Revelation was written?

*(Lots of symbols, not just about the end times, etc.)*

- So far, what "7s" have we come across?  
*(7 churches, 7 seals, 7 trumpets.)*

- What is seven a sign of? *(Completion.)*

### DIGGING IN

Revelation 12-14 is not a set of sevens; rather, it is a pause between them. Remember that Revelation chapter 12 is the point of the book. We talked about this structure several weeks ago.

### Read Revelation 12:1-6

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. According to verse 1, what appears in Heaven? (*“a great sign” This should be taken figuratively. It’s a sign. In Revelation, John says “signs” to signify that he is going to communicate via symbols.*)
2. What is going on with the woman? (*She’s pregnant and about to give birth.*)
3. What is the other sign? (*A red dragon, which is ready to gobble up the baby.*)
4. What do the “signs” of seven heads, ten horns, seven diadems, etc. mean? (*Complete power and authority. Horns equal power and crowns are authority, etc.*)
5. Who do you think this woman is? (*Israel, Mary, or both.*)
6. Who do you think the baby is? How do you know? (*Jesus. The iron scepter language, the child was “caught up to God” i.e., the resurrection.*)

Christ's birth not only changes the world, but it shakes things up in Heaven.

### **Read Revelation 12:7-9**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What happens in verse 7? (*A great war breaks out in Heaven.*)
2. Who is the dragon according to verse 9? (*Satan.*)
3. What happens to Satan and his angels? (*After losing a war with the archangel Michael and his angels, Satan and his angels are cast out of Heaven down to the earth.*)

### **Read Revelation 12:10-12**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. According to these verses, what was Satan’s role in Heaven? (*He accuses believers before God night and day.*)

2. According to verses 10-11, what was the origin of Satan's overthrow? (*The atoning work of Christ.*)
3. How do believers triumph over Satan? (*By the blood of the Lamb.*)
4. What does this voice proclaim? (*That salvation and power has come.*)
5. Why do you think these who “did not love their lives more than death” are mentioned here? (*Because this letter was written to a persecuted Church to encourage them to persevere. This is not meant as future prophecy but contemporary encouragement.*)
6. Why are the Heavens rejoicing? (*Satan, the accuser, has been thrown out of Heaven.*)
7. Why are the earth and sea filled with woe? (Because the devil has come to us, and he knows his time is short.)

To read these verses, we conclude that Christ's defeat over Satan results in a few things: salvation, empowerment, and hope. However, it does not mean the fight is over. While the Christ event marks a significant moment (Satan is defeated), there is still a significant moment to come—the eternal, complete defeat of Satan. Satan's battle with Jesus is over. Our battle is still being waged.

## **Read Revelation 12:13-17**

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Verses 13-14 seem repetitive. Why is the woman in the desert again when earlier verses already told us she went there? (*This is another example of the author repeating himself. The big word is “recapitulation.” It's all over Revelation.*)
2. Can the dragon get the woman? (*No.*)
3. After being unable to get to the woman, what does the dragon do? (*Chases after the rest of her offspring.*)

4. According to this passage, who are her offspring?  
("those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.")

5. Who is that? (Followers of Christ.)

This by no means ends the relevant information about the dragon and the war he wages on the Church. Chapters 13 and 14 tell more of the story.

## **MAKING IT REAL**

Although it's wrapped in symbolism, Revelation 12 gives us a pretty clear message. Jesus has secured victory for us already, but we still have to endure faithfully to receive it. Scholars who study this stuff call that the "already and the not yet."

Victory has occurred already. Jesus' resurrection made sure of that. However, as Satan wreaks havoc on this earth, there is still much fighting for us to do. Fortunately, this passage tells us exactly what to do.

## **Live in the Salvation of Christ**

### **Re-read Revelation 12:10**

### **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. According to this passage, we have received salvation. How did this happen? (*Through Christ's death and resurrection.*)
2. In 1 Thessalonians what does Paul say we should do because of our salvation? (*Live accordingly, encourage one another, and build one another up.*)
3. How can our salvation encourage other people? (*Allow students to share.*)
4. Why do people who are saved need to be encouraged? (*Because life is hard, following Jesus is hard, etc.*)

Just as Paul instructs the Thessalonians, John is talking about salvation so that Christians in the seven churches, as well as us, will be moved to encourage each other.

## **Live in the Power of Christ**

### **Read Revelation 12:11**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Who conquered, how did they conquer it, and what did they conquer? (*Believers conquered death by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.*)
2. This conquering was not without consequence. What didn't believers shrink back from? (*Sharing their testimony, even if it meant that they would be put to death because of it.*)
3. Why would someone not fear death? (*Death of believers results in them being present with the Lord. [See 2 Corinthians 5:8].*)
4. Does it seem odd that “conquering” and dying are used in the same sentence? (*Allow for discussion.*)

### **Read Philippians 3:8-11**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How many times does Paul use words like “loss” and “suffer” or other words like that? (*Quite a few—at least four or five.*)
2. Why does Paul lose? (*So that he may gain Christ.*)
3. What does he obtain? (*Faith in Christ, resurrection from the dead.*)

Understand this, because this is at the heart of the book of Revelation. The power of Christ is the resurrection, but to rise from death you have to die. For a first century Christian under heavy persecution, their power was in their endurance. That was their hope. It should be ours, too.

## **Live in the Hope of Christ**

### **Read Revelation 12:12**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What about Revelation 12:12 is discouraging? (*The devil has come and is full of wrath.*)
2. Is there anything about Revelation 12:12 that encourages you? (*They may not think so, but there is one thing that is encouraging: Satan's "time is short."*)

We've already talked about how Jesus secured victory through His death and resurrection. Our fight is not over, however. How can we have hope? It's that the fight we fight is not a long one.

### **Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How does Paul characterize our affliction? (*It is light and momentary.*)
2. What is it doing? (*"Preparing for us an eternal glory beyond all comparison."*)
3. Why is it hard to endure suffering, even if you know reward is coming? (*Because we live in the moment, we lack faith that the reward will come, we desire fleshly relief even if it doesn't last, etc.*)
4. Hope in Christ is what all of the readers of Revelation had as they faced persecution and death. What besides Christ are you tempted to hope in? (*Power, wealth, relationships, etc.*)

The salvation, power, and hope that can only come from Christ are at the center of Revelation 12. Given what the first-century Christians were going through, they were certainly tempted to hope in other things. Yet all of Revelation points to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This serves to remind us that Revelation isn't so much about what happens in the end, but about living faithfully until the end.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Pray that your students will live with the salvation, power, and hope of Christ at the center of their lives. Pray that your students remember that no matter what trials they may face, they will be victorious because they have Christ.