

# LEAD SHEET

REVELATION - WK 2

**IT IS NOT MEANT TO CONFUSE YOU**

OCTOBER 9, 2016

**THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:**

**WORSHIP WITH YOUR LIFE**

If you want to know God better, give back to Him!

## **GETTING STARTED**

**General Discussion:**

Sometimes the book of Revelation may seem confusing! We may not understand some of the descriptions or certain symbols, and we may not know when certain things happened or will happen.

The truth is there will always be mysteries in the book of Revelation, but it can be easier to understand than you may think. Revelation was definitely written with a central theme in mind. Today, we are going to take a stab at understanding the outline of Revelation so our study can move forward with the main point of the book in mind. Let's get started.

## **DIGGING IN**

As we cover our thematic overview of Revelation, we want to dig a little deeper into two things.

First, I want to talk about the structure of Revelation. That is, we want to look at how the book is laid out so we can make sure we understand it. I want everyone to get two shapes in their minds: A line and an arrowhead.

Revelation should not be read in a linear manner. It is not meant to be a timeline read from beginning to end.

## LINE

### Read Revelation 6:12-14, 8:12, and 16:8

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What happens to the sun in Revelation 6?  
*(It turns black.)*
2. What happens to the stars in Revelation 6?  
*(They are shaken from the sky like figs from a tree and fall to the earth.)*
3. What happens to the heavens in Revelation 6?  
*(It recedes like a scroll.)*
4. In Revelation 8:12, what happens to the stars?  
*(A third of the stars are struck.)*
5. In Revelation 8:12, what happens to the sun?  
*(A third of it is struck.)*
6. In Revelation 16:8 what happens to the sun? *(An angel "pours out his bowl" on it and the sun scorches people.)*
7. How can the stars be struck in chapter 8 if they fell from the sky into nonexistence in chapter 6? *(They can't.)*
8. How can the sun scorch people in chapter 16, or be struck in chapter 8, if it is turned to black in chapter 6?  
*(It can't.)*

This reveals two things about Revelation that are important. One is the heavy use of symbols, which we'll study in a future lesson. The second is that Revelation should not be read as a timeline. These events do not happen right in order. John revisits events, repeats himself, and embellishes upon things he's already talked about throughout the book of Revelation.

Okay, if Revelation should not be read in a straight line, how should we read it?

## **ARROW HEAD**

Revelation should be read more like an arrowhead.

This leads us to the second part of what we need to understand. If the structure of Revelation is not a line but an arrow, then we have to ask: "To what does the arrow point?"

Turn to Revelation 12. This chapter is the point of the arrow, what everything else points forward to or backward from. We would do well to pay attention to it!

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

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Who are the three main characters of this passage?  
*(A woman, a baby, and a dragon.)*
2. What does the dragon want to do with the baby?  
*(Devour it.)*
3. What is significant about the baby?  
*(It will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.)*
4. Who is the baby? *(Jesus.)*
5. What happens to Jesus?  
*(He is snatched up into Heaven.)*

Jesus' life and ministry, or the Christ event, is covered in a verse and then He is apparently in Heaven. What John is doing is pointing to the fact that much more was going on than met the eye. Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection are hugely significant events.

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

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What happens in Heaven according to verse 7?  
*(A great war breaks out in Heaven between Michael, the dragon, and their angels.)*

2. Who is the dragon according to verse 9?  
(The “ancient serpent, the devil, Satan.”)
3. What happens to Satan? (He is hurled down to earth, losing his place in Heaven.)
4. All this happens in response to what? (The Christ event — His birth, life, death, and resurrection.)
5. How is Satan defeated according to verse 11?  
(The Blood of the Lamb triumphs over Satan.)
6. Where is Satan now? (On earth.)
7. According to verse 12, what is the fate of Satan?  
(“He knows his time is short.”)

God’s victory comes through Christ’s suffering. Satan is defeated because God came to earth, lived among us, and died for us. He then triumphed over Satan, sin, and death through His resurrection. It took His blood.

Now that Satan is on earth, it is our turn to suffer.

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

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Who does the dragon try to devour? (The baby.)
2. Does he succeed? (No.)
3. Who is the dragon waging war against according to verse 17? (Those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.)
4. Who are these people? (Christians.)

Chapter 12 does not tell about things that have yet to happen. Clearly, these “signs” are of things that have already occurred. Satan tried to devour Jesus but failed because of Christ’s power. Now, Satan comes after us.

## **MAKING IT REAL**

If Revelation chapter 12 is the point of the book, then verse 11 is the key to that chapter.

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

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Who was the initial audience of the book of Revelation? (First-century Christians were the original audience.)
2. What kind of opposition did the original audience face? (Extreme persecution.)
3. From where did their encouragement come? (They triumphed over Satan by the blood of the Lamb.)
4. Is Satan still waging war against the Church today? (Yes.)
5. From where does our encouragement come? (We can overcome by the blood of the Lamb in the same way the first-century Christians did.)

Satan has already lost. His fate is sealed. He is not going to win.

#### **General Discussion:**

- Does it make sense to you that this would be the point of the arrow head—that the Christ event is what everything else points to? (*Yes, it's the single most important part of the book.*)
- If you tried to read the book of Revelation in chronological order, would it make sense for this chapter to be in the middle? (*No.*)
- How do you feel about the arrow pointing to Jesus? What does this tell you about the purpose of Revelation? (*This book is just not about the end of time, it's also about the present time.*)

- How does everything we covered today strengthen your walk with Christ? (*We aren't waiting for a hope in the future, as Christians our hope is certain because of what Jesus has already done.*)
- Though Satan has ample opportunities to tempt us, does he have any real power or authority? (*No, not if we live surrendered to Christ.*)
- Does this mean we will avoid all suffering? (No, the early Church suffered a lot, and we are not exempt.)

Suffering is part of the Christian life, but suffering does not mean losing. It just means enduring until our victory is sealed eternally. Christ has ensured our future and that gives us hope for the present.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Pray that your students begin to understand that Revelation is not meant to be confusing. Pray that your students will find great hope in the victory that Jesus secured over Satan, sin, and death. Pray also that they will be able to endure hardship like their first-century predecessors.