

Episode: Revelation Series No. 04

Narrator: Michael

Primary Scriptures: Revelation 12-20

Story Summary: The finish of the time of tribulation

Location: Roman Empire, Island of Patmos

Time:

AD 30	Jesus crucified and resurrected; Pentecost; Holy Spirit arrives
AD 48	Paul's "famine visit" to Jerusalem; First Missionary Journey starts
AD 50	Council at Jerusalem; Start of Second Missionary Journey.
AD 53	Start of Third Missionary Journey
AD 67/68	Paul probably killed in Rome
AD 85-95	John writes <i>Revelation</i>

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Revelation 12:7-9, 12:12; 13:7-8, 13:15-17; 14:7, 14:9-10, 14:12; 15:2; 16:11; 19:5, 19:9, 19:20-21; 20:3-5, 20:10, 20:11-15

Revelation 12 is a continuation of the events of Revelation 5-11. By the end of Revelation 11, the Lamb has opened the seven seals of the scroll, the seven angels have blown their trumpets, and the two witnesses have appeared. Revelation 11 ends with the opening of God's temple in heaven.

Revelation 12 tells of a great sign in heaven with the woman and the dragon. A war breaks out between the dragon and its angels versus Michael and his angels. Though Michael is the victor, the dragon continues to torment mankind.

Revelation 13 describes two beasts: one of the sea and one of the earth. This chapter contains the famous language about the mark of the beast and the number 666.

Revelation 14 and 15 tell of calamities associated with various angels, while Revelation 16 describes the seven bowls of God's wrath. Revelation 17 moves into the story of Babylon, the prostitute sitting on the scarlet beast. Like most other things in *Revelation*, the woman can be interpreted to mean many different things. The interpretation chosen has a big impact on the meaning of the fall of Babylon as described in Revelation 18-19.

Revelation 19 and 20 describe the defeat of Satan and his minions by Jesus and His servants. The thousand-year period and the final judgments are also described.

There are innumerable interpretations of *Revelation*. This message is probably indisputable: Jesus wants his followers to be faithful to Him no matter what and no matter how long it takes. No matter if there is persecution by the ancient Romans or Jews, or by some future governmental entity. No matter if there are natural disasters or if there is climate change. As Jesus told Peter, "Have faith in God."¹

¹ Mark 11:22

Discussion Questions:

1. Based on Revelation 12:1, are the events described in 12:1-6 an actual set of occurrences or simply a sign in heaven? Does Revelation 12:5 probably refer to Jesus?
 2. Revelation 12:7-9 refers to Satan and his angels. How might Satan's angels differ from God's angels?
 3. According to Revelation 12:17, who are the woman's children?
 4. According to Revelation 13:2, what is the relationship between the dragon and the beast? How powerful will the beast be?
 5. Relate the plagues of Revelation 16 to the plagues Moses sent to torment Pharaoh and Egypt.
 6. Discuss Revelation 17:9-10.
 7. Revelation 18 discusses the fall of Babylon. What things might Babylon represent?
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1. The dragon gave the beast its powers. It will wage war against God's people and conquer them. It will have authority over the whole world. Everyone will worship the beast except those whose names are in the book of life. 6. It says that the language of the "seven heads" is symbolic with at least two meanings. 7. Ancient Rome; a future worldwide empire; an economic system; a false religion.

Application Questions:

1. Revelation 13 describes a time of incredible economic persecution against Christians. What sorts of things can you do to prepare for such a time? Should those types of preparations be spiritual or material? In what ways should you also consider Jesus' words in Matthew 6:25-34? How do they relate to Revelation 13?
2. According to Revelation 16:11, people cursed God because of their pains and sores, but refused to repent. Does that make sense to you?
3. Are you preparing your family to deal with difficult economic times that might occur when Christians are persecuted? How can you prepare them?

Application Questions for Teens:

1. Is the economic control described in Revelation 13:16-17 already possible because of the Internet? What kinds of things might the marks be? According to Revelation 14:9-11, how much effort should you expend to avoid getting the mark?
2. Revelation 18:11 indicates that people are upset over the fall of Babylon because it causes them such economic distress. The goods described in Revelation 18:12-13 represent the economic goods at the time of the Bible. What sort of things could cause world-wide economic distress now? What kinds of goods would be affected now?
3. How much persecution could you withstand before giving up your Christian beliefs? Can you train yourself so that you will be able to withstand more?