

+INTRODUCTION

In Revelation chapters 12-13, the readers' are introduced to some of the darkest snapshots of evil found throughout the biblical narrative. The true colors of Satan, the prince of darkness are revealed. On no less than five occasions the dragon (the name given to identify Satan) is seen attacking and wreaking havoc upon God's own people and creation. Ironically, in each instance, he is outwitted by Jesus and his purposes are

Not content in being defeated, the dragon seeks to empower alternative forces for the purposes of deceiving and oppressing mankind. Chapter 13 unveils the identity of two other beasts, each of which work in league with the dragon himself.

The imagery in each of these chapters is spectacular. John, in typical apocalyptic form colorfully + flamboyantly caricatures, Satan, world government and false religion. To those living upon the earth, these everyday institutions may seen docile and have an appearance of normalcy, yet from God's perspective, they appear dragonlike, beastly and lethal.

John, is sure to point out that regardless of how dreadful these evil creatures appear, or how much victoriously seen as the Dragon-slayer.

Evil does exist within our fallen world. Many are ignorant of it, and/or ignore it's presence altogether. While others focus upon it far to much.

C.S. Lewis wisely stated: "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them."-Screwtape Letters

These next two weeks we'll be looking at the various aspects of Spiritual Warfare, while keeping in our sight upon Jesus, the dragon slaver. Paul the apostle, exhorted the Christians in the city of Corinth to "not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs." 2 Cor. 2:11

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+READ (Revelation 12-13)

Read this passage out loud together as a group/family before asking any of the below questions.

+OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

- 1. On at least five occasions in ch. 12, the dragon is seen as waging war/attacking and persecuting and ultimately having his purposes thwarted. Identify each of them and discuss them.
- 2. Paul the apostle states in 2 Cor. 2:11 "so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; we're not ignorant of his designs. (tactics)" What are some of the tactics the dragon uses in your life to attack
- 3. Identify what they are and spend some time praying that God would give you victory

+MEMORY VERSE/MEDITATION VERSE

Rev. 12:11 they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

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