

Revelation – The Big Picture

1. Three central characters (Revelation 12: 1 – 6)

- I. The pregnant woman – not Mary but representing God's people – Isaiah 66:7 – 10 Jesus' heirs
- II. The child that is born – Jesus the Messiah
- III. An enormous red dragon – Satan 7 Heads, 10 horns, 7 Crowns
 - i. Present at the birth of the child – ready to kill

2. One great plot (Revelation 12: 7 – 13:1)

- There was war in heaven –
- The dragon and his angels lost their place in heaven
- They were hurled to the earth
 - A war won in heaven
 - A war won on earth – The cross and the resurrection opens the way for God and Man to be one
 - But a war that continues to be fought!

3. Two beasts (Revelation 13:1 – 18)

- I. The beast out of the sea – given power by the dragon
 - i. Appearance of strength and power – rule by power
 - ii. Limited – A month, 42 months
 - iii. Power used to blaspheme God and to make war against his people.

'This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints'

- II. The beast out of the earth
 - i. The goal of this beast is to deceive people
 - ii. To divert worship to the spectacular and great signs
 - iii. To intimidate and isolate the people of God
 - iv. A mark to distinguish loyalty and allegiance

'This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.'

Digging Deeper

Read Revelation 12 – 13

1. Why does persecution of Christians in one form or another happen throughout history?

Revelation 12: 1 – 6

2. Who are the main characters seen in this scene of John's vision?
3. What clues are there that the child is Jesus?

Revelation 12: 7 – 17

4. What is the outcome of the war in heaven?
5. What are the two announcements from the voice from heaven?
6. How does the dragon continue to pursue the woman? What happens
7. How would you summarise this message and what impact could it have in your life and the choices you face?

Revelation 13: 1 – 10

8. What powers are wielded by the beast out of the sea?
9. How are believers different from those who worship the beast?

- A. What does Revelation 12 – 13 tell you about Satan's strategies?
- B. What does Revelation 12 – 13 tell you about the resources that believers have in Christ
- C. Where are you tempted to compromise with the unbelieving world?