



the book of the

REVELATION

READING PLAN

PART THREE:

The War of the Dragon and the Lamb



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the REVELATION

Part 3: THE WAR OF THE Dragon AND THE LAMB

The Revelation is an unveiling of the spiritual reality and conflict between the Lamb Jesus and the Dragon. Revelation is about a war. It is a drama of two trinities: one unholy and one Holy. It is a story of Two Kingdoms: Babylon and the New Jerusalem. It is a story of two people: the adulterous

whore and the faithful bride. The call for followers of the Lamb is to come out of Babylon, for it will fall. Patiently and faithfully wait as a bride waiting for her Groom, for those who endure to the end will be saved and they will overcome by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.

Week 8: THREE SERIES OF SEVEN

DAILY READINGS

SUN 2/27 Revelation 6:1-16
MON 2/28 Revelation 14:6-13
TUE 3/01 Matthew 24:4-14 & 23-31
WED 3/02 Joel 2:28-31
THU 3/03 Acts 2:14-21
FRI 3/04 Isaiah 2
SAT 3/05 Is. 34:1-8, & Zp. 1:14-2:3

SCRIPTURE Revelation 6:9-17, 7:9-17, 8:1-5, 11:15-19

BOTTOM LINE God will not allow evil to go on indefinitely. The Three Series of Seven tell the perfect story of redemption (Seals), call to repentance (Trumpets) and Wrath and Judgment of God (Bowls).

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: Understand that we are entering into a very difficult part of the book of the Revelation. As a result, this week's questions are difficult as well, and will require much pondering and meditation. It is less important to answer all the questions, as it is for you to experience God and find a deeper love and devotion for Him. If you find even one insight this week that encourages you to faithfulness on your journey, you will be blessed! –Pastor Paul

Week 8 QUESTIONS

- 1 Of all the evil in the world throughout human history, which would you say troubles you the most? Why?
- 2 What personal evil or injustice has happened to you or someone you love, and is most difficult to understand?
- 3 If someone asked you, "Why does God allow so much evil in this world?", what would you say?
- 4 The Lamb breaks six seals in this chapter. What do you think is the impact of breaking each of these seals?
- 5 What do the consequences of the breaking of the first four seals have in common?
- 6 When the Fifth Seal is broken (6:9-11), John looks under the altar to see the Martyrs. What is the significance of this?
- 7 Take some time to pray for the Persecuted church. Visit this link from IMB: bit.ly/jw-imb-prayer
- 8 The Sixth Seal (6:12-17) is a picture of judgment. How do these images make you feel? What do you think the message is here?
- 9 How are the people in this passage described? What are they saying? Does this passage trouble you? The last thing they say is "Who can stand?". How does Rev 7:9-17 answer this?
- 10 In what ways do the events of this chapter bring glory to God and display the character of God? What impact should this have on us?
- 11 As we consider the events of this chapter, why is it important to fear God? Why is it important that we oppose evil?
- 12 The Seventh Seal is opened in Rev 8:1-5. It is the introduction of the Seven Angels with Seven Trumpets, which is the second series of Seven. Why is this significant?

Week 9: THE Dragon AND THE LAMB

DAILY READINGS

SUN 3/06 Revelation 12:1-17
MON 3/07 2 Cor. 11:14-15,
1 John 4:1, 1 Peter 5:8
TUE 3/08 Matthew 4:1-11
WED 3/09 1 John 3:1-10
THU 3/10 Ephesians 4:25-31
FRI 3/11 John 8:39-47
SAT 3/12 1 Peter 5:6-11

SCRIPTURE Revelation 12:1-17

BOTTOM LINE The Dragon is a deceiver and an author of confusion. When we live based on his lies, our lives fall apart. We can know the Truth only through a love relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: What would your life be like if you could be free from the lies you believe about yourself, the world, others, and God? Learning to recognize and name lies in your life and replace them with a deep belief in truth may be the single greatest skill you need for maturity and spiritual growth. This week's questions are difficult in a different way from last week. They are difficult because they hit so close to home. Again, it is not important to get through all the questions or just give a superficial answer for each. It is much better to meet God in the questions and learn to live not in the lies, but in the Truth! –Pastor Paul

Week 9 QUESTIONS

- 1 READ REVELATION 12:1-17** In verses 1-4 John describes a very intense scene! What do you think is the significance of this scene? In this passage the Dragon is very clearly Satan. As you think about this passage, it almost feels like a scene from a Lord of the Rings movie! But we know the Devil can be far more subtle in our physical world. What are some ways you see the Devil wreaking havoc in our world today? How about in your own personal world?
- 2 READ JOHN 8:44-45** How is the Devil described? Which lies from the Devil are you believing?
 - I am not good enough
 - I must prove my worth every day
 - I must hide my true self because people would reject and abandon the real me
 - My failures and weakness make me unlovable
 - I must have enough money, position, and power to protect myself and family
 - The Way of the Lamb (Love) is nice, but it's just not practical against so much hate
 - Write in your own lie: _____
- 3** Why do you think we are so quick to believe lies from the Devil, even when there is overwhelming evidence against those lies?
- 4** In **GENESIS 3:1-7** - We read the story of Eve and the serpent (Dragon). Take a moment to reflect on the subtlety of the lies–mixed with truth–that the serpent used to deceive Eve. Why was this so effective? How does he still use this tactic to deceive us today?
- 5 READ 2 CORINTHIANS 11:14-15** Why is this method so effective for Satan? How do you see these subtle attacks of the Devil at work around you?
- 6 READ MATTHEW 4:1-11** In this passage, Jesus is attacked with subtle lies from the Devil. How did Jesus handle them and what can we learn from Him?
- 7 READ JOHN 8:31-38, 14:14-17** What do these verses say about our relationship with Jesus in regard to truth?

Week 10: BABYLON & THE NEW JERUSALEM

DAILY READINGS

SUN 3/13 Revelation 18:1-24
MON 3/14 1 Peter 2:1-12
TUE 3/15 Ephesians 1:1-8
WED 3/16 Matthew 5:13-16
THU 3/17 Philippians 3:12-21
FRI 3/18 Romans 12:1-3
SAT 3/19 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

SCRIPTURE Revelation 18:1-24

BOTTOM LINE Learning to identify Babylon and understand what it means to come out from Babylon, are keys to living a life of following the Lamb.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: Babylon is a metaphor for all systems, structures, nations, and organizations that have adopted the way of the Dragon. It is easy to see the Dragon's influence on other people by looking at what they believe in and support. It is much more difficult to see this influence in ourselves and in the things we love and support. It will take humility, deep honesty, and fear of God to have an honest conversation about how Babylon is manifesting itself in our world today. We must all ask the question: "What does it mean to be in the world, but not of it?" –Pastor Paul

Week 10 QUESTIONS

- 1 **REV. 18:1-24** - Make a list of everything this passage says about Babylon. Who were the people who were distressed over the fall of Babylon? Why were they lamenting? Can you ever imagine yourself lamenting over the fall of Babylon?
- 2 As you see the description of what Babylon has allowed and stood for, where do you see Babylon today? What subtle things have crept into our society, our families, the church, and our own lives?
- 3 Why do we so easily slide back into habits of Babylon? What consequences of Babylon's behavior are we seeing in our world today?
- 4 **REV. 13** - Shows us two "Beasts" from Babylon used by those in power: Forceful, violent oppression and economic oppression/injustice. How do we see these today? How do we participate in them today?
- 5 **1 PETER 2:1-12** - Has many crossovers to Rev. 18, as we are described as "strangers and aliens." As you think about the warnings to live as sojourners and exiles of this world, what do you think that looks like today?
- 6 What does it mean to live our lives today as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation? What happens when we claim to be followers of the Lamb, but live more like this world/Babylon?
- 7 According to **1 PETER 2:12** - What happens when we live as followers of the Lamb? **REV. 18:4** - Tells us to come out of Babylon. What does that mean? How is that possible while we are still on earth?
- 8 **JOHN 15:19 & 17:14-16** - Feature a recurring theme: "To be in the world, not of the world." What does this mean? (See also Rom. 12:2, Eph. 4:22-24 & I Thess. 4:1)

Week 11: THE WHORE & THE BRIDE

DAILY READINGS

SUN	3/20	Revelation 12:1-17
MON	3/21	Revelation 19:6-10
TUE	3/22	Revelation 17
WED	3/23	Matthew 15:1-9
THU	3/24	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
FRI	3/25	Luke 12:35-48
SAT	3/26	Luke 6:46-49

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 12:1-17, 19:6-10

BOTTOM LINE

Hypocrisy is a danger to our souls.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: What does faithfulness to Christ look like in this present age? **Nothing brings greater disgrace and disrepute to the way of the Lamb than the hypocrisy of those who claim to follow Him. On the other hand, nothing is more attractive to the cause of the Lamb than those who live the way of the Lamb with integrity. Again, it is easy to see hypocrisy in others but this week we want to ruthlessly start with the log in our own eye and strive to identify things we could change that would more fully bring us in line with the way of the Lamb.** –Pastor Paul

Week 11 QUESTIONS

- 1 The Whore (or prostitute) is a metaphor for someone claiming allegiance to the Lamb but living the way of the Dragon. This can be true of nations, churches, organizations, families or individual Christians. In **REV. 17 & 19** - We see the great contrast of the Whore and the Bride. As you read through those passages what stands out most about these two contrasting characters?
- 2 The Old Testament prophets often use the metaphor of an unfaithful wife to describe disobedience and idolatry. In **HOSEA** - The prophet is commanded to marry and remarry an unfaithful woman, to illustrate God's love even when we are unfaithful. What does this metaphor say about how God views our hypocrisy when we say we are faithful to the Lamb, but we are really loyal to the Dragon?
- 3 What attributes of the Whore do you see present in our world today? How about the Bride? In what ways do you see Christians living more like the Whore than the Bride? Why is faithfulness to Christ so difficult at times?
- 4 In **MATTHEW 11:30** - Jesus says His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Considering that verse, what do you think causes our unfaithfulness to Jesus? Should it be easier? Why does following Jesus sometimes feel harder than this passage seems to suggest?
- 5 Why is our own hypocrisy so destructive to ourselves and others? What hypocrisy do you see in your own life? What are the costs of hypocrisy in your life?
- 6 Pray and ask God to identify areas of hypocrisy or unfaithfulness in your life. Then commit to repenting and making changes. For accountability, find another Believer to confess these areas to, and ask the question: "What behaviors, beliefs, attitudes and relationships in my life are inconsistent with the way of the Lamb?"