

Redemption Church of Bristol
Revelation 12 Worksheet

What are our allusions and references?

- The Dragon
 - John tells us he is “that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan...”
 - John is also re-using the Greek story of [Python & Leto](#). The Emperor Domitian had called himself an heir of Apollo, the slayer of Python. John is turning this on his head by casting Domitian as a tool of Python.
 - 7 heads and 10 horns and 7 crowns - Symbols of worldly power & strength.
- The Woman
 - The woman is the people of God, that come before Christ and follow after.
 - The woman is faithful Israel, who is described as a woman in labor (Isa 26:17, 66:7-9), who also gives birth to Christ. The woman is also the church, as “her offspring...keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.”
- The Child
 - The child is Christ. Verse 5 refers to Psalm 2 in a well-known messianic psalm.
- The Wilderness - 1260 days; A time, times, half a time
 - This is 3.5 years (or 42 months). It is a reference to Daniel, when the sacrifice was shut down. The number represents the time of trial. 3.5 is half of 7, the perfect #.

What is the conflict Revelation 12?

- Apocalypse means unveiling and John is pulling the veil back further. Not only is the battle between the saints and Caesar a spiritual battle, it is actually a product of the larger battle between the dragon and God. The dragon is more than a tempter, he is the [ancient chaos monster](#), the one who brings death and destruction to God’s good creation.
- The dragon is no match for God. He is hurled down from heaven and his ultimate destruction is assured. However, he is angry and seeks to destroy the saints of God.

How are we to respond to the attacks of the dragon?

- Realize that we are protected.
 - The dragon can’t defeat the saints. Even if we die, we will be raised up with Christ.
 - We can’t lose. The dragon’s days are numbered and he will be destroyed (Rev 20).
- Realize that in the time of trial, we grow.
 - The wilderness is “prepared for us” by God. Like Israel going through the wilderness, if we go through the trial *with* God, in success or failure we will grow.
- Realize that we can overcome.
 - By the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony (*Greek: marturia - martyrdom*), the dragon is defeated and the Kingdom comes. By dying *with* Christ, in small ways and big, we come into the victory of the Lamb who was slain.

Reflection:

- Do we know we have an adversary? Do we expect resistance to the things of God?
- How do we respond when we meet resistance? Surrender, the sword, or the cross?
- What would it mean to take up the cross in struggles you are currently facing?