

Apocalypse Now: The Challenge of Revelation
Week 6—Revelation 11:13-14:20
October 19, 2022

I. Review

A. Seven trumpets: Rev. 8–11

1. First four trumpets (8:7–13)
2. Last three trumpets: three “woes” (8.13)
3. Before seventh trumpet, another interlude (10.1–11.18)
 - a) Angel and the scroll: eat this book (ch. 10)
 - b) Two witnesses/martyrs (ch. 11)
4. Seventh trumpet (11.15–19)

II. Seven Scenes of the Book of Revelation (handout)

III. Revelation 12 (Christ’s victory over the devil).

A. The Characters in the Drama:

1. Woman. “A great and wondrous sign.”
2. Baby—soon to be born.
3. Dragon. “Another sign.”

B. 12:1-6 The Dragon Seeks to Devour the Baby & Is Foiled

1. A very familiar story, retold vividly.

C. 12:7-12 The Dragon is defeated.

1. Dragon cast down (lit. “bounced”) from heaven.
2. The war in heaven is decided by an event on earth!

D. 12:13-17 The Dragon Persecutes the Woman on Earth

1. The Dragon attacks the rest of her children.

IV. Revelation 13

A. 13:1-10 The Beast from the Sea (political)

1. Seven heads with ten horns (Like the Dragon); various animal characteristics
 - a) Mortal wound that’d been healed.

- B. Beast hideously distorts Lamb's features.
- C. Clear call to be on God's side, not the Devil's.
- D. People enthralled by Beast.
- E. 13:11-18 The beast from the earth (spiritual or religious)
 - 1. Looks like a lamb (the lamb), speaks like the dragon.
 - 2. Mark of beast a number. Compare to seal of the Lamb.
 - a) False salvation: 666 falls clearly short of 777
- F. The dragon and two beasts: a kind of counterfeit trinity.
 - 1. See Job 40 & 41 for images of two great beasts.

V. Revelation 14:1-20: **The truth about salvation and judgment**

- A. 1-5 **Real Salvation:** the Lamb, his mark, his followers.
 - 1. John recognize 144,000 by the mark on their foreheads.
 - 2. Who else has marks on their foreheads? (cf. Rev. 13)
 - 3. What marks of character do the Lamb's followers have?
- B. 14: 6-20 **Real Judgment:** God the Creator and Judge.
 - 1. The first angel God is the true judge?
 - 2. The second angel Babylon/Rome is already fallen.
 - 3. Third angel: the consequences of the mark of the beast.
- C. John paints a stark contrast of true and false salvation.
 - 1. Two ways to worship; two different "gospels."
 - 2. There is something more terrible than Rome's judgment
- D. God's judgment is a gruesome, bloody picture.
 - 1. Contrast God's harvest of the faithful. What is the message of the false gospel(s) in our day?