

**SERMON NOTES:**

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**Home Group Discussion Questions**

**Open It**

1. What is one of your favorite movies? Describe the role of the protagonist and the antagonist in it. In this movie was there an element of a battle between good versus evil?
2. Think about some of the greatest money making movies of all time – spend a few minutes listing them. How many of those movies were about some kind of a battle between good and evil? Why is this? Why are so many movies based on such battles?

Read Revelation 12

**Think It**

3. Talk about one or two things that are really jumping out at you during this Revelation series (something from this text and the weeks past) – how is your thinking and life being transformed? What are you learning that is new?
4. During the message on the weekend we talked about how many of the religions of the ancient world had similar sounding stories about the battle between good and evil. For example – Greek mythology – Leto pregnant with Apollo and pursued by a dragon named Python. How would you respond to the person who says, “see this is proof that Christianity is just another story – it is one of many”. How do we know that Christianity got it right?
5. A ‘meta-narrative’ is an overarching story – it is the ‘deep story’ of life and it usually answers a number of key questions – who are we? Where are we? What’s wrong? What’s the solution? Many thinkers today (particularly postmodernists) suggest that there is no one overarching meta-narrative in the world. How would you respond? Why would they want to make such a suggestion?
6. This chapter is really about the intense battle that is going on for your life – do you think most Christians are cognizant of this? How aware are we to the fact that there is a huge spiritual battle going on behind the scenes? If Jesus has really won the battle how do you explain to someone the prevalence of evil in the world?

## Dig It

7. Read Job – what is God trying to communicate with Job? How does this speak to you today?

8. Look at verses 9, 10, 12, 13 – what word or words do you see repeated? How does knowing this help you in everyday life?

9. Rev. 9.12 – this verse lets us in on some of the dragon's tactics by telling us that the name of the dragon is Satan and the Devil or accuser and slanderer respectively. How does the Devil accuse and slander people today?

10. Read John 8.44 – What are some of the lies that the devil feeds us today?

11. Read Genesis 3.15-20 are there any connections between this and Rev.12?

12. Revelation 12 is really a Christmas text – what part of the Christmas story does this let us in on that we don't normally see or hear about at Christmas time?

13. Rev. 12. 5 – Why does John make no mention of the earthly part of Jesus' ministry – why does he go straight from birth to ascension? (see next question to help with answer)

14. John 18.37 – How does it speak to your heart that Jesus was born to be king? What does this say to you as we live in a world where evil seems to be winning?

15. Rev.12.13-17 – What did God do for the woman? Does being protected in a wilderness ring any bells? (think Pharaoh and Exodus – as an interesting rabbit trail look up Ezekiel 29:3 & 32:2 – see any parallels??) How does this passage encourage you?

## Apply It

16. How will knowing there is a fierce battle going on behind the scenes for your life help you this week? What can you take away from this?

17. How does knowing Satan is a defeated foe help you this week? Why does it help knowing that Satan works more through deceit than through power?

18. Are you struggling with negative thoughts about yourself or about your life? Can you name what they are? Are you willing to be vulnerable with your small group and share them? Now, as a group can you be an encouragement by sharing what the truth of God's word says about these things?

**April 25 & 26, 2009**  
**Pastor Jeff McNairn**  
**Courage Under Fire**



**Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour**

**1 Peter 5:8**