

THE BEGINNING OF THE END AN APOCALYPTIC ADVENT / Part 5 THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Pastor Matt Jones, Del Rey Church (Revelation 12:1-17 & Matthew 1-2)

① Heaven's Finale on Evil's Influence

② Hope for Fulfillment of Elect Israel

③ Healing Fruit for Earth's Inhabitants

④ Headhunting Flesh with Expanding Incursion

⑤ Holding Fast to Everlasting Incarnation

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. It is the last week of December 2018. This month, we studied Revelation 12 as a part of our celebration of Advent. What did you learn in this series of sermons? What were some practical take-aways and life applications you made this month as a result of our study?
2. In our study of Revelation 12, we reflected much on the history of Israel. Discuss the importance of God's faithfulness to Israel in light of the historical Abrahamic Covenant and the necessity of a literal fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham and his children in the future. (For help with this question see <https://www.gotquestions.org/Abrahamic-covenant.html> and <https://www.gotquestions.org/end-times-Israel.html>).
3. While most of our study in Revelation 12 focused on the cosmic battle of Satan and demons against the promised Seed and holy angels, in this sermon we reflected a bit on our role in spiritual warfare as participants in the story of God's redemption. That said, take some to talk about what spiritual warfare is and isn't. How do you personally engage in spiritual struggle against the kingdom of darkness? How do you want to grow in strength and skill as one engaged in this cosmic battle? (For help with this question see <https://www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-warfare.html>).
4. In our study of Revelation 12, we reflected on the woman in Revelation 12 as a symbol of Israel/Mary. We noted the parallels with another woman, that is, Eve in Genesis 3. The book mentions three other women: (1) queen Jezebel (Rev.2:20), (2) a mother of prostitutes (Rev.12:3-6), and (3) the wife of the lamb (Rev. 21:9-10). Look up these women and discuss how these ladies tie in with Eve and Israel/Mary. Discuss how these women tell us the story of redemption and point us to Christ the Savior and Lord.
5. With the New Year upon us, what are some ways in which you hope to grow spiritually in the New Year? (e.g. vices you want to conquer, broken relationships you want to see restored, disciplines you want to embrace, knowledge in God's word you want to acquire, giving you want to increase, forgiveness you need to offer, bodily discipline, etc.). Share and pray.