

Read Revelation 12:1-13:18

- Revelation chapter 12 has been called the apocalyptic Christmas story. How is the story similar to Matthew and Luke's account of the birth of the Messiah in the gospels and why is it vastly different?
- Why does Satan want to destroy the people of God? What lengths is he willing to go to persecute God's people?
- What is more frightening to you, a government leader that uses political power and military might to get what they want, like the antichrist, or one that forces ideological conformity and economic intimidation like the false prophet? Why?
- What is the mark of the beast? Why do the "earth dwellers" take the mark of the beast? What is their ultimate consequences for taking the mark?
- Why does John tell the readers that the evil activities of the antichrist "calls for patient endurance" in Revelation 13:10, and the deception and intimidation of the false prophet "calls for wisdom" in Revelation 13:18? What does it look like for us to respond with wisdom and patient endurance in the midst of incredible chaos and persecution?
- How does a unified world religion help the evil one accomplish his goals?
- Are the 144,000 literal virgins? If not, what is John trying to communicate? (look at Revelation 14:8; 17:4-6)

### **Bonus questions for serious students**

- Is the antichrist an evil empire, impersonal force, the spirit of the age, different people, an actual person, or the embodiment of evil in the last day? (Daniel 9:26-27, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17, 1 John 2:18-19, 4:1-3)
- The evil one is the ultimate imposter that tries to counterfeit God and His plans. Satan tries to counterfeit God the Father, and the Beast (antichrist) counterfeits God the Son, and the False Prophet counterfeits God the Holy Spirit. The unholy trinity attempts to pull off a dramatic death and a resurrection to gain the allegiance of the "earth dwellers". In what other ways do they try and counterfeit God and His plans?