

1. **Introduction:** Today, we begin studying an unusual section of Revelation. Chapters 12-14 are parenthetical chapters inserted between Chapters 11 and 15. First, an overview.
  - Chapters 12:1-13:18 deal with the false trinity fighting against the Trinitarian God and His people. An ongoing battle rages between the counterfeit trinity consisting of Satan, the sea beast (false Christ), and the earth beast (false Holy Spirit) and the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and His followers.
  - Section 12:1-6 deals with the Woman, the Son, and the Dragon. Section 12:7-12 deals with war in heaven. Section 12:13-17 deals with the earthly war between the Dragon and the Woman and Her Children.
  - Then there is persecution of the church by the Beast from the Sea (13:1-10). The sea symbolizes chaos, danger, and untamable forces of evil released by rebellion against God. Most often it refers to antagonistic worldly political power.
  - These sections are followed by the persecution of the church by the Beast from the Earth (13:11-18). This earth-born beast is a religious figure who projects deceptive false religious authority. It has horns like a lamb but speaks like a dragon. It is a counterfeit Holy Spirit.
2. **Chapter 12:** This chapter consists of 3 scenes: (1.) Conflict between the dragon and the woman and her son (12:1-6), (2.) a war in heaven between Michael and his angels and the dragon with His fallen angels (12:7-12), and (3.) the resumption of the conflict between the dragon and the woman with the announcement that the dragon will pursue the rest of the woman's offspring (12:13-18).
3. **Chapter 13:** This chapter presents the Beast from the Sea and the Beast from the Land. Together, chapter 12-13 lay the basis for understanding the spiritual war in which believers are involved.
  - The narrative then changes to that of the 144,000 standing with the Lamb (14:1-5).
  - Again, the narrative changes to proclamation of the Gospel and of judgment by three angels (14:6-13). In (14:14-20) the great Harvest of the Earth by the Son of Man is described. The interlude ends.
  - This entire section provides a wide-angle view of the cosmic battle between good and evil. The intent is to encourage believers to faithful endurance. Chapter 15 and 16 once again deal with judgments as the Bowl Judgments are imposed.
4. **Persecution of Believers:** Because of the ongoing conflict between God and Satan, believers are likely to incur persecution. The conflict goes on even though the enemy has already been defeated. His defeat was accomplished by Jesus' willing self-sacrifice. Jesus' death and resurrection insured Satan's defeat.
  - In Rev 10:1-11:13, we learned that, in this world, all who choose to live a Godly life as believers will likely be persecuted (2 Tim 3:12). Chapters 12-13 describe the kind of persecution to expect during the spiritual battle in which all Christians are inevitably engaged.
  - In Chapter 14, we see both the victory and vindication of the saints (14:1-5) and judgment of the unrighteous as shown in two paired visions (14:6-13 and 14:14-20).
  - Revelation 15:1-8 serves as a transition that provides both a conclusion to chapters 12-14 and a foundation for the 7-bowl judgments to follow.
5. **Discussion:** Extended discussion. Will continue next lesson with 12:1-6.