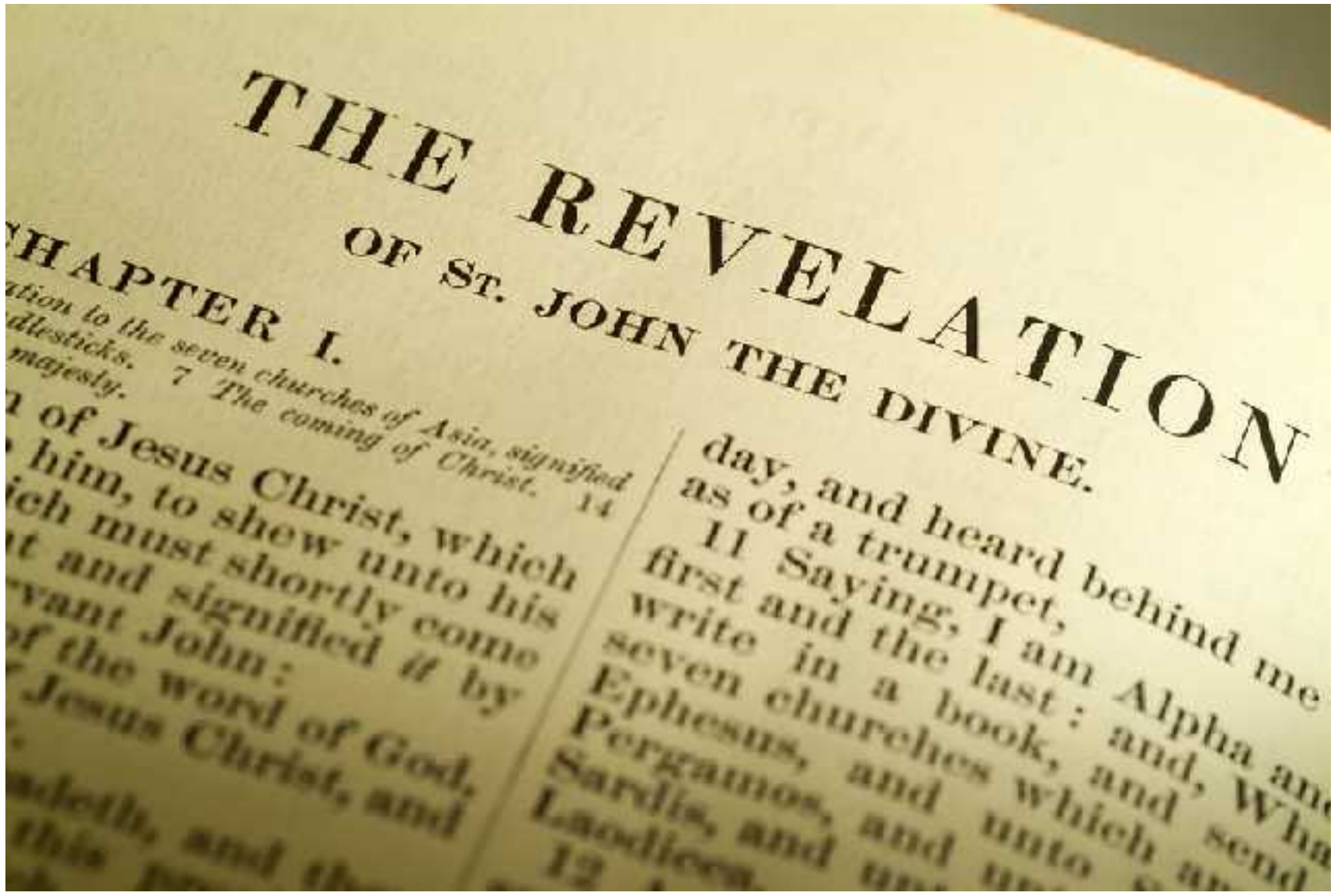


# Revelation

## The Woes, the Woman and the War



# Revelation

## Chapters 9, 10, 11, and 12

In the sequence of seals and trumpets there emerge scenes that more nightmarish than our worst dreams. John's "nightmare" is the reality of judgment. The horrifying descriptions of those who are not sealed (9:4) brings to our awareness our deepest, usually unacknowledged fears about God's judgment in our lives. John also shows us the awfulness and destructive potential of war. The full destructive powers of nature are set loose. The destructive powers are a consequence of rebellion against God and the rejection of Jesus.

1. Who might be "the star that had fallen from heaven"? (9:1)
2. Why might the locusts be alive for 5 months? (Exodus 10:12-25) Why were they so big?
3. 9:13-21 is sometimes called the "plague of the demonic cavalry." Compare verses 20-21 to Exodus 8:15, 19. Who are the people of the "hardened hearts" possibly being compared to?
4. 10:1-11:19 is an interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpets. (1) the vision of the Strong Angel and the command to prophesy (10:1-11). John is once again called to participate as a prophet. The message is internalized (10:9) and becomes a part of the prophet. (2) The two witnesses (11:1-19) prophesy ( a prophesy of repentance – sackcloth) for a time before being killed and by the beast (the Antichrist) from the abyss. The prophets are revived by God, and they are called to heaven by God. These interludes provide some consolation for John and for his fellow believers.
5. The seventh trumpet sounds (11:15) and announces the consummation of Kingdom of God. It is a song of triumph! Why was it important for the ark of the covenant to be seen within God's temple?
6. Chapter 12 tells us of the vision of the woman, the child, and the dragon. Who is the woman? The child? The dragon? Why did the woman flee to the wilderness? Who else spent time in the wilderness?

# Group Discussion Questions

1. The seven trumpets announce even greater pain and suffering for the people. Describe the blowing of the seventh trumpet and describe its message, especially as compared to the other six trumpets. What is the overall meaning of the seven seals and the seven trumpets?
2. Why must the good suffer along with the evil? Read Habakkuk 2:2-3 and 2 Peter 3:9. What suggestions do these passages offer? What do these passages say about our impatience and God's timing?
3. Talk about the war that broke out in heaven in Revelation, chapter 12. . Who is involved in the war? Who is the ancient serpent? Who is the woman? Read Daniel 12:1. Who is the angel Michael? Who does the dragon attack after being thrown out of heaven? Who does he attack next? What does this all mean for us today?

# Assignment for Next Week

1. Read chapters 13-16 in the New Testament book of Revelation.
  2. Make notes about what you are reading asking the questions who, what, when, where, and why. Note the most confusing passages.
- 
1. Pray each day for at least 5 minutes.