

Overview:

- Read the Scriptures printed in this study guide.
- What keywords do you first notice? Highlight or circle them.
- What phrases catch your attention? Underline them.
- There was a whole lot going on behind the scenes.

Explore:

- What are your initial impressions of this story compared to the Christmas Story?
- What do you think of the Woman? How do you feel toward her?
- Discuss the Child briefly. Who is He? Why is His role so seemingly small?
- What about the Dragon, how do you feel toward Him?
- Does this image of our enemy help you understand your own difficulties?
- The Dragon is thrown down but He retaliates. What do you think about His retaliation?
- Jesus often told us, "Do not fear." Does this passage make that command more or less reachable? Why or Why not?
- How might we as Christ followers live in a manner consistent with the eternal war that surrounds us?
- How does this passage change... How we see God? How we treat others? How we live our lives?
- Discuss practical ways that we might share this with others.

Revelation 12:1-12 NLT Then I witnessed in heaven an event of great significance. I saw **a woman** clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head. 2 She was pregnant, and she cried out because of her labor pains and the agony of giving birth. 3 Then I witnessed in heaven another significant event. I saw **a large red dragon** with *seven heads and ten horns, with seven crowns* on his heads. 4 His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky, and he threw them to the earth. He stood in front of the woman as she was about to give birth, ready to devour her baby as soon as it was born.

5 She gave birth to a son who was to rule all nations with an iron rod. And her child was snatched away from the dragon and was caught up to God and to his throne. 6 And the woman fled *into the wilderness*, where God had prepared a place to care for her for 1,260 days. 7 Then there was **war in heaven**. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. 8 And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. 9 *This great dragon--the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world--was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.*

10 Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, "It has come at last--salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth--the one who accuses them before our God day and night. 11 **And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.** 12 Therefore, rejoice, O heavens! And you who live in the heavens, rejoice! But terror will come on the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you in great anger, knowing that he has little time."

Revelation 12:13-18 NLT When the dragon realized that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. 14 But she was given two wings like those of a great eagle so she could fly to the place prepared for her *in the wilderness*. There she would be cared for and protected from the dragon for a time, times, and half a time. 15 Then the dragon tried to drown the woman with a flood of water that flowed from his mouth. 16 But the earth helped her by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that gushed out from the mouth of the dragon. 17 And the dragon was angry at the woman and declared war against the rest of her children--all who keep God's commandments and maintain their testimony for Jesus. 18 Then the dragon took his stand on the shore beside the sea.

Genesis 3:15-16 NLT And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." 16 Then he said to the woman, "I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. ..."

Isaiah 27:1 NLT In that day the LORD will take his terrible, swift sword and punish Leviathan, the swiftly moving serpent, the coiling, writhing serpent. He will kill the dragon of the sea.

Application and Notes:

The END... *A Christmas Story...*

7 Symbolic Histories

A Woman

She is Israel

Genesis 37:9-10; Isa 54:1-4; 66:7-13; Micah 5:3

She is Mary

She is The Bride

Isaiah 62:1-5; Rev 12:11-17; Rev 1:16

The Child

Genesis 3:15-16; Ps 2:9; Rev 2:27; Rev 19:15

A Villain

A Dragon

Ez 29:3, Ps 74:13, Ps 89:10; Isaiah 27:1

I See RED

7 Heads, 10 Horns, 7 crowns

Our Enemy is real and terrible.

A War

An Evil Plan

Michael

Stars

Our Enemy is real and terrible... and not a problem.

A WIN!!!

A Throw Down

A Car Chase

A Situation - *Revelation 12:11, 17-18*