

# Apocalypse Then and Now: Reading the Book of Revelation

Presented by Brian Purfield



**A Seven Week Course  
7:00-8:30pm  
on Mondays  
2 June - 16 July 2014**

**Course repeated  
11:00am-1:00pm  
on Wednesdays  
4 June - 18 July 2014**

*(See leaflet for details)*

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**JESUIT CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
FARM STREET**

# SESSION 5

- **Recap, overview & context**
- **Preliminary Visions of Judgement & Salvation (Rev 6-11)**
  - **7 Seals & Sealing of 144,000 (Rev 6:1-8:5)**
  - **7 Trumpets (Rev 8:6 – 11:19)**
- **Visions of Final Salvation & Judgement (Rev 12-22)**

# SESSION 5

- **Vision of the Woman & the Dragon  
– Part I (12:1-6)**
- **Vision of the War in Heaven (12:7-12)**
- **Vision of the Woman & the Dragon  
– Part II (12:13-18)**

# RECAP, OVERVIEW, CONTEXT

## I. *“What you see”* (1:1-20)

- Introduction (1:1-8)
- Inaugural Vision of Christ (1:9-20)

## II. *“What is”* (2:1 – 3:22)

- Letters to the Seven Churches

## III. *“What is to take place”* (4:1 – 22:21)

# RECAP, OVERVIEW, CONTEXT

## III. *“What is to take place”* (4:1–22:21)

- **The Heavenly Liturgy of Creation & Redemption (4:1-5:14)**
- **The Seven Seals (6:1-8:5)**
- **The Seven Trumpets (8:6-11:19)**
- **The Woman & the Dragon (12:1-18)**

# **PRELIMINARY VISIONS OF JUDGEMENT & SALVATION**

- **The Seven Seals & the Sealing of 144,000 (6:1-8:5)**
- **The Seven Trumpets (8:6-11:19)**
  - **7 trumpets & 2 visions**
  - **Judgements limited & partial**
  - **Echo of Egyptian plagues & new Exodus**
  - **Purpose: to repent & know God**
  - **Worship of God**

# THE WOMAN & THE DRAGON (12:1-18)

- **Part I – 12:1-6**
- **The War in Heaven – 12:7-12**
- **Part II – 12:13-18**





# THE WOMAN & THE DRAGON – Part I (12:1-6)

- ***“The great sign” – “perfect portent” – woman about to give birth (12:1)***
- ***“The other sign/portent” – the dragon***
  - **Rahab (Ps 89:11; Job 26:12-13)**
  - **Leviathan (Ps 74:13-14)**
  - **Chief enemy of God in OT (Is 27:1; 51:9; Pss 74:13; 89:11; Job 9:13; 26:12)**
  - **Serpent (Gen 3); Devil & Satan (Rev 12:9)**



# THE WOMAN & THE DRAGON (12:1-18)

- **The Python Myth**
  - **Apollo, Leto & Zeus**
  - **E.g. Hyginus *Fabulae* 140**
  - **Apollo & the “Golden Age”**
  - **Imperial Propaganda**
  - **Polemical purpose of Rev 12?**
  - **Who brings the “Golden Age” of peace & prosperity?**
  - **Role reversal**

# THE WOMAN & THE DRAGON (12:1-18)

- **Message:**
  - **Sufferings are not meaningless & random – much bigger picture/battle**
  - **Deep trust & confidence in God even in the midst of sufferings**
  - **Destiny of the woman – how to understand & respond to their situation**

# **THE COSMIC BATTLE**

## **(12:7-12)**

- **Cosmic battle between good & evil**
- **Story of the woman & the dragon interrupted:**
  - **Report of a cosmic battle (12:7-9)**
  - **Hymn of celebration (12:10-12)**
- **Battle in Heaven between Archangel Michael & the Dragon**

# THE COSMIC BATTLE (12:7-12)



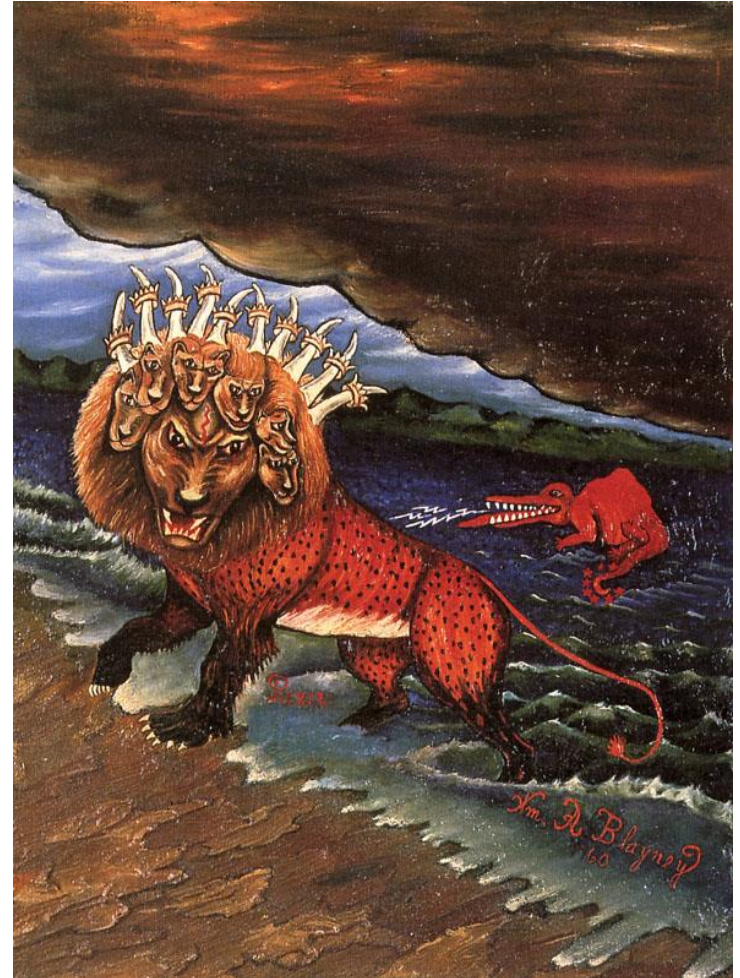
- **Archangel Michael (cf. Dan 10:13,21; 12:1)**
- **Dragon & forces thrown out of heaven**
- **Faithful on earth now vulnerable**
- **Celebration hymn**

# **THE WOMAN & THE DRAGON – Part II (12:13-18)**

- **Fate of the woman**
  - **Protection (cf. Ex 19:4; Dt 32:11; Is 40:3)**
  - **Creation to the rescue**
  - **Comprehensive but limited persecution**
  
- **Identity of the woman:**
  - **Eve?**
  - **Mary?**
  - **The Church?**

# REV 13

- **“Unholy Trinity”:**
  - **Satan (Rev 12)**
  - **The beast from the sea (13:1-10)**
  - **The beast from the land (13:11-18)**





# NEXT WEEK



- **REV 19:11 – 20:10**

***“Behold, a white horse....”***