**OUTNUMBERED**

In *Outnumbered: Incredible Stories of History’s Most Surprising Battlefield Upsets*, Cormac O’Brien recounts the stories of armies that, though seriously outnumbered, still won. It tells of Hannibal’s army of 55,000 soldiers from Carthage defeating the “invincible” Roman army of 80,000 strong. It tells the amazing story of Alexander the Great’s Greek army defeating the empire of Persia.

We, too, are in a life-and-death battle with a wily foe. We are outnumbered, fighting against incredible odds. The forces of evil appear invincible. We seem to be facing certain loss and defeat appears inevitable. Victory seems out of sight. From a merely human perspective, it seems that Satan’s forces will overwhelm us.

But, thank God, though we are outnumbered, though the odds are (humanly speaking) stacked against us, though Satan’s attacks are vicious, through Jesus we will win at last. Summarized in a few words, the theme of the Bible’s last book, Revelation, is this: “Jesus Wins, Satan Loses.” The heart of this battle is outlined in Revelation 12, the focus of our study this week. This study will give a good preparation for understanding Revelation 14 and the three angels’ messages.
Write out Revelation 12 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Revelation 12:11 and 17. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Revelation 12. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

What does the conflict of Revelation 12 imply about the reality of free will and free choice?

Why is the assurance of salvation, because of Christ’s victory over Satan, so crucial to us?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/3am01-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this lesson? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How do you see the reality of Revelation 12:17 played out in your own life, in your own Christian experience? In other words, in what ways do you find the great controversy being played out in your own life?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/3am01-4
inSpect

What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Ephesians 5:25–27, 32
Psalm 2:7–9
Philippians 3:9
Daniel 7:25
Isaiah 14:12–14
Revelation 13:14–17

What other verses come to mind in connection with Revelation 12?

Review your memorized verse from Revelation 12.
Meditate on Revelation 12 again and look for where Jesus is.

What is He saying to you personally through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What personal encouragement should you get from the fact that your accuser has been “cast down”?

How do you see Jesus differently in light of these last days?

Prayer Response:

Read more at www.inversebible.org/3am01-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, where is the great conflict between good and evil most evident?

Where are areas that you see this conflict in society?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/3am01-7
inQuire

Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Why is Revelation 12 a fitting introduction to the three angels’ messages, especially in view of the coming conflict at the time of the end?

How is Revelation 12 reassuring to you personally in the daily temptations and trials you face?

There are some who believe our actions are determined largely by our heredity and environment. Do you agree or disagree? What role does our choice have in determining our behavior?

Discuss the relationship between our choice and God’s power as He operates in our lives.

Think about how sacred free will and free choice must be to Jesus, who, though knowing it would lead Him to the cross (see 2 Tim. 1:9), gave us free will anyway. What should this tell us about how carefully we should use this sacred-but-costly gift?

How can what Paul wrote in Phil. 3:9 be our own experience?