

News Story Summary

August 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. All around the United States, there have been celebrations. In San Diego, the USS Midway museum recreated a USO concert with lookalikes of Bob Hope, Judy Garland, and the Andrews Sisters. In Times Square, thousands of couples recreated the iconic photo of a sailor kissing a woman on August 14, 1945, and there was a parade of Rosie the Riveter lookalikes. However, in Japan, observances were far more subdued. Wreaths were laid at the newly opened Nagasaki Peace Memorial and the 74000 civilians who died in the atomic blast were remembered.

(For more on these stories, search the Internet using the phrase “70th anniversary of the end of World War 2”)

Focus Attention

Before class, consider printing several images of newspaper headlines announcing the end of World War II. Look for headlines such as “WAR ENDS” or “JAPAN SURRENDERS.” Depending on the age of your group, you may encourage volunteers to share personal stories they may remember from their parents or grandparents about the end of World War II. After some discussion, write this week’s session title on a whiteboard. Write it in all caps, similar to a newspaper headline. Direct the group to talk about how reading such a headline in the morning newspaper might make them feel.

Point out to the group the significance of this month in history, and share details from the news story summary. Comment that we are nearing the end of our study of Revelation, and while many people are apprehensive, confused, or frightened of the last book of the Bible, our focus today is the victorious end. For believers, this is cause for celebration.

Challenge

Remind group members of the question on page 127 of the Personal Study Guide: *How does knowing about Satan’s ultimate defeat give you confidence each day in living for Christ? We know what the final headline is going to be. We know the outcome. And if we are believers, we know we are on the winning side. Ask: What is one way Jesus’ defeat of Satan can impact your life this week.*