

Part 8 – March 14, 2010

The Great War

Revelation 12-13

The Cosmic Battle

The Dragon (12:1-6)

12:9

The Woman (12:1)

Genesis 37:9

Isaiah 26:17-19

“From the expulsion from Eden, God’s people have been an expectant mother, awaiting the birth of the seed who would champion their cause against Satan the liar, accuser, and murderer”

–**Dennis Johnson**, *The Triumph of the Lamb: A Commentary on Revelation*, 181

The Child (12:5)

Psalm 2:9

Genesis 3:15

Know Your Enemy

He's an accuser

12:10

Zechariah 3:1

“When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin”

He's a counterfeit

Father	Dragon/Devil
Son	Beast
Holy Spirit	False Prophet

Christ	Beast
Image of God (Col. 1:15)	Image of the Dragon (13:1)
Many crowns (19:2)	Ten crowns (13:1)
Worthy names (19:11-13, 16)	Blasphemous names (13:1)
Divine power (12:5, 10)	Great power (13:2)
Real resurrection (1:18)	Counterfeit resurrection (13:3)
Receives worship (5:8-10)	Receives worship (13:4)
Song of praise (5:9)	Song of praise (13:4)
Seal on his followers (14:1)	Seal on his followers (13:16)

- Whatever God does, Satan mimics it. Like a snake oil salesman, Satan dazzles people with his product but never delivers on his promises.

“The fact that Satan engages in counterfeiting helps us to understand and prepare for the spiritual war. Counterfeiting implies both danger and hope. The danger lies in the fact that Satan may fool people. The counterfeit is close enough to the truth to suck people into its grip. But hope lies in the fact that Satan and his cohorts will surely be defeated. In fact, their defeat is implied in the facts about who they are. Satan aspires to be god. But he cannot succeed. He is not the creator or originator, but only an imitator. He is constantly dependent on God”
–**Vern Poythress**, *The Returning King: A Guide to the Book of Revelation*, 23

He’s bestial

- 666 & the number of man...without God
- As in creation Adam ruled over beasts from land and sea, in New Creation the Second Adam is Lord over the Beast from the land and the Beast from the sea.

The Decisive Victory

- Revelation doesn't leave us wondering who will win this battle.

12:9-11

- Satan and everything he represents have been conquered (**1 John 3:8**).
- But the Devil's defeat comes from the Lamb's defeat. His demise is Christ's death.
- The Lion of Judah who devours the Serpent is the Lamb who is slain (**12:11**)

John 12:31-33

Colossians 2:13-15

The Victims are Victors

"The continuing and ultimate victory of God over evil which the rest of Revelation describes is no more than the working-out of the decisive victory of the Lamb on the cross"

-Richard Bauckham, *The Theology of Revelation*, 75

Who conquers whom?

- The Beast conquers Christians (**11:7; 12:17; 13:7**)
- Christians conquer the Beast (**12:11; 15:2**)

“The point is not that the beast and the Christian each win some victories; rather, the same event—the martyrdom of Christians—is described both as the beast’s victory over them and as their victory over the beast”

–**Richard Bauckham**, *The Theology of Revelation*, 90

Death = Victory

12:11

Colossians 1:24

Hebrews 13:12-14

All Christians are martyrs

Romans 8:36

Read for next week: Revelation 14