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Dragon in the Old and New Testament.

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Dragon in the Old and New Testament.

Topics.

- The dragon and leviathan.
- The dragon that swallowed Israel and God Himself.
- God is against Egypt and Pharaoh its king, the great dragon.
- A great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns appeared in heaven.
- Michael and his angels fought against the dragon.
- The great dragon is cast to the earth.
- The dragon was wroth with the woman and made war with her seed.
- The dragon, Satan, the devil and the serpent.
- The world worships the dragon and the beast.
- Unclean spirits come out of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet.
- The dragon the old serpent the devil and Satan.

INTRODUCTION: the focus of the following study is primarily upon the dragon it is not a detailed explanation of the entire chapter. The main purpose of this study is to show that the dragon is not an evil powerful spiritual creature as many believe.

THE DRAGON IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The word dragon in the following verses comes from the Hebrew word (*tanniyn*) (*from tan*) and from Strong's Concordance carries the idea of a sea or land monster, (i.e. a sea-serpent or jackal or a dragon or serpent or whale.

THE DRAGON AND A WELL

- **Nehemiah 2:13:** And I (Nehemiah) went out by night by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon (*tanniyn*) well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire.

The word dragon this verse refers to the name of a well.

THE DRAGON AND LEVIATHAN

- **Isaiah 27:1:** In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon (*tanniyn*) that *is* in the sea.

In this verse the dragon is pictured as a monster in the sea and as leviathan the serpent. Since the sea in the Bible is often used as a symbol of the people of a nation and people of the world these three entities can be seen as different aspects of pride and ego personified as a fearful monster or as different aspects of the mind of the flesh and every aspect of sin including fear and death. For further information see the title: "Leviathan," in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Jeremiah 51:25-37: “Behold, I (the LORD) am against you, O destroying mountain (Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon), declares the LORD, which destroys the whole earth; I will stretch out my hand against you, and roll you down from the crags, and make you a burnt mountain --- NOW GO TO VERSE THIRTY-FOUR -- ³⁴ “Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon has devoured me; he has crushed me; he has made me an empty vessel; he has swallowed me like a dragon (*tanniyn*); he has filled his stomach with my delicacies; he has rinsed me out -- NOW GO TO VERSE THIRTY-SEVEN -- ³⁷ and Babylon shall become become heaps, a dwelling place for dragons (*tanniyn*), an astonishment, and an hissing without an inhabitant.

In these verses Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon and Babylon itself is likened to a violent and cruel dragon that has brought ruin to the earth and that has not only swallowed the inhabitants of Zion (Jerusalem), but also swallowed God Himself. Because Babylon treated God’s people Israel with such oppression and cruelty the LORD says he will turn Babylon into a burning mountain and make it desolation and a dwelling place for dragons. This means that that God will make it a place that will be devoured by other fierce cruel and powerful nations. The reason Babylon is likened to a destroying mountain and a dragon that swallowed up Israel and God Himself is because Babylon destroyed the city of Jerusalem; brought ruin to the land of Judah (their farms and houses); plundered the temple of God and took the sacred furniture of the temple and the people of Israel into captivity for seventy-years.

GOD IS AGAINST EGYPT AND PHARAOH ITS KING, THE GREAT DRAGON

- **Ezekiel 29:1-5:** In the tenth year, in the tenth month, on the twelfth day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me (Ezekiel), ² “Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him and against all Egypt; ³ speak, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon (*tanniyn*), that lies in the midst of his streams, that says, ‘My Nile is my own; I made it for myself.’ ⁴ I will put hooks in your jaws, and make the fish of your streams stick to your scales; and I will draw you up out of the midst of your streams, with all the fish of your streams that stick to your scales. ⁵ And I will cast you out into the wilderness, you and all the fish of your streams; you shall fall on the open field, and not be brought together or gathered. To the beasts of the earth and to the birds of the heavens I give you as food.

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The symbolism.

- The great dragon is Egypt and Pharaoh its king.
- The rivers represent all the countries Pharaoh the king of Egypt has influence and power over and is aligned with.
- The smaller fish are all the nations affiliated with Egypt.
- The fisherman is the LORD.
- The beasts and fowls refer to all the enemies of Egypt who will bring their kingdom to ruin.

The nation of Egypt and Pharaoh its king, are likened to a great dragon swimming in many rivers with the dragon boasting that it owns the rivers. Many other smaller fish are pictured swimming with the great dragon in these rivers. Ezekiel sees the LORD as a great fisherman who will put a hook into the Jaw of the dragon and pull it up out of the rivers, and because the smaller fish are stuck to the dragon like fixed scales are on a fish they will also be cast up out of the rivers with the dragon and cast onto dry ground where wild beasts and the birds of the air will feed off the carcass of the dragon and of the smaller fish.

A brief overview: Pharaoh the king of Egypt is not only puffed up in great pride because of the enormous power and influence he has over the nations of the world, but is also boasting that he has gained all this power by his own strength and that all the nations he has influence over are his. God looks down from heaven and sees the oppression the king inflicts upon the people and says He will not only destroy all the power the king has, but also destroy all the nations that are aligned to him so much so that wild beasts and the birds of the air will feed off their carcass.

DRAGON IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The word dragon in the following verses comes from the Greek word (*drakon*) and from Strong's Concordance carries the idea of a fabulous kind of serpent (perhaps as supposed to fascinate).

A GREAT RED DRAGON WITH SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS APPEARED IN HEAVEN

- **Revelation 12:1-6:** And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ² She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon (*drakon*), with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴ His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon (*drakon*) stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. ⁵ She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, ⁶ and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

No one believes that there is a literal woman clothed with the sun and the moon standing in heaven so it seems strange that many today believe that the title dragon in these verses refers to a literal powerful evil spirit creature.

NOTE: the following symbolisms are by no means dogmatic since it is certain there are many other insights to be gained. The following is not an in-depth study, but is designed to serve two primary purposes, firstly to show that the dragon in view is not referring to a powerful, evil spirit creature called Satan (as many believe). Secondly to give some insight into what John is seeing in this heavenly vision so that those who are interested in pursuing the symbolisms even further may be inspired to do their own study and gain even greater insights into this glorious vision of Johns.

A BASIC OVERVIEW OF THE SYMBOLISMS

- The woman is a symbol of the nation of Israel (because it is through Israel's bloodline Christ came) and of Mary who gave birth to Christ and by extension a symbol of the body of Christ
- Clothed with the sun carries the idea of being clothed in the glory of God.
- The moon under the woman's feet symbolizes the earth.
- Upon the woman's head a crown of twelve stars refers to the twelve apostles.
- Travailing in birth to be delivered refers to Mary giving birth to Christ and by extension to the earth travailing and groaning to give birth to the sons and daughters of God at the resurrection (Rom. 8:19-25).

- The great red dragon refers to the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) who plotted to murder Jesus and by extension to every type of persecution from individuals and nations that are against God and against Christ and against those who follow him.
- Seven heads refer to seven powerful global nations that are against Christ and his Kingdom.
- Ten horns refer to ten powerful global rulers that are against Christ and his Kingdom.
- The tail refers to nations that are affiliated to the seven nations and the ten rulers.
- Cast a third of the stars to the earth symbolizes both the Roman persecution and the persecution of the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) who had Jesus brutally and cruelly killed and aggressively set about to destroy the church the body of Christ and by extension it can apply to all persecution against Christ Kingdom until he returns.
- The dragon stood before the woman to devour her child as soon as it was born, refers to the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) who plotted his murder and to Rome and by extension to any individual or nation that sets out to destroy Christ's Kingdom and those that follow him.
- The woman brought forth a Man Child refers to the Lord Jesus Christ and by extension would include his Kingdom.
- Who will rule the nations with a rod of iron means Christ and his government will rule with great authority.
- The woman's child was caught up to God and his throne refers to the resurrection of Christ and by extension to the resurrection of the sons and daughters of God.
- The woman fled into the wilderness refers to Mary, to faithful Israel and to the body of Christ fleeing from the persecution of Rome and the persecution of the chief priests, the Pharisees and scribes into the world and by extension to the body of Christ abiding in the world (the wilderness) until the Lord returns.
- Where God will feed them carries the idea that God and the Lord Jesus Christ will spiritually nourish and keep those who belong to His Kingdom while they dwell in the wilderness (the world) until Christ returns.

NOTE: Jesus has been caught up to God's throne and is seated at the right hand of his Father in heaven and the faithful of Israel and of God have fled into the world (the wilderness) (v6). The following events of John's vision are events that have taken place since Christ resurrection and events that are still to take place.

MICHAEL AND HIS ANGELS FOUGHT AGAINST THE DRAGON

- **Revelation 12:7-12:** Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon (*drakon*). And the dragon (*drakon*) and his angels fought back,⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.⁹ And the great dragon (*drakon*) was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before

our God. ¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

NOTE: since the focus of this study is upon the character and nature of the dragon the following is not an in depth study of every detail of these verses, but a basic overview of the symbolisms that will perhaps help and inspire those who are interested in biblical symbolisms to search their Bibles and go on a spiritual adventure and expand what is written here and discover many more insights.

WAR IN HEAVEN

War in heaven does not actually mean that there is a literal war in heaven where God and the angels’ dwell. There can be no war between God who created all things and who is the source of all life. To go against God in battle would be like a five-year old boy trying to go to battle against a black belt karate instructor, clearly there would be no fight. The real war is on earth it is referred to as being in heaven because the war is spiritual and against God’s people and God’s Kingdom. This is a picture of the pride and spirit of mankind that is hostile toward God and His Kingdom personified as a great dragon whose character is that of a serpent a devil and of Satan. Those who are hostile toward God and are warring against God’s Kingdom are referred to as a dragon because they have tremendous corrupting power and influence over multitudes of people and nations and because the word dragon presents a perfect picture of a monster that is to be feared and of creature that has the power to do great destructive damage. For these reasons the word dragon is used figuratively to picture any evil powerful corrupt organization (secular or religious) government or nation that is hostile toward God and His Kingdom.

MICHAEL THE LORDS ANGEL

The following Scriptures show that Michael is God’s angel that fights for the nation of Israel:

- I will tell you (Daniel) what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these (Great and powerful secular nations) except Michael your (Daniel’s) prince (and thereby Israel’s prince) (Dan. 12:21).
- At that time shall arise Michael the great prince who has charge of your (Daniels) people (Israel). And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your (Daniels) people (Israel) shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book (Dan. 12:1).

The dragon primarily refers to Rome and the powerful religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) who plotted the murder of Jesus and then aggressively set about to brutally and cruelly destroy the church, and persecute, torture, imprison and put to death those who followed Christ, but by extension the dragon can apply to any powerful ruler or nation who is aggressively against the Lord Jesus Christ and his Kingdom.

THE GREAT DRAGON IS CAST TO THE EARTH

John states that the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the devil and Satan which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Here we see that the serpent, the devil and Satan are all part of the entity of the dragon. It could be said that the serpent, the devil and Satan are the body of the dragon. This is why the dragon is presented as a most fearful and powerful

creature. It is a symbol of powerful world ruler's and leaders of organizations (secular and religious) that have great power and deceptive and corrupting influence over the minds of the masses. The dragon the serpent, the devil and Satan are all different aspects of the same entity.

The dragon: is a symbol of the greatest power of evil.

The serpent: is a symbol of subtlety and seducing enticement, meaning the character is such that it entices and persuades somebody to do something by making it seem desirable or exciting.

The devil: refers to the evil and sin in the human heart and mind.

Satan: generally, refers to the collective power of a group, organization (religious and secular) and of nations that are hostile toward God and aggressively against the Lord Jesus Christ and his Kingdom and those who faithfully follow the Lord.

SALVATION AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS NOW COME

The dragon the serpent, the devil and Satan being cast down to earth brought about the following three things:

1. Salvation: obviously salvation has been available since the fall of Adam and Eve, but the salvation in focus in this heavenly vision of John's refers to the New Covenant of grace and salvation through faith in Christ and by God's grace.
2. The Kingdom of God, but the kingdom that is in focus is not the Kingdom of God that existed under the Old Testament Judges, David, Solomon and the kings, but the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. The accuser of every brother and sister in Christ losing its condemning power.

There has only been one event in the history of mankind that brought about these three things and that single event was the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ death and resurrection gloriously ushered in the following three things:

1. Salvation by faith and by God's grace.
2. The Kingdom of God made up of Jews and Gentiles alike (also called the body of Christ and the church).
3. The destroying power of condemnation and the condemning voice of the enemy (spiritual and mental) to condemn to death since every brother and sister who faithfully follows Christ are saved by grace and not by self-effort and works.

All these have come about by the power of God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ (v10). We are told that the faithful in Christ overcome the dragon (the serpent, the devil and Satan) by the following three things:

1. By the blood of the Lamb referring to the Lord Jesus Christ. This clearly shows that the focus of this chapter is the death and resurrection of Christ and that the power that cast the dragon to earth was also the death and resurrection of Christ.
2. By the word of their testimony meaning they held fast to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and trusted in God's grace.
3. They loved not their lives unto the death meaning that their faith and love for Christ was of far more value than the things of this world and of persecution, hardships, sorrow and suffering.

REJOICE YE HEAVENS AND WOE TO EARTH DWELLERS

These words are a call to all who are saved in Christ to rejoice in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and in their salvation. In contrast to this glory are the words, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea!" Because they have no hope of being resurrected to glory in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5) and ruling and reigning with Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords when he returns to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

THE DEVIL IS COME DOWN

The words, "The devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time" can refer to two things:

1. The religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priest, the Pharisees and the scribes) who plotted the murder of Jesus and after they had Rome kill him, they aggressively set about to destroy the church and brutally and cruelly persecute those who followed Christ. It is certain they knew that if they did not destroy this new faith that was rapidly growing around them before it grew too large, they would have no hope of controlling it or stopping it mushrooming up amongst the nations all around them.
2. Any individual, group or organization (religious or secular) and any ruler or nation that is aggressively hostile toward God and aggressively against the Lord Jesus Christ and against those who follow him.

THE WOMAN BROUGHT FORTH THE MAN CHILD

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- **Revelation 12:13-17:** And when the dragon (*drakon*) saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. ¹⁵ The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. ¹⁶ But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon (*drakon*) had poured from his mouth. ¹⁷ Then the dragon (*drakon*) became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

The serpent, the devil and Satan in these verses are personified as a dragon that has been cast down to earth. This is a personification and spiritual picture of the extreme brutal and cruel wrath and fury of the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) who were so hostile toward Christ they plotted his murder. When they heard people proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus the Man Child, they thought they had killed their fury and rage against those who proclaimed the message was unleashed upon them without mercy many were tortured, imprisoned and put to death.

THE DRAGON SAW HE WAS CAST TO THE EARTH

This refers to the great and corrupting authority, power and control the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, the Pharisees and the scribes) had over the nation of Israel. Christ's death and resurrection totally abolished the need for the entire Levitical Priesthood, the need for the temple and the services involved with it, the holy days, the sacrifices etc., and the need for human priests. The prideful, hypocritical legalistic

and dogmatic religious leaders of Jesus generation who held the religious power over the nation of Israel lost it all because of the death and resurrection of Christ. This is because Christ's death and resurrection totally abolished almost four-thousand years of Jewish ceremonial rites and the need to adhere to customs and traditions because no one today needs a literal temple or to adhere to ceremonial rites, holy days or keep religious customs and traditions nor does anyone need a human priest to be united to God or to be saved to eternal life and everlasting glory. The only priest anyone seeking God today needs to be united to God and to receive eternal life is the Lord Jesus Christ.

NOTE: perhaps as a mental reminder it might be good to mention again that the dragon is not a literal powerful evil spirit being, but refers to all the evil in the human heart and the mind that is not only contrary to and against the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ, but is also hostile toward God and His most beloved Son and those who follow him.

SYMBOLISMS OF THE WOMAN

The woman who gave birth to the Man-Child can refer to Mary and to the nation of Israel (since it was through their bloodline Christ came).

SYMBOLISMS OF THE TWO WINGS

The two wings could refer to Jews and Gentiles in Christ or to faith and grace.

SYMBOLISMS OF THE GREAT EAGLE

A great eagle can refer to the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ and to the Gospel of faith and God's grace.

THE WOMAN MIGHT FLY INTO THE WILDERNESS

The woman might fly into the wilderness most likely means that because of the great persecution the faithful (especially the faithful who lived in the city of Jerusalem and the land of Israel) fled into the nations of the world where God nourishes them by His Spirit of love and grace until God draws them back to their own land or until the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory.

THE FACE OF THE SERPENT

The face of the serpent refers to deception and enticing temptations. Mary and the nation of Israel gave birth to the Lord Jesus Christ, who proclaimed the Gospel of grace. Multitudes received Jesus and his message and great persecution arose against them (especially those in the city of Jerusalem and the land of Israel) so Jews and Gentiles alike fled the aggressive and extremely hostile persecution and escaped into the world where God kept them by His Spirit of love and grace as He is keeping all who belong to the Kingdom of his beloved Son until the Lord returns in glory.

THE SERPENT CAST OUT OF HIS MOUTH WATER AS A FLOOD

The words, "The serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood means

that from the time of Christ's death and resurrection those whose spirit denies God and is against Christ send out powerful messages that denies the God of creation, denies the Lord Jesus Christ and denies salvation by grace. During Christ generation this message most likely referred to the teaching of the chief priests, the Pharisees, the scribes and the Jews who held fast to salvation by religious works, (i.e., no one could be saved apart from adhering to their ceremonial rites, their holy days and keeping their religious customs and traditions). This was one of the greatest spiritual battles Paul had with new converts, during the time of the apostles. There were certain influential Jewish religious leaders that did accept many aspects of Christ and much of his teaching, but they still believed salvation could only be attained by adhering to Moses Law and their Jewish religious customs and traditions and were therefore constantly attempting to draw new converts back under the law. The following words of Paul show the enormous importance of trusting in God's grace in Christ. Paul in his letters wrote:

- I do not nullify the *GRACE* of God, for if justification were through the law (or any form of religious self-effort), then Christ died for no purpose (Gal. 2:21).

This means, when a brother or sister in Christ begin to justify themselves through the law and self-effort, they nullify the grace of God and by their actions declare that Christ's death was of no value.

Equally as horrific as this Paul states:

- When we forsake *GRACE*, we separate ourselves from Christ because it was only by *GRACE* that God made us alive in Christ (Gal. 5:4) (Eph. 2:5).

Paul to highlight even more the majestic glory of grace wrote with absolute boldness that:

- It is only by *GRACE* that any brother or sister has been saved (Eph. 2:8).

Paul in these verses is shining a brilliant floodlight on the truth that every brother and sister in Christ is saved, solely by faith and by grace and it is not their own doing, but the gift of God. This means that without grace no-one can be united to Christ and whoever is without Christ is separated from God and without God no-one can be saved to eternal life. This means in regards to eternal salvation, Christ, God, grace and faith, are all on an equal par with each other since no-one can be saved to eternal life without any one of them. This is the reason the author in the book of Hebrews spends so many chapters brilliantly and skilfully explaining to the Hebrews that they must stop their sin of trusting in religious works, the Levitical Law and their priesthood to be counted righteous before God and start trusting in the grace of God that is in Christ and in his righteousness to be saved to eternal life.

By extension this means that Christians must stop trusting in attending a church building every week, strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions to be saved. Though the practice of some of these maybe good in themselves they become grossly sinful when believers trust in them for their salvation since not one of them has any power to save to eternal life. Though salvation by works is still a great deception worldwide (especially religious works) in some Christian churches and religious originations there is another great flood of deception being proclaimed today that is deceiving the world and future generations on a global scale, this as many will have guessed is the worldwide teaching of evolution. This teaching denies the God of creation and is embraced and believed worldwide and not only does the global media, speak of it as a scientific fact, but it is also taught in our schools as being scientifically proven.

NOTE: the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth is by no means limited to the teaching of salvation by works or the teaching of evolution, but embraces any message that entices people (Christian or secular) away from God and away from the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE EARTH HELPED THE WOMAN

The words, "The earth helped the woman and opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. Is a difficult verse, but if we suppose that the flood refers to every kind of deception (i.e., salvation by works and evolution and such like teachings) and that those who are hostile toward God and aggressively against the Christian faith are represented by the dragon then the words, "The earth helped the woman could refer to the following two things:

1. To those in the secular world who helped the faithful in the Lord and protected them against the fury and wrath of those who were hostile toward Christ and who were aggressively going about seeking to persecute and destroy them.
2. To the return of Christ in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords and to the wrath and fury of the false, prideful, hypocritical religious leaders uniting with the secular rulers of the global world to make war against Christ and his Kingdom in the same way that the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) united with the secular world (Rome) to have Jesus killed when he appeared the first time in an attempt to have his Kingdom destroyed. But there will be a big difference when the Lord returns this time because he is not coming as a Lamb to be slain, but as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

THE DRAGON WAS WROTH WITH THE WOMAN AND MADE WAR WITH HER SEED

John sees in his heavenly vision that the dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. The symbolism:

- The remnant of the woman's seed refers to the faithful in Christ.
- The dragon refers to all who are hostile and aggressively against Christ.

The words, "The dragon made war with the woman's seed" can refer to the following two things:

1. Those who are hostile and aggressively against the Lord will continue to persecute the faithful in Christ until the Lord returns.
2. When Christ returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice joy and peace on earth and the kingdom of men (the dragon) will rise up in fury and wrath against him.

NOTICE: the dragon, Satan, the devil, the serpent and the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, the Pharisees and scribes) and those whose minds are hostile toward God and the Lord Jesus Christ and who do not submit to God's law all have the same character. The Scriptures teach that the mind that is set on the flesh (self, pride, ego and greed etc.,) is hostile to God and does not and cannot submit to God's law (Rom. 8:7).

This is why when the mind is set and focused only on the flesh it is always hostile toward God and the Lord Jesus Christ and hostile toward those who faithfully follow him. This is because a mind fixed upon ego, pride and greed etc., has only one focus in life and that is to gratify self and therefore will always aggressively oppose anyone or any message that is contrary to what self and the flesh crave after.

The character of the dragon, Satan and the devil is embraced and embodied in the serpent and the serpent is a liar and murder (Rev. 12). It was the serpent who by lies spiritually murdered Adam and Eve (Gen. 3). Jesus himself calls the Scribes and Pharisees a generation of vipers and serpents and tells them they are of their father the devil who is a liar and murder (John 8). In the following verses Jesus calls the Pharisees and Sadducees, vipers and serpents identifying them with the dragon, Satan the devil and serpent (a viper from Strong's Concordance refers to an adder or other poisonous snake (i.e., a serpent)).

- When Jesus saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! (Matt. 3:7).
- Jesus said to the Pharisees, "You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34).
- Jesus said to the Scribes and Pharisees, "You serpents you brood of vipers (Matt. 23:33).

Jesus is basically calling the scribes and the Pharisees devils, serpents and Satan's, it would be proper and right to liken the scribes and the Pharisees as a collective group to a fierce evil dragon that has flames of fire coming out of his mouth destroying everything in its path.

A BEAST RISES OUT OF THE SEA

- **Revelation 13:1-3:** And I (John) saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. ² And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon (*drakon*) gave his power and his throne and great authority. ³ One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast.

NOTE: this chapter contains an amazing amount of stunning prophecy, but the focus of this study is not upon presenting a detailed explanation of the entire chapter or every prophetic detail of it but upon the character and nature of the dragon and for this reason the following gives only a very brief overview.

This is the same vision that Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon had that Daniel interpreted the only difference is that John is looking back in history whereas Daniel was looking toward future history. This is why John is seeing the vision the reverse way around to Daniel's vision of the same thing. This vision that God first gave to Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon is one of the most stunning visions of the Bible since its focus is on the seven historical Kingdoms that have affected the nation of Israel from the time of Egypt right up to Christ's return in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords. Another great wonder is the fact that God thousands of years before John is seeing this heavenly vision first gave it to a pagan king in a dream during the time of Daniel. For much greater detail of this most amazing prophecy, see: Daniel chapter two and Daniel chapter seven in, Commentary OT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Symbolism of the Vision.

- The beast refers to a Kingdom.
- The sea refers to the populations of the world.

The seven heads are:

1. Egypt.

2. The Chaldeans.
 3. Babylon (symbolized as a Lion).
 4. Media Persia (symbolized as a Bear).
 5. Greece (symbolized as a Leopard).
 6. Rome (symbolized as a beast with iron teeth and ten horns).
 7. The final world empire (symbolized as a kingdom of Iron and clay).
- The ten horns and ten crowns are ten Kings and Kingdoms of Rome (but there are also other applications).
 - The names of blasphemy mean that these nations and kings are hostile and aggressively against God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - A leopard, a bear and a lion carry the idea of being the most powerful of all nations.
 - The leopard refers to Greece.
 - The bear refers to Media Persia.
 - The lion refers to Babylon.

The beast and his kingdom refer to these seven powerful Kingdoms as a collective whole and in its widest sense to the entire spirit of the world that is hostile to God and the Lord Jesus Christ and his Kingdom.

The wounded head was healed: refers to the Empire of Rome diminishing in its world power, but eventually rising again in global power with affiliated nations who have world power over the nations of the world.

The Empire of Rome and all nations in league with it will once again rise from the ashes to be a final world power and as they did the first time Christ appeared they will rise up against the Lord and his Kingdom when he returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth, but this time the Lord is not coming as the Lamb to be slain, but as a King to rule with a rod of iron. Christ will return as the stone of Nebuchadnezzar's dream that crushes this final world empire that arises up to make war against the Lord and his Kingdom.

THE WORLD WORSHIPS THE DRAGON AND THE BEAST

- **Revelation 13:4:** And they (the world) worshiped the dragon (*drakon*), for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" (Who is able to make war with him in KJV).

The Symbolisms:

- The beast refers to a global world ruler and his kingdom.
- Worshipped the dragon and the beast carries the idea that the majority of the world is devoid of God and corrupted.
- Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him? Means that there has never been such a powerful amalgamation of nations as these final world nations. It carries the idea that their power and glory surpass all the power and glory of all previous world Kingdoms.

The serpent, the devil and Satan, is the entity that gives all these final world nations their corrupt and oppressive power and great authority over the world these three names are summed up in the word dragon. The dragon gets its power from the evil that dwells in the flesh (self, ego,

pride and greed etc.) and the evil that dwells in the human heart and the mind. It is out of the bottomless pit of evil in the human heart and mind that is hostile toward God that all the power of the dragon, the serpent, the devil and Satan flows.

The apostle Paul wrote:

- Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh which is hostile to God because it does not submit to God (Rom. 8:5-7).
- The desires of the flesh are against the Spirit (of God and of Christ), and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh for the Spirit and the flesh are opposed to each other (Galatians 5:17).
- The passions of the flesh carry out the desires of the body and the mind (Ephes. 2:3).

John states:

- All that is in the world, the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions is from the world and not from God (1 John 2:16).

Matthew wrote:

- Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness and slander” (Matt. 15:19) and Luke tells us; “From within out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder and adultery” (Mark 7:21).

In the eyes of mankind, the glory and power displayed in the amalgamation of the final world kingdoms will surpass all the power and glory of all previous world Kingdoms, but in the eyes of God it is seen as a dragon. The dragon is a perfect symbol for these final world beast kingdoms since a dragon is always pictured with flames of fire coming out of its mouth and it is this fire that gives the dragon its great power to destroy everything that stands in its way and in its path. Like the dragon the power of these beast nations will come from the mouth of the beast leader.

The power of this final amalgamation of beast nations to deceive the world and gather them against Christ will be in the brilliant oratory skill and the deceptive and enticing speeches that flow out of the beast leader’s mouth and it is eventually these speeches that bring destruction upon these beast nations.

ANOTHER BEAST ARISES UP OUT OF THE EARTH

- **Revelation 13:11:** Then I (John) saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. (*drakon*).

The Symbolisms:

- The second beast refers to a most powerful ruler who has great authority and influence over the nations of the world.
- Arising up out of the earth means he rose up out of the populations of the world.
- He spoke like a dragon means that he had brilliant oratory skills and made speeches that deceived the masses. When a dragon opens its mouth, it is pictured with flames of fire flowing out and destroying everything in its path. Speaking like a dragon carries the idea of speaking messages that bring destruction.

UNCLEAN SPIRITS COME OUT OF THE DRAGON, THE BEAST AND THE FALSE PROPHET

- **Revelation 16:13-14:** And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon (*drakon*) and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. ¹⁴ For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.

The three unclean spirits like frogs we are told are devils. In this context the word devils refers to, enticing, seductive, deceiving and corrupting messages arising out of the heart of the final world rulers of the world who through brilliant oratory entices the armies of the world to go to battle against Christ when he returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. In these verses the dragon the beast and the false prophet are all pictured as having one mouth, meaning they all have one purpose and one goal. This goal is to gather the kings of the earth and their armies to the battle of that great day of God Almighty (also called the battle of Armageddon).

Following is a brief overview of this battle that will end all battles:

The Lord will return in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his millennial reign. The dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. The false religious rulers of the world and the super-rich and wealthy and those who have power over nations will feel threatened by the power Christ gains over the Middle East and when they see the oppressed and the poor willing submitting to his rule. When Jesus appeared the first time the prideful, hypocritical religious leaders of Jesus generation felt threatened by his influence over the people and so they enticed the secular world Rome to have him killed. When Christ returns again the scenario will be very similar. Jesus as King will defeat all the enemies of Israel and from God's Holy City Jerusalem establish God's Kingdom on earth during his millennial Kingdom age, but before this glorious new age begins there will be the great battle of the Kingdom of men against the Kingdom of God (also called the battle of Armageddon), though it is not really a battle since God destroys the armies that come up against Christ and his government with hail stones.

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After this great battle of the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of men Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth, or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

THE DRAGON THE OLD SERPENT THE DEVIL AND SATAN

- **Revelation 20:1-3:** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain.² And he seized the dragon, (*drakon*) that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,³ and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

The words that old serpent takes the mind of the ardent Bible student immediately back to the serpents' deception of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. This verse shines a spotlight on the truth that the old serpent is the great dragon called the devil and Satan. The Bible speaks of knowing the depths of Satan (Rev. 2:24) the bottomless pit and the depth of Satan can be seen as the personification of the extreme depths of evil and of the pride of man or the extreme evil that the mind of the flesh (self, ego, pride and greed etc.) can sink to. The flesh is capable of tremendous evil and horror to satisfy its lust for its own pleasure and to gain things it sets its affections and cravings on. It is the heart of man that is the bottomless pit that evil ascends from.

The dragon embraces all the evil character of the serpent, the devil and Satan. These titles are all different aspects of the same entity which is the mind of the flesh and the pride of man manifested in all its various forms of wickedness, not only throughout the entire history of mankind but also during Christ's millennial reign on earth. The words, "The dragon that old serpent which is the devil and Satan will be bound for a thousand years" means that anything that is contrary or opposed to God's law will not be tolerated it is in this sense that the dragon that old serpent which is the devil and Satan are bound during Christ millennial Kingdom age. It means that the flesh (self, ego, pride and greed etc.) will be greatly limited and unable to manifest its evil sinful and rebellious ways.

The dragon the serpent, the devil and Satan are bound for a thousand years, means all the evil contained in the human heart of those who are hostile toward God and the pride of man will be restrained by Christ when he rules over the nations as King of kings and Lord of lords with great authority (a rod of iron) and with those who have been gathered to him. The flesh and the pride of man refer to that spirit and will of man that is hostile toward God and His laws and commandments. Evil, rebellion, oppression, greed and such like things will not be tolerated during the new age of Christ's Kingdom. It is in this sense the dragon the serpent, the devil and Satan which are all different aspects of the same entity, (the pride of man and the mind of the flesh that is hostile and opposed to God and the Lord Jesus Christ are bound. It means that they will not be able to do the evil sinful and rebellious things the flesh (self, pride, ego and greed, etc.), desires and craves to do.

SATAN WILL BE LOOSED OUT OF HIS PRISON

The words, "Satan will be loosed out of his prison," means that the pride of man and the flesh (self, ego, greed, etc.), that is hostile and opposed to God and rebellious toward Christ's rule as King of kings and Lord of lords will be permitted to manifest its evil, sinful rebellious nature at the end of Christ's millennial Kingdom reign, but will be destroyed by the power of God forever (Rev. 20:1-10).

Generally but not always the dragon and the serpent represent the personification of the greatest and highest power of deception and evil, control and authority that kings, rulers and governments have over the entire world, while the devil and Satan (these titles are used interchangeably) are primarily, but not always a personification of the evil power, control and authority of an individual man or woman or of a crowd, a group, an organization (religious or secular) or of kings, rulers and governments of countries and nations

SUMMARY

Because of the prophetic language of the Bible the title, "The Dragon" can apply to any of the following:

- The religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priest, Pharisees and scribes who had Jesus murdered and aggressively set about to destroy the church).
- A powerful false religious system that rises up in the latter days and deceives those who belong to the Kingdom of God and the family of Christ.
- An amalgamation of secular nations and a world government that seeks to destroy Israel and those that belong to Christ.

The past historical battle was between the false religious leaders (called the dragons and angels of Satan) and the faithful apostles that belonged to Christ (these could be called Michael's angels). Under Christ's leadership they ushered in a spiritual Kingdom of faith in the heart of all who accept the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The future battle will be between faithful Jews and faithful Gentiles united together in Christ (these could be called Michael's angels) and the world's most powerful false religious leaders and secular kings and governments (called the dragons and Satan's angels).

But whereas the first battle ushered in a spiritual Kingdom of God in the heart and mind of those who by faith trust in Christ and by love follow him this future battle will usher in the glorious literal Kingdom of God on earth. The present spiritual Kingdom of God being established in the heart and mind by faith and love of those who belong to Christ in this present age will be manifested outwardly when the Lord returns and the remaining world will marvel at God's glory manifested in the children of God.

John wrote the following beautiful words:

- **1 John 3:1-2:** See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

And Paul said:

- Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God (Rom. 8:19).
 - In Christ Jesus you are all children of God, through faith (Gal. 3:26).
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For further information see the following titles:

- Leviathan.
- Satan.
- Devil.

All titles are in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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