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**The
Identity
of the
Dragon**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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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.

The Identity of the Dragon.

Topics.

- The dragon, the serpent, the devil, and Satan.
- Mythology of the dragon.
- Rome, a monster, and the dragon.
- A two horned beast like a lamb spoke like a dragon.
- Overcome the dragon, serpent, beast, and false prophet.
- All scriptures using dragon in revelation.

THE DRAGON, THE SERPENT, THE DEVIL AND SATAN

In the book of Revelation, we read:

- **Revelation 20:1-2:** 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, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

After the destruction of the ungodly ten horned beast nations and the false prophet, the dragon (a symbol of all that is against God and enemy of the entire human race), who, in the form of a subtle serpent, deceived mankind, first parents and brought sin and death into the world, and afflicted upon humanity an incalculable number of evils that remain. The following four entities:

1. The dragon.
2. The ancient serpent.
3. The devil.
4. Satan.

Signify the collective nature of sin, especially sin that is opposed and hostile to God.

- **The devil:** signifies, all sin that flows out of human nature.
- **Satan:** signifies, violence and extreme hostile power against God, especially of a collective group of people or a nation.
- **The serpent:** signifies, subtle lies, slander and deception that lead people away from God.

The name 'dragon' is a name that embraces everything in the world that is an adversary of all righteousness and of everything that is against God and offensive to Him. It is an identity that signifies the collective sinful antichristian spirit of all mankind that influences the inhabitants of the world and nations against God and against His word, and against the Lord Jesus Christ and his followers.

The dragon, the serpent, the devil, and Satan embrace:

1. The Papal Church.
2. The Pagan world.

3. The world of Islam.

4. All who are opposed to God and will not submit to the rule of Christ.

These four groups signify the great evil power, authority, and cruelty that has corrupted, deceived, and destroyed the world and the poison of idolatry, superstition, false doctrine, and worship, by which the inhabitants of the earth have been seduced, deceived, and spiritually poisoned.

SUMMING IT UP: no matter what evil and wickedness is manifested worldwide, its evil always stems from the same power, which is sin manifested in all its forms. This one great enemy at various times and in various places has and still is appearing in the following forms:

- A cunning and subtle serpent, symbolising all who cunningly and subtlety deceive those who listen to them (especially those seeking God).
- A devil symbolising those who falsely slander and accuse others (especially those who belong to Christ).
- Satan symbolising those who by extreme force actively oppose and are aggressively hostile toward those they disagree with (especially Christians), manifested in violence, murders, bloodshed wars and such like things.

The fierce and fiery dragon is a most appropriate beast used to symbolise the following three identities:

1. The serpent.
2. The devil.
3. Satan.

The title, the fierce and fiery dragon is a most appropriate title to symbolise a most fearful and powerful creature, and to express what it does, in a multitude of different forms under the names, the dragon, the serpent, the devil and Satan. This power has ruled the fallen world; and when the angel seizes and imprison this one great enemy all these forms of evil will be restrained.

The lesson we can learn: the fact the angel seized the dragon, denotes the use of strength and power, and implies that the angel had superior power to that of the dragon, from this we learn that it is only a power from heaven that can destroy the world-wide empire of the dragon, and that the glorious state of Christ's millennial reign will not be bought about by human hands, but by the power of angels.

MYTHOLOGY OF THE DRAGON

The mythology of the dragon: a dragon is a legendary serpentine reptilian creature, that appears in the myths of many cultures around world and combines traits typically belonging to snakes, reptiles, and birds. Beliefs about dragons vary amongst different regions, but are usually seen as snakelike creatures covered in scales, and are sometimes said to breath fire.

Dragon-like creatures are first described in the mythologies of the ancient near East. Throughout, nearly all Indo-European and Near Eastern mythologies stories about storm gods slaying giant serpents occur.

Dragons in western mythology: are usually depicted as gigantic, reptilian beast creatures, typically reptilian with separate leathery bat-like wings, four legs, lion-like claws, scaly skin, and a serpent-like body, that seeming moves through the air like a winged serpent. They are often depicted as a monster with fiery breath and generally symbolise something with intelligence that is formidable and dangerous

Dragons in eastern cultures: are usually depicted as large snake like serpentine monster creatures with above-average intelligence and no wings and four legs. Chinese dragons traditionally symbolize, intelligence and strength and potent and auspicious powers, particularly with control over water, rainfall, typhoons, and floods and are taken to be good luck for people who are worthy of it.

ROME, A MONSTER AND THE DRAGON

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 this reason, the word dragon is used figuratively to picture the following:

- Any evil powerful corrupt organization (secular or religious).
- Any government or nation that is hostile toward God and His Kingdom.
- All who are hostile toward God and are warring against God's people.
- All who have tremendous corrupting power and influence over multitudes of people (especially those who belong to Christ).

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A good example of the dragon is Rome, and the powerful religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees, and scribes) for the following two reasons:

1. Rome had enormous world power and influence and aggressively persecuted Christians and crucified hundreds.
2. The religious leaders during the time of Rome plotted the murder of Jesus, and then aggressively set about to destroy the church brutally and cruelly, and persecute, torture, imprison and put to death those who followed Christ.

Though Rome and the religious leaders (the chief priests, Pharisees, and scribes) of that time are a perfect example of the dragon, the symbolism of the dragon is not limited to Rome and the powerful religious leaders of Jesus generation, but embraces all powerful rulers and nations who are aggressively against the Lord Jesus Christ and his Kingdom, and all religious leaders that corrupt and distort the Gospel for their own advantage and gain (i.e., fame, importance, and worldly riches).

A TWO HORNED BEAST LIKE A LAMB SPOKE LIKE A DRAGON

In the book of Revelation, we read:

- **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.

Here we read of a two horned beast like a lamb speaking like a dragon (also called the false prophet). When a dragon opens its mouth, it breathes out fire which destroys everything in its path, consequently to speak as a dragon carries the following ideas:

- To speak in a prideful, harsh, haughty, proud, and arrogant spirit.
- To speak words and doctrines that lead away from God.
- To speak lies in hypocrisy, that promise a better world, but eventually bring destruction and death.
- To speak, deceptive doctrines (especially in the name of Christ) that lead to superstition and idolatry.
- To speak distorted and twisted teachings of the Gospel for one's own gain an advantage (i.e., fame, importance, and riches).
- To speak against God's laws, that change civil, state, and international laws that are contrary to Gods' laws.
- To speak destructive messages that lead to nations to war.

All these speeches have one thing in common, they all lead to ruin and destruction, very much like the flames of fire that a dragon, breaths out of their mouth, reduces everything to ashes.

OVERCOME THE DRAGON, SERPENT, BEAST AND FALSE PROPHET

The book of Revelation speaks of those who overcome the dragon, the serpent, the beast, and the false prophet receiving wonderful promises, in its widest sense this refers to all who hold fast to their faith, through all the trials, suffering, sorrows, hardships and troubles this world throws at them, and are found standing in their faith when Christ returns. However, in the context of the visions recorded in the book of Revelation it primarily refers to those who overcome:

- The two-horned beast like a lamb (also called the false prophet) that spoke like a dragon. (Rev. 13:11), signifying a religious leader that has great religious influence over nations and many inhabitants of the world.
- The three unclean spirits like frogs (Rev. 16:13), signifying ungodly doctrines and teachings.
- The the great prostitute woman arrayed in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold jewels and pearls, full of abominations (Rev. 17:4), signifying the Roman Papal Church and all false religions in union with it.
- The ungodly beast with ten horns (Rev. 17:7), signifying the final antichristian beast nations.

All these entities are embraced in the title, "the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan." (Rev. 20:2).

SNAPSHOT

The dragon is, "the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan," (Rev. 12:9), and signifies the sinful force that flows through all mankind to lesser and greater degrees. It can be rightly said, "the life of all those whose names, are written in the Lambs book of life is founded upon the following three:

1. God.
2. The Lord Jesus Christ.
3. The Holy Spirit.

Likewise, it can be rightly said, the life of all who deny God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, is founded upon the following three:

1. The serpent.
2. The devil.
3. Satan.

When these three are combined as one force they are summed up in the name dragon, because amongst all creatures, the dragon signifies the most powerful and the most fearful, and a creature that has the most potential for destruction. An easy way to visualise in our minds eye the symbolism of the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan (Rev. 12:9), is to imagine a tree whose roots are the dragon, the serpent, the devil, and Satan (Rev. 12:9), while the trunk and branches of the tree is the world. The life-force of the tree rises-up from its roots feeding the trunk, the branches, and the fruit. Everything on the tree is contaminated to lessor and greater degrees with this evil life force.

ALL SCRIPTURES USING DRAGON IN REVELATION

A great red dragon: (Rev. 12:3) the word dragon comes from the Greek word (*drakon*) which means to look, it carries the idea of a fabulous kind of serpent (perhaps with the idea of being fascinated). It occurs in the book of Revelation in the following ten verses:

- **Revelation 12:3-4:** Another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.
- **Revelation 12:7:** Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back.
- **Revelation 12:9:** The great dragon 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.
- **Revelation 12:13:** When the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.
- **Revelation 12:16-17:** The earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. ¹⁷Then the dragon 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.
- **Revelation 13:2:** 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 gave his power and his throne and great authority.
- **Revelation 13:4:** They worshiped the dragon, 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?"
- **Revelation 13:11:** Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.
- **Revelation 16:13:** I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs.

- **Revelation 20:2:** He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

In all these places there is reference to the same thing, a large serpent like creature, many notions have been attached to the dragon which did not exist, which were ascribed to it by the imagination. According to much of mythology the dragon was distinguished by:

- Its vast size, its three rows of teeth and its lofty crest.
- Its black, red, yellow, or ashy colour and its large wide mouth.
- Its heavy breathing, that drew in birds flying over it.
- Its terribly loud and frightening hissing noise.
- Its large feet and wings.
- Its place of habitation was believed to be waste places of solitude and isolation.

For these reasons the dragon became, an object of great terror, it is very likely that the original of this was a huge serpent, and that all the other characteristics were added by the imagination. However, that does not lessen the force, or the prevailing idea regarding it, which is of some type of a fearful destructive creature of great power. The two unique characteristics of the dragon that are stated by John are:

1. It is red colour.
2. It was great.

The mythological dragon describe in the list above was supposed to be black, red, yellow, or ashy, in John John's vision he sees a red coloured dragon, most likely signifying bloodshed. The second characteristic was that it was great, which carries the idea that it was a huge monster, symbolising some type of mighty, terrible power.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.