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# **A Dragon Seven Heads and Ten Horns**

(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.



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.

## A Dragon, Seven Heads and Ten Horns.

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**NOTE:** the focus of this study is not upon prophecy, but upon the dragon and what it symbolizes.

### Topics.

- The meaning of dragon.
- A great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns.
- The dragon and the final ten horned beast nations.
- Pharaoh king of Egypt and the dragon.
- The empire of Rome and the dragon.
- The Papal Roman Church and the dragon.

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### THE MEANING OF DRAGON

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**The meaning of dragon:** the word dragon comes from the Greek word (*drakon*) which means to look, it carries the idea of a fabulous kind of serpent, and embraces the serpent, the devil, and Satan, as the following verses show, consequently, it is a fitting symbol of the god of this world:

- **Revelation 12:9:** And 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.
- **Revelation 20:2:** And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan.

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Here we are told, the dragon the serpent, the devil, and Satan, together deceive the whole world, accordingly they signify, cruelty, violence, and everything that is opposed to God, especially persecution of Christians, superstitious religion, and idolatry, and by cunning, and deception ensnaring ministers and teachers of Christianity. The reference to the dragon in all Scriptures in the book of Revelation carry the idea of 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, such as:

- It was of a vast size and had three rows of teeth.
- It was black, red, yellow, or ashy in colour and had a large wide mouth.
- It breathed out fire and made a terribly loud and frightening hiss.
- It had large feet and wings, and inhabited dark waste and solitary places.
- It was ravenous and ever thirsting for human blood.

For these reasons the dragon became an object of great terror. Red is the colour of flames and blood, and the symbol of destruction and slaughter, it is the emblem of a perpetual antagonist of good, the persecutor of the church in all ages, and of the one Jesus declared to be a murderer from the beginning. 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 three great powers mentioned in the Bible that are embraced in the symbolism of the dragon, are the serpent, the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2).

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## A GREAT RED DRAGON, WITH SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS

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- **Revelation 12:3:** And another sign (wonder in KJV) appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems (crowns in KJV).

The dragon is described as:

- **Great:** signifying it was some type of mighty, terrible hostile power on earth.
- **Red:** symbolising fire and bloodshed, signifying destruction and death especially by violence.

While John was sitting on the Isle of Patmos writing all these visions down, for us to read, his mind would have been totally devoid of anything worldly, and filled with the presence and Spirit of God. In a vision he sees a great red dragon in heaven, this does not mean that there is a literal dragon in heaven, the place of glory and happiness. The dragon signifies a collection of great world nations that have had, and will have enormous power, authority, and influence over the world, especially over Israel and the Christian church, which is why it is spoken of as being in heaven, for its prime focus is to destroy God's people and His Kingdom on earth. The seven heads signify the following seven world kingdoms:

1. Egypt.
2. Assyria.
3. Babylon.
4. Media Persia.
5. Greece
6. Rome.
7. The final antichristian ten horned beast nations, that will rise-up in the latter days (i.e., the ten toes of Daniels vision).

The seven diadems (crowns in KJV), on their heads signify, the great power, influence, and authority the rulers of these nations had and will have over the world.

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## THE DRAGON AND THE FINAL TEN HORNED BEAST NATIONS

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During the latter days the dragon, symbolises an alliance of the final ten sovereign beast nations or countries, (perhaps something like NATO today). It is referred to as a great one, because of its strength and power, which lay in its immense wealth, its combined nations, its numbers of authoritative people in powerful positions, its strong cities, and its vast armies and massive billion-dollar stockpile of destructive weapons of war. It is symbolised as being red, because of the vast amount of blood, this ungodly beast empire has shed, and will shed, especially of the people of Israel and of Christians, and because of the destruction it will bring upon the world. It is for these reasons this ungodly empire aptly fits the bloody character and practices of the old serpent the devil who was a murderer from the beginning.

**NOTE:** the number ten does not necessarily have to be taken as a literal number, since ten is the number of completeness, and may simply signify this final ten horned beast empire will bring about the completion of God's plan for this world as we know it.

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## PHARAOH KING OF EGYPT AND THE DRAGON

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The great persecutor and ancient enemy of Israel, is likened to a great and mighty dragon in the following verses, and signifies Pharaoh the king of Egypt the great Egyptian power.

- **Ezekiel 29:3:** Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lies in the midst of his streams, that says, 'My Nile is my own; I made it for myself.'
- **Ezekiel 32:2:** Son of man, raise a lamentation over Pharaoh king of Egypt and say to him: "You consider yourself a lion of the nations, but you are like a dragon in the seas; you burst forth in your rivers, trouble the waters with your feet, and foul their rivers.

In these verses Pharaoh is pictured as a dragon in the Nile being so full of pride, he boasts that all of Egypt is his. The seas symbolise multitudes of people, so a dragon in the sea, symbolises conflicts and enormous sufferings, and pictures a great and mighty power deceiving and corrupting the nations. These verses show that the dragon can symbolise powerful worldly rulers, monarchs, states, kingdoms, and empires influenced by a spirit of pride, greed, selfish ambition and the craving for power and fame that are hostile toward God and His people.

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## THE EMPIRE OF ROME AND THE DRAGON

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Rome the capital city of the Roman empire is built upon seven hills and the dragon of Johns vision in (Rev. 12:3) and (Rev. 13:1) with ten horns links it with the fourth beast of Daniel, which is also Rome and it is also seen with ten horns (Dan. 7:7). The great red dragon in the context of Johns vision, refers to the Roman pagan empire and its emperors that were hostile toward Christianity, and pictures Rome as being under the influence of Satan.

The symbol of the dragon became a common standard in the Roman armies, and to some measure superseded the eagle. The dragon can be viewed as the Roman pagan power engaging in the persecution of Christians at a time when the church was about to be greatly enlarged and take the Gospel to the world. Rome is likened to a great red dragon, because of the vastness of the empire, and because of the cruelty it afflicted on Christians and the blood of Christians it shed.

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## THE PAPAL ROMAN CHURCH AND THE DRAGON

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The dragon can also be taken to symbolise the Roman Papal Church and all denotations and religious organisations that have distorted the Gospel, and all nations in league with the Roman Papal Church, which the book of Revelation describes as:

- A great prostitute woman full of abominations and drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality, with the name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations," written on her forehead. (Rev. 17:1-6).

The colour purple or scarlet was the distinguishing colour of the Roman emperors, consuls and generals and is the standard colour of the Popes and cardinals even today there is no lack of outward pomp and ceremony. The pagan Roman empire come to ruin, but out of its ashes the Roman Papal power rose in such great strength that today it has power, influence and wealth that is greater and reaches further than the influence and power of the ancient empire of Rome. Papal Rome is likened to a great red dragon, because of the cruel and brutal persecution it inflicted upon true Christians who would not embrace their erroneous doctrines and submit to their rule.

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*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.*

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