

# The Woman and the Dragon (12:1-6)



**\*This passage is an overview of the storyline of the Old Testament.**

**\*The woman represents the nation of Israel, God's covenant community, from which the Messiah would come.**

**\*The Fall of Adam and Eve was the start of a spiritual war that's been going on ever since. The stories of the Old Testament are actually accounts of battles that have taken place during this war. Every male child ever born to the Israelites was a threat to Satan. So, throughout Israel's history, Satan has tried to eliminate the Israelites, because if he destroyed them then they could not produce this offspring.**

**\*The child this woman will bear is the same offspring promised in Genesis 3:15, the one who would crush Satan's head. Thus, the woman could be any of the women from the ancestry of Christ.**

**\*Satan is waiting eagerly for the birth of the Messiah so he can devour Him. Even though Satan works to have Jesus put to death, Jesus rises again and ascends into heaven. With Jesus out of his reach, Satan turns his attention back to the woman, the people of God.**

**\*The woman is in the wilderness, a place of trial and preparation for God's people. However, God nourishes her and provides for her.**

# Satan Thrown out of Heaven (12:7-17)



**\*Prior to Jesus' death, Satan was obviously allowed into heaven for the purpose of accusing the people of God. However, when Jesus was crucified, there was a battle in heaven between the archangel Michael and Satan and their followers. Satan "was defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down" (v.8b-9a).**

**\*Satan no longer has any influence in heaven, but he was thrown down to earth where he has great influence.**

**\*Verse 10 shows the results of Christ's death...our salvation was secured, God's kingdom was inaugurated on earth, and the accuser was defeated.**

**\*The victory of Christ is a source of great rejoicing to those in heaven, but it's a source of woe to those who dwell on the earth, because Satan has been unleashed against them.**

**\*Satan tries to destroy the woman with a stream of water from his mouth. This could refer to the deceit that flows from the mouth of Satan, by which he tries to destroy the church. When that fails, he takes more drastic measures in the form of persecution, making war on "the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus" (v.17).**

## **The First Beast (13:1-10)**



**\*The first beast rises from the sea. This is an allusion to Daniel 7:1-8, where Daniel wrote about four beasts that represent four different consecutive world powers: Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. The first century audience would have likely connected this beast of Revelation with the Roman Empire, but it can also represent any government that is hostile to God.**

**\*Satan's luring people away through false teaching and his persecution of the church are both recurring themes in Revelation.**

**\*Authority was given to the beast over every nation, tribe, tongue, and language, showing the universal reach of Satan's influence.**

**\*All who dwell on the earth will worship the beast. We've noticed that when the text refers to those "who dwell on the earth," it represents unbelievers, those outside of Christ. This shows that there are only two choices that you can make. Everyone who is not in Christ will worship the beast.**

<b>The First Beast</b>	<b>Jesus Christ</b>
<b>Reflects the image of the dragon (v.1)</b>	<b>Reflects the image of the Father (Col. 1:15)</b>
<b>Has 10 diadems (v.1)</b>	<b>Has many crowns (Rev. 19:12)</b>
<b>Given power and authority by the dragon (v.2)</b>	<b>Given power and authority by the Father (John 5:21-23)</b>
<b>Has a mortal wound that was healed (v.3)</b>	<b>Resurrected from a mortal wound (Luke 24:5-7; John 20:27)</b>
<b>People worship both the dragon and the beast (v.4)</b>	<b>People worship both the Father and Jesus (John 5:23)</b>
<b>The beast attracts worship of the whole world (v.8)</b>	<b>The whole world should worship Jesus alone</b>

# The Second Beast (13:11-18)



**\*The second beast rises from the earth. Where the first beast's power and influence are political, this beast's power and influence are religious.**

**\*This beast speaks like the dragon, showing that its authority comes from the dragon, or from Satan, but like Satan, the beast speaks lies.**

**\*This second beast diverts worship away from God by promoting worship of the dragon and the first beast. It even enables people to do signs and wonders to deceive people into thinking that this is legitimate religion.**

**\*The people are deceived, and they believe the lies that this beast spreads. But, it's a trap, because those who follow the beast find themselves marked by the beast.**

**\*In Revelation 7:3 people are being marked on their forehead. In that case, the marking was symbolic to show those that were sealed by the blood of Christ. The mark of the beast in chapter 13 is also symbolic, showing that these people belong to Satan. Either you will have the mark of Christ or the mark of the beast. There is no other option.**

**\*When it talks about not being able to buy or sell without the mark, it's indicating the social and economic pressure that people can be under unless they conform to the world.**

**\*The number of the beast is 666. If a number were to be ascribed to God, it would be 777, or perfection to the highest degree. Satan is trying to be like God, but by giving him the number 666, it shows that he will always fall short. It shows that Satan's imperfection is to the highest degree.**

<b>The Second Beast</b>	<b>The Holy Spirit</b>
<b>Has authority from the dragon</b>	<b>Has authority from God (John 16:13)</b>
<b>Promotes worship of the dragon and the first beast</b>	<b>Promotes worship of God the Father and God the Son (John 16:14-15)</b>
<b>Enables people to do signs and wonders</b>	<b>Enabled people to do signs and wonders (Acts 2:17-18)</b>
<b>Spreads the lies of the dragon</b>	<b>Spreads the truth of God (John 16:13)</b>
<b>Marks people who belong to the beast</b>	<b>Marks people who belong to God (Romans 8:9)</b>

# The 144,000 (14:1-5)



\*John sees the Lamb standing on Mt. Zion surrounded by 144,000 people sealed with his name and God's name on their foreheads. Symbolically, Mt. Zion represents the place where God dwells, the place where He reigns as king (Isaiah 8:18; 24:23; Psalm 74:2).

\*Those in Mt. Zion are singing a song of praise to God, but only the 144,000 know the words. This shows that only certain people can participate in this heavenly worship.

\*The qualifications for participating in this heavenly worship:

1. They must be pure, having not defiled themselves with a woman—represents spiritual purity and not being defiled by the world
2. They must follow the lamb wherever He goes—even if it means following Him to their death
3. There must be no lie in their mouths—they must stand firm in the truth of God's Word

# The Warnings of the Three Angels (14:6-13)



\*Three angels bring three final warnings prior to the second coming of Christ:

1. The first angel proclaims the Gospel and calls people to repentance.
2. The second angel announces the fall of Babylon, the prostitute who seduced the nations, showing the futility of worshiping the dragon and the beast because they will ultimately fall.
3. The third angel describes the judgment that awaits those marked by the beast. The horrible part about hell is that any measure of God's grace is removed, but God's wrath will be continually poured out upon those who are there.

## ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE SAINTS

*"The battle with the enemy is likely to rage through their lifetime, but it will come to an end. The day will come when they rest and enjoy their reward in the presence of their king."*

Nancy Guthrie

# The Great Harvest (14:14-20)



\*This final section of chapter 14 describes the return of Christ. Jesus is coming for the harvest.

\*This harvest imagery is also seen in Matthew 13:24-30, in the parable of the wheat and tares.

The harvest represents the day of judgment when Jesus will sort out those who are in Him from those who are not.

\*Those in Christ will be gathered to His side in Mt. Zion while those outside of Christ will face judgment. So, in 14:6-11, we see the angels warning that this judgment is coming and urging people to repent. Here in verses 14-20, Christ has returned and the opportunity to repent has passed. It's too late to turn to Christ at that point.

*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.*

Revelation 12:11

*And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."*

*"Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"*

Revelation 14:13