



THE DRAGON AND HIS BEASTS: JESUS DELIVERS, PART ONE

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We ALL have an unfriendly dragon in our life!

“And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world.” - Revelation 12:9 ESV

AWARE BUT NOT OBSESSED!

“There are Christians who think and speak altogether too much about the power of Satan. They think of their adversary, they pray about him, they talk about him, and he looms up greater and greater in their imagination.” - Ellen G. White, The Desire of Ages, 493.

The Dragon is not a dragon but a sign of a real being:

σημείον (sēmeion): denotes a symbolic presentation of a real object.

A few signs in Revelation 12:

- ◆ **Dragon** = Satan/Devil
- ◆ **Woman** = God’s people (Israel (OT), Church (NT & beyond))
- ◆ **Stars** = Angels (can be good or evil)
- ◆ **The Child** = The incarnate Christ
- ◆ **Earth swallowing the flood** = God’s protection of His people from Satan’s attacks
- ◆ **Rest of her offspring** = God’s last day remnant people that are even separate from what is viewed as the church.

Believing that the dragon is just a symbolic representation of the collective evil distorts our theodicy:

Theodicy: philosophical exploration that helps us to understand the cause of evil in our world.

He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.²⁷ And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?'²⁸ He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' - Matthew 13:24-28a ESV

What is the first question of the servants of the master?

The question is an accusation.

What is the masters answer? A _____ has done this.

"Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil."³⁷ - Matthew 13:36-39a ESV

Sickness... "an enemy has done this."

Loneliness... "an enemy has done this."

Fear... "an enemy has done this."

Temptation... "an enemy has done this."

Death... "an enemy has done this."

Historical snapshots of the Dragon's attacks Revelation 12:

- Revelation 12:1-6
- Revelation 12:7-12
- Revelation 12:14-16

Historical results...

- Revelation 12:1-6: _____
- Revelation 12:7-12: _____
- Revelation 12:14-16: _____

The historical moment that is not yet...

Then 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 12:17 ESV

λοιπός (loipos): pertaining to the part of a whole which remains or continues.

“The term in the Old Testament describes those who have survived destruction to continue as God’s faithful people (Is. 10:20-22; 11:11-12; Jer. 23:3; Zeph. 3:13) ...John employs the word “remnant” with reference to the Christians who remained faithful to God in the churches of Thyatira and Sardis (Rev. 2:24; 3:2-3). Now in Revelation 12:17, John employs the same word to tell us that at the end of time, as the majority of people in the world side with Satan and his allies, there will be a people who remain faithful to Christ.” - Dr. Ranko Stefanovic, Plain Revelation, 146.

The two characteristics of the end-time faithful remaining ones:

1. Keep the commandments of God.
2. The testimony of Jesus
(Revelation 19:10 “which is the spirit of prophecy”)

Revelation 12 doesn't tell us the outcome...

But if Jesus in history has...

- Saved
- Been victorious
- Protected

What do we anticipate...

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! - Rev. 22:20

- Jesus has done the work of salvation
- Jesus has already determined the outcome of the war -
He is victorious
- Jesus protects His people in their suffering

The history that is not yet...

- Jesus saves
- Jesus wins
- Jesus protects
- Jesus delivers!

COME, LORD JESUS!

Resources for Further Study:

Plain Revelation: A Reader's Introduction to the Apocalypse, by Ranko Stefanovic

God Cares Vol. 2: The Message of Revelation, by E. Mervyn Maxwell

Understanding Daniel and Revelation, by Mark Finley

What We Believe: Prophecies of Revelation for Teens, by Seth Pierce

Revelation Pure and Simple, by Kenneth Cox