



The Dragon and the Beasts

The Devil and His Assistants



The Dragon and the Child

12 A great sign appeared in the sky: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ²She was pregnant, and she cried out in pain and agony as she gave birth.

³Another sign also appeared in the sky: There was a huge red dragon that had seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. ⁴His tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and threw them to the earth. The dragon stood before the woman, who was about to give birth, so that he could devour the child as soon as it was born.

⁵She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will shepherd all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. ⁶Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God in order that she might be fed there for 1,260 days. ¹

Verse 2 – The woman that gives birth is the Church in this case, since she stays on earth throughout the whole New Testament era. (cf. Galatians 4:26)

Verse 5 – The child, a Son, is Jesus, who shepherds the church and rules the universe (cf. Psalm 23 and Psalm 2)

Verse 6 – Times in these chapters: 1,260 days = 42 months = 3 ½ years (time, times and half a time). This represents the New Testament half of God’s interactive time with man, that is, human history, which is 7 years counting both the New Testament and Old Testament eras. (7 = God’s number, 3, and man’s number in Revelation, 4, [every “language, tribe, people, and nation] in interaction with one another).

The true church is in the wilderness of the world for the whole New Testament era. What implications does this give you regarding “Christendom”? Think of the great empty cathedrals of Europe. Is that actually where the church is found? Is the church gone just because there are so many empty church buildings? If not, where is it found? [Hint: Our Lutheran Confessions say it is found where the Gospel is preached in its truth and purity and the sacraments rightly administered according to Christ’s institution].

War in Heaven

⁷There was also a war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought with the dragon. The dragon fought back along with his angels, ⁸but he was not strong enough. There was no longer a place for them in heaven. ⁹The great dragon was thrown down—the ancient serpent, the one called the Devil and Satan, the one who leads the whole inhabited earth astray—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

¹⁰I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying:

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Christ,
because the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down,
the one who accuses them before our God day and night.

¹¹They conquered him
because of the blood of the Lamb and
because of the word of their testimony.
They did not love their lives in the face of death.

¹ [Holy Bible: Evangelical Heritage Version](#). (2019). Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House.

¹²For this reason, rejoice, you heavens and those who dwell in them.
Woe to the earth and the sea,
for the Devil has gone down to you.
He is full of rage, because he knows that his time is short.

Verses 10–11 are the key to understanding this section. We might want to assume this is referring to the original battle between Michael and Lucifer. But it was the death of Christ “the blood of the Lamb” which led to victory. Before that, Satan would accuse even Old Testament believers before God as a prosecuting attorney (Job 1:9–11, Jude 6,9, Zechariah 3:1ff.). But once our great Defense Attorney had the exculpatory evidence in place, namely that the crimes had been paid off with His blood sacrifice, Satan lost that argument permanently. “*Who will bring an accusation against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies!*” ³⁴ *Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God’s right hand and who is also interceding for us!*” (Romans 8:33–34).

Verse 12 highlights, nevertheless, the ongoing danger of Satan. He is enraged!

Verse 11 – That danger may even result in temporal death for those who remain faithful in the face of the devil’s attacks through the Beast of the Sea and the Beast of the Earth.

The Dragon Persecutes the Woman

¹³When the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman, who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴Two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman so that she might fly to her place in the wilderness, where she is to be fed for a time, and times, and half a time, away from the presence of the serpent. ¹⁵And the serpent spewed water out of his mouth, like a river, after the woman, in order to carry her away in the flowing water. ¹⁶But the earth helped the woman. The earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river, which the dragon had spewed out of its mouth.

¹⁷The dragon was angry about what had happened to the woman, and he went away to make war against the rest of her children—those who keep the commandments of God and who hold on to the testimony about Jesus.

¹⁸And he stood on the shore of the sea.

Verse 13 – the pursued woman is once again the true church.

Verse 14 – the church cannot win this on its own, therefore it is given divine, supernatural help, symbolized by the two wings of the great eagle. She is fed and survives until the end of time (the 3 ½ years of the New Testament era).

Verses 15–16 – Satan gives it all he can, but He has to work through earthly means and the world itself sometimes gets in the way of what otherwise would be the pure fires of hell on earth. Think of WWII: Both the Nazis and Japanese posed the gravest earthly danger to the church in centuries, yet they lost. Then communism sought to stamp it out, and it collapsed, humanly speaking by it simply failing. The earth swallowed the venom and its immediate danger just “petered out.” Satan is not almighty! His plans are thwarted by weather, guns jamming, ships sinking—he’s subject even to nature’s “laws,” unlike God!



The Beast From the Sea

13 I saw a beast rising out of the sea. He had ten horns with ten crowns on his horns, and seven heads with blasphemous names on his heads. ²The beast that I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth was like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power, his throne, and great authority. ³One of his heads seemed to have been fatally wounded, but his fatal wound was healed.

And the whole world that followed the beast was amazed. ⁴They worshipped the dragon because he gave authority to the beast. They worshipped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can go to war against him?” ⁵The beast was also given a mouth that spoke arrogant and blasphemous things. He was given authority to do these things for forty-two months.

⁶The beast opened his mouth to speak blasphemies against God: to blaspheme his name, his dwelling, and those who dwell in heaven. ⁷He was also given permission to wage war against the saints and to overcome them, as well as authority over every tribe and people and language and nation. ⁸All those who make their home on the earth will worship the beast—those whose names have not been written from the beginning of the world in the Book of Life, which belongs to the Lamb that was slain.

⁹If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

¹⁰If anyone is to be imprisoned, he is going to be imprisoned.

If anyone is to be killed with a sword, he is going to be killed with a sword.

Here patient endurance and confidence are needed by the saints.

Verse 2 – the depiction is a New Testament variation on the four earthly governments Daniel saw in his vision of what would happen in the world between his time and the arrival of Christ. Here in the New Testament era we have a composite beast that lasts all 42 months, that is, the 3 ½ years of the New Testament era.

Verse 3 – What fatal wound was inflicted on worldly powers that it has seemingly recovered from? Most Lutheran commentators believe this is parallel to the Rock that crushed the statue representing the empires of the ancient world—the rock that then grew and filled the whole earth, namely Christ and his church (Daniel 2:44–45). Historically, the Christian church took quite a toll on the Roman empire. You could say it conquered it. But then it took over Rome and the visible church, one could say, was conquered by secular government. More on that under the next section, the Beast from the Sea.

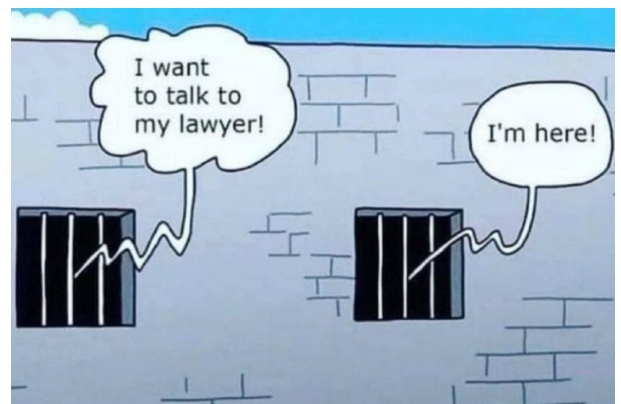
Verse 5 – What blasphemous things have been spoken by earthly governments that oppose the true church?

- Charles V
- French Revolution
- Current Virginia State Legislature
- President who claims to be a “faithful Catholic” yet opens the floodgates to international infanticide.
- ‘We have the power to create and alter the climate of the earth.’

Verse 8 – How do worldly people—people who live on the earth but whose names are not written in the book of life—worship the beast of the earth, worldly government?

- Historical examples aren’t hard to find— emperor worship in Japan in WWII era, total devotion to Nazism or Communism, burning incense to Caesar in ancient Rome.
- What about contemporary examples?

Verse 10 – As long as the earth endures there will be persecution. Can you think of places where Christians are being persecuted today?



The Beast From the Earth

¹¹Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth. He had two horns like the Lamb, and he spoke like the dragon. ¹²He exercises all the authority of the first beast on his behalf. He causes the earth and those who make their home on it to worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. ¹³He performs great miracles, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in the sight of people. ¹⁴He also deceives those who make their home on the earth because of the miracles that he was permitted to perform on behalf of the beast, telling those who make their home on the earth to make an image for the beast who had been wounded by the sword but lived.

¹⁵This beast was also given the ability to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast spoke and caused whoever did not worship the image of the beast to be killed. ¹⁶He also makes all people, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, ¹⁷in order that no one may buy or sell unless he has the mark—the name of the beast or the number of his name. ¹⁸Here is wisdom: Let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, because it is the number of a man. His number is 666.

verse 11 – Looked like the Lamb, Jesus, but spoke like the dragon, Satan

verse 12 – “first beast” = beast of the sea = government used in service to the dragon

“worship the first beast” = treating secular government as though it is god

“Mark” = sign of ownership, saved from being “cancelled”

Loyalty tests – saying the approved things



China Will Control Appointment of Chinese Catholic Clergy Without Input From Vatican: REPORT

- New rules from the Chinese government indicate that China will exercise control over the appointment of Catholic clergy without any input from the Vatican.
- The rules come despite a 2018 deal brokered between Pope Francis and the Chinese government ending a decade-long power struggle on whether the Chinese government has power to appoint Catholic bishops.
- Under the conditions of the deal, Pope Francis recognized the legitimacy of seven bishops selected and appointed by the authoritarian Chinese government — though the Chinese government continues to persecute Christians.



CULTURE

EVIP

Vatican Conference to Promote Mary as 'a Jewish, Christian and Muslim Woman'

BY ROBERT SPENCER FEB 17, 2021 1:07 PM ET

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Enter the “Administrative Measures for Religious Clergy”: Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid

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Bitter Winter offer the first English translation of a text converting the clergy in apparatchiks under a system of awards and penalties based on their loyalty to the CCP.

(AP Photo/Amr Nabil)

In its never-ending quest to build bridges between Islam and Christianity, the Vatican is organizing a [series of webinars](#) entitled “Mary, a model for faith and life for Christianity and Islam,” presenting the mother of Jesus as, in the words of the Italian weekly *Famiglia Christiana*, “a Jewish, Christian and Muslim woman.” The series is set to start on February 18 and run for ten weeks, and

The Lamb and the 144,000

14 Then I looked, and there was the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of a loud thunderclap. The sound that I heard was also like the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³They were singing a new song in front of the throne and the four living creatures and the elders. No one was able to learn that song except the 144,000, who had been purchased from the earth. ⁴These are the ones who were not defiled with women, because they are virgins. They continually follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb. ⁵And no lie was found in their mouths. They are blameless.

verse 1 – 144,000 (12 tribes of the Old Testament x followers of the 12 apostles in the new x 1000 = the full number of all the elect from the Old Testament and New Testament) = All the Elect will be saved. The world won't end until the full number of the elect have been brought into the church, Mount Zion.

verse 4 – Idolatry is often depicted, especially by the Old Testament prophets as adultery. Christ is married to his bride, the church. Running off after other women, other religions, false doctrine, etc. breaks the marriage bond with Christ.

verse 5 – The elect love and therefore hear and speak the truth. Contrast that with those who follow false teachers, especially The Man of Sin, Antichrist: ⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan, with every kind of miracle, that is, with false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with every kind of unrighteousness that *deceives those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.* ¹¹ And because of this, God continues to send them a strong delusion, so that they believe the lie, ¹² in order that all those may be condemned *who refused to believe the truth but instead delighted in unrighteousness* (2 Thessalonians 2:9–12).

The Church—the invisible church, the church militant—WINS in the end! Those who are part of the 144,000 winners are those who love the truth and so are saved.

Discussion:

What applications do you see for yourself as an individual?

What applications do you see for yourself as head of the household?

What applications do you see for yourself as a father?

What applications do you see for yourself as a citizen?

What applications do you see for yourself as an employee?



Verizon pledges another \$250,000 of support for PFLAG

Verizon pledges another \$250,000 in support of PFLAG, the nation's first and largest organization for the parents, families, and allies of the LGBTQ+ community.

Victor Davis Hanson: “This is Orwellian, what’s happening, so we have to push back, all of us. We can’t ask people that are high school teachers without tenure or part time workers or people who are in a police force to be outspoken, but those of us in the media or in academia that have some institutional protection, at least for now, I think have a duty to exercise their first amendment rights.” Do you have “institutional protection”?

Epilogue:

The Three Angels

⁶Then I saw another angel flying in the middle of the sky. He had the everlasting gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth, to every nation, tribe, language, and people. ⁷He said with a loud voice:

Fear God and give him glory,
because the hour of his judgment has come.
Worship him who made the sky, the earth, the sea, and the springs of water.

⁸Another angel, a second, followed. He said, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great, who made every nation drink from the wine of her adulterous desire.”

⁹Another angel, a third one, followed them. He said with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰he will also drink from the wine of God’s wrath, which has been poured undiluted into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment is going to rise forever and ever. Those who worship the beast and his image, and anyone who receives the mark of his name, are going to have no rest day and night.”

¹²Here patient endurance is needed by the saints, who hold on to the commands of God and their faith in Jesus. ¹³And I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”

“Yes,” says the Spirit, “because they will rest from their labors, for their works follow them.”

Summary:

- I. **The Holy Christian Church endures hardship but wins in the end because Christ, our Lord and Savior defeated the ancient Dragon, the Devil. The saints win by inheriting eternal life.**
- II. **The Devil is filled with rage and is continually fighting against the saints.** “¹²Here patient endurance is needed by the saints....”

The Devil has two main helpers:

- **Governments (The world order which includes government proper but also their globalist corporatist affiliates and those who promote the antichristian worldview in the corporate media, i.e. those who require a “mark” of compliance of those who wish to do business with them and live “freely” and unmolested)**
 - Pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:2)
 - But “We must obey God rather than men.” Will become more relevant as governments act more beastlike. (Acts 5:29)
- **Antichrist – who opposes the Gospel (and all “small ‘a’” antichrists who teach false doctrine and lead away from the pure gospel.**
 - Therefore LOVE the TRUTH (2 Thessalonians 2:9–12).