

Date: February 7, 2018
Title: The Great Red Dragon, the Beast, the other Beast
Text: Rev. 12-14
Theme:

Introduction:

THE BIG PICTURE:

Outline:

What do we know of the GREAT RED DRAGON? (Rev. 12)

1. He has power, throne, and authority (12:3 “seven heads, ten horns, seven diadems” [cf. 13:2]).
2. The powers of rebellion will give their authority to the GRD and together with him will wage war against God (Rev. 17:9-18).
3. He has minions (12:4).
4. He seeks to destroy the woman and her offspring (12:4, 15, 17).
5. He is warring against God’s angels (12:7).
6. He is defeated by God’s angels (12:8).
7. He is cast out of heaven to earth (12:4, 8, 10, 12, and 13).
8. He is a deceiver (12:9).
9. He is an accuser (12:10).
10. The People of God overcome Him by the blood of the Lamb (12:11 [cf. John 16:33]).
11. His time is short (12:12).
12. He is the persecutor of God’s people (12:13).
13. The great prostitute rides him (17:1).
14. He will come out of the bottomless pit before going to the Lake of Fire (17:8).

Might we conclude that the Great Red Dragon is Satan? Yes, Revelation 20:2 is clear as to his identity.

From Matthew we know Satan seeks to stop the plan of God (Matt. 4:10; 16:23).

We also learn from Matthew’s account of Jesus having bound Satan and “plundering his house” (Matt. 12:25-29). This same story occurs in Mark 3:20-27. Mark will use the same words as Matthew. The word for “plunder” means “to seize, to spoil.” It is a compound word made up of the prefix **dia** and the word **harpazo**. Harpazo is a strong word used of a violent taking (Matt. 11:12), of being taken by force against one’s will (John 6:15), of wolves catching sheep (John 10:12), of no one able to pluck anyone out of God’s hands (John 10:28, 29), of Philip being caught away by the Spirit of the Lord (Acts 8:39), of Paul almost being pulled apart (Acts 23:10), of Paul

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being caught up to Paradise (2 Cor. 12:2, 4), of God's people being caught up by the Lord at His coming (1 Thess. 4:17), and of the Christ being caught up into heaven at His ascension (Rev. 12:5).

The same word used in Matthew 12:29 for "Satan" being bound [**deo**] is the same one used in Revelation 20:2 for Satan being bound.

Satan was defeated at the cross (Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8). This initial defeat although inaugurated, has yet to be consummated (1 Cor. 15). However, right now, He is cast out of heaven (Luke 10:18; John 16:11; Rev. 9:1; 12:8, 9). Despite his immediate defeat, he is currently the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2) and the prince of this world (John 16:11) for an indefinite period of time known only to God (Rev. 20 ["a thousand years"]). As a prince, he has a "kingdom" marked by darkness (Col. 1:13; Acts 26:18). As a prince, he has authority. This is seen repeatedly from Revelation 12 and 13. "Authority" to do what?

We know from Mark's gospel that the devil seeks to snatch the Word of God from bearing fruit (Mark 4:15). He still "binds" people (Luke 13:16). It is the same word occurring in Matt. 12:29 and Rev. 20:2. He is still entering people, energizing evil through people (John 13:27; Acts 5:3).

As noted earlier, Satan was defeated at the cross. Moreover, there is still a fuller and final expression of this defeat (Rom. 16:20; Rev. 20), but this opening conquest empowers perseverance in the people of God. Satan has been and continues to be under the authority of God (1 Cor. 5:5; 1 Tim. 1:20). He does God's bidding.

He has a knowable plan (2 Cor. 2:11) to overthrow God (1 Thess. 2:18).

He is deceptive and a deceiver (2 Cor. 11:14; 2 Thess. 2:9) and some continue to follow him in his rebellion against God (1 Tim. 5:15).

He is a counterfeit to God (Rev. 2:9, 13; 3:9; 12:1ff-13:1ff).

There is coming a time when Satan will be released once more to wreak havoc against God, but God will defeat him thoroughly and cast him into the lake of fire prepared specifically for him and his angels (Matt. 25:41).

The word prepared [**hetoimazo**] occurs forty times in the New Testament. Revelation uses it seven times.

- "And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound" (Rev. 8:6).
- "And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men" (Rev. 9:7).
- "And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men" (Rev. 9:15). {for an hour: or, at an hour}

- “And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place **prepared** of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days” (Rev. 12:6).
- “And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be **prepared**” (Rev. 16:12).
- “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath **made herself ready**” (Rev. 19:7).
- “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, **prepared** as a bride adorned for her husband” (Rev. 21:2).

God is always preplanning.

What do we know of the BEAST? (Rev. 13:1-10)

1. The BEAST is different than the GREAT RED DRAGON (13:1)
2. Like the DRAGON, the BEAST has power, throne, and authority (“ten horns, seven heads, and ten diadems [13:1]).
 - Rev. 17:8-13; the intent of these rebels is to wage war against the Lamb (17:14).
3. The DRAGON gives the BEAST *his* power, throne, and authority (13:2).
4. The BEAST appears to have a mortal wound (13:3).
 - The Son of God is slain (Rev. 5:6, 9, 12; 13:8).
 - The People of God are slain (Rev. 6:9).
 - The 1st BEAST appears to have been slain/wounded (Rev. 13:3; 18:24).
5. The DRAGON and the BEAST stand as counterfeit deities seeking the worship of its followers (13:3-6).
6. The BEAST seeks to overcome the people of God (13:7).
7. He does persecute the people of God who are called on to persevere and faith (13:7-10).
8. The BEAST speaks blasphemies against GOD (Rev. 13:6).

What do we know of the OTHER BEAST? (Rev. 13:11-18)

1. This “other” BEAST is **allos** not **heteros** (13:11). He is different, but of the same “kind.”
2. Like the first BEAST he has power, throne, and authority (13:12-15).
3. He was like the GREAT RED DRAGON and the 1st BEAST (13:11). The “same” but “different.”
4. The 2nd BEAST points people to the 1st BEAST (13:12-18).
5. He enforces worship of the 1st BEAST (13:12-18).
6. He is considered THE FALSE PROPHET (19:20)

What do we know of the ANTICHRIST?

The word ANTICHRIST occurs only in the Letters of John.

- “Little children, **it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time**” (1 John 2:18).
- “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son” (1 John 2:22).
- “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world” (1 John 4:3).
- “For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist” (2 John 1:7).

It seems that there is no one person who is the ANTICHRIST, but rather the forces generated by the GREAT RED DRAGON, the 1st BEAST and their FALSE PROPHET. All three are ANTICHRIST and push people to join them in rejecting the person and work of God.

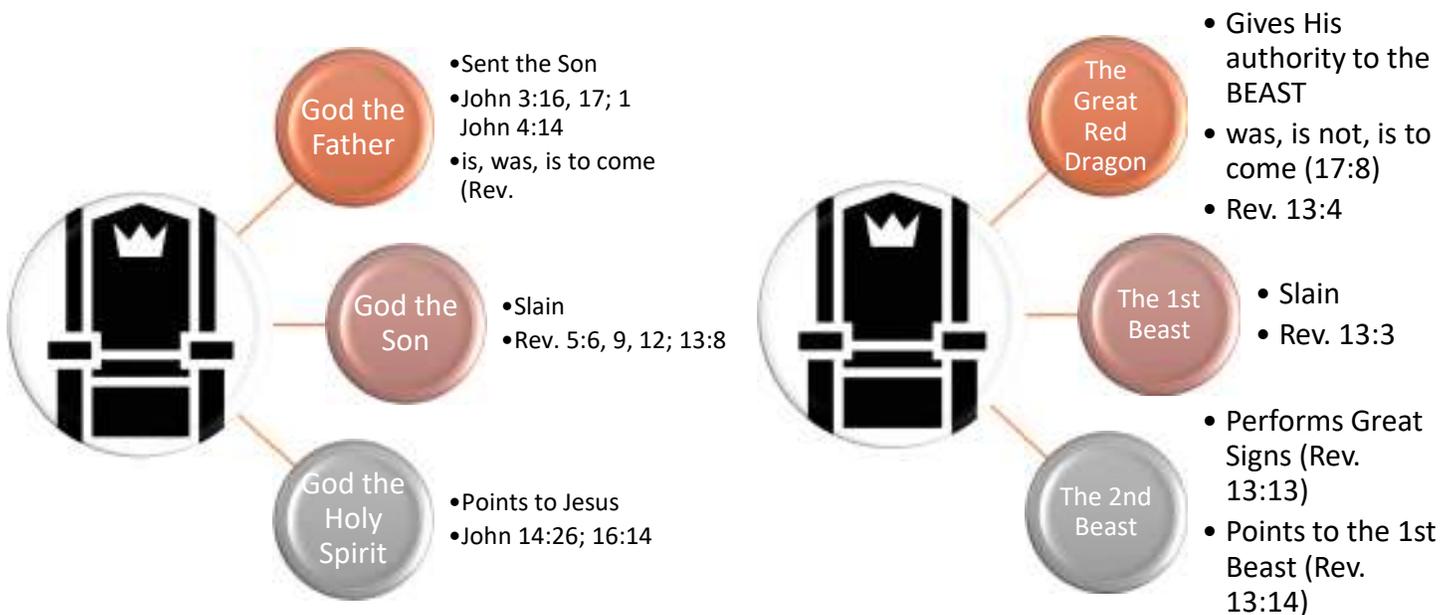
Notice 2 Thessalonians 2. How are the two passages in Revelation and 2 Thessalonians the same and different?

¹“Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, ²that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and **the man of lawlessness is revealed**, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. ⁵Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? ⁶And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. ⁸**Then that lawless one will be revealed** whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; ⁹that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, ¹⁰and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. ¹¹For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, ¹²in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. ¹³But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. ¹⁴It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us. ¹⁶Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, ¹⁷comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word” (2 Thess. 2:1-17).

This is happening right now, but has a fuller expression as noted in Revelation 19.

OBSERVATIONS:

1. These three appear to be contrasts to, counterfeits of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. God preserves and delivers His people.
 - Rev. 13:10; Cf. 13:6, 14, 16 [notice the contrast between a prepared place for the people of God and no place found for the devil and his minions in heaven in verse 8]. God is preparing a place for His people (John 14:1ff). Revelation 21 and 22 reveal this incredible place.
3. Satan seeks to persecute and destroy the people of God.
4. Just a reminder, God seals (Rev. 7) and Satan marks (Rev. 13:16-18).



Chapter 14 stands in **stark contrast to the horror and carnage displayed** in Chapters 12 and 13.

v. 1 Then I looked and **behold**.

Twenty-nine times John says or hears, "BEHOLD." It is a grand gesture, the extending of one's arms and says, "Behold." It is used as an imperative. It is a call, an invitation to see. We are to be arrested by what is seen or heard.

- "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen" (Rev. 1:7).
- "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Rev. 1:18).

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- “And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads” (Rev. 14:1).
- “And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle” (Rev. 14:14).
- “And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened” (Rev. 15:5).
- “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame” (Rev. 16:15).
- “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war” (Rev. 19:11).
- “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God” (Rev. 21:3).
- “And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful” (Rev. 21:5).
- “Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book” (Rev. 22:7).
- “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be” (Rev. 22:12).

What are we to behold? A Lamb standing on Mt. Zion surrounded by an innumerable host of worshippers (14:1).

LAMB																					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
0	0	0	0	4	2	4	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	0	1	0	2	0	5	2

The author desires for us to remember who sits on the throne and rules over all things as Creator (Rev. 4) and Redeemer (Rev. 5). Chapter 14 provides an image repeated throughout the Letter.

“Glory to God in the Highest and Peace to [People] of Good will” Luke 2:14			
Revelation 4; 5	3 rd Cycle of Seven		
	Revelation 11:15-19	Revelation 14:1-5	Revelation 15:1-8

Let us remember the nature of our Letter. It is apocalyptic literature. As such it uses symbols to speak of greater realities than what is seen by the naked eye or hear by unaided ears.

The number “thousand” speaks of something that is immeasurable. It is so vast as to be incapable of numbering. So far, we have noted how the numbers in Revelation are to be understood symbolically and not literally. Let us note how the number “1,000” occurs in Revelation.

- “And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands” (Rev. 5:11).
- “And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand” (Rev. 7:4-8).
- “And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth” (Rev. 11:3). {I will give...: or, I will give unto my two witnesses that they may prophesy}
- “And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven” (Rev. 11:13). {of men: Gr. names of men}
- “And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days” (Rev. 12:6).
- “And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads” (Rev. 14:1).
- “And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth” (Rev. 14:3).
- “And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs” (Rev. 14:20).
- ² “And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. ³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. ⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead lived

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not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. ⁷ And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison" (Rev. 20:2-7).

- "And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal" (Rev. 21:16).

"The number one thousand (1,000) symbolizes "**immensity**," "**fullness of quantity**" or "**multitude**." The number evokes a very long time according to most Bible passages. It is often used in scripture to specify an indefinite quantity. Many early Church fathers saw in the number 1,000, "*the totality of the generations and the perfection of the life.*" The number sometimes is used in a reference to paradise and everlasting happiness."¹

Those mentioned in 14:1 are the same in Revelation 7.

It is also important to see how all of what is happening prior to the actually coming of Jesus to thoroughly straighten all that is crooked happens **concurrently**. It is **not sequential**. The author says the same thing over and over and over.

11:15 speaks of His kingdom as having come.

12 provides an overview of God's single *Story*.

14:1-5 takes us back to Revelation 4, 5, 7.

14:8 references the collapse of Babylon noted in Chapters 17, 18.

14:9 revisits 13:16-18.

14:12 repeats 13:10.

14:14-20 is the final ingathering of God's people and judgment against the devil and his minions.

14:14-20 and following all depict the final coming of Jesus to inaugurate all of God's purposes.

Shepherding the Sheep: (What is the NEXT STEP?)

1. As God's people, Satan is out to destroy you.
2. We are to hold fast to Christ knowing God is in control, has won the victory, and will bring you "home."

¹ <http://www.scripturerevealed.com/bible-studies/the-meaning-of-numbers-the-number-1000/> This is an excellent article showing how we are to read the number 1,000 in the Bible.