

## **1-11-26 He Reigns: The Dragon and the Beast: God's People in a World of Counterfeits**

### **Week 9**

#### **Text: Revelation 12–13**

**Big Idea:** Behind every earthly power and cultural system stands a spiritual war between the Dragon and the Lamb. Even in the Tribulation, God protects His people and limits Satan's power. The enemy may rage, but God reigns. We must be discerning, devoted, and ready.

What if I told you there's a dragon at work, not in a fairy tale, but in your world right now?

He's ancient. He's angry. And he knows... his time is short.

Behind every cultural rebellion, every spiritual attack, every deceptive system, there's a dragon.

He's not a myth. He's not a metaphor. He's Satan—and **Revelation 12** and **13** expose his full agenda.

He's waging war against God's people.

He's preparing the world for his counterfeit messiah.

He's deceiving millions with signs, systems, and seduction.

And here's the most chilling part: The world will worship him.

Not with pitchforks and pentagrams...but with applause, hashtags, and blind allegiance.

But make no mistake: the Beast is rising. The False Prophet is speaking. And the Kingdom of Darkness is preparing for its final assault.

But here's the good news:

Heaven is not panicking. Jesus is not pacing. The Lamb still reigns.

This is not a time to be passive.

This is a time to wake up, armor up, and speak up.

Because the dragon is real... But so is the blood of the Lamb.

#### **I. The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon – The Cosmic Conflict**

- **Read Rev.12:1–6**

**“A great sign appeared in heaven...”**

### **A. The Woman – God’s Covenant People**

- The woman is national Israel, not Mary or the Church (**Gen. 37:9–11, Isa. 54:5, 66:7, Micah 4:10**).
- She is clothed with the sun, moon, and stars, language of Joseph’s dream, representing the covenant nation through which Messiah comes.

### **B. The Child – Christ the Messiah**

- The Child is caught up to God and His throne (**v. 5**)—the ascension of Christ.
- Satan’s goal is always to destroy Christ and His kingdom before it can be born.

### **C. The Dragon – Satan the Accuser**

- Red dragon = Satanic power and bloodshed.
- Seven heads (mountains) and ten horns (Leaders) echo the final world empire (**Dan. 7**).
- The dragon’s fury is spiritual, but his instruments are political and cultural.

John Walvoord: *“Revelation 12 is the spiritual explanation for the long war between Satan and Israel and ultimately between Satan and Christ.”*

Charles Spurgeon: *“There is a fight behind the fight. The devil is not dead nor yet in hell, but still busy.”*

### **Application Points:**

Recognize your struggle is not against flesh and blood (**Eph. 6:12**).

**For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.**

Don’t be shocked by hostility toward the Church or Israel - it’s a cosmic conflict.

Stay aligned with Christ, not cultural powers.

## **II. War in Heaven – Satan Cast Down**

- **Read Rev. 12:7–17**

**“They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb...” (v. 11)**

### **A. Satan’s Access is Revoked**

- Mid-Tribulation, Satan is cast down from heaven to earth—his accusing role ends, his wrath intensifies.
- The Church (raptured) is already in heaven; this is Satan’s last gasp.

## **B. The Saints' Victory Formula**

- “By the blood of the Lamb” – Christ’s atonement.
- “By the word of their testimony” – Confession of Christ.
- “They loved not their lives even unto death” – Surrendered allegiance.

## **C. Satan Targets Israel and the Tribulation Saints**

- The woman flees into the wilderness (**v. 14**)—likely a protected remnant of Israel.
- God preserves a people even in persecution.

Warren Wiersbe: *“Satan is a defeated foe, but he is not yet imprisoned. Like a wounded lion, he fights fiercest when his time is short.”*

### **Application Points:**

Victory isn’t avoiding battle; it’s overcoming through Christ.

Are you clinging to the blood of the Lamb, or to your own “goodness”?

Your testimony has power, but only when rooted in the cross.

## **III. The Rise of the Beast from the Sea – Satan’s Political Power**

- **Read Rev. 13:1–10)**

**“The dragon gave the beast his power..”**

### **A. The Beast = Antichrist**

- Seven heads, ten horns = revived Roman Empire (**Daniel 7:7–8**).
- Receives power from Satan, rules the world politically, militarily, and religiously.

### **B. Global Worship of the Beast**

- A counterfeit **“death and resurrection”** makes the world marvel (**v. 3**).
- The Antichrist is Satan’s parody of Christ.
- Christ empowered by the Father / Beast empowered by the Dragon.
- Christ slain and risen / Beast slain and “healed”
- Christ worshiped by saints / Beast worshiped by world.

The Church is gone (**Rev. 4**); this is unrestrained satanic influence.

God still sets limits: 42 months of authority... only what God allows.

John MacArthur: *“The Antichrist will be the culmination of human rebellion energized by Satan himself, the ultimate counterfeit messiah.”*

A.W. Tozer: *“When men reject the real Christ, they will inevitably receive a false one.”*

**Application Points:**

If you won't worship Christ now, you'll fall for the Beast later.

Are you being disciplined more by media and politics than by Christ?

Prepare your heart now for uncompromising allegiance.

**IV. The Beast from the Earth – Satan's Religious Deception**

- **Read Rev. 13:11–18.**

**“He performed great signs...”**

**A. The False Prophet**

- Looks like a lamb, speaks like a dragon...religious veneer, demonic voice.
- Performs miracles to legitimize the Beast...SIGNS don't always equal truth.

**B. The Mark of the Beast**

- Economic control: no buying or selling without the mark.
- The number 666 = imperfection raised to its highest...man-centered religion without God. The Church will not receive the mark (we're gone) ...but warning applies now.

This is the ultimate counterfeit trinity:

- Dragon (Satan) / Father
- Beast (Antichrist) / Son
- False Prophet / Holy Spirit

W.A. Criswell: *“The mark of the Beast is not simply a tattoo or number; it is the outward expression of inward allegiance.”*

John Phillips: *“The Beast from the earth will be Satan's last great religious leader, combining the miracles of Elijah with the lies of Balaam.”*

**Application Points:**

Miracles don't prove truth....test everything by God's Word.

Be careful of subtle compromise now.... small surrenders prepare you for big ones later.

Are you marked more by Christ or by culture?

## **Closing**

**Revelation 12–13** pulls back the curtain:

Satan hates Christ.

Satan hates Israel.

Satan hates the Church.

But Satan cannot stop God’s plan.

- He is a dragon, but he is defeated.
- He has beasts, but they’re on a leash.
- He has power, but only for a time.

We are called now to live as:

Faithful witnesses in a world of lies.

Discerning saints in a world of deception.

Devoted disciples in a world of defection.

## **Invitation**

To the unbeliever: Don’t wait for the counterfeit—come to the real Christ now.

To the believer: Are you playing with compromise now? The time for casual faith is over.

To the Church: If you know the truth, speak it boldly. Don’t be silent in an age of deception.

## **Closing Prayer**

“Lord Jesus, thank You that the Dragon is defeated and the Beast is on a leash. Thank You for showing us the war behind the war, the lie behind the lie. Seal our hearts now in allegiance to You. Give us discernment to spot deception, courage to speak truth, and devotion to follow the real Christ—not a counterfeit. Let us be marked by the blood of the Lamb, not the mark of the Beast. Make us bold witnesses in a world preparing for the ultimate lie. In Your mighty name, Amen.”