

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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Mission Statement

This study of the Book of Revelation gives special attention to the testimony it provides concerning our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10; cp. 1:2), leading us to worship and serve Him in everything.

- I. What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II. What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- III. What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).
 - A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)
 - B. The Seven Trumpets (8:2–11:19)
 - C. The Unholy Trinity (12:1–14:20)
 1. The Two Signs in the Heavens (12:1–17)
 - a. The “Great Sign”—The Woman (12:1–2, 5–6)
 - What is a “sign”?
 - ✓ First of seven occurrences in Revelation (12:1, 3; 13:13, 14; 15:1; 16:14; 19:20).
 - ✓ Warning: Do not maintain a state of mind seeking signs (Matt 16:1–4; 24:24; 2 Thess 2:8–9; Luke 16:30–31).
 - Who is the woman?
 - Cf. Isaiah 54:5
 - Jeremiah 31:31–32
 - Hosea 2:16
 - ✓ She has a crown of twelve stars and is clothed with the sun and had the moon under her feet (12:1; cp. Gen 37:9–11).
 - ✓ She gave birth to a son (12:5).
 - See Romans 9:4–5 and Galatians 4:4.
 - ▶ He is to rule all nations (cf. 2:26–27; 19:15–16; Ps 2:7–9).
 - ▶ He was “caught up to God and to His throne” (cf. 3:21; Heb 12:2).
 - Compare with Daniel 12:1–7. The woman is Israel, not the Church.
 - b. “Another Sign”—The Dragon: First Person of the Unholy Trinity (12:3–4, 7–17)
 - Who is the dragon? (see v. 9)
 - ✓ “the serpent of old”: cf. Genesis 3; 2 Corinthians 11:3.
 - ✓ “called the devil”: Greek *diabolos*, meaning “false accuser, slanderer”—cf. Matthew 4:1–11; 2 Timothy 2:26.

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- ✓ “Satan”: Hebrew, meaning “adversary”; cf. Zechariah 3:1; 1 Peter 5:8.
- ✓ “who deceives the whole world”: describes his method in establishing his own kingdom (Matt 12:26; John 16:11; Col 1:13; Rev 16:10) as a counterfeit of Christ’s millennial Kingdom.
 - ▶ Satan is a liar and a murderer (John 8:44).
 - ▶ Satan is the god of this age who blinds the minds of unbelievers to the Gospel (2 Cor 4:4).
 - ▶ Satan transforms himself into an angel of light (2 Cor 11:13–14).
 - ▶ Satan counterfeits the “deep things of God” (1 Cor 2:6–13) with his own “deep things” (Rev 2:24).
- ✓ “the accuser of our brethren”: as in Job 1:6–12; 2:1–7; cf. Zechariah 3:1–5.
 - ▶ Note how the saints overcame Satan (v. 11):
 - (1) “because of the blood of the Lamb”—they trusted in the merits of the physical death of Christ (see Col 2:9–15; John 16:11; Heb 2:14–15).
 - (2) “because of the word of their testimony”—they publicly declared their faith even in the face of death—an activity of self-sacrifice (2 Cor 4:11–12; Rev 6:9).
- The description of the dragon (vv. 3–4).
 - ✓ *7 heads* = 7 successive kings/kingdoms (cf. 13:1; 17:9–10). Satan rules the “beast.” Creatures have one head, but can have more than one horn.
 - ✓ *10 horns* = 10 contemporary kings/kingdoms (cf. 17:12–14).
 - ✓ *7 diadems* = emphasis on rulership (cf. 13:1; 17:12).
 - ✓ He sweeps away *one-third of the stars* with his tail (cf. v. 9; see Jude 6 and 2 Pet 2:4). Compare Ephesians 6:12.
- The dragon is cast out of Heaven (vv. 7–17)
 - ✓ War in the heavens between Michael and his angels and the dragon and his angels (cp. Dan 10:13; 12:1; Jude 9).
 - ✓ The result of the dragon’s defeat:
 - ▶ He turns on the woman, Israel (v. 12).
 - ▶ He persecutes Israel for 3-1/2 years (vv. 13–17; cf. Jer 30:4–7; Matt 24:15–22).
 - ▶ The earth helps the remnant of Israel (v. 16; cf. Matt 24:16).
 - ▶ Israel flees into the wilderness (v. 17).

Question for Discussion

- a. What do we learn about Christ by means of the first sign?
- b. What are the goals of the Devil’s unholy trinity?

Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- ▶ Jesus was born in the nation of Israel.
- ▶ Jesus’ chief enemy is Satan.
- ▶ Jesus will make this world’s kingdom His Kingdom.
- ▶ Jesus, after His death, ascended to God in Heaven.
- ▶ Jesus’ death overcomes His enemy, Satan.