



The Counterfeit Trinity:

Combating Spiritual Corruption Monsters

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A. Counterfeiting

Satan's Assistant: Rev. 13:1

Satan (12:3)

- ◆ **Dragon**
- ◆ **7 heads**
- ◆ **10 horns**
- ◆ **Crowns on heads**
- ◆ **Pattern**



Assistant (13:1)

- ◆ **Beast**
- ◆ **7 heads**
- ◆ **10 horns**
- ◆ **Crowns on horns**
- ◆ **Reflected image**



Imaging

◆ God
the Father

Christ
the Son (Col. 1:15)

◆ God

Adam



Counterfeiting



◆ Dragon

Beast (Rev. 13:1)

Pattern

Reflected Image

Counterfeit Trinity

Original

- ◆ **The Father**
- ◆ **Christ
the Son**
- ◆ **Spirit**

Function

- originates**
- executes**
- witnesses**

Counterfeit

- ◆ **Dragon**
- ◆ **Beast**
- ◆ **False Prophet**

The Beast Counterfeits Christ

| Christ | Feature | Beast |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| 19:12 | Diadems | 13:1 |
| 19:11,12,16 | Name | 13:1 |
| 12:5,10 | Power | 13:2 |
| 1:18 | Resurrection | 13:3,12 |
| 1:6 | Worship | 13:4 |
| Exo. 15:3,11-12 | Praise | 13:4 |
| 14:1; 7:3 | Seal | 13:16 |
| 5:9 | Nations' allegiance | 13:7-8 |

Eschatological War



**Divine Holy
Warrior (19:11-16)**

**Abyssal Unholy
Warrior (13:1-8)**

Representative Heads

- ◆ **Two representatives, 1 Cor. 15:45-49.**

Adam



Descendants

Christ



Christians

Nature of the Beast

- ◆ **Beast as Third Man from Abyss.**
- ◆ **A head representing a whole kingdom.**
- ◆ **His worshippers bear his mark, 13:16; 14:9.**

Adam



Descendants

Christ



Christians

Beast



Followers

Failure of the Beast

- ◆ Symbolically speaking, he is a **beast**.
- ◆ Destined to be subdued by **man**.

In Genesis 1

Adam



animals

In Revelation 19

Christ

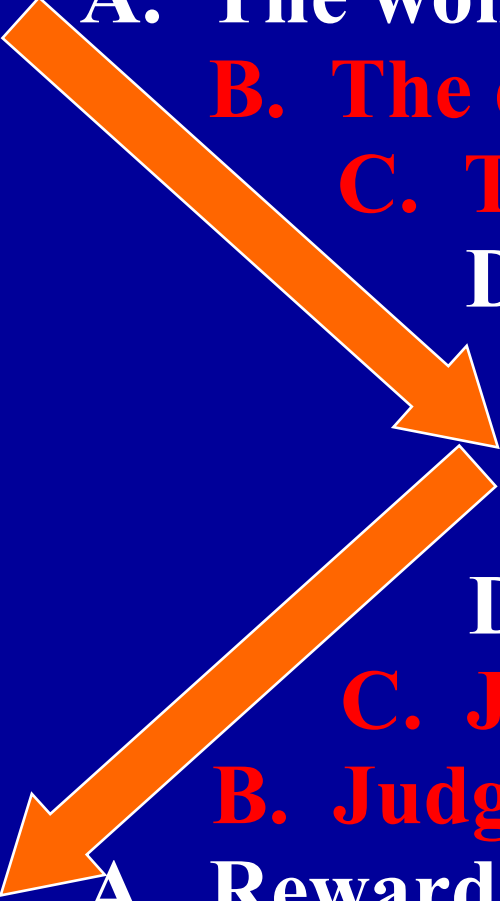


Beast

Who Counterfeits the Bride?

| Original | Function | Counterfeit |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The Father◆ Christ the Son◆ Spirit | <p>originates</p> <p>executes</p> <p>witnesses</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Dragon◆ Beast◆ False Prophet |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Bride | <p>gather, worship</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Prostitute |

The Role of the Characters in the Course of the Battle

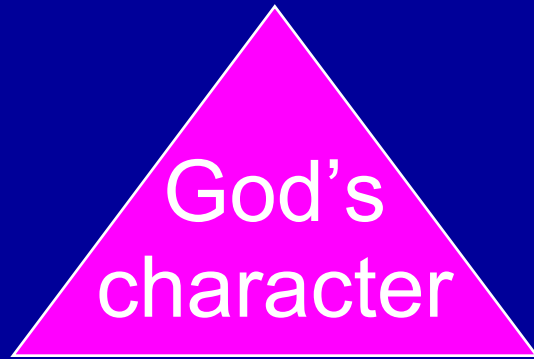
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- A. The woman-church in creation 12:1**
 - B. The dragon (Satan) 12:3**
 - C. The beasts 13:1-18**
 - D. The virgin church 14:1-5**
 - E. Babylon 17:1-18**
 - E. Judgment of Babylon 18**
 - D. Reward of the virgin 19:1-10**
 - C. Judgment of beasts 19:11-21**
 - B. Judgment of the dragon 20:1-10**
 - A. Reward of the creation church 21:1-2**

Lessons from Counterfeiting

- ◆ You are either for God or against him.
- ◆ Satan as a creature must imitate God (2 Cor. 11:14).
 - Danger in passing off the counterfeit
 - Satan is not the Creator/Originator
- ◆ Repulsiveness of the counterfeit.
- ◆ Fit punishment for followers is to be under the Beast.
- ◆ God controls Satan and all history, Job 1-2; Ps. 76:10; Rom. 8:28.

B. Satan's Role

Satan's Repeated Pattern



Satan's
Pattern



Nothing
new here.



- ◆ Satan cannot create; he must imitate.
- ◆ Satan always follows the same pattern.
- ◆ Spiritual war shows a constant pattern.
- ◆ Satan suffers repeated defeats.

Repeated Defeat of the Dragon

- ◆ Exodus from Egypt. Isa. 51:9-10; Ps. 74:13-14?
- ◆ Restoration from Babylon. Isa. 51:9-11
- ◆ Babylon destroys Egypt. Ezek. 29:3-6; 32:2-5
- ◆ Time of fulfillment. Isa. 27:1
- ◆ First coming of Christ. John 12:31; Luke 10:18; Rev. 12:9; Rev. 20:2?
- ◆ Second coming of Christ. Rev. 20:2? Rev. 20:10

Less Obvious Defeats

- ◆ **Creation.** Job 26:12 (and repeatedly); Ps. 104:7//Ps. 106:9
- ◆ **Providential rule of the sea.** Job 26:12; Ps. 89:10
- ◆ **Noah's flood.** Ps. 74:13-14? 106:10-11 (similar to flood)
- ◆ **Crossing the Jordan by Joshua, Elijah, and Elisha.** Josh. 3; 2 Kings 2:8,14

Application of Satan's Defeat to Us

- ◆ Satan has been decisively defeated Col. 2:15, Rev. 12:7-12.
- ◆ Christ's crucifixion and resurrection accomplished it, Rev. 1:18.
- ◆ We do not fear death, Rev. 1:18.
- ◆ We can endure momentary injustices.
- ◆ Satan's final defeat is guaranteed, Rev. 20:10.

The Dragon



◆ Biblical background of a sea monster

– Leviathan לְוִיָּאֲתָן Isa. 27:1; Ps. 74:14; Ps. 104:26

– Sea creature תַּנִּיַן Gen. 1:21; Isa. 27:1; 51:9

– Rahab רָהַב Isa. 51:9; Ps. 89:11

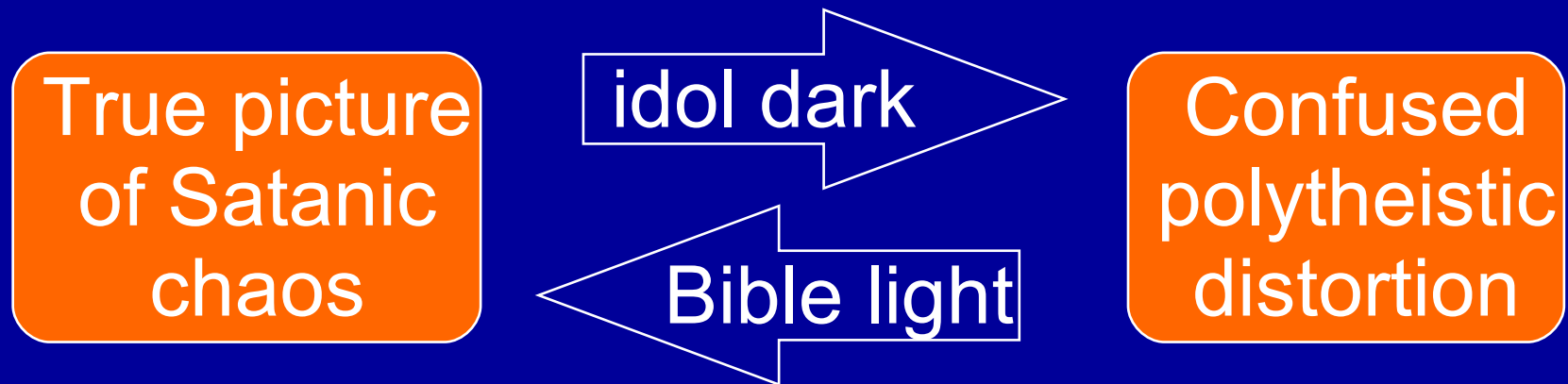
◆ Extrabiblical mythology

– Akkadian creation epic

– Baal legends

Myths of Combatting Monsters

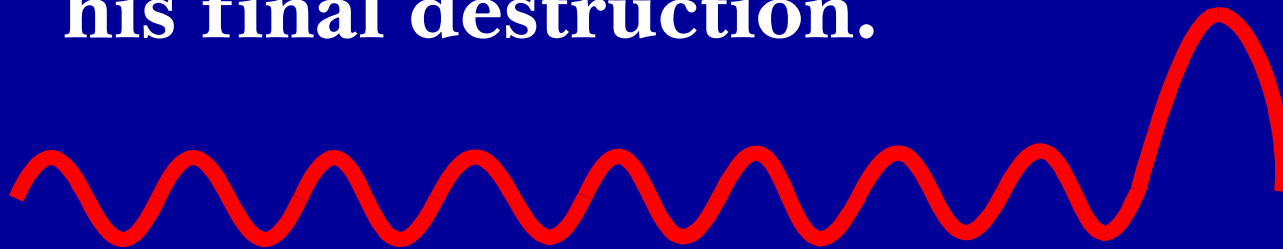
- ◆ Satan threatens monstrous chaos
- ◆ People sense the fear of chaos and Satan (general revelation)
- ◆ In idolatry they twist the truth



- ◆ The Bible unravels the twist

Summary of Defeats

- ◆ **Spiritual war throughout history**
- ◆ **The dragon is repeatedly defeated**
- ◆ **The pattern of defeat leads up to his final destruction.**

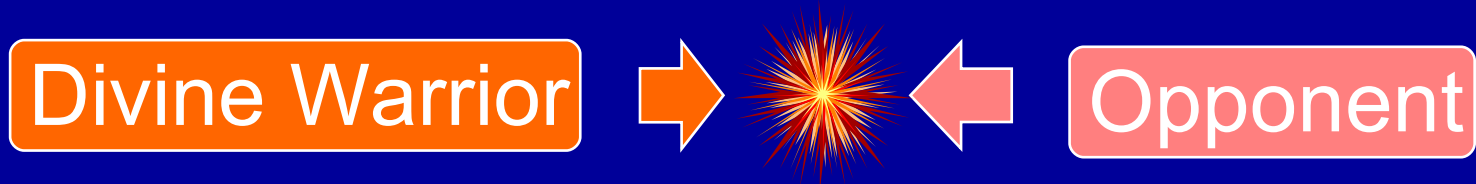


Repeated
defeats

Final
destruction

Pattern of Combat (Exodus 15)

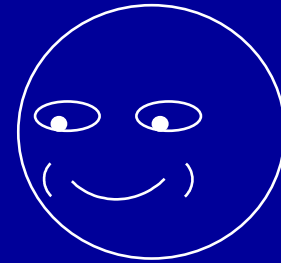
- ◆ Threat to order 15:9
- ◆ Appearance of the divine warrior 15:3, 6, 12
- ◆ Combat 15:7



- ◆ Victory 15:7, 4

Fruits of Combat (Exodus 15)

- ◆ (Consignment of foes to the abyss 15:4-5)
- ◆ **Salvation for adherents of the warrior 15:13**
- ◆ **Praise 15:1-2**
- ◆ **Manifestation of kingship 15:14-16**
- ◆ **House building 15:17**
- ◆ **Fertility of the restored order 15:17**



Combat in Revelation

- ◆ **Motifs of combat pervade Revelation**
- ◆ **They instruct us in persecution and temptation**
- ◆ **See the true situation and persevere, 12:11**
- ◆ **Victory is by endurance in death**
- ◆ **Not direct military resistance, 12:10**