



You're Welcome Here!



Series – Revelation

Study Guide 7: Cosmic Conflict & Spiritual War

Week Commencing 17th June 2019

Please read **Revelation 12.1-9,17**

As we have discovered already, the conflict these verses describe is not a chronological sequence of events in history, rather they reveal the protagonists in a war which is always in progress – in every generation and in every place, and for every person.

1. How does this passage help us make sense of the ongoing war between Satan and God, and God's people?
2. **Please also read Psalm 23** How do these passages together reveal the degree to which God will go to defeat Satan and rescue us from Satan's angry and selfish power over us?

Please read **Revelation 13.1-8; 11-18**

The dragon gives authority to - and works in partnership with, the beast from the sea (perhaps representing a widespread dragon-inspired ideology, or state-like authority or pseudo-religious power) - and with the beast from the earth (perhaps representing champions or influencers or enforcers of the dragon-inspired 'powers that be'). Again, these figures don't represent one 'beastly' power or individual only, but rather represent the ways in which the dragon goes about his work on earth in unholy partnerships in every generation and in every place - at war with God for possession of the peoples of the earth. The number of the beast – 666 - is not a complete or divine number, which is represented by the number 7. It is identifiable by its utter failure, failure, failure to imitate God.

3. What are the family characteristics of the dragon, the beast from sea and the beast from earth? How do they behave and speak and act?
4. In our society today we would find it difficult to identify only one big dragon-inspired anti-God ideology or power – like aspects of the Roman Empire, with Nero acting like a 'beastly' influencer in the war for 'ownership' of peoples and nations. Where might we be able to identify powerful dragon-inspired, anti-God ideologies and influences in our society today? And what kind of society does this create?

Please read **Revelation 14.1-2, 6-7,12; Revelation 12.10-12; 1 Peter 2.9-12**

5. How do the characteristics of the Kingdom of the Lamb contrast with the kingdom of Satan?
6. How do the people of God overcome the dragon and the beasts? (see also **Ephesians 6.10-13; Romans 12.1-2**)
7. Are we Christians promised an easy ride? Might we suffer or even die for our loyalty to Jesus? Is it worth it? Is God still good?

Further Reading relating to some of the imagery used: **Psalm 2.7-9; Exodus 19.4-6; Daniel 7.2-7**