

Satan and His Two Allies



Collegiate Quarterly

Teacher's Guide

Materials

Reproducible Activity, Bibles, paper, pencils, whiteboard, illustrations of Revelation's beasts

Surveying the Source

Revelation 12, 13

Plotting the Course

The students will:

► Identify the members of Satan's trinity, the dragon, the sea beast, and the land beast, their work, and how they counterfeit the heavenly trio.

► Demonstrate how to protect themselves from the deceptions of Satan and his minions.

► Completely identify with God and His people, worshiping Him in Spirit and in truth.

Preparing to Lead

Today we are accustomed to fictional characters in the world of entertainment that wreak havoc on a global scale. The dragon, the sea beast, and the land beast of Revelation 12 and 13 could almost seem comical, except that the context of these beasts reveals the real deadly nature

of the conflict—the life and death struggle between Christ and Satan over the destiny of this planet, and our eternal future. In stark and graphic language, John declares there are just two outcomes; either Christ or Satan will win our allegiance, our worship, and our lives.

Getting Started

A. On sheets of paper, have your students draw their version of the beasts described in Daniel and Revelation. Share with them your own presentation with illustrations of the dragon, sea beast, and land beast.

Say: “There are many action movies now with epic cosmic war themes. While engaging our imagination, how might worldly stories mask the truth of the great cosmic battle going on in our minds between good and evil?”

Engage your class in a discussion of why inspiration led John to illustrate the three main antagonists against Christ as beasts. What essential truths for these last days is Christ trying to help us understand?

B. Draw or print out on-line illustrations of the apostate trinity of Revelation 12 and 13, and attach the pictures to a white board with space for comments. Ask your class to list characteristics of each beast that help us identify them as entities in history. What does John describe the dragon doing? Where does the sea beast originate from, what does it look like, and what does it do? How is the land beast different from, yet related to the first two beasts? The sea beast is also described in Daniel 7. How does Daniel's description help us understand John's description? Why might prophetic inspiration have chosen to describe historic entities by using such graphic beasts?

Delving Into the Word

A. Using a concordance, ask your class to search the Bible for references to “dragon,” “serpent,” and “Satan” (e.g. Rev. 12:9). *Ask:* “How do the biblical references help us identify Satan’s actions throughout Bible history? How has Satan acted toward God? How has Christ battled Satan throughout time?”

The enmity between Christ and Satan began even before the creation of this world (Luke 10:18). Create a timeline on the whiteboard noting important confrontations between Satan and Christ. *Ask:* “When did the sea beast, described in Revelation 13 (c.f. Daniel 7), come on the scene? When did the land beast show up on the timeline? Who are the targets of the sea and land beast, and how have they historically threatened the objects of their attacks? Why is it so critical for us, at this time in earth’s history, to understand the nature of all three of these beasts? What are the dangers of not recognizing the true nature of these historical entities, and the true nature of their actions?”

B. Using a whiteboard, ask your class to outline the threats described in Revelation 12 and 13. *Ask:* “When did Satan first begin to threaten God’s children?” Use a concordance to do a word search on “Satan.” Draw a timeline of Satan’s attacks on Christ and His people from the fall onward.

Divide your class into four groups and have them examine the four main attacks of Satan on Christ and His people: 1) The fall; 2) Christ’s earthly life and death; 3) the attacks of the sea beast (Daniel 7; Revelation 13); 4) the attacks of the land beast (Revelation 13). *Ask:* “How did Christ and His people fare under each attack, and what were their defenses? How could Adam and Eve have escaped Satan’s deceptions in Eden? How did Christ meet Satan’s attacks in the desert, during His ministry, and at the cross? How did Christ’s people fare during the Dark Ages? Where did they find refuge? How are we to meet the deceptions of the land beast in the upcoming events of earth’s history?”

Discussing the Ideas

1. In Scripture, Satan is described as a serpent. Why was Christ represented as a serpent (Numbers 21; John 3:14, 15)? How was Christ’s death such a definitive defeat of Satan, his deceptions, and his accusations?

2. What are the greatest dangers that the sea and land beasts pose for us?

3. How do these beasts pose as counterfeits of the heavenly Trio?

4. What is the victory described in Rev-

elation 12:10 based on?

5. What role is prophesied for the United States in the last days? Why is this important to know?

6. What is prophesied to be the connection between the Roman Catholic religious system and the United States? How is this prophecy being fulfilled today?

7. What is your role in the body of Christ as it meets the challenges of these last days?

Closing the Activity

As a class, read Rev. 12:10, 11 and Rom. 8:31–39. Ask members to share why these verses offer hope despite the great threats of the dragon, the sea beast, and the land beast. Ask for prayer re-

quests, and divide your class into small groups, so each one can have the opportunity to pray. Close your class with a song such as “I Know Whom I Have Believed” (#511 in the Seventh-day Advent-

Cheryl Des Jarlais, Ronan, Montana, USA

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Our only defense in this most epic of all battles for control of the universe and of our minds and hearts, is Christ's victory on the cross on our behalf, and our faith in Him. In the space below, use your own words to express your appreciation and love to God, and your commitment to Him and to His people.