

RED DRAGON Dawn 3

Satan Imitates God

(preached 3/20/22)

Please turn to *Revelation 13*.

Sermon #1:

- The Lord reveals Satan's character, plans, goals, and the effect they have upon the world in detail, so He thought it was important for us to know.
- When trouble on this scale comes, unbelievers are afraid, have questions, and are seeking both peace and answers.
- Therefore the Church needs to KNOW and have answers!
- This is our moment to teach what the Bible says of these things then give the good news of aligning with Christ!
- Satan wants to be God & wants to rule all of humanity.
- All the plans, plots, and schemes of the enemy will come to nothing and God laughs at them!
- That being said, the "Red Dragon Dawn" is upon us as Satan makes his last move for the throne. Perilous times are already upon us and not only must we endure to the end, but we need to speak God's word and Gospel to others.
- Now is the time to speak out in boldness and make disciples!

Sermon #2:

- Angels are elder race of beings also made in the image of God, and Lucifer was one of them.
- Despite his rebellion and fall into reprobate evil, his goals are similar to God's.
- He wants his OWN kingdom to come, his OWN will to be done, on earth.
- Therefore the Kingdom of God and that of the Dragon are at war with each other for rule of the world and its people.
- Therefore he persecutes God's people in covenant with the Lord: Jews and Christians.
- As the fallen cherub who blinds the eyes of unbelievers, Satan and his angels act like a dark, foggy barrier between God's Heaven and earth.
- At some point in our future, though, Michael and the remaining holy angels will fight a great war in the heavens and cast the Dragon and his angels to earth.
- Every human on the planet at that time will be able to look up and see Father and Jesus sitting on the throne!
- They'll see Jesus mount up on His white horse, draw His sword, and begin His conquest of earth!
- Until Jesus rides, the human saints on the planet have to deal with the Dragon in physical form and he will be very angry.
- How can they possibly stand against him?

- They will overcome/conquer him with the Blood of the Lamb and holding fast to their testimony.
- If they can overcome the devil under those conditions, then how us right now?
- We were born-again to be MORE than conquerors in Christ!!!
- We fight FROM a place of victory, not for it.

TODAY we do a side by side comparison between the following:

- Father God and Satan.
- Jesus and the Antichrist.
- NEXT WEEK: The Holy Spirit and the False Prophet.

Satan wants to be like his Father, who is God the Father. Therefore not only does he attempt to imitate his dad, but uses his Dad's methods, and has similar goals. We'll begin our reading in *Isaiah 14* starting with *verse 12*, but *verses 3-11* tell the story of how Satan—once the most powerful, beautiful, and glorious angel in God's Heaven—will have everything he is stripped away and he will die like a mortal human being:

Isaiah 14:12-14 (ESV)

¹² "How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star [Lucifer], son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!

¹³ You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north;

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

Verse 12: in Jude's short NT epistle, he teaches that when angels rebel they move out of God's Heaven forever. They also lose "heavenly clothing" which is the glory and splendor of God and their eventual destination—as we covered last week—is earth. Just as you and I will be moving from the slums to the palace upon our resurrection, fallen angels leave behind the palace to wallow in the slums.

Verse 13: in his completely debased state, Lucifer became God's enemy—which is the name "Satan"—and wants it all. He wants to replace God, become God, and rule over both his fellow angels (the stars of God)—atop the holy mountain in Heaven (also spoken of by the writer of *Hebrews 12:22*.)

Verse 14: the war in the heavens we read about in Revelation 12 is the Dragon's attempt to mount an attack against the Lord & His angels in the 3rd Heaven...which as we know fails dismally.

JESUS DOESN'T STEP IN? Did you notice during that pitched battle that Jesus Himself never stepped in? Michael and the boys took care of business by themselves. I bring that up to say Satan never stood a chance and still doesn't. The same Jesus Who could have won that right with a snap of His fingers lives inside you and I!

PLAN TO RULE EARTH. Satan's plan to rule God's heaven is to mount an attack with his angels. ***His plan to rule earth is eerily similar to Fathers: beget a son, send him here as a Messianic figure to save mankind, and give him a helper who will turn the attention of others to him.***

Let's read *Revelation 13*:

Revelation 13:1-10 (ESV)

- ¹ And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.
- ² And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.
- ³ One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast.
- ⁴ And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"
- ⁵ And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.
- ⁶ It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.
- ⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,
- ⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.
- ⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear:
- ¹⁰ If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

Verse 1: the Beast is the son of the Dragon just as Jesus is the Son of Father God. Just as Jesus was begotten—not created—in the likeness of His Father God, the Antichrist looks like his dad too: same amount of horns, heads, and crowns that mean the same thing as we previously discussed.

Verse 2: the Beast is a conglomeration of the Dragon's former attempts at creating a world empire and the various animals depicted were taken from Daniel 7: leopard = Greece, Bear = Persia, and Lion = Babylon. Just as Jesus derived all His authority and power from His Father God, the Beast gets his from his Dragon daddy.

Verse 3a: the heads of the Beast represent the same thing as that of the Dragon's—Satan's former attempts at world rule. One of those heads/empires is mortally wounded then comes back to life...that head will be the one that rules during the Tribulation. Some believe it to be Rome others the Ottoman (Islamic) empire. We shall see!

Verse 3b-4: just as Jesus commanded the 12 to go into the world and make disciples who acknowledge Christ as Messiah and God, the Beast will have his disciples who will marvel after and worship him as a messiah and god.

TRANSLATION OF WORSHIP. The translation of the worship is curious: it means “to kiss, like a dog who licks his master’s hand.” When it comes to God this is a good thing—He is our Master and there’s even a verse of Scripture that says “Kiss the Son” in *Psalms 2:12* which means the same thing. Yet the Beast will have millions perhaps billions of people doing the same to him.

FAWN AND PROSTRATE. The word worship goes on in its translation to mean to fawn and prostrate oneself to another—to literally kneel or lay completely face down on the ground. Why is this an act of worship? It’s an act of complete trust—to make ourselves completely vulnerable to God. If you ever see two dogs fighting or about to, sometimes you’ll see one of them suddenly prostrate itself to the other one in submission. Instead of choosing to defend themselves, they’re exposing the most vulnerable part of themselves—their neck—to the other. The dominant animal can either go in for the easy kill or it can choose to have mercy and let the other animal go.

EXPOSING OURSELVES TO HIM. Our worship of God isn’t just raising our hands in the air and singing—*it’s exposing ourselves to Him with the heartfelt intent of asking for mercy, KNOWING that He won’t tear our throats out but having the faith-based guarantee that He will choose mercy.*

BE HONEST & VULNERABLE. There’s been a call for Christians to be honest & vulnerable which I support but it we cannot stop there—**the married spouse to vulnerability is the plea to God for mercy.** We are told to approach the throne of Grace and ask for Grace and MERCY in our time of need. We prostrate ourselves before our Lord in abject helplessness and beg Him for His grace, knowing He will say “yes!”

People will do the same to the Antichrist and his Beast system...and are doing it now. While the Beast has not yet ascended out of the sea, shadows of it work even now as the Apostle John stated in his letter (*1 John 4:3*). Said “spirit of Antichrist”, made in the image of its cherub covering dad, suppresses any speech & information that goes against its disciple-making narrative.

BEAST’S DISCIPLES. Not only are there are those who believe in and worship this system, but are willing to oppress others both in legislation and personally, who won’t conform. *Anyone calling upon the human powers that be for others to be punished, fined, or arrested for the things they’re saying is not looking to the Spirit of God, but to that of the Dragon.*

BELIEVE BEAST WILL SUCCEED. The people will so revere the Beast when he fully comes that they'll believe he's all powerful and will succeed in being god and king, just as you and I believe and **KNOW** Christ is all powerful and will certainly be completely victorious, not to mention remaining on His throne!

DRAGON THRONES. Please note some other similarities: just as Father-God placed His Son Jesus on the throne and made Him Ruler over both angels and mankind, the Dragon attempts to do the same with his son.

Verses 5-6: the Dragon gives his son the most powerful weapon in the world: **a mouth**. Are words more powerful than a nuclear warhead? Absolutely. Warheads are the result of words, both spoken and on paper! Wars start and stop based on words. Everything on this planet is a result of words, including us. Not only did Father create everything with His words, but you and I—made in His likeness—do the same.

JESUS' SWORD. The sharp two-edged sword coming out of Jesus' mouth, which He will use to smite the nations, are His words and He is called the Word of God. The famous Sword of the Spirit in *Ephesians 6:17* is the spoken Word of God and the act of swinging said sword is to speak it (as opposed to reading it in our minds).

CUSSING A SIN. Cussing is a sin because we're using our words to curse instead of bless. As Christians, if our words are coming from the Holy Spirit, their purpose is to bless, build up, and is compared to pure, living, water. Telling some to f-off or calling them some terrible name is the opposite and as inspired by the spirit of the Dragon.

DRAGON GIVES BEAST HIS SWORD. The Dragon gives his son a sword...but it's not the word of God, it's the word of the Dragon. As all words have power, the Beast swings its sword against God, Israel, the Church, the holy angels still in Heaven, and possibly the departed saints it's already martyred. The Beast will be at its greatest power and exercising its greatest persecution for 3.5 years...the last 3.5 years of the 7 year Tribulation.

Verse 7 is a hard verse...really hard. The war being spoken of here isn't just military—it's a war of words...discipleship. I know this because of the context of the last 2 verses where the Beast is given a mouth to say "great things" and to blaspheme. I also know it because of verse 8 which says that anyone whose names aren't written in the Book of Life will follow and worship the Beast. They're swayed by his words, deceived into believing his identity as a savior and god of this world. They will believe what he says, feel like he feels, and be willing to do whatever he says.

DISCIPLES OF GOV'T. I repeat: here in modern American society there are people who place their trust in man-made high places, the first and foremost which is government. They've bought the lie that anyone who speaks against the doctrine of said authority is spreading dangerous "misinformation."

WITCH HUNT. It's gone beyond Big Tech taking down a video or a post and has now progressed to a McCarthy-like witch hunt of anyone daring to challenge the news or narrative of the current administration. Anyone following this shadow of the upcoming Beast system will not only support said censorship and legal action, but will take part in it themselves. Citizens have already been calling the authorities on businesses and churches for Covid-violations...it's happened right here in Addison.

Why? How? It's a war of words and discipleship.

Whomever we worship is who we believe.

SONS & DAUGHTERS. We will want to be their sons and daughters...made in their image. We'll follow them wherever they go. We'll do whatever they tell us to and say whatever they want us to say.

VICTORY OVER SAINTS. During the final 7-year Tribulation the Beast is granted victory in the last 3.5 years as most people will be swayed to believe in him vs. Jesus. Paul prophesied to Timothy that in the last days, some would depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits and the doctrines of demons. He went on to say the same people would reject sound doctrine, drawing to themselves false teachers who would scratch their itching ears. In other words, ***said teachers would tell them what they want to hear by affirming their sin instead of telling them the truth and calling for repentance.***

SWUNG SWORD = DIVISION. When the Sword of the Spirit is swung, division takes place...light is separated from darkness so there's no more gray. Truth is divided from falsehood giving people a clear choice of whom they will serve.

YOU AND I PLAY OUR PART BY SPEAKING THE TRUTH AND HOLDING FAST TO OUR TESTIMONY REGARDLESS OF WHAT COMES. I can only imagine the saints present during the last 3.5 years of the Tribulation having to fight despair and asking themselves what good they're doing? Despite sharing the Gospel, despite remaining faithful, so many turn to the Beast and worship him. Family and friends rejecting Jesus' Saving grace and believing in the Beast instead. As hard as that will be, they're still called conquerors and victorious...isn't that interesting?

Why does chapter 12 say the saints are conquerors and chapter 13 says the Beast overcomes them? The saints win by holding fast to their own Salvation through Jesus—they're not deceived and swayed by the Beast nor do they take his Mark. They're willing to die before they renounce their Lord and Savior Jesus.

BEAST CONVERTS. The Beast succeeds in converting anyone whose names aren't written in the Book of Life, which will likely be the majority of the people still on the planet at the time. They will greatly outnumber the faithful remnant and will physically persecute and martyr them. God allows this to happen.

Verse 10 says the saints must keep the faith and endure. That anyone who uses the sword of the Beast will be slain by the sword of Christ. Remember that ***the darkest hour is just before the dawn.***

ORIGINS OF JESUS VS. BEAST.

- In John's Gospel Jesus stunned & confused His audience when He claimed to have come down (descended) from Heaven.
- Unbelievers couldn't reconcile this claim with the fact they knew His human mother Mary and saw Him grow up in Galilee as a human child.
- Jesus was and is the Bridge between God and Man, being both. It was His Spirit from Heaven that inhabited a human body so that He could fulfill His role as both the unblemished sacrificial Lamb of God and the Royal High Priest of the Heavens to present the sacrifice.
- ***Likewise the Beast has 2 origins.*** Revelation chapters 11 & 17 has the Beast ascending out of the Bottomless Pit whereas chapter 13 has him rising up out of the sea.
- The BP is separate from Hell and is the dwelling place of the fallen angels of Genesis 6—no human spirits there. Whereas the sea represents the nations of man.
- In Revelation 9, the BP is opened for the first time in around 4500 years and what's inside is freed.
- The Beast will have a fallen angelic spirit housed within a human body and I believe the name of that spirit is Abaddon in the Hebrew and Apollyon in the Greek.
- I don't believe it will be Lucifer himself, who will remain intact and separate and still within the heavenly dimensions until the big fight of Revelation 12.

MORE COMPARISONS.

- Just as Jesus is the Head of the Church, the Beast will be the head of his followers.
- Just as you and I are members of Christ's body, those who worship the Beast will be members of his body.
- Just as we worship both Jesus and Father God and know that God is Jesus' Father, those who follow the Beast will worship both he and the Dragon, knowing the Dragon is the Beast's dad.

INHERITANCE. As believers in Jesus, we receive a divine inheritance in Him: eternal life in a resurrected body and citizenship (and authority) in His Kingdom.

BEAST'S INHERITANCE. Those who follow the Beast will receive the same inheritance as him: the Lake of Fire.

FALSE PROMISES. No doubt he will promise his own version of eternal life complete with rulership in his earthly kingdom. Even now branches of Frankenstein type “science” called transhumanism are promising eternal life, and the WEF recently released an Island of Dr. Moreau video saying they had the tech to biohack human beings and reprogram us. They went on to claim that global rulers could control us by said biohacking.

NEXT WEEK we'll delve into comparing the Holy Spirit vs. the False Prophet.

TWO WEEKS from now we're having a special meeting during the normal sermon time, and I ask that you all attend if you can.

We must hold fast to the testimony of Christ!

- We've been cleansed by the Blood of the Lamb so Satan and Death must Passover us!
- We're in covenant with Father God because Jesus bridged the gap on the Cross.
- Our inheritance starts at the Resurrection—just as death had no dominion over Christ which He proved when He rose, thus we will follow our Good Shepherd into everlasting life!
- Lord Jesus is coming back at earth's darkest hour, when all hope seems lost.
- The Dragon loses and his two kids—the Beast and the False Prophet—are cast into the Lake of Fire.
- You and I will be riding behind Jesus and we will retake this planet for His Kingdom!
- Jesus' victory will be total and absolute and we will live with Him in His Kingdom forever and ever!
- All these things and more is the testimony of Christ inside us, let us hold fast!

Hebrews 6:17-20 (ESV)

¹⁷ So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath,

¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,

²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.