

The Evil Empire  
The Dragon, The Beast and The False Prophet  
The False Trinity of The Evil Empire  
Revelation 13:1

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Satan is more concerned with what you think and what you believe than with what you do. Satan's desire is to control your mind so that he can control your actions. Satan does not spend his time in peripheral things; he concentrates his efforts on his goal, to control what you believe. (Pentecost 1997, 102)

We are still dealing with events immediately following the seventh trumpet blast which will continue to sound for 3 ½ years.

The trumpet has sounded, and we have been given a quick history lesson as to the origin of the war that is ongoing and now highly visible. See Genesis 3 for the declaration of war.

Satan and his followers have been cast out of heaven and down to earth permanently  
We have already been introduced to five of the seven characters that are central to the last 3 ½ years.  
We are now introduced to another. This is someone the Bible speaks a lot about, a few examples

1 John 2:18

“Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that **antichrist** is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.” (NASB95)

2 Thessalonians 2:3–4

“Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and **the man of lawlessness** is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.” (NASB95)

Psalm 74:8–11

“They say to themselves, “We will oppress all of them.” They burn down all the places where people worship God in the land. We do not see any signs of God's presence; there are no longer any prophets and we have no one to tell us how long this will last. How long, O God, will **the adversary** hurl insults?

Will the enemy blaspheme your name forever? Why do you remain inactive? Intervene and destroy him!" (NET)

Micah 5:5

"And he shall be their peace. When **the Assyrian** comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;" (ESV)

Zechariah 11:16–17

"for I am now raising up a shepherd in the land who will neither search for the lost, nor care for the young, nor fix the broken, nor sustain the healthy. Instead, he will devour the meat of the best of the sheep, tearing off their hoofs." "Woe to **the worthless shepherd**, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye. May his arm wither and his right eye be completely blind." (ISV)

John 5:43

"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes **in his own name**, you will receive him." (NASB95)

#### *Old Testament Allusions*

*Adversary Ps 74:8-10; Isa 59:19; Lam 4:11,12; Amos 3:11*

*Assyrian Isa 10:5, 12; Micah 5:5, 6*

*Belial Nahum 1:15*

*Bloody and Deceitful Man Ps 5:6*

*Branch of the Terrible Ones Isa 25:5*

*Chief Prince Ex 38:2*

*Crooked Serpent Job 26:13; Isa 27:1*

*Cruel One Jer 30:14,23*

*Destroyer of the Gentiles Jer 4:7*

*Enemy Ps 55:3; Jer 30:14, 23*

*Evil Man Ps 140:1*

*Head over many countries Ps 110:6*

*Head of Northern Army Joel 2:20*

*Idol Shepherd Zech 11:16, 17*

*King of Princes Hos 8:10*

*King of Babylon Isa 14:11-20*

*Little Horn Dan 7:8f; 8:9f*

*Man of the Earth Ps 10:18*

*Merchant, with balances of deceit Hos 12:7*

*Mighty Man Ps 52:1*

*Nail Isa 22:25*

*Prince that shall come Dan 9:26*

*Prince of Tyre Ezek 28:2-10*

*Profane Wicked Prince of Israel Ezek 21:25-27*

*Proud Man Hab 2:5*

*Rod of God's anger Isa 10:5*

*Seed of the Serpent Gen 3:15*

*Son of the Morning Isa 14:12*

*Spoiler, Destroyer Isa 16:4,5*

*Vile Person Dan 11:21*

*Violent Man Ps 140:1f*

*Wicked One Ps 9:17; 10:2,4; Isa 11:4; Jer 30:14, 23*

*Wilful King Dan 11:36*

#### *New Testament Allusions*

*Angel of the Bottomless Pit Rev 9:11*

*Antichrist, (Pseudo-Christ) 1 Jn 2:22*  
*Beast Rev 11:7; 13*  
*False Prophet Rev 13*  
*Father of the lie Jn 8:44; 2 Thess 2:11*  
*Lawless One 2 Thess 2:8*  
*Man of Sin 2 Thess 2:3*  
*One come in his own name Jn 5:43*  
*Prince of Darkness 1 Thess 5*  
*Son of Perdition 2 Thess 2:3*  
*Star Rev 8:10; 9:1*  
*Unclean Spirit Mt 12:43*  
*Vine of the earth Rev 14:18*  
(Missler 2005)

Satan knows his time is short and he is bound and determined to make war against those on earth who are associated with God.

Revelation 12:17

“So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.” (NASB95)

In chapter 13, we are introduced to the plans of the dragon and how he intends to conduct that war against the woman, against Israel, the 144,000 Jewish evangelists and all the people who have come to Christ during the tribulation and have survived to this point.

The entirety of chapter 13 is all about how Satan intends to impersonate God. Recall Isaiah 14:13-14 “But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’” (NASB95)

Now we see exactly how he intends to do that even down to descriptions of his worshippers.

Would you accept monopoly money for payment?

Would you buy a zirconium ring to pledge your true love to someone?

Would you accept a cheap knock off purse as the original thing?

Would you accept cheap miracles and healings?

Would you accept fast easy methods to develop true spirituality?

Would you accept a God who winks and says He is okay with white lies as well as compromised truth regarding things the scriptures teach are clearly black and white, yes and no, who is modern?

Ecclesiastes 1:2–11

“Utterly pointless,” says the Teacher. “Absolutely pointless; everything is pointless.” What does a man gain from all of the work that he undertakes on earth? A generation goes, a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises, the sun sets, then rushes back to where it arose. The wind blows continually—southward, then northward, constantly circulating— and the wind comes back again in its courses. All the rivers flow toward the sea, but the sea is never full; then rivers return to the headwaters where they began. Everything is wearisome, more than man is able to express. The eye is never satisfied by seeing, nor the ear by hearing. Whatever has happened, will happen again; whatever has been done, will be done again. There is nothing new on earth. Does anything exist about which someone might say, “Look at this! Is this new?” It happened ages ago; it existed before we did. No one remembers those in the past, nor will they be remembered by those who come after them.” (ISV)

Satan’s lies have not changed. His desires have not changed.

Genesis 3:4–5

“The serpent said to the woman, “Surely you will not die, for God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will open and you will be like divine beings who know good and evil.”” (NET)

John 8:44

“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (NASB95)

As God has shown us throughout His word, He has truth. He wants us to know and understand His word, He wants it to give us life. As we understand God’s word, we become more like Him. The opposite is true as well for those who reject God, His word and His truth. They think they are doing “their” thing, but they are following the other side and becoming more like their leader.

In a statement that encompasses Genesis 11 as well as Deuteronomy 32 and Psalm 82, the Psalmist says the following about those who are not following God but are in reality following Satan and the fallen ones.

Psalm 134:15–18 (LXX) (Psalm 135:15-18 NASB)

“The idols of the nations are silver and gold, works of the hands of humans. They have a mouth and do not speak; they have eyes and will not see. They have ears and will not give ear, for there is no wind in their mouth. May all those who make them become like them, and all those who are trusting in them.” (Lexham Press 2020, Psm 134:15-18)

We now see in Revelation 13, the ultimate expression of that

Satan, then, has a doctrine to propagate and he has a method of propagating it. And his method is to imitate God’s method. He puts men in places where people will submit to their teaching. He gives to them the authority that belongs to a minister commissioned, instructed and sent by God. He then causes that deceiver to teach a false doctrine which will grip the minds and hearts of men. (Pentecost 1997, 103)

Some of that comes from understanding the opposite of who God is, Satan is against God is the antichrist is the opposite, the antitype of Jesus Christ. First let’s look at some of God’s attributes, who He is.

God is Pure Existence  
Pure Actuality

God is Simplicity  
There are no seams in God. His Being cannot come apart

God is Self-Existent  
He exists in and of Himself

God Cannot Change  
God is immutable.

God is Spirit  
He is immaterial, He is nontemporal, He is nonspatial, He is noncorporeal

God is Infinite  
God is limitless in His being, He has no boundaries

God is Eternal  
He has no beginning and He has no end

God is Holy  
He is totally and utterly set apart from creation. He is the standard to which the whole universe must conform.

God Knows Everything  
The omniscience of God

God is All Powerful  
He is omnipotent

God is Jealous  
God has holy zeal to protect His supremacy

God's Wrath  
He is wrathful to the unrepentant

God is Love  
God is omnibenevolent. He is all good.

God's Mercy  
Endures forever

Satan is a counterfeit. He wants to be like God, but all he can do is copy that which has already been created and modeled and do so imperfectly to boot.

We have a counterfeiter scorecard for chapter 13.

### **Revelation 13 Counterfeit vs Reality Scorecard**

#### **Verse 2...the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority**

Hebrews 1:1–12

“Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. The Son radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names. For God never said to any angel what he said to Jesus: “You are my Son. Today I have become your Father.” God also said, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son.” And when he brought his supreme Son into the world, God said, “Let all of God’s angels worship him.” Regarding the angels, he says, “He sends his angels like the winds, his servants like flames of fire.” But to the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice. You love justice and hate evil. Therefore, O God, your God has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else.” He also says to the Son, “In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with your hands. They will perish, but you remain forever. They will wear out like old clothing. You will fold them up like a cloak and discard them like old clothing. But you are always the same; you will live forever.” (NLT)

#### **Verse 3...head as if it had been slain**

Romans 1:1–7

“From Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who according to the flesh was a descendant of David, and who according to the spirit of holiness was declared to be the

Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead—Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and a commission as an apostle to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name. You, too, are among those who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be holy. May grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be yours!” (ISV)

### **Verse 3,4...marveled after the beast and worshipped the dragon**

Revelation 5:13

And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” (NASB95)

### **Verse 5,6...communicates the word of the dragon**

John 1:1–5

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (ESV)

John 14:9

“Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’” (ESV)

### **Verse 7...makes war with and overcomes the saints**

Matthew 16:17–18

“And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” (NASB95)

1 Thessalonians 4:16–18

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” (NASB95)

2 Thessalonians 2:3–4

“Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.” (NASB95)

### **Verse 7...Authority over every tribe, people, language and nation**

Isaiah 45:23–24

“By myself I have sworn— from my mouth has gone out integrity, a promise that won’t be revoked: ‘To me every knee will bow, and every tongue will swear.’ One will say of me, ‘Only in the LORD are victories and might.’ All who raged against him will come to him and will be put to shame.” (ISV)

Isaiah 66:1–2

“This is what the LORD says: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house that you would build for me, and where will my resting place be? All these things my hand has made, and

so all these things came into being,” declares the LORD. “But this is the one to whom I will look favorably: to the one who is humble and contrite in spirit, and who trembles at my message.” (ISV)

Colossians 1:16–18

“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.” (NASB95)

### **Verse 8...earth dwellers to worship the beast**

Deuteronomy 6:13–15

“You shall fear the Lord your God and serve him, and you shall cling to him, and you shall swear by his name. Do not walk after other gods from the peoples that surround you, because the Lord your God who is with you is a jealous God. Lest the Lord your God become angry in anger with you and utterly destroy you from the face of the land.” (Lexham Press 2020, Deut 6:13-15)

Romans 1:18–19

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.” (NASB95)

Revelation 20:11–15

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” (NASB95)

### **Verse 11...another beast from the earth with two horns like a lamb but speaks like the dragon**

John 14:16–18

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” (ESV)

John 14:26

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (ESV)

### **Verse 12...spreads the word about the beast making earth dwellers to worship the beast whose fatal wound was healed**

John 15:26–27

““But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.” (ESV)

Romans 8:12–17

“So then, brothers and sisters, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh (for if you live according to the flesh, you will die), but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you

will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery leading again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself bears witness to our spirit that we are God’s children. And if children, then heirs (namely, heirs of God and also fellow heirs with Christ)—if indeed we suffer with him so we may also be glorified with him.” (NET)

### **Verse 13...performs great signs to include fire from heaven**

John 14:12–14

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.” (ESV)

3 Kingdoms 18:36–39 (LXX) 1 Kings 18:36–39

“Elijah cried out to the heaven and said, “O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, answer me, O Lord, answer me today with fire. Let all this people know that you are the Lord, God of Israel, and I am your servant, and I have done this work on your account. Answer me, O Lord! Answer me, and may this people know that you are Lord God and you have turned the heart of this people back.” Fire fell from the Lord from the heaven. It consumed the burnt offerings, the wood, the water that was in the pools, and the stones; and the fire licked up the dust. All the people fell on their face and said, “Truly, the Lord is God. He is God.”” (Lexham Press 2020, 3 Kingdoms 18:36-39)

Judges 6:19–21

“Gideon went and prepared a young goat, along with unleavened bread made from an ephah of flour. He put the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot. He brought the food to him under the oak tree and presented it to him. God’s messenger said to him, “Put the meat and unleavened bread on this rock, and pour out the broth.” Gideon did as instructed. The LORD’s messenger touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of his staff. Fire flared up from the rock and consumed the meat and unleavened bread. The LORD’s messenger then disappeared.” (NET)

### **Verse 14...make an image to the beast**

John 4:24

“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (NASB95)

Deuteronomy 4:15–19

“Be very careful, then, because you saw no form at the time the LORD spoke to you at Horeb from the middle of the fire. I say this so you will not corrupt yourselves by making an image in the form of any kind of figure. This includes the likeness of a human male or female, any kind of land animal, any bird that flies in the sky, anything that crawls on the ground, or any fish in the deep waters of the earth. When you look up to the sky and see the sun, moon, and stars—the whole heavenly creation—you must not be seduced to worship and serve them, for the LORD your God has assigned them to all the people of the world.” (NET)

John 6:63

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.” (NASB95)

Psalms 115:2–8

“Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?” Our God is in heaven! He does whatever he pleases! Their idols are made of silver and gold— they are man-made. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see, ears, but cannot hear, noses, but cannot smell, hands, but cannot touch, feet, but cannot walk. They cannot even clear their throats. Those who make them will end up like them, as will everyone who trusts in them.” (NET)

## Verse 16...mark for earth dwellers and worshippers

Deuteronomy 6:5–9

“You must love the LORD your God with your whole mind, your whole being, and all your strength. These words I am commanding you today must be kept in mind, and you must teach them to your children and speak of them as you sit in your house, as you walk along the road, as you lie down, and as you get up. You should tie them as a reminder on your forearm and fasten them as symbols on your forehead. Inscribe them on the doorframes of your houses and gates.” (NET)

Ezekiel 9:4

“And the LORD said to him, “Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it.”” (ESV)

Revelation 7:2–3

“And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.” (NASB95)

Revelation 22:3–4

“There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.” (NASB95)

## Verse 17...no one can buy unless they are in the book

John 6:48–51

“I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.” (NASB95)

Revelation 3:18–20

“I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. ‘Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. ‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.’” (NASB95)

### Revelation 13 Counterfeit vs Reality Scorecard Recap

- Verse 2...the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority
- Verse 3...head as if it had been slain
- Verse 3,4...marveled after the beast and worshipped the dragon
- Verse 5,6...communicates the word of the dragon
- Verse 7...makes war with and overcomes the saints
- Verse 7...Authority over every tribe, people, language and nation
- Verse 8...earth dwellers to worship the beast
- Verse 11...another beast from the earth with two horns like a lamb but speaks like the dragon
- Verse 12...spreads the word about the beast making earth dwellers to worship the beast whose fatal wound was healed
- Verse 13...performs great signs to include fire from heaven
- Verse 14...make an image to the beast
- Verse 17...no one can buy unless they are in the book

The Bible warns us over and over to be so familiar with the genuine thing, to be so familiar with the word of God that we will be able to discern the counterfeit when we see it. Is this a serious requirement in these last days?

Mark 13:21–22

“At that time, if anyone says to you, ‘Look! Here is the Christ!’ or, ‘Look! There he is!’, don’t believe it. For false christs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and omens to deceive, if possible, the elect.” (ISV)

We are warned and shown counterfeit miracles in Exodus 7:8-13 as well as in Revelation 13  
We are warned about counterfeit believers throughout the scriptures.

1 John 2:18–20

“Little children, it is the last hour. Just as you heard that an antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have appeared. This is how we know it is the last hour. They left us, but they were not part of us. For if they had been part of us, they would have stayed with us. They simply made it clear that none of them was really part of us. You have an anointing from the Holy One and know all things.” (ISV)

Counterfeit Christs, Jesus warned us they are coming.

Matthew 24:5

“For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many.” (NASB95)

More on counterfeit believers

2 Timothy 3:2–5

“For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.” (NASB95)

Counterfeit prophets, pastors and teachers.

Jude 3–4

“Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people. I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God’s marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” (NLT)

2 Peter 2:1–3

“But false prophets arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. These false teachers will infiltrate your midst with destructive heresies, even to the point of denying the Master who bought them. As a result, they will bring swift destruction on themselves. And many will follow their debauched lifestyles. Because of these false teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. And in their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words. Their condemnation pronounced long ago is not sitting idly by; their destruction is not asleep.” (NET)

1 Timothy 4:1–3

“Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead. They will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat certain foods. But God created those foods to be eaten with thanks by faithful people who know the truth.” (NLT)

Satan is the master counterfeiter. He knew he could not be the Most High, so he simply declared his desire to become just like the Most High. In order to do this, he instituted his own counterfeit program, which has five facets. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 26)

- False religion
- False messiahs
- False followers
- False theology
- False miracles

John has been looking to the heavens and provided us with star chart information, he also provided us with the heavenly perspective of the attempted invasion of heaven by the dragon and his followers and how futile that was.

The dragon has been thrown to earth and John is now viewing events here in earth again as well. There is some discussion among commentators about whether it is John standing on the seashore or the dragon who is standing on the seashore. All of this flows from a letter that shows up in some Greek versions and not in others, a nu.

It shows up in different translations.

Revelation 13:1

“And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.” (NASB95)

Some translations will have the first part of this verse as verse 18 in chapter 12, and some will reflect it is not the beast who is on the seashore.

Revelation 13:1

“Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.” (NKJV)

“καὶ ἐστάθη(εσταθην) ἐπὶ τὴν ἄμμον τῆς θαλάσσης.” (Revelation 12:18, NA27)

Revelation 12:17–13:1

“Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea. 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.” (ESV)

A textual difficulty also appears in the expression “I stood.” Some manuscripts read, “he stood,” the change being effected by the dropping of one letter nun from the end of the verb estathē. If the letter is properly dropped, it indicates that the dragon himself stood upon the sand of the sea. If the letter is added, it means that John stood upon the sand of the sea. The difference is not of great moment, but inasmuch as it is more likely that a letter be dropped than a letter added to the text, some scholars continue to feel that the Authorized Version is correct and that John stood upon the sand of the sea. The reading supporting the translation “he stood,” that is, the dragon himself contemplates the scene, has better manuscript testimony and seems to fit well into the context. (Walvoord 2008, 197)

The difference is the nu, it determines who is the subject of the verb, the dragon or John. Doctrinally, it makes no difference at all. I find that I agree with Dr. McGee and would translate it accordingly. Estathe or estathen. Estathe – he stood, estathen – I stood.

My translation reads, “And he stood on the sand of the sea,” but the Authorized Version reads, “And I stood upon the sand of the sea,” as if it were John. The better manuscripts today show the subject of the sentence to be he. Who is he? Whom were we last talking about in the previous chapter? He is the same person, and that, of course, is Satan. (McGee 1997, 996)

Enough of the Greek grammar lesson. Again, this does not impact doctrine. He, the dragon, is the one standing on the seashore, based on the overall context of the verse and where it is in Revelation. He is the one on the seashore as the dragon, he, is the one who is at war with God and at war with the woman and all her offspring. It is the dragon who has been cast out of heaven and it is the dragon who is producing yet another scheme to try and thwart the will of God. So, we are hearing, from John, about the schemes of the dragon and how he plans to make war on the woman.

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