The Book of Revelation: Where Heaven, Hell & Earth Collide — Session 6: Dragon, Beasts, Protection & Judgment



Instructor: Dirk Rodgers

Dragon, Beasts, Protection & Judgment

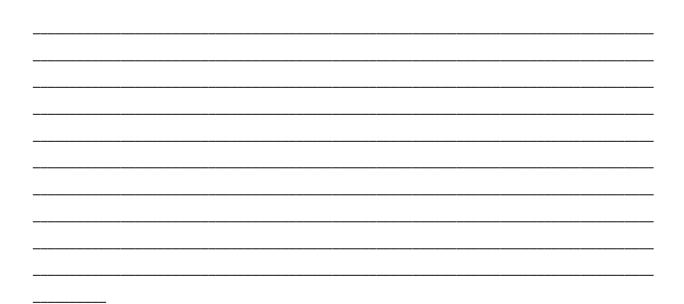
Revelation 12:1 - 14:20

- > A Woman and A Dragon
- > Two Beasts
- > The Lamb & 144,000
- ➤ Three Angels
- > The Son of Man Returns

"A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth."

Revelation 12:1-2

Compare Genesis 37:9, Song of Solomon 6:8-10; Isaiah 26:17-19; 62:3-5; Luke 21:25, among other texts



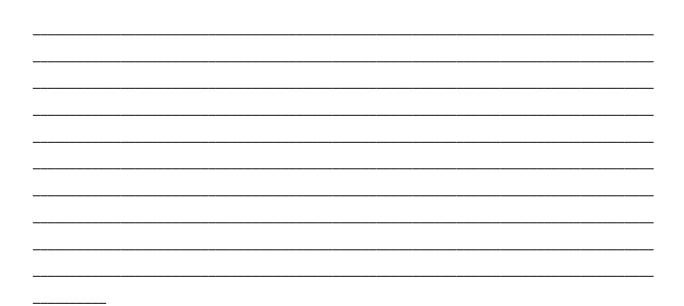
Three Primary Views

- ➤ Mary
- > Israel
- 'Messianic' Community

"Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth."

Revelation 12:3-4a

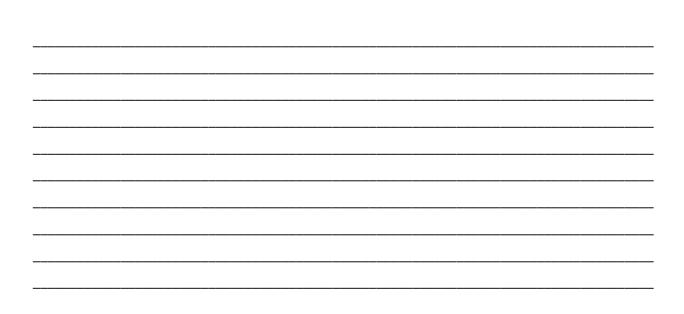
Compare Isaiah 27:1, Ezekiel 29:3; Daniel 7:7, 20; 8:9-12; among other texts



"The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who "will rule all the nations with an iron scepter." And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne."

Revelation 12:4b-5

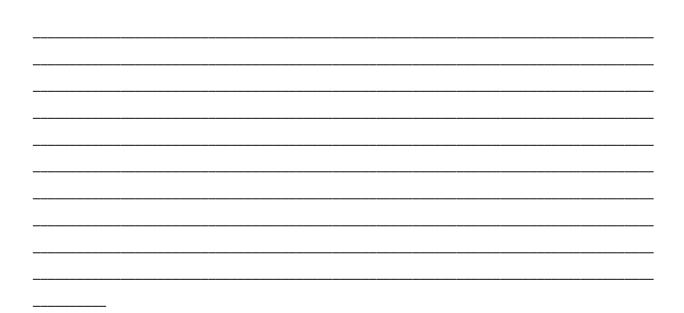
Compare Psalm 2:7-9; Isaiah 7:14



"The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days."

Revelation 12:6

The people of God protected through a fixed and temporary period of earthly exile, as demonstrated throughout the OT and in the experience of Jesus.



"Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back."

Revelation 12:7

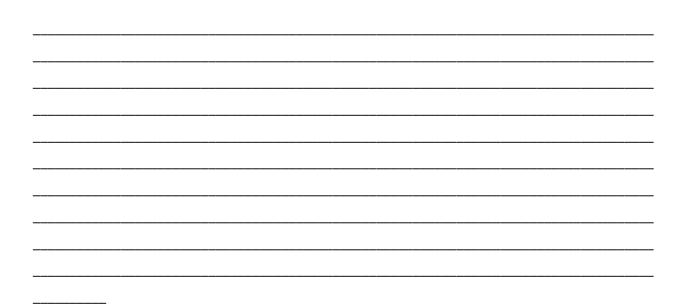
Compare Daniel 10:13, 20-21; 12:1; Jude 9, Matthew 25:41



"But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him."

Revelation 12:8-9

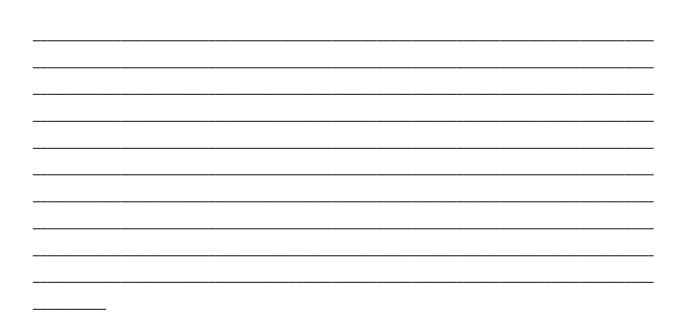
Compare Genesis 3:14-15; Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45; Zechariah 3:1-2; Luke 10:17-20; John 12:27-33



"Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: 'Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah....'"

Revelation 12:10, see the entire hymn in vv. 10-12

Interpreting and confirming 12:1-9



Ongoing Conflict

- > The dragon pursues (12:13)
- > The woman flees (12:14)
- > The dragon attacks (12:15)
- > The woman defended (12:16)
- > The dragon attacks her other children (12:17)

"The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name."

Revelation 13:1*

Compare Job 40-41; Daniel 7

*Note: Some English versions separate this verse in two, as Revelation 12:18 - 13:1

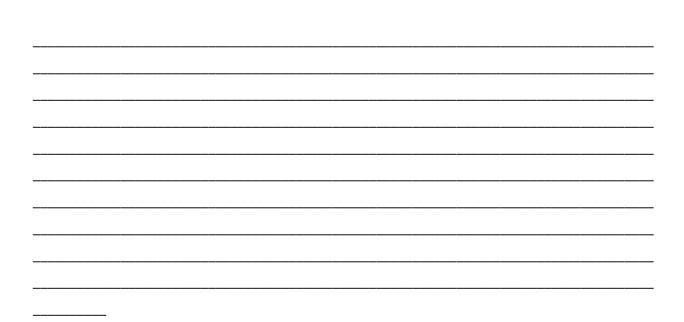


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"The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority."

Revelation 13:2

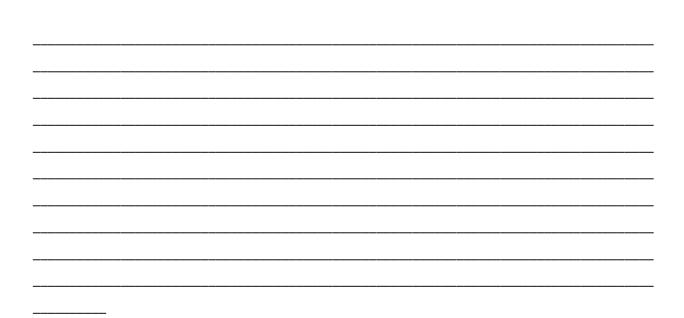
Daniel's Four Beasts combined into one!



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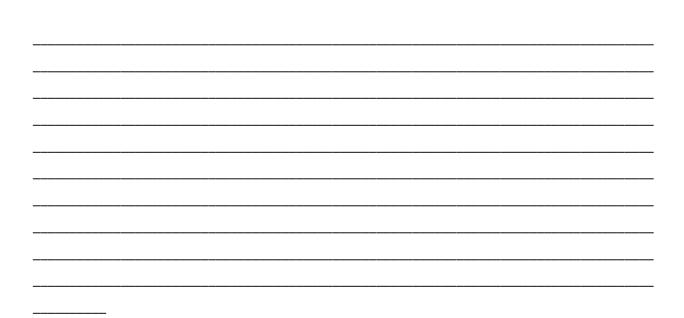


This First Beast...

- > Is wounded but healed (13:3)
- > Is followed and worshipped (13:3-4)
- ➤ Blasphemes for 42 months (13:5-6)
- ➤ Wages war against and conquers both God's people and the whole world (13:7)

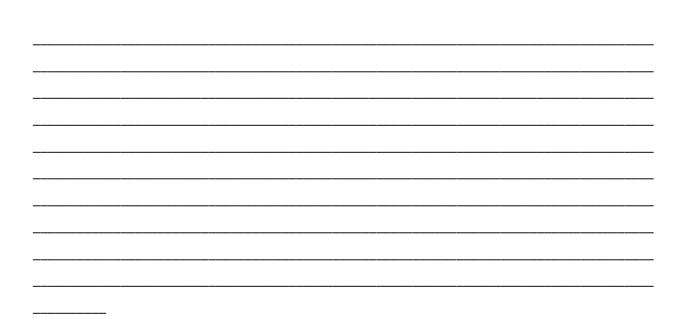
"All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world. Whoever has ears, let them hear... [paraphrase from Jeremiah 15:2; 43:11] ... This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people."

Revelation 13:8-10



"Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed."

Revelation 13:11-12



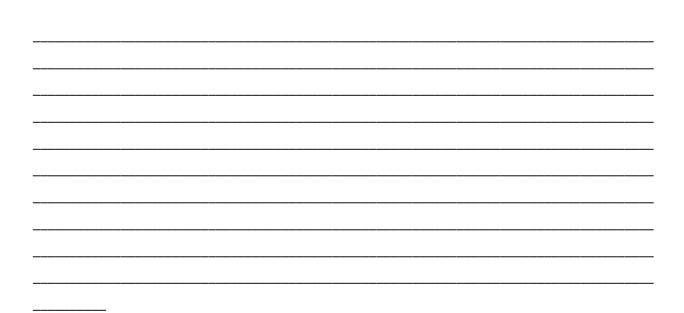
This Second Beast...

- > Serves the first beast (13:12)
- > Performs signs (13:13)
- ➤ Deceives (13:14)
- > Enforces worship of the first beast (13:14-15)
- > Mandates the 'mark of the beast' (13:16-17)

"It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name."

Revelation 13:16-17

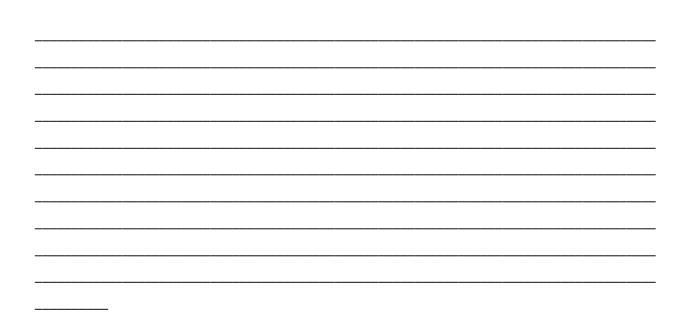
Contrast Ezekiel 9:4



A Summary Statement

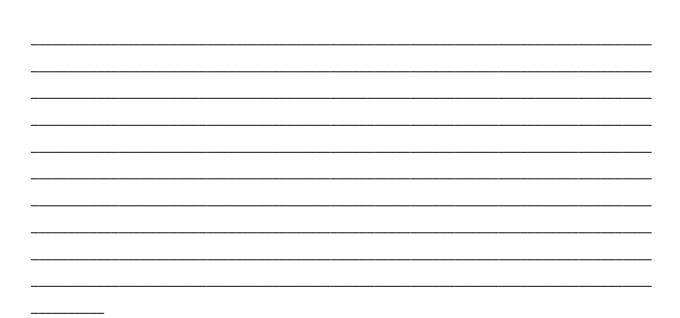
"This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666."

Revelation 13:18



666: Thee General Categories of Interpretation

- > Numerical clue for particular political leaders (Nero, Hitler, etc.)
- ➤ Indicates length of an empire (Roman, Islam, Papacy, etc.)
- General symbol for Antichrist, "antichrists," or evil world powers

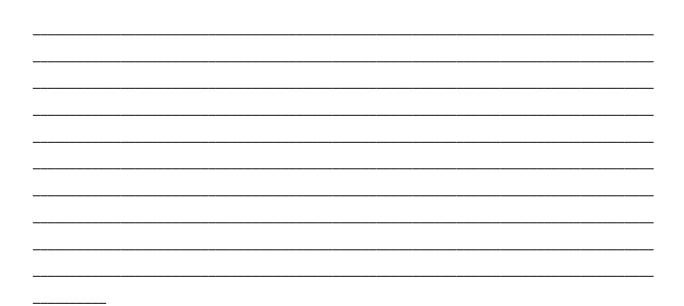


The Lamb & 144,000

"Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads."

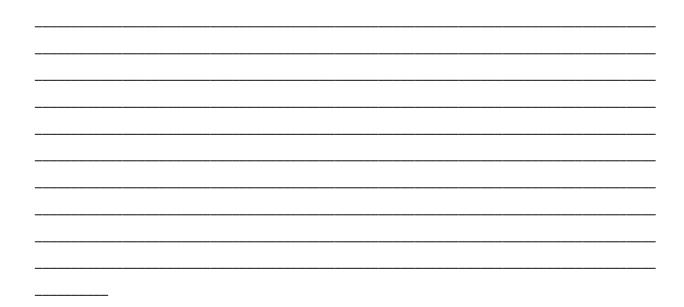
Revelation 14:1

Again, compare Ezekiel 9, in contrast to the 'mark of the beast'



The Lamb & 144,000

- Their 'new song' (14:2-3)Their purity (14:4-5)



"Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, 'Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.'"

Revelation 14:6-7

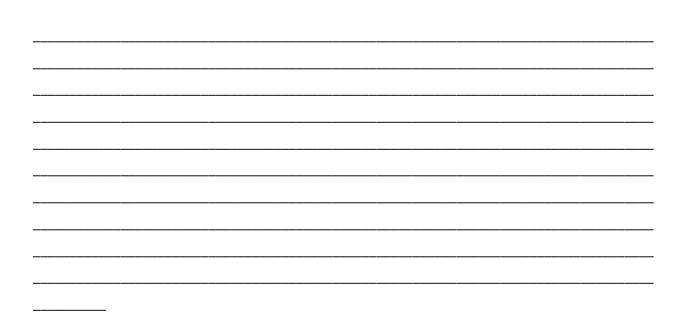
Recall the judgments of the 1st four trumpets, and the three 'woes', 8:2-9:12



"A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great," which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."

Revelation 14:8

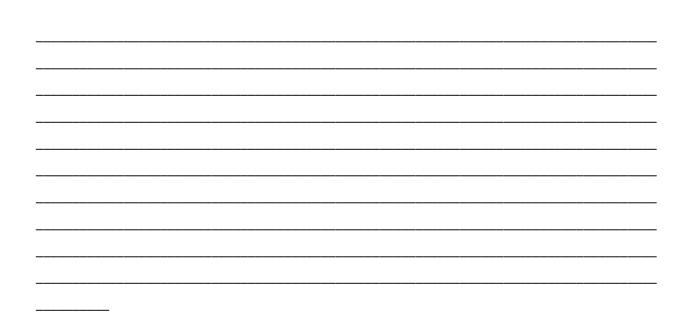
Compare Isaiah 21:9; Jeremiah 51:7-9; Daniel 4:28-32



"A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice:

'If anyone worships the beast and its image and
receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand,
they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has
been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath."

Revelation 14:9-10a

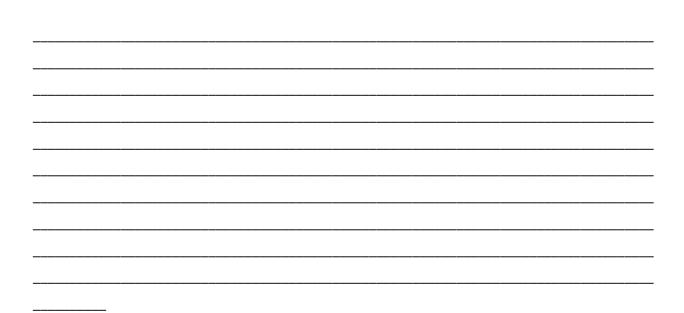


"They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever.

There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name."

Revelation 14:10b-11

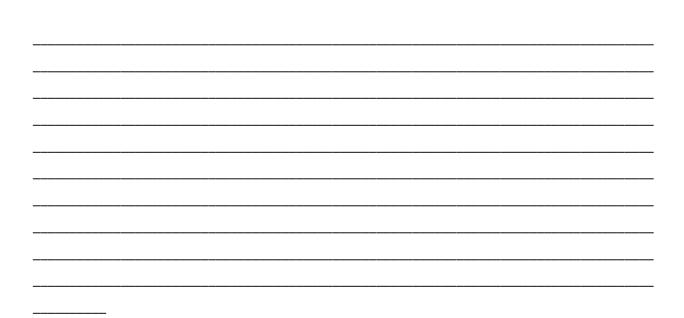
Describes endless, conscious torment



"This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.'"

Revelation 14:12-13

Compare Daniel 12:10-13



The Son of Man Returns

"I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, 'Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.' So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested."

Revelation 14:14-16

Compare Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 24:30-31

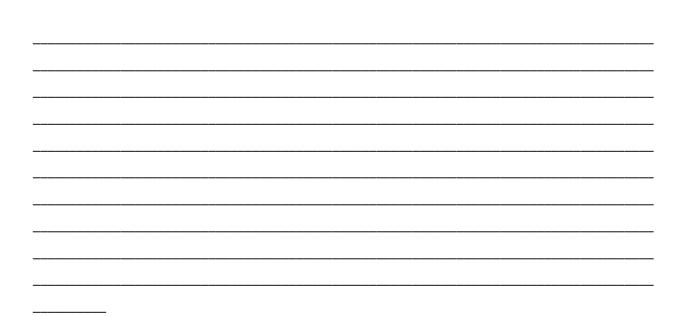


The Son of Man Returns

"Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, 'Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe.'"

Revelation 14:17-18

Compare Jeremiah 51:33; Joel 3:13; Mark 4:26-29



The Son of Man Returns

"The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia."

Revelation 14:19-20

Note 1,600 stadia ≈ 180 miles

Compare Isaiah 60-63; Joel 3:11-14

