

SATAN'S WARFARE AGAINST THE REMNANT CHURCH

Introduction Rev. 12:17: "And the Dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

This verse introduces Satan's warfare against the Remnant Church, and v 12 states that this is the hour of Satan's greatest wrath, but no further details of the warfare are given in chapter 12. However, Revelation 13 fills in the details, and reveals the form Satan's warfare takes, the principal agents he employs, and the strategy he uses.

The three principal agents Satan will employ in his last, desperate bid for world dominion are described as "the dragon", "the beast", and "the false prophet" (Rev. 16:13). These are the Devil's "Trinity of Evil". We have already been introduced to the Dragon in Revelation 12. The other two members are described in detail in Revelation 13.

In this lesson we will identify "the beast" and in Lesson 33 we will explain the meaning of "the false prophet". Let us open the Bible and read the whole of Revelation 13.

(See Chart No. 41—The Sea-Beast of Revelation 13)

Discussion 1.—WHO IS THE FIRST BEAST OF REVELATION 13?

The identification of this symbol is easy, because most of the clues have already been given to us in Daniel 7. When these two chapters are placed side by side, the "little horn", and the "leopard beast" are found to symbolise the same world power—the Papacy. Once again, the marks of identification are too numerous and explicit to leave any room for doubt.

TWELVE MARKS OF IDENTIFICATION

The Symbols	The Meaning
<i>Arises from the sea (v 1)</i>	<i>Arises in the old world, amid dense population</i>
<i>Combines features of Lion, Bear, Leopard and fourth beast of Daniel 7 (v 2)</i>	<i>Inherits and perpetuates the spirit of Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome</i>
<i>Has seven heads (v 1)</i>	<i>Embodies elements of all the apostate powers Satan has used to rule the world.</i>
<i>Has ten crowned horns (v 1)</i>	<i>Its will is enforced by ten supporting kingdoms.</i>
<i>Receives power, seat and authority from the Dragon (v 2)</i>	<i>Inherits the headquarters and material assets of Pagan Rome</i>
<i>Receives deadly wound, goes into captivity (vv 3, 10)</i>	<i>Suffers a seemingly fatal setback</i>
<i>Deadly wound is healed (v 3)</i>	<i>Spectacular recovery. Excites world-wide astonishment and comment</i>
<i>Whole world worships, wonders and fears (vv 3, 4, 7, 8)</i>	<i>A world power—combines religion and politics—receives worship, yet wields sword</i>
<i>Blasphemes against God (vv 1, 5, 6)</i>	<i>Claims honours and powers which belong only to God</i>
<i>Receives power for forty-two prophetic "months" (v 5)</i>	<i>Enjoys supremacy for 1,260 years</i>
<i>Makes war with the saints of God (v 7)</i>	<i>Persecutes the true followers of Christ</i>
<i>Its number is 666 (vv 17, 18)</i>	<i>Has the number 666 associated with its name or title</i>