



# The Counterfeit Trinity:

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Combating Spiritual Corruption Monsters

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# A. Counterfeiting

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# Satan's Assistant: Rev. 13:1

**Satan** (12:3)

- ◆ **Dragon**
- ◆ **7 heads**
- ◆ **10 horns**
- ◆ **Crowns on heads**
- ◆ **Pattern**



**Assistant** (13:1)

- ◆ **Beast**
- ◆ **7 heads**
- ◆ **10 horns**
- ◆ **Crowns on horns**
- ◆ **Reflected image**



# Imaging

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– God  
the Father

Christ  
the Son (Col. 1:15)

◆ God

Adam

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↓ Counterfeiting ↓

◆ Dragon

Beast (Rev. 13:1)

Pattern

Reflected Image

# Counterfeit Trinity

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## Original

- ◆ **The Father**
- ◆ **Christ  
the Son**
- ◆ **Spirit**

## Function

- originates**
- executes**
- witnesses**

## Counterfeit

- ◆ **Dragon**
- ◆ **Beast**
- ◆ **False Prophet**

# The Beast Counterfeits Christ

Christ	Feature	Beast
19:12	Diadems	13:1
19:11,12,16	Name	13:1
12:5,10	Power	13:2
1:18	Resurrection	13:3,12
1:6	Worship	13:4
Exo. 15:3,11-12	Praise	13:4
14:1; 7:3	Seal	13:16
5:9	Nations' allegiance	13:7-8

# Eschatological War

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Christ



Beast

**Divine Holy  
Warrior (19:11-16)**

**Abyssal Unholy  
Warrior (13:1-8)**

# Representative Heads

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- ◆ Two representatives, 1 Cor. 15:45-49.

Adam



Descendants

Christ



Christians



# Nature of the Beast

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- ◆ **Beast as Third Man from Abyss.**
- ◆ **A head representing a whole kingdom.**
- ◆ **His worshippers bear his mark, 13:16; 14:9.**

Adam



Descendants

Christ



Christians

Beast



Followers

# Failure of the Beast

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- ◆ Symbolically speaking, he is a **beast**.
- ◆ Destined to be subdued by **man**.

In Genesis 1

Adam



animals

In Revelation 19

Christ



Beast

# Who Counterfeits the Bride?

Original	Function	Counterfeit
◆ <b>The Father</b> ◆ <b>Christ the Son</b> ◆ <b>Spirit</b>	<b>originates</b> <b>executes</b>  <b>witnesses</b>	◆ <b>Dragon</b> ◆ <b>Beast</b>  ◆ <b>False Prophet</b>
◆ <b>Bride</b>	<b>gather, worship</b>	◆ <b>Prostitute</b>

# The Role of the Characters in the Course of the Battle

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**A. The woman-church in creation 12:1**

**B. The dragon (Satan) 12:3**

**C. The beasts 13:1-18**

**D. The virgin church 14:1-5**

**E. Babylon 17:1-18**

**E. Judgment of Babylon 18**

**D. Reward of the virgin 19:1-10**

**C. Judgment of beasts 19:11-21**

**B. Judgment of the dragon 20:1-10**

**A. Reward of the creation church 21:1-2**

# Lessons from Counterfeiting

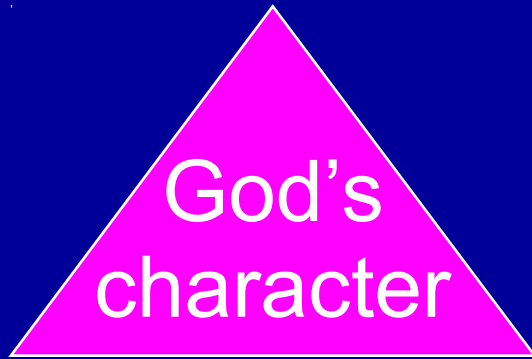
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- ◆ You are either for God or against him.
- ◆ Satan as a creature must imitate God (2 Cor. 11:14).
  - Danger in passing off the counterfeit
  - Satan is not the Creator/Originator
- ◆ Repulsiveness of the counterfeit.
- ◆ Fit punishment for followers is to be under the Beast.
- ◆ God controls Satan and all history, Job 1-2; Ps. 76:10; Rom. 8:28.

## B. Satan's Role

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# Satan's Repeated Pattern



Satan's Pattern



Nothing new here.



- ◆ Satan cannot create; he must imitate.
- ◆ Satan always follows the same pattern.
- ◆ Spiritual war shows a constant pattern.
- ◆ Satan suffers repeated defeats.

# Repeated Defeat of the Dragon

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- ◆ Exodus from Egypt. Isa. 51:9-10; Ps. 74:13-14?
- ◆ Restoration from Babylon. Isa. 51:9-11
- ◆ Babylon destroys Egypt. Ezek. 29:3-6; 32:2-5
- ◆ Time of fulfillment. Isa. 27:1
- ◆ First coming of Christ. John 12:31; Luke 10:18; Rev. 12:9; Rev. 20:2?
- ◆ Second coming of Christ. Rev. 20:2? Rev. 20:10



# Less Obvious Defeats

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- ◆ **Creation.** Job 26:12 (and repeatedly); Ps. 104:7//Ps. 106:9
- ◆ **Providential rule of the sea.** Job 26:12; Ps. 89:10
- ◆ **Noah's flood.** Ps. 74:13-14? 106:10-11 (similar to flood)
- ◆ **Crossing the Jordan by Joshua, Elijah, and Elisha.** Josh. 3; 2 Kings 2:8,14

# Application of Satan's Defeat to Us

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- ◆ Satan has been decisively defeated Col. 2:15, Rev. 12:7-12.
- ◆ Christ's crucifixion and resurrection accomplished it, Rev. 1:18.
- ◆ We do not fear death, Rev. 1:18.
- ◆ We can endure momentary injustices.
- ◆ Satan's final defeat is guaranteed, Rev. 20:10.

# The Dragon



## ◆ Biblical background of a sea monster

– Leviathan לְוִיָּאֵתַן Isa. 27:1; Ps. 74:14; Ps. 104:26

– Sea creature תַּבְּיִין Gen. 1:21; Isa. 27:1; 51:9

– Rahab רָהַב Isa. 51:9; Ps. 89:11

## ◆ Extrabiblical mythology

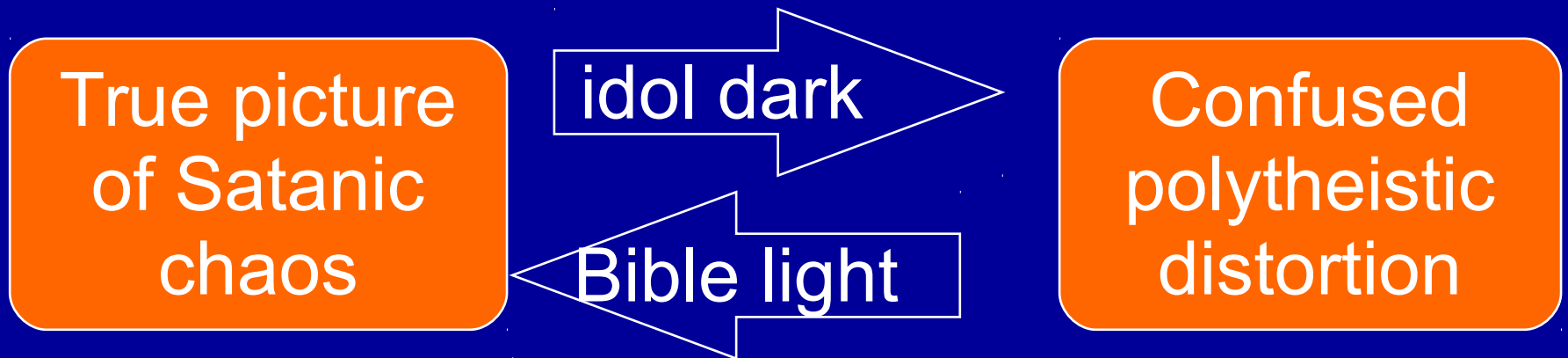
– Akkadian creation epic

– Baal legends

# Myths of Combatting Monsters

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- ◆ **Satan threatens monstrous chaos**
- ◆ **People sense the fear of chaos and Satan (general revelation)**
- ◆ **In idolatry they twist the truth**

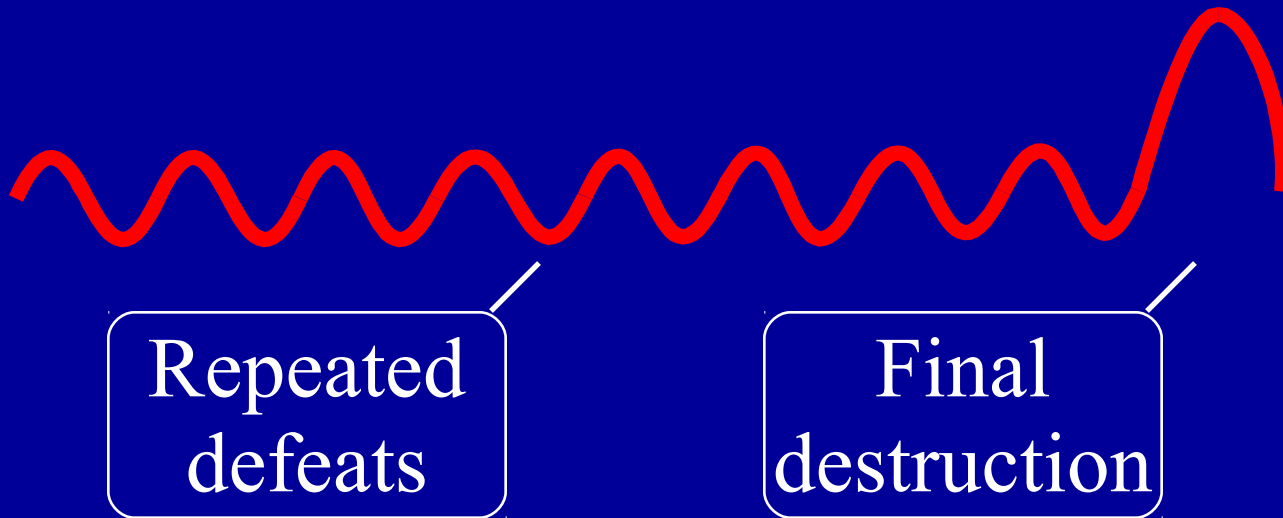


- ◆ **The Bible unravels the twist**

# Summary of Defeats

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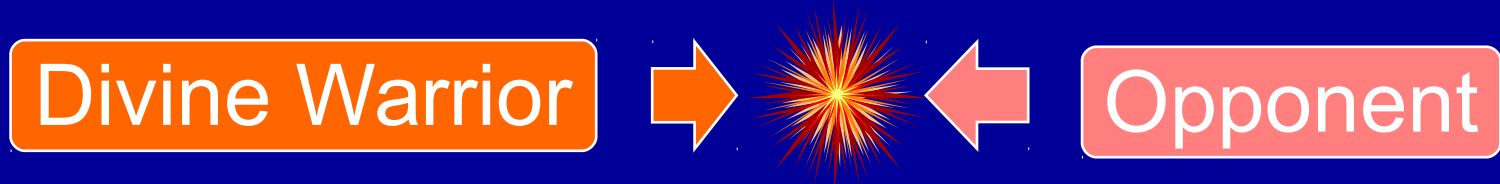
- ◆ Spiritual war throughout history
- ◆ The dragon is repeatedly defeated
- ◆ The pattern of defeat leads up to his final destruction.



# Pattern of Combat (Exodus 15)

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- ◆ Threat to order 15:9
- ◆ Appearance of the divine warrior 15:3, 6, 12
- ◆ Combat 15:7



- ◆ Victory 15:7, 4

# Fruits of Combat (Exodus 15)

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- ◆ (Consignment of foes to the abyss 15:4-5)
- ◆ Salvation for adherents of the warrior 15:13
- ◆ Praise 15:1-2
- ◆ Manifestation of kingship 15:14-16
- ◆ House building 15:17
- ◆ Fertility of the restored order 15:17



# Combat in Revelation

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- ◆ **Motifs of combat pervade Revelation**
- ◆ **They instruct us in persecution and temptation**
- ◆ **See the true situation and persevere, 12:11**
- ◆ **Victory is by endurance in death**
- ◆ **Not direct military resistance, 12:10**