

## C. Role of the Beast



Bamberg Apocalypse

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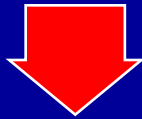
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# Background for Rev. 13:1-10

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Beast of  
Rev. 13:1-10



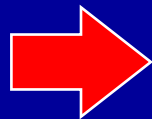
OT text



# Daniel 7 and Rev. 13:1-10

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Daniel 7



Revelation 13

- ① lion
- ② bear
- ③ leopard
- ④ iron teeth &  
ten horns

- ◆ lion's mouth
- ◆ bear's feet
- ◆ leopard
- ◆ 10 horns

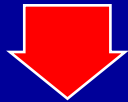


**Composite horror**

# Beast as Demonized State

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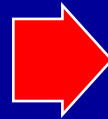
Beast (Rev. 13:1-8)



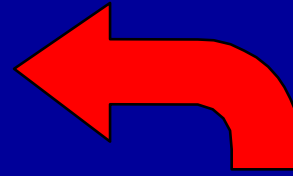
4 beasts (Dan. 7)



4 idol kingdoms  
(Dan. 2)



Last of the 4  
is Rome

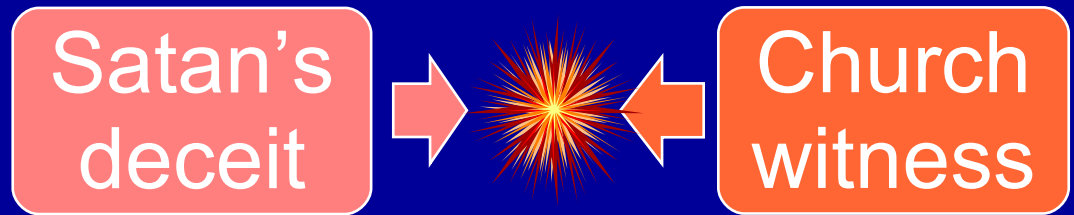


Roman Emperor  
demands worship

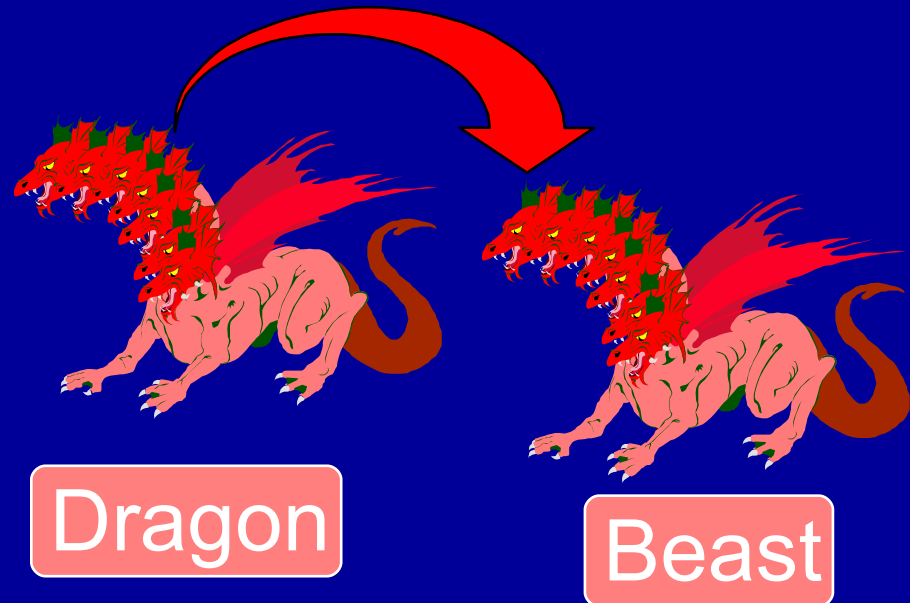


# Satan's Counterfeit "Son"

- ◆ Rev. 12:13-17:  
Satan cannot defeat the church by deceit alone.



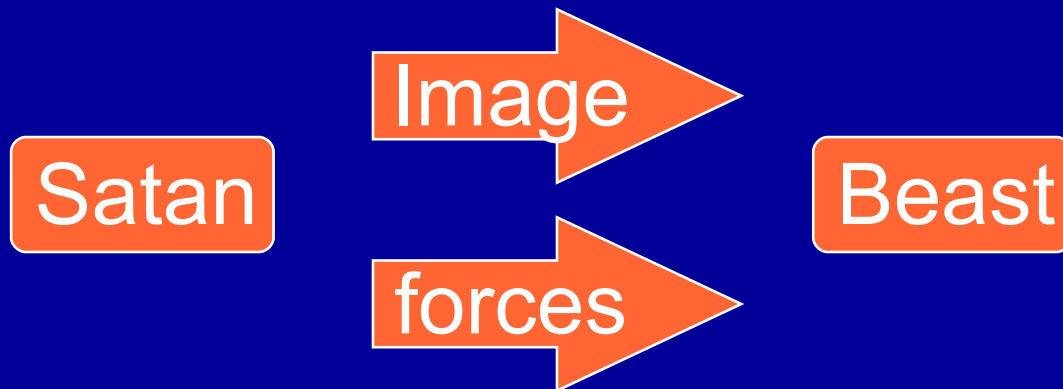
- ◆ Rev. 13:1,2,4:  
he creates a monster in his image.



# Repeated Manifestations

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- ◆ Satan has repeated defeats (pattern or war)
- ◆ The Beast can have
  - repeated manifestations
  - and repeated defeats.



Like father,  
like son.

# Four Views of the Beast

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- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>1. Roman Empire</b>         | ◆ <b>Roman persecution</b>                  |
| <b>2. Final Crisis</b>         | ◆ <b>Final persecution</b>                  |
| <b>3. Church History</b>       | ◆ <b>Persecution NOW,<br/>2 Tim. 3:1,12</b> |
| <b>4. Repeated<br/>Pattern</b> | ◆ <b>Repeated<br/>persecution</b>           |



# Persecution Now

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But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, ...

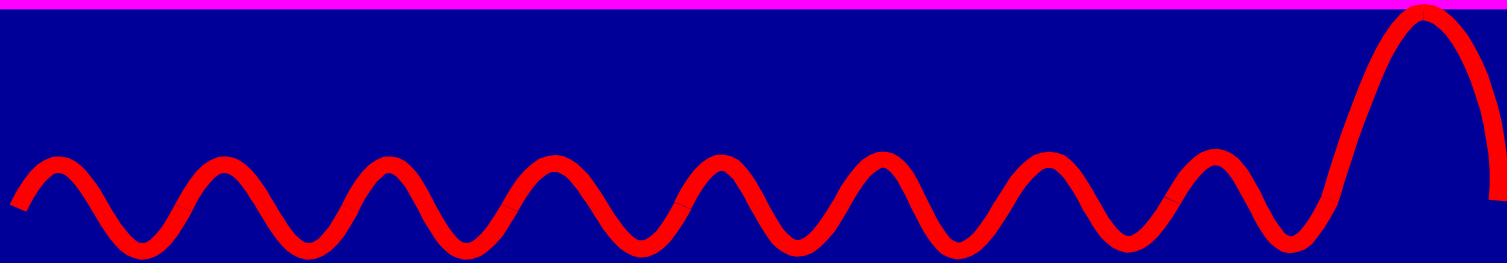
--2 Tim. 3:1-2

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

--2 Tim. 3:12

# Repeated Wickedness

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already

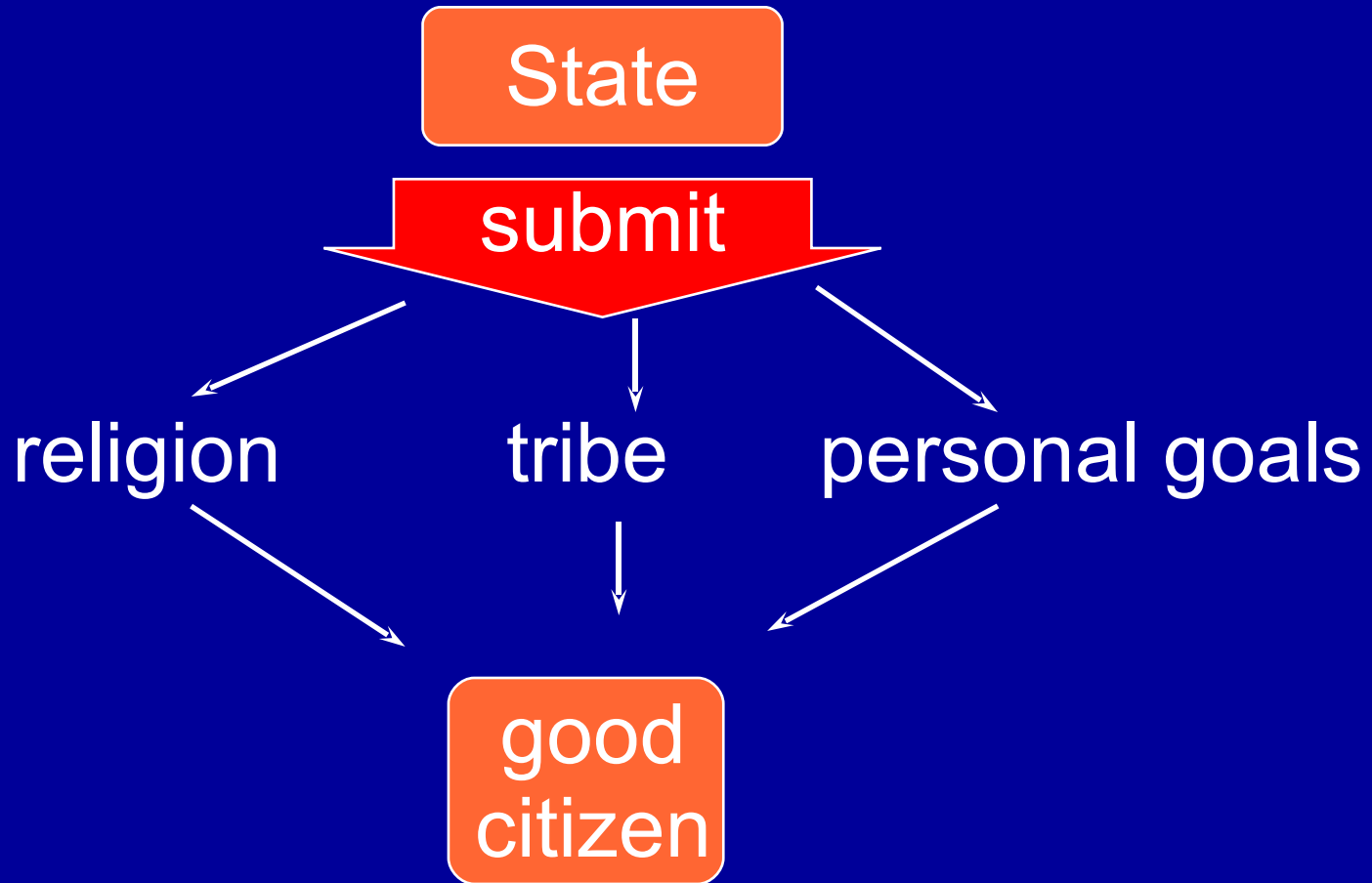
- ◆ 2 Thess. 2:7
- ◆ restrained mystery
- ◆ “mystery of lawlessness”

yet to come

- ◆ 2 Thess. 2:8
- ◆ unrestrained, revealed
- ◆ “man of lawlessness”

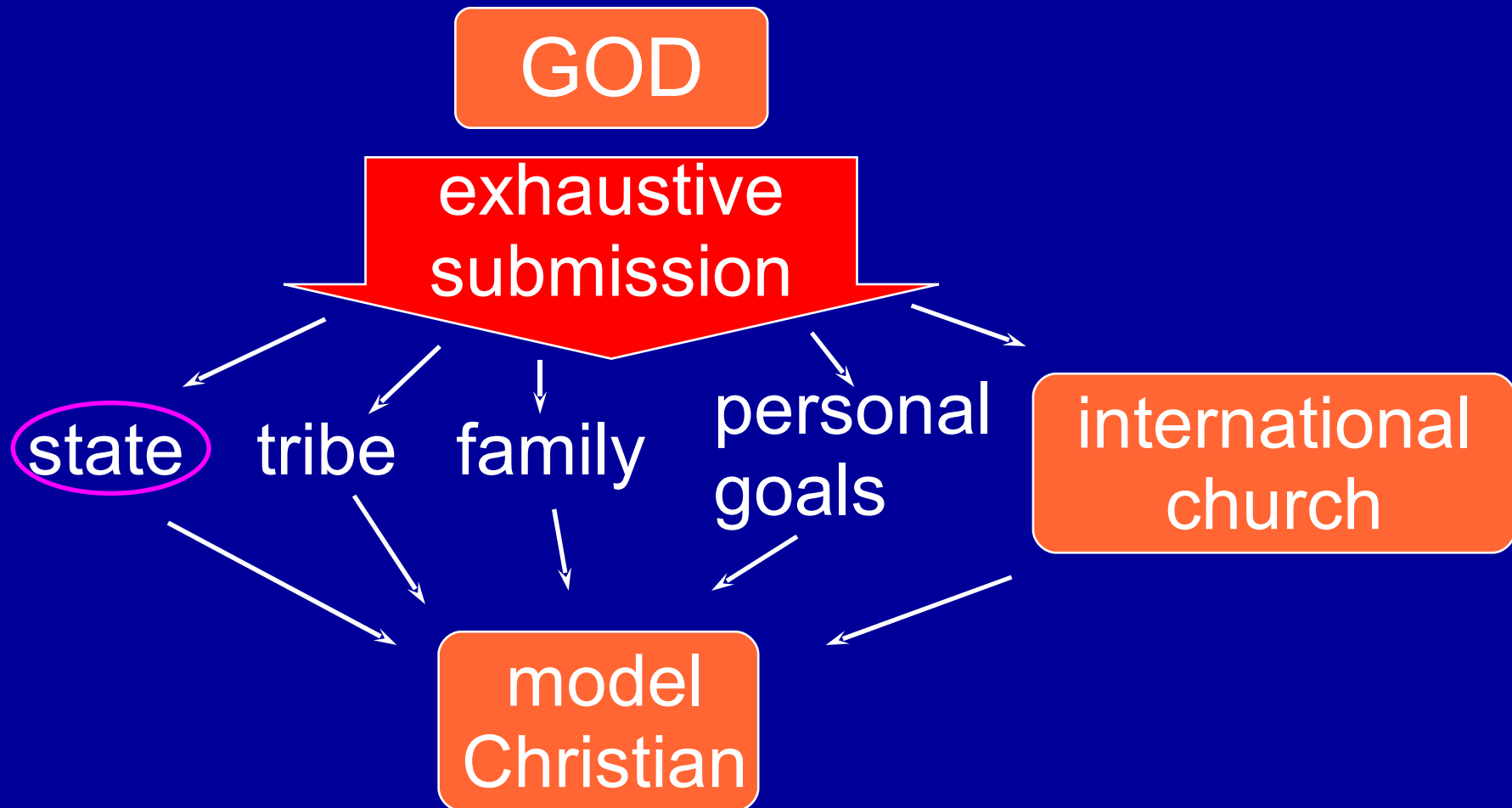
# Modern Totalitarian Dream

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# Christian Loyalties

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## D. The False Prophet

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# Two Monsters

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Rev. 13:1-10

A beast  
from the sea

Called  
“The Beast”

Rev. 13:11-18

A beast  
from the earth

Called  
“The False Prophet”

Note Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10.



# The False Prophet

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- ◆ **False Prophet assists the Beast.**
- ◆ **He promotes worship of the Beast, 13:12-15.**
- ◆ **He counterfeits the Holy Spirit.**

# False Prophet as Counterfeit

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## Holy Spirit

- ◆ Promotes worship of Christ
- ◆ Leads into truth
- ◆ Works miracles
- ◆ Exercises authority of Christ

## False Prophet

- ◆ Promotes worship of the Beast
- ◆ Deceives
- ◆ Counterfeit miracles
- ◆ Exercises authority of the Beast

# Counterfeit Trinity

---

## Original

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

## Function

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

## Counterfeit

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

# E. The Prostitute

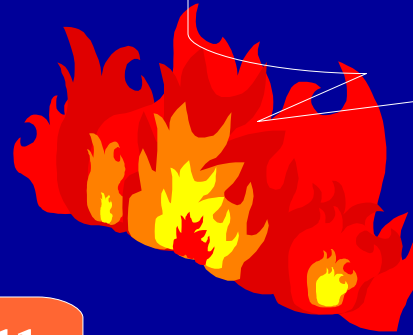


West Flemish Apocalypse

# Two Opponents

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Who will defeat God's people  
for me?



I will



I will



# Strategy of Opposition

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How?

Persecution!



Seduction with  
money and sex!





# Response to Opposition

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## Calling of the church:

Light-bearing  
Witness

Endurance  
(13:10)

Virgin  
purity

Separation  
(18:4)

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## Opposition:

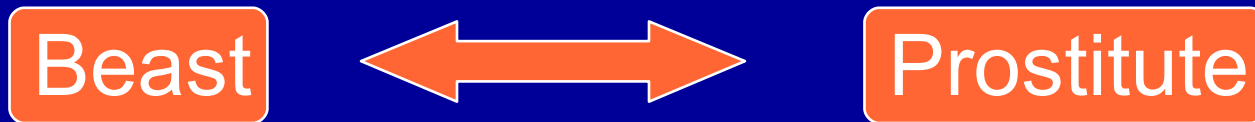
Persecuting power  
of the Beast

Seductive luxury  
of the Prostitute

# Prostitute Depends on Beast

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- ◆ Prostitute sits on the Beast (Rev 17).
- ◆ Beast and Prostitute go together.



- ◆ Fourfold manifestations of the Beast lead to fourfold manifestations of the Prostitute

# Beast and Prostitute

---

Beast



Prostitute

- ◆ Roman persecution
  - ◆ Final persecution
  - ◆ Persecution NOW
  - ◆ Repeated persecution
- ◆ Roman seduction
  - ◆ Final seduction
  - ◆ Seduction NOW
  - ◆ Repeated seduction

# Fourfold Work of Prostitute

---

- ◆ Roman seduction
- ◆ Final seduction
- ◆ Seduction NOW
- ◆ Repeated seduction
- ◆ Jezebel (2:20-23)
- ◆ 2 Thess. 2:10-11
- ◆ Compromise with worldliness:
  - money
  - sex
- ◆ Dan. 7 spans this age

# F. Levels of Application

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# Idols Worldwide

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Beast

- ◆ **Totalitarian Power**
  - **Communism**

Prostitute

- ◆ **Immoral Pleasure**
  - **Corrupt business**
  - **Corrupt sexuality**

False  
Prophet

- ◆ **Propaganda**

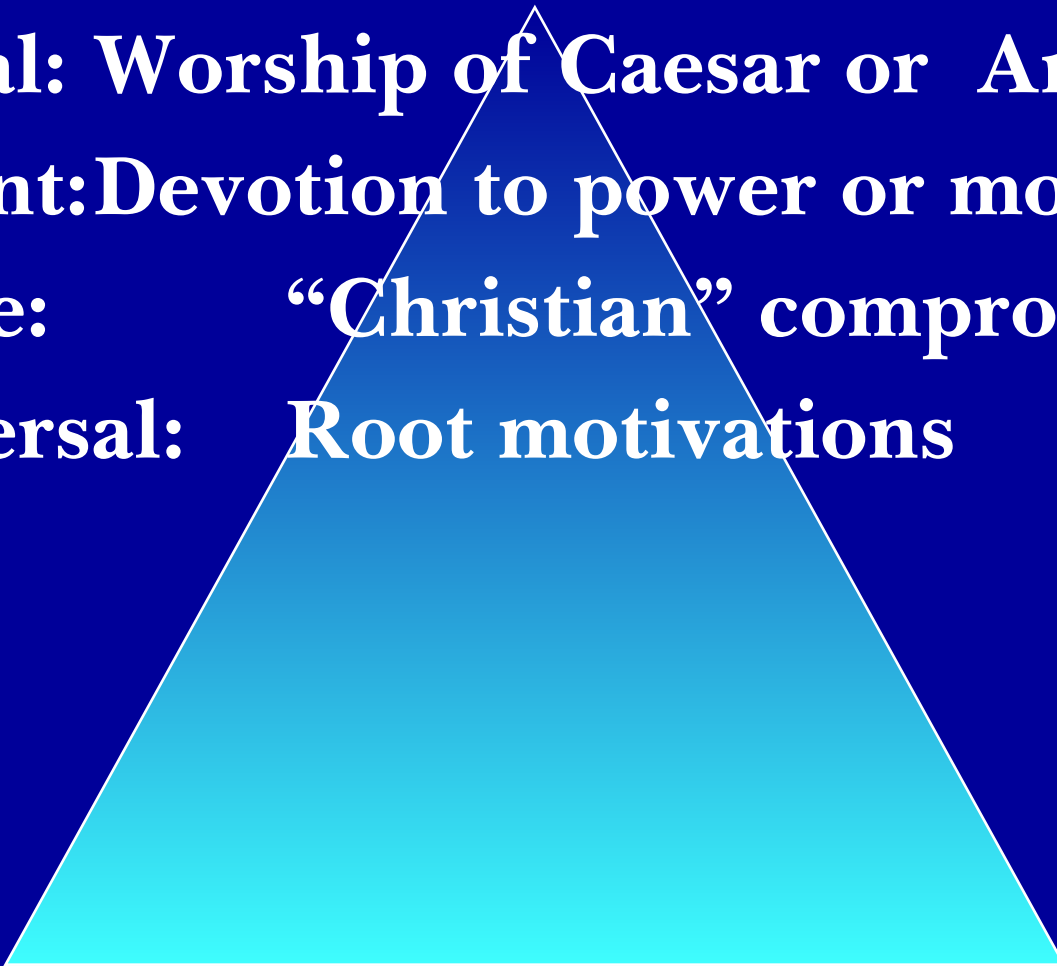
# Revealing Contrasts

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- ◆ **God vs. Satan:**  
**Transcendence**
- ◆ **Christ vs. Beast:**  
**Power**
- ◆ **Bride vs. Harlot:**  
**Worship**
- ◆ **False religion**
- ◆ **Human autonomy**
- ◆ **Liberation**
- ◆ **Salvation through  
technique and state**
- ◆ **Integrate native  
religions**
- ◆ **Money, pleasure**

# Forms of Idolatry

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- ◆ **Literal: Worship of Caesar or Artemis**
  - ◆ **Blatant: Devotion to power or money**
  - ◆ **Subtle: “Christian” compromises**
  - ◆ **Universal: Root motivations**
- 



# Idols in USA

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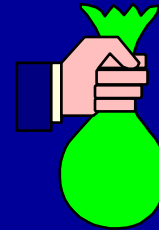
Beast

- ◆ Power
  - State



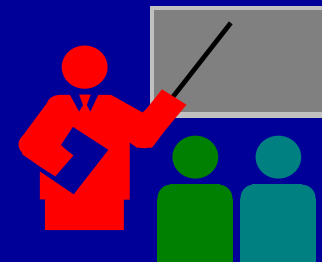
Prostitute

- ◆ Pleasure
  - Leisure



False Prophet

- ◆ Propaganda
  - Education
  - Media



# Cooperative Evil (17:3,7)

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Power for maintenance

Beast

= statist  
idol

Prostitute

= pleasure  
idol

Justification,  
motivation

---

False Prophet

rationalizes (13:12-17)

# Blatant and Subtle Idolatry

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Beast

- ◆ **Statism**
- ◆ **Manipulation**
  - Pressuring
  - Pleasing man

Prostitute

- ◆ **Money, sex**
- ◆ **Fantasizing**
  - Being rich
  - Sexual flirtation



It's tempting.

# Money as Subtle Idol

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- ◆ After a tithe, greed. It's MINE.
- ◆ Or monk's poverty.
- ◆ Or self-righteous simple life-style.
- ◆ Or Marxism (let experts do it for me).

# Sex as Subtle Idol



- ◆ **Promiscuity: “if it feels good, do it.”**
- ◆ **Selfishness within legal boundaries**
- ◆ **Monk’s celibacy**
- ◆ **Prudery: despising the body**
- ◆ **Feminism (let experts do it for me).**

# Universal Idolatry

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## Beast

- ◆ **Fear**
- ◆ **Passive,**  
**retreating**
- ◆ **Avoid pain**
- ◆ **At any cost**
- ◆ **For ME**

## Prostitute

- Lustful desire**
- Active,**  
**advancing**
- Get pleasure**
- At any cost**
- For ME**

# Solution for Idolatry

---

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| ◆ <b>Worship Satan</b>         | ◆ <b>Worship God (4)</b>                 |
| ◆ <b>Deceptive redemptions</b> | ◆ <b>True redemption in the Lamb (5)</b> |
| ◆ <b>Fear false power</b>      | ◆ <b>God's Throne (22:1; 4:2)</b>        |
| ◆ <b>Lust for money</b>        | ◆ <b>God's Wealth (21:21; 4:3)</b>       |
| ◆ <b>Lust for sex</b>          | ◆ <b>God's Marriage (19:7; 21:9)</b>     |

False

replaced by

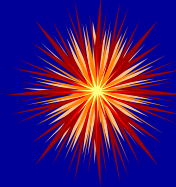
True

# Destruction of Idols

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- ◆ God judges idols, 15:1.

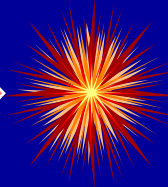
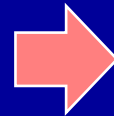
God



Beast

- ◆ Idols destroy idolaters, 17:16-17.

Beast



Prostitute

Hallelujah!





# Examples of Self-Destruction

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- ◆ **Statism consumes wealth (communism).**
- ◆ **Self-pity needs suffering.**
- ◆ **Self-righteousness is self-willed.**
- ◆ **Self-love repels would-be lovers.**
- ◆ **God will purify you to the utmost.**

# G. Truth and Error

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# False Ideas

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Spirit of truth

a truth

persuasive  
sounding

aped

False Prophet

a half truth

persuasive  
sounding

error as  
distortion

# Counterfeit Ideas

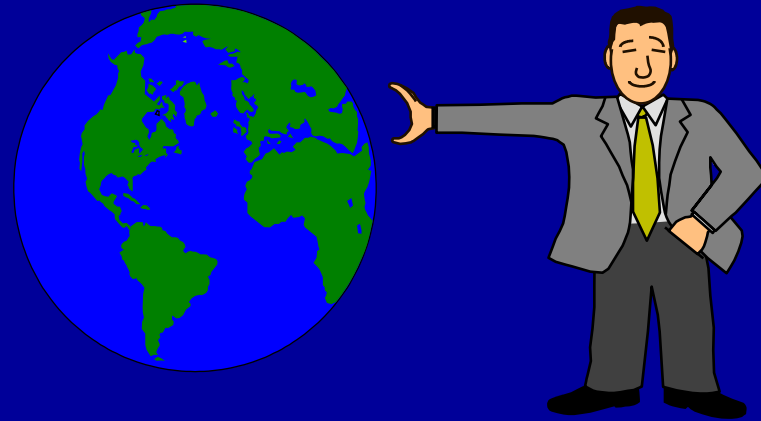
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- ◆ **False ideas are counterfeits**
- ◆ **Institutionalized**
- ◆ **Containing enough truth to be plausible**
- ◆ **Containing spiritual poison**
- ◆ **Originating in Satanic deceit**
- ◆ **Useful for Christians?**

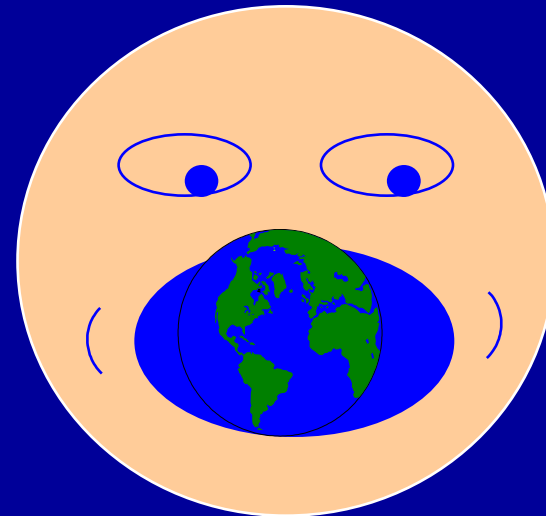
# Bad Reactions to Counterfeits

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◆ Pure rejection



◆ Pure acceptance



# Using Counterfeit Ideas

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- ◆ **Extract the truth**
- ◆ **Set in a Christian context**
- ◆ **But will we fall prey to deceit?**
- ◆ **The importance of spiritual discernment in scholarship and cultural analysis**
- ◆ **Revelation as promoting discernment**
- ◆ **Ultimate failure of the deceit**

# Features of Spiritual War

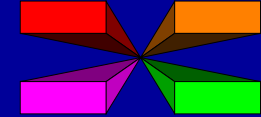
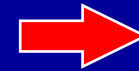
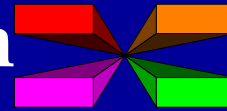
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- ◆ **War is central in Rev 6-20**
- ◆ **God wars against Satan**
- ◆ **Cosmic dimension**
- ◆ **Moral antithesis**
- ◆ **Satan is dependent**
- ◆ **Satan counterfeits**

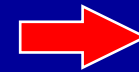
# Fourfold Manifestation

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◆ **Fourfold pattern**

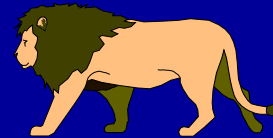


Revelation

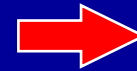


Rev. 13

◆ **Look for state  
persecution  
(cf. Dan. 7)**



Dan. 7



Rev. 13