



The Counterfeit Trinity:

Combating Spiritual Corruption Monsters

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A. Structure

Progression of 7 Cycles

◆ Commission

1. 7 seals: scouts

◆ Prosecution of war

2. 7 trumpets: effects on earth

3. 7 symbolic accounts: characters

4. 7 bowls: more effects on earth

◆ Elimination of evil

5. 7 messages about Babylon: seductress

6. white horse: power source

7. white throne: all evil

culmination

Detail of Cycle 3: Symbolic Accounts

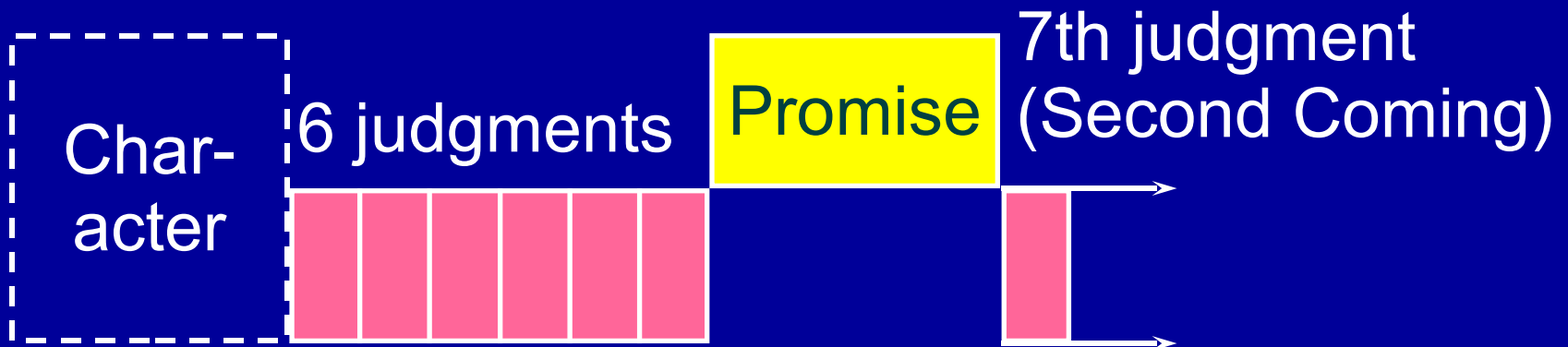
Cycle 3: Symbolic accounts 12:1-14:20

a. Characters: woman and dragon 12:1-6

b. 6 accounts 12:7-14:11

a'. Promise for the church 14:12-13

bb. 7th account: final judgment 14:14-20



7 Symbolic Accounts

Introduction: the Woman and the Dragon 12:1-6

1. Account of the Dragon 12:7-12

2. Account of the Woman 12:13-17

3. Account of the Beast 13:1-10

4. Account of the False Prophet 13:11-18

5. Account of the 144,000 14:1-5

6. Account of 3 angelic proclaimers 14:6-11

(Promise: saints persevere 14:12-13)

7. Account of one like a son of man 14:14-20

B. Counterfeiting

Satan's Method: 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

◆ God
the Father

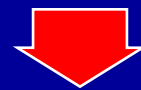
Christ
the Son (Col. 1:15)

◆ God

Adam



Counterfeiting



◆ Dragon

Beast (Rev. 13:1)

Pattern

Reflected Image

Counterfeit Trinity

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



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

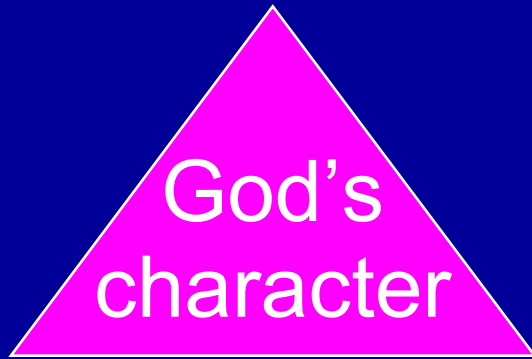
**Abyssal Unholy
Warrior (13:1-8)**

Lessons from Counterfeiting

- ◆ 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.

C. Satan's Role

Satan's Repeated Pattern



Satan's
Pattern



Nothing
new here.



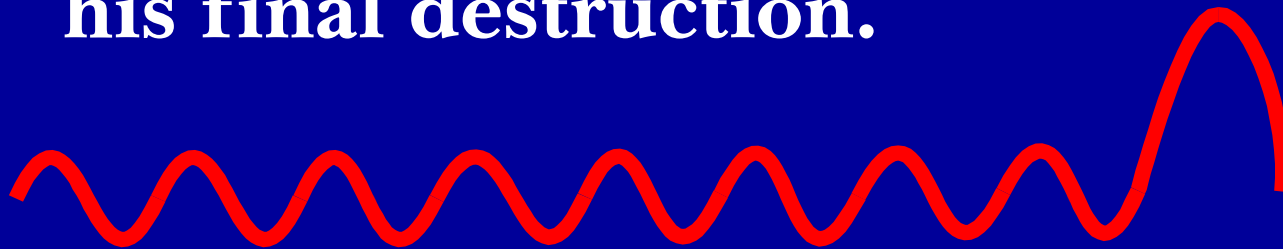
- ◆ Satan cannot create; he must imitate.
- ◆ Satan always follows the same pattern.
- ◆ Spiritual war shows a constant pattern.
- ◆ Satan suffers repeated defeats.

Repeated Defeat of the Dragon

- ◆ 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

Summary of Defeats

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



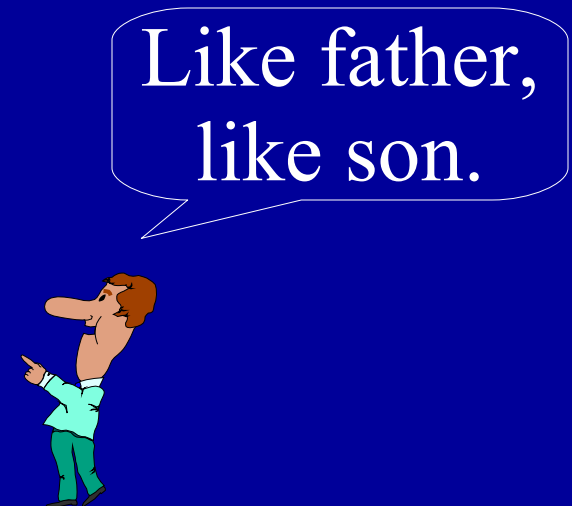
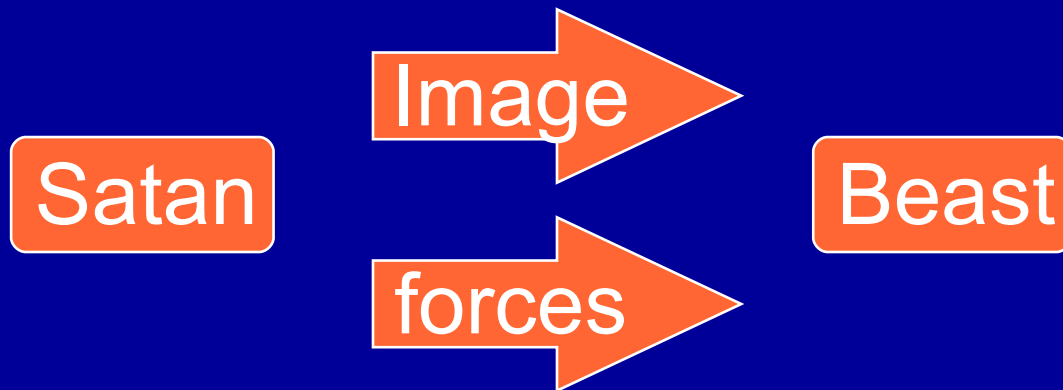
Repeated
defeats

Final
destruction

D. Role of the Beast

Repeated Manifestations

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



Four Views of the Beast

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

Persecution Now

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

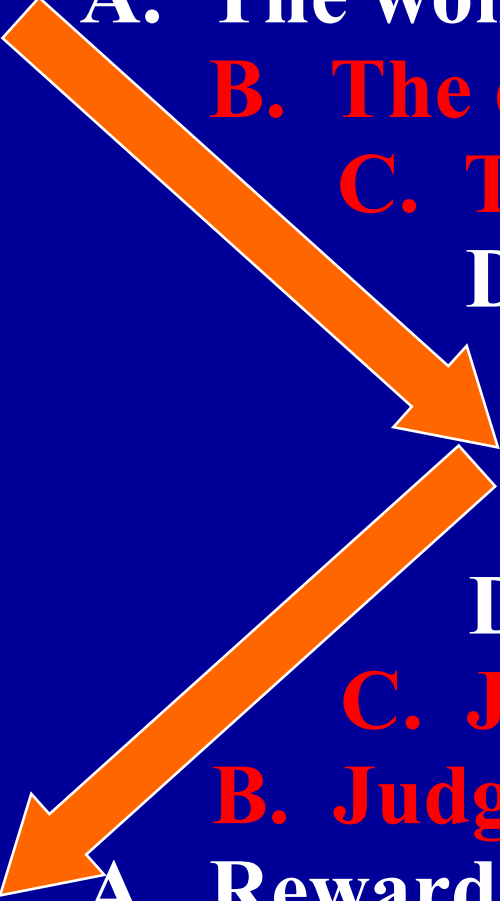
Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

--2 Tim. 3:12

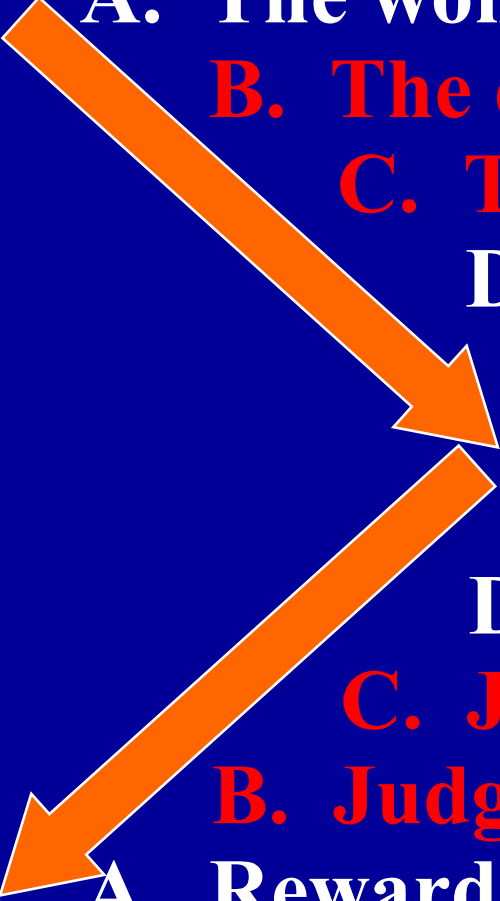
Application of Satan's Defeat to Us

- ◆ 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 Role of the Characters in the Course of the Battle

- 
- 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**

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 - C. Judgment of beasts 19:11-21**
 - B. Judgment of the dragon 20:1-10**
 - A. Reward of the creation church 21:1-2**

Confirming Four Views of Beast

1. **Roman Empire** ◆ **Dan. 7:7; Suetonius, *Domitian* 12.2.**
2. **Final Crisis** ◆ **2 Thess. 2:6-8**
3. **Church History** ◆ **Totalitarian aspirations**
4. **Repeated Pattern** ◆ **Dan. 7 spans this age**

Emperor Worship

- ◆ Emperors called themselves divine.
- ◆ People offered incense (an act of worship) to the “genius of the emperor” to show political loyalty.
- ◆ Those who refused were guilty of treason.



Uh oh!