

The Great Red Dragon - 12:3,4

Revelation 12: 3, 4 “And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon....”

judged
red
deceiver
angry devil
fallen
lost
dragon
liar murderer
condemned
conquered
defeated
limited

In our text is given “another wonder (sign)” and it is not a ‘literal’ representation of the devil as he actually looks to the eye, but is ‘figurative’ of the devil’s characteristics. The great red dragon is symbolic of the devil’s destructive and murderous character.

I. The Dragon

A. The Image or “Sign” is that of a “Dragon”

Dragon means ‘huge serpent’. Dragons have often been the embodiment of the fear of the unknown. In Greek mythology, these giant serpents often guarded the far and unexplored parts of the earth.

Matthew 13:19; Luke 8:12; 1 Peter 5:8

B. It is “A Great Dragon”

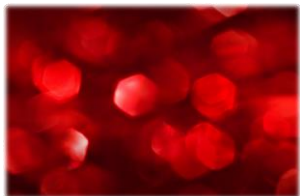
“Megas” – “Great” means mighty of external form, mighty in degree and intensity, mighty of rank (whether of persons or angels).

1) The devil has the power of death.

He has the power to put to death. (Heb. 2:14)

Although the devil had the power of death, it was through death that Christ defeated him! —James Reynolds Sr.

2) The devil has the ability to deceive. (Rev. 12:9)



C. It is “A Great Red Dragon”

It is “red,” seemingly for two reasons. The first is to enhance his terrible appearance. The second is suggestive of his murderous, destructive character. (Revelation 6:4; John 8:44)

“There has never been a murder, but he (the devil) caused it.”—Dr. J. A. Seiss

D. It has “Seven Heads”

This indicates the fullness of evil and wickedness

“Seven heads” also reveal a total and complete state of confusion.

The image before us presents the dragon having dominion over the governments of this world.

E. It has “Seven Crowns upon his Heads”

The “heads” being “crowned” would indicate at least to some degree, that he has been successful in his diabolical attacks.

1. Successful in Deceiving – A Crown (Rev. 12:9)
2. Successful in Dividing – A Crown (1 Cor. 11:18)
3. Successful in Defeating – A Crown (Matt. 24:12)
4. Successful in Denying – A Crown (Jude 4)
5. Successful in Devouring – A Crown (1 Peter 5:8)
6. Successful in Delaying – A Crown (Daniel 10:13)
7. Successful in Deforming – A Crown (Luke 13:11)

F. It has “Ten Horns”

“Ten” signifies the perfection of Divine Order. This is in contrast to that of an evil, wicked being, so this would be in reverse of the Divine Order; complete and total disorder.

G. It has A Tail

These stars were the angelic hosts, fitly called stars by reason of their brightness, shining beauty and glory. (Job 38:4-7)

II. The Mystery of the Dragon

The dragon is not altogether that great a mystery because of:

Rev. 12: 9 “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

The devil is not literally a dragon. There is a likeness between the Dragon and the Beast because they are both the workings of the devil. There is also the distinction between them because one works in the spiritual realm and the other works in the physical realm.

III. The Objects of The Dragon’s Malignity

Rev. 12:4 “...And the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”

A. First Objective: Devour the ‘Man-Child’

To destroy and devour the “Man-Child,” the devil would have to destroy the message (the Truth of the Word) that produces the “Man-Child.” If there ever was a message that the devil hates, it is this message of the “Man-Child” – the message of overcoming – the message of perfection. Jesus said:

The “Man-Child” will be a ruling body of Overcomers that will be given power to rule the nations. (Rev. 2:26-27)

B. Second Objective: Devour the “Woman”

In the Gospel according to St. Luke, Jesus spoke of the great and awful signs of the last three-and-a-half years of the Tribulation Hour. (Luke 21:12)

C. Third Objective: Destroy the Seed

When his attack on the Woman failed, he attacked the “remnant of her seed.” The “remnant of her seed” is the saints that are left after the Rapture of the Church, which takes place in the middle of the Tribulation Hour. (Rev. 7:9,13)

IV. The Destiny of the Dragon

A. Cast out of Heaven

Rev. 12:8-9 "...Neither was their place found any more in heaven...."

The devil's place was not left empty, but was found no more. The "Man-Child" now occupies that place.

B. Bound in the Bottomless Pit

Rev. 20:1–3 "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon..."

C. Loosed a Little Season

The dragon will be loosed for a short season. He goes forth and deceives many nations.

Rev. 20:3 "...And after that he must be loosed a little season."

Rev. 20:7, 8 "And when the thousand years are expired, satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea."

D. Cast Ultimately into the Lake of Fire

The dragon will eventually be cast into the lake of fire, where he shall be tormented forever, and forever.

Rev. 20:10 "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."