

Program: SS Panel 2025 1 Q

Quarterly title: God's Love and Justice

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Lesson Title: #10 Rules of Engagement

For Lesson Dates: *December 28-January 3, 2025*

Section title: Tuesday - The Dragon of Revelation

Record date: Monday *March 1-7, 2024*

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Question:

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Lesson 10

March 1-7

Rules of Engagement

SABBATH AFTERNOON

Read for This Week's Study: *Dan. 10:1–14, Rev. 13:1–8, Job 1:1–12, Job 2:1–7, John 12:31, John 14:30, Mark 6:5, Mark 9:29.*

Memory Text: "He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8, NKJV).

MONDAY

March 3

The Dragon of Revelation

The overarching perspective of celestial rulers in the cosmic conflict is encapsulated in the book of Revelation, **where the devil is depicted as “the great dragon” who opposes God** and “deceives the whole world” (Rev. 12:9, NKJV).

Read Revelation 13:1–8. What does this reveal about the extent of the dragon’s jurisdiction?

Revelation 13:1–8 1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of a bear*, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The **dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.**

3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been **mortally wounded**, and his deadly wound was healed. And **all the world marveled** and **followed** the beast.

Revelation 13:4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “**Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?**”

Revelation 13:5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was **given authority to continue for forty-two months.**

6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, **to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.**

7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

8 **All who dwell on the earth will worship him**, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

*****READ*****

The dragon (Satan) not only wars against God (Rev. 12:7–9) and His servants (for example, Rev. 12:1–6), **but he is depicted as the ruler behind the earthly kingdoms** who persecute God's people throughout the ages.

The beginning of the Great controversy

Revelation 12:7-9 7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and **the dragon and his angels fought,**
8 **but they did not prevail**, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.
9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called **the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world;** he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

The dragon “gave . . . his power, his throne, and great authority” to the beast from the sea (Rev. 13:2, NKJV; compare with Rev. 13:5; Rev. 17:13, 14). This beast from the sea is “given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months” (Rev. 13:5, NKJV).

REF:>>: Revelation 13:2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The **dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.**

Revelation 13:5 And he was given a mouth **speaking great things and blasphemies**, and he was **given authority to continue for forty-two months.**

they will give their power and authority to the beast

Revelation 17:13-14 13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful.”

*****READ*****

So, **Satan** (the dragon) gives power and ruling authority to a **beast** (an earthly religious-political power). This power is exercised in order to usurp the worship due to God. The beast blasphemes God's name; it also wars against, and even overcomes, God's holy ones (saints), *at least for a period of time*. This worldwide authority and jurisdiction is given to him by the dragon, the usurping ruler of this world.

he knows that he has a short time

Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”

*****READ***** **bold only**

Yet, there are clear limits on Satan and his agencies, as well, including temporal limits. " 'Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time' " (Rev. 12:12, NKJV).

*****READ*****

Satan "knows that his time is short" (Rev. 12:12, ESV), and the events described in Revelation proceed along prophetic timelines, which show specific limits (see Rev. 12:14, Rev. 13:5) to the reign of these evil forces.

Revelation 12:14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

Revelation 13:5 And he was given a mouth **speaking great things and blasphemies**, and he was **given authority to continue for forty-two months**.

>> 42 months: 1260 years = 538 A.D. — 1798 A.D.

Daniel 7:25 25 He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law.

Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.

26 'But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy *it* forever.

27 Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

I run thus: not with uncertainty

1 Corinthians 9:24 24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*.

25 And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable crown.

26 Therefore **I run thus: not with uncertainty**. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air.

27 But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Indeed, God finally triumphs. " 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away' " (Rev. 21:4, NKJV).

However hard for us to see it now, in the end good will eternally triumph over evil. Why is it so important that we never forget this wonderful promise?

[illegible]

Additional Notes

Revelation 17:1-18 **1** Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,
2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”
3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast *which was* full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.
4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.
5 And on her forehead a name *was* written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.
6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.
7 But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.
8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.
9 “Here *is* the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.
10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, *and* the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.
11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

12 “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful.”

15 Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”