

Cosmic View – The Spiritual Battlefield (part two)

The Devil (dragon) is chained in the bottomless pit (Revelation 20:1-3) awaiting to be unleashed for one final assault against God's people, the Church. But this fallen angel, also known as the Satan, sends out surrogates to do its bidding on the spiritual battlefield.

The Beast from the Sea (Political Beast)

Revelation 13:1-10 describes the first beast that arises from the sea to assist Satan in his warfare against God and humanity, in particular the church (the woman and her offspring of Rev 12). The sea with all its turbulence and violent power is an apt figure to depict the separation between God and man from its agitated condition and the seething cauldron of national and social life. Out of this sea come those political, economic, and social powers that presume to take the place of God and seek to wield absolute authority over the lives and souls of people.

The Beast out of the Earth (Philosophical Beast)

Revelation 13:11–18 describes the second beast that arises out of the earth. In contrast to the first beast that arises from the sea and has a ferocious appearance, the second beast arises from the more familiar land and is less fearsome in appearance. This beast symbolizes false teachers, religions, and human philosophies that separate people from Christ. This second beast exercises authority on behalf of the first beast to the end that people of the world will worship the first beast.

The Church Triumphant and the Mission of the Church Militant

Revelation 14:1-13 describes the Church Triumphant in heaven as encouragement for the Church militant on earth to persevere on the spiritual battlefield. And the message of the Church militant is God's Word of Law and Gospel to call people to repentance and place their trust for salvation in Jesus Christ alone.

The Final Harvest... Revelation 14:14-20 describes the end of the earth (3rd of 5th time) with the Day of Judgment on the Dragon and its beasts.