



I. MORE ON THE WAR

1. Satan declares war on God and His people—us

And the dragon was angry at the woman and declared war against the rest of her children—all who keep God's commandments and maintain their testimony for Jesus.

Revelation 12:17 (NLT)

2. Revelation is a message of hope because Jesus and we have already ready won

They will fight against the Lamb; but the Lamb, together with his called, chosen, and faithful followers, will defeat them, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings."

Revelation 17:14 (TEV)

II. HOW THE DRAGON USES THE STATE AS A WEAPON—REVELATION 13:1-18

1. The Dragon: Satan is the power behind evil governments (v.1a)

2. The Sea Beast: Symbolizing the political power of the state that is used by Satan against God and His people (v.1b-8) **[For more details about the Sea Beast see Part 1]**

3. The people of God: Be prepared for persecution (v.9-10)

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 John 4:4 (NIV)

For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.

1 John 5:4 (NLT)

4. The Earth Beast: Symbolizes the false religion that Satan uses to seduce people into worshipping the state (v.11-18)

• Who the Earth Beast is:

⇒ **Anything** the state encourages or forces people to worship other than the One True God. This could be an emperor, king, political leader, the state itself or false religion.

⇒ **Originates** from this world and not heaven.

⇒ **Possesses two horns** like a lamb symbolizing an innocent and harmless appearance. It is a counterfeit Christ.

- **What the Earth Beast does:**

⇒ **Speaks with the voice** of the dragon symbolizing its words are from Satan.

And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.
2 Corinthians 11:14 (NIV)

⇒ **Exercises the authority** of the Sea Beast to entice or force people to worship it.

If there is no God, everything is permitted.

Fyodor Dostoevsky

⇒ **Performs astounding miracles** that deceive those who belong the world. This symbolizes how the amazing accomplishments of the state seduce people into believing it is god-like.

⇒ **Forces people to make an idol** of the Sea Beast or be killed. This symbolizes how the state can become an idol and Christians who refuse to bow to it will die.

He [the devil] was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

John 8:44 (NLT)

⇒ **Requires everyone to receive the mark** of the Beast on their forehead or on their right hand in order to conduct business. This symbolizes the economic persecution by the state religion of God's people.

⇒ **Identifies as the number 666** which symbolizes man trying to be God.

Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

1 John 2:18 (NIV)

For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

2 Thessalonians 2:7-12 (NIV)

III. WAYS TO RESPOND TO SATAN'S WEAPONIZATION OF THE STATE

1. **Make sure that your hope is in Jesus and not governments or political leaders**
2. **Choose to be faithful to the Lord even in the face of persecution by the state**
3. **Remember that no matter how great the power of the state becomes – God's power is greater**