

## **‘Serpents and Dragons and Slayers, Oh My!’ part 2      Revelation 12**

### **10 Biblical characteristics of the dragon**

**1. The dragon is that ancient serpent.** Rev. 12:9,10 Here we are given 6 different titles for our enemy. My first point is simply that the dragon here in Rev. 12 is the same as the serpent in Genesis 3.

**2. The dragon is a murderer.** 12:3 Red symbolizes blood to show that the dragon is a murderer. The dragon is a murderer just as Jesus said in Jn. 8:44 that our enemy *‘was a murderer from the beginning.’*

**3. The dragon is powerful.** 12:3 The symbol of the 7 heads and 10 horns corresponds with the same things in Daniel’s prophecy in Daniel 7 representing the nations that opposed Israel in the OT. Satan has always used ungodly nations in his attempts to destroy God’s people.

**4. The dragon seeks to kill the Messiah.** 12:1-4 Dragons devour, they attack, they kill. I believe this child represents the Messiah for He is the one who will one day rule the nations with a rod of iron, Ps. 2:9. The dragon tries to stop God’s plan by \_\_\_\_\_ the Messiah, which he actually tried many times.

**5. The dragon fails in his attempt to devour the Messiah.** 12:5 This is referring to Jesus’ ascension, back to His Heavenly Father, sitting next to His Father, interceding for us. While Satan tries to accuse us, Jesus prays for us. What an ominous name for our enemy, *‘the accuser of our brothers.’*

**6. The dragon and his angelic followers get thrown down to earth.** 12:7-9a Although it seems strange to us, apparently Satan has some access to where God is where he accuses us before God. But a fight breaks out in heaven, Satan loses, and he and his followers get thrown out of heaven. The question here is when does that occur? Well, we know that Satan still accuses us today and is very active today.

From 12:6 and on, it’s still future to us. It hasn’t happened yet. If one simply follows the flow of the book of Revelation, the context, you will see that we are now about at the mid-tribulation point, about 3 ½ years into the last 7 year period before the second coming of Christ.

**7. The dragon is conquered.** 12:11,12 The dragon is powerful but One who is all-powerful conquers him! How does that happen? By the blood of the \_\_\_\_\_ and by the word of their testimony. Through Jesus’ sacrifice for our sins, they stood up for Jesus, they proclaimed the Word of God, even if it cost them their lives, but now they live forever in heaven.

**8. The dragon in a rage, persecutes God’s people.** 12:13-17 One question here is: who is this woman? As with so many of the symbols used in the book of Revelation, the answer is often given right in the passage or the same symbol is used and described elsewhere in the Bible. In Gen. 37:9,10, we see the same symbols are used to describe the 12 tribes of Israel. So, the woman represents not only Mary, who gave birth to Jesus, but also Israel itself, from whom the Messiah came.

**9. The dragon empowers the beast.** Rev. 13:1-4. The dragon, Satan, forms an unholy Trinity. You have the dragon, Satan; next the false beast- the antichrist, who will be a man, just like us, only after Satan is thrown out of heaven at the mid-point, he will then be totally possessed by our enemy and he will do unimaginably bad things, and third is his right hand man, the false prophet.

**10. The dragon gets bound for 1000 years.** 20:1-3 6 times in this passage it mentions a specific number, 1000 years. So we call that period of time the millennium. A time when Christ will rule physically on this earth for 1000 years. All that time \_\_\_\_\_ will be bound.

Jesus will slay the dragon and rescue His bride! Then God creates a new heaven and a new earth. So, one big purpose of this final book is not just to give us interesting information but to encourage us to keep going, even when times get tough. Keep looking up! The Lamb wins! Whose side are you on?