

The Dragon

“The great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan” (*Rev. 12:9*)

1. Ancient dragon stories

- a. The Greek *drakon* refers to a mythological creature recognized by most ancient cultures
 - 1) Typically a serpent-like creature (usually with legs)
 - 2) A malevolent creature that leaves death and destruction in its wake
 - 3) Part of a class of mythological creatures that are monstrous and deadly (serpent, leviathan, sea monster)
- b. The Old Testament borrows the ancient mythological imagery of dragons and monsters to illustrate the power of God over the enemies of his people
 - 1) God has the power to kill “serpents” (*Job 26:13; Isa. 51:9*)
 - 2) To crush “leviathan” (*Psa. 74:14*)
 - 3) To destroy Egypt like a “sea monster” (*Ezek. 29:3-5; 32:2-4*)
 - 4) To kill the “leviathan dragon” (*Isa. 27:1*)
- c. Every good dragon story has a dragon-slayer
 - 1) Portraying the Devil as a dragon implies that he is malevolent and deadly
 - 2) But also sets the stage for his destruction by a dragon-slayer

2. The great Dragon

- a. The dragon imagery in the book of Revelation captures the biblical theme of the Devil as destined to be destroyed by Christ
 - 1) The first messianic prophecy foretold that he would be crushed by Christ (*Gen. 3:15*)
 - 2) A key reason for the Incarnation was so that the Son of God could destroy the Devil (*1 John 3:8*) and render him powerless (*Heb. 2:14*)
 - 3) Jesus’ superior power over the Devil was demonstrated each time he (and his disciples) cast out a demon (*Luke 10:17-19; 11:20-22*)
- b. The Dragon’s first great defeat: the death and resurrection of Christ
 - 1) A conflict like a great heavenly war (*Rev. 12:7-11*)
 - 2) A victory celebrated like the “parading” of a conquered army (*Col. 2:15*)
- c. The Dragon’s final great defeat: the second coming of Christ and judgment
 - 1) The Dragon cast into a lake of fire (*Rev. 20:10*)
 - 2) The saints judging the fallen angels (*1 Cor. 6:3*) and “crushing Satan under our feet” (*Rom. 16:20*)