



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS -
GRAND THEMES 16 – ORDER &
CHAOS III

A thick black L-shaped frame surrounds the text. The top-left corner is a horizontal bar extending to the right, and the bottom-right corner is a vertical bar extending upwards. The text is centered within the open space of the frame.

WELCOME TO “GRAND THEMES”

Each week we will trace a major theme through the
whole Bible.



Order & Chaos

Acknowledgements to the Bible Project



Theme gallery



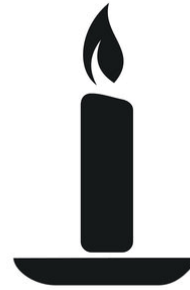
TEMPLE



COVENANT



EXODUS



L&D



KINGDOM



ORDER &
CHAOS



Crushing the head



- So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; **he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.**” (Gen 3:12-15)
- The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. (Rom 16:20)
- What do think “crush our head” means?
- What does “strike his heal” mean?

All enemies under his feet



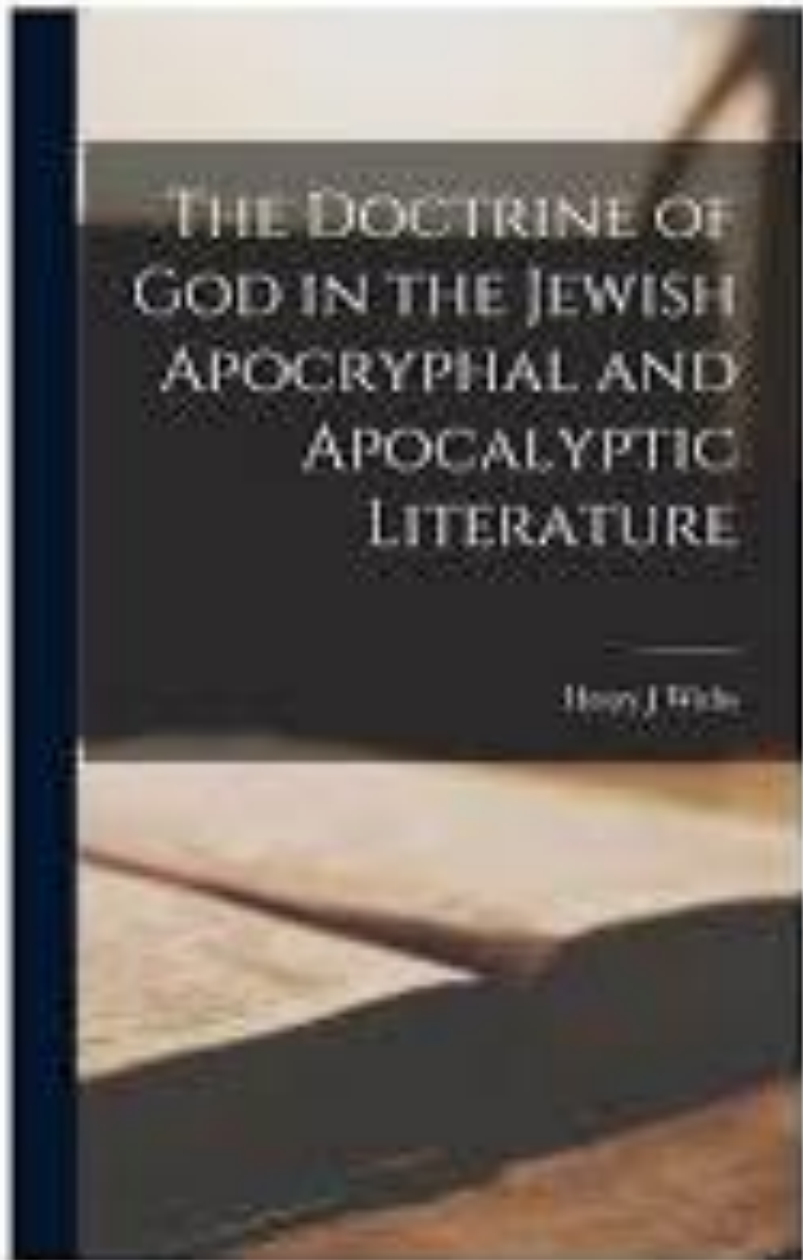
- For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.
- Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **The last enemy to be destroyed is death.** For he “has put everything under his feet.” (1 Cor 15:21-27)
- What are you seeing here? Where is the Bible story going?



Enemies a footstool



- (Ps 110:1) The LORD says to my lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”
- For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”” “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” (Acts 2:34-36)



Revelation - Dragons everywhere



- Jewish Apocalyptic genre.
- Makes use of visions, beasts, numbers, scenes from heaven, horns, thrones, battles...
- Like the book of Daniel [7-12], the book of Enoch, the Secrets of Enoch, the Assumption of Moses, the Apocalypse of Baruch, the Apocalypse of Ezra, the Apocalypse of John, and the Ascension of Isaiah... also parts of Isaiah, Ezekiel etc
- But the purpose of apocalyptic is very clear: to give us a heavenly perspective on our earthly circumstances, so that every generation of God's people can be challenged, comforted, and given hope for the future.
- Have you encountered apocalyptic writing much and how does it impact you?

Revelation – overall story



- Forces of evil/chaos are warring against God’s faithful people.
- The challenge for the faithful is not give in and end up “worshipping the beast”
- Judgment is coming and Satan, the beasts, death itself, and those not in the book of life will be destroyed forever.
- The future marriage of heaven and earth when the new Jerusalem comes down from heaven as a bride.
- God will dwell with his redeemed people forever in the Holy city - where there will be no more death, mourning and pain.



Revelation - Dragons everywhere



- Revelation 12/13
- Enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns (Rev 12:3)
- ..Ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. (Rev 12:9)
- Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring —those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus. (Rev 12:17)
- What is John explaining here?

Beast from the sea

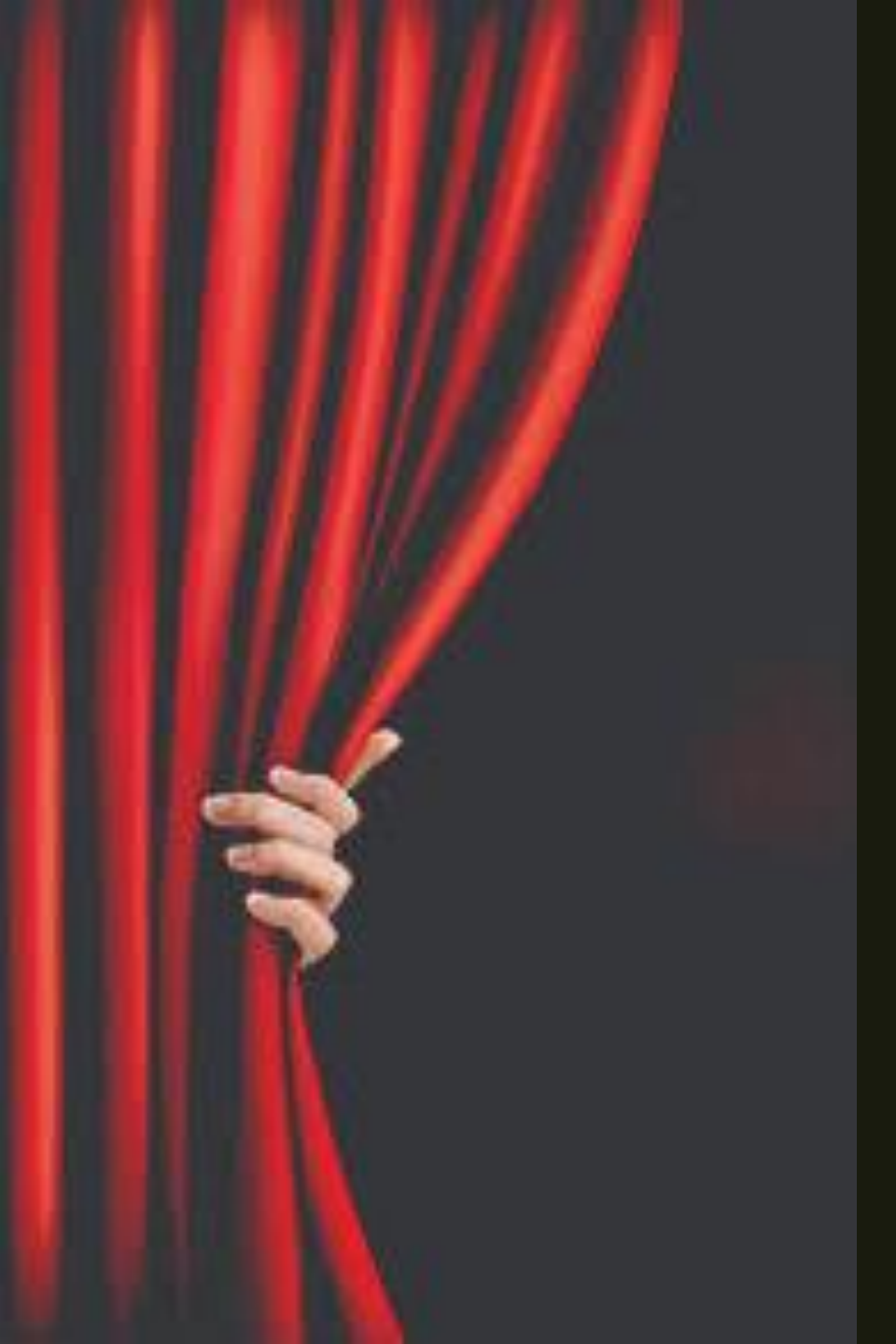


- The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion.
- The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast. People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? **Who can wage war against it?**”
- My view: Beast > Roman Empire of the day.

Beast #2



- Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. (Rev 13:11-12)
- It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. (Rev 13:16-17)
- Sea beast and earth beasts working together in service to the dragon – my view: military and economic power of Roman Empire.
- Certainly a subjugating, oppressive situation.



Purpose of Revelation



- Gives a glimpse, pulls back the curtain for the early Christians about what is going on behind the scenes, and the victory that is coming.
- Written in a time of heavy persecution of the church and practical challenges to not “worship the beast”.
- An apocalyptic vision about the reordering and recreation of the entire cosmos. And in true biblical fashion, it brings to a resolution all the themes of the Bible.” [From BibleProject: The Dragon of Revelation – Chaos Dragon E18].
- Essential message: “Do not fear death, do not shrink from death”



Losing life



- Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. (Luke 9:23-26)
- How does this teaching of Jesus link with the story of Jonah and the cross?



The last enemy



- For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father **after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power**. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (1 Cor 15:22-26)
- If death is destroyed, what kind of life is available?



Reflection



- Do you see discipleship in any new ways as a result of this discussion?
- Do you feel like you have a better handle on the theme of “chaos and order”
- Anything else you have learned?



NEXT TIME...
NATIONS & CALL