

Satan's Spiritual Warfare Against Christians Through Counterfeiting

Based on *The Returning King* by Vern Poythress

1. The Dragon is a picture of Satan (12:9), a counterfeit God. He disguises himself as "an angel of light" (2 Cor 11:14).

Dragon (12:3)	Beast (13:1)
7 heads	7 heads
10 horns	10 horns
Crowns on heads	Crowns on heads

2. The Beast (13:1-10) is a Counterfeit Christ

The Beast is the image of the Dragon. Satan imitates God creating man in his own image (Gen 1:27).

Christ the Son of God is "the image of the invisible God" (Col 1:15). Satan made the Beast in his own image, a counterfeit "Son."

Beast	Christ
ten crowns (13:1)	"many crowns" (19:12)
"blasphemous names" (13:1)	holy names (3:14; 19:11-13, 16)
great power and authority (13:2, 7)	divine power and authority (12:5, 10)
false resurrection with "mortal wound" (13:3)	true resurrection (Rev 5:9, 12)
"the whole earth... followed the beast" (13:4)	many believers (5:9)
song of beast-worshippers: "Who is like the beast? And who can fight against it?" (13:4)	song of praise to God: "Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?" (Exo 15:11).
mark on hand or forehead of Beast-followers (13:16)	name of Christ written on believers' foreheads (14:1)
Great Prostitute represents Beast-worshippers who worship sex, money and pleasure (Chs 17-18)	Bride represents Christ-worshippers who delight in God's presence in the new heaven (19:7-8).
The Dragon, Beast and False Prophet are thrown into the eternal lake of fire in torment (20:10).	Christ and his people will inherit a glorious, heavenly city (Rev 21:9-26).

3. The False Prophet (13:11-18; 16:13) is a Counterfeit Holy Spirit

False Prophet	Holy Spirit
performs "great signs" (13:13)	apostles perform wonders and signs (Acts 2:43)
promotes worship of the Beast (13:12-15)	promotes worship of Christ (John 16:14)
exercises the authority of the Beast (13:12)	exercises the authority of Christ (John 14:16, 18)
deceives (13:14)	speaks the truth (John 16:13)
mark on hand or forehead of Beast-followers (13:16)	seals Christ-followers (Eph 1:13-14)