



Class 2

The Great
Red Dragon

vs

The Woman

The Beasts of Revelation

Outline of Classes

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric illustration. On the left, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a crown and a long, flowing white and blue robe, stands looking towards the right. On the right, a large, dark, multi-headed dragon-like creature with glowing red eyes and wings is visible. The overall color palette is dark with highlights of red, blue, and white.

Class 1 – October 1, 2008:

- Understanding the Beasts of Revelation from the Prophecy of Daniel

Class 2 – November 26, 2008:

- The Dragon vs The Woman (Rev. 12)

Class 3 – December 10, 2008:

- The Beast of the Sea & Earth (Rev. 13 & 16:10-11)

Class 4 – January 7, 2009:

- The Woman Riding the Scarlet-Coloured Beast (Rev. 17)

Purpose of these Classes

A woman wearing a crown and a long, flowing dress stands in a dark, forest-like setting. She is holding a glowing orb in her hand. The background is dark with some red and yellow light effects, suggesting a magical or symbolic environment.

- To understand the background and meaning of the symbols
- To see how the events symbolized actually played out on the world stage
- To gain exhortation / lessons from the events symbolized

Why Study Revelation 12?

- It outlines dramatic, earth-quaking events of extreme importance in the divine plan, that would forever re-shape the course of history
- It contains practical exhortation and warning for disciples living during those events and for disciples today
- It explains how the “Man of Sin” of 2 Thess. 2 would be revealed
- It is the source of false beliefs in Christendom and has been miss-understood even amongst Christadelphians

Why Study Revelation 12?

- Source of False Beliefs:
 - Used to support a supernatural fallen angel subsequent to a war in the literal heaven
- Miss-understandings:
 - The woman was either Mary or Israel - pregnant and giving birth to Christ (the man-child)
 - The ascent of Michael into heaven, is speaking of Christ's ascension into heaven after his resurrection
 - The Kingdom established in Revelation 12, is the literal "Kingdom of Heaven" to be established at Christ's return



The Key Players



The Dragon:

- In heaven
- On the earth

The Woman:

- In Glory
- In Pregnancy
- In Persecution

The Man-Child:

- In Womb
- At Birth
- At War

The Great Red Dragon

- Red
- 7 Heads
- 10 Horns
- 7 Crowns upon its 7 heads



- Dwelling in “heaven”
- Tail Draws 1/3 of stars of heaven and casts them to the earth
- Desires to devour woman’s child at it’s birth
- Warring Power – at war with Michael and his angels in heaven
- Has angels
- Deceives the whole world
- Subsequently cast out into earth (like the 1/3 of stars before)
- Accuser of Christ’s brethren, which accused them before God day and night

The 4 World Empires

Only 4 Kingdoms:

“These great beasts, which are four, are four Kings, which shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the most High shall take the Kingdom, and possess the Kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever” – *Daniel 7:17-18*

Babylon **Medo-Persia** **Greece** **Rome**



5 Similar Features :

- Distinguished by 10 horns
 - Dan.7:7; Rev. 12:3, 13:1, 17:3
- Noted for blasphemy against God
 - Dan.7:25; Rev.13:5,6; 17:3
- Makes war with the saints & prevails against them
 - Dan.7:21; Rev.12:17; 13:7; 13:15; 17:6
- Power to persecute for 1,260 days/years
 - Dan.7:25; Rev. 12:14; 13:5
- Destroyed by Christ at his coming
 - Dan.7:22; Rev.17:14



The Roman Empire

In it's various phases of development!

- Nebuchadnezzar's Legs & Feet – Dan 2
- The Dreadful & Terrible 4th Beast – Dan 7
- Great Red Dragon - Rev 12
- The Beast of the Sea - Rev 13
- The Beast of the Earth – Rev 13
- The Scarlet-Coloured Beast - Rev 17



Who is the Dragon?

- The language of Daniel's 4th Beast
 - Implication: It is associated with Roman Empire
- The language is also used by both Peter & Paul:
 - Implication: It is to be identified with Pagan Rome

Revelation 12:4

"...the dragon stood before the woman... for to devour her child"

Revelation 12:9-10

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world... for the accuser of our brethren is cast down."

1 Peter 5:8

"...be vigilant; because your adversary (Satan) and the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour... knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren"

Ephesians 6:8-9

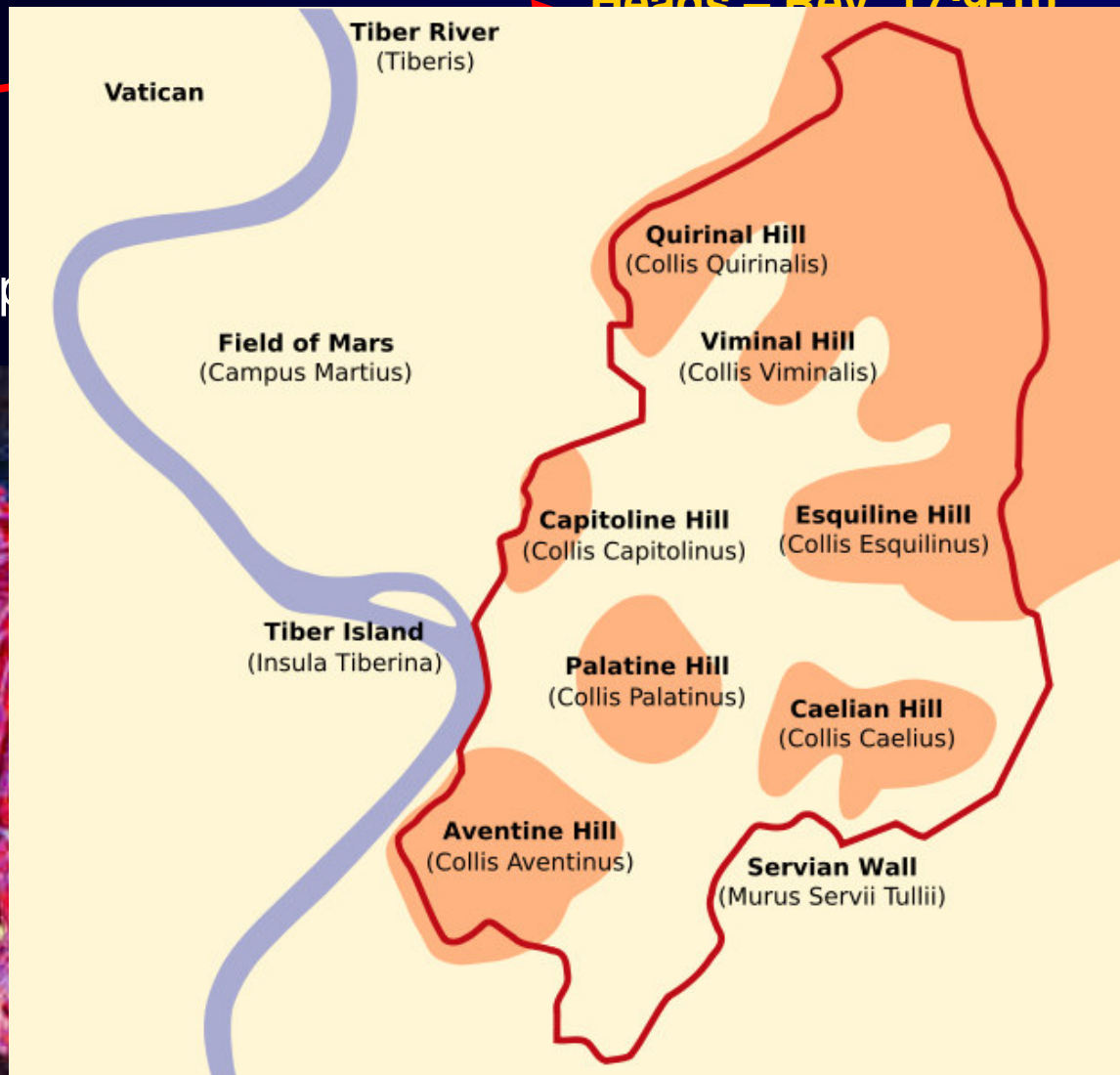
"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil. For we wrestle... against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (R.V. note: "in the heavenly")

The Great Red Dragon

- Red
- 7 Heads
- 10 Horns
- 7 Crowns up



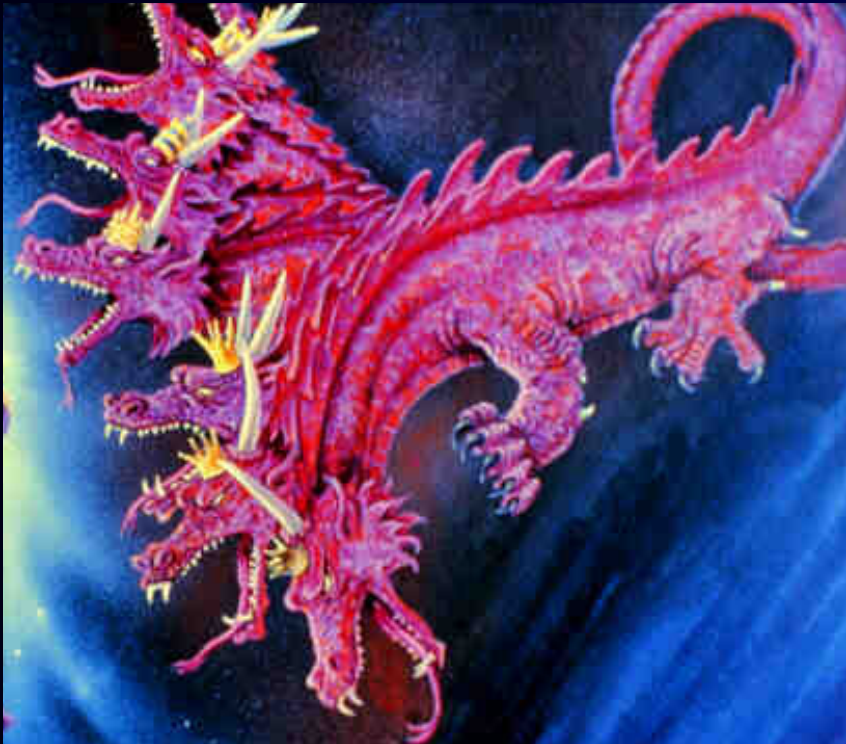
Heads – Rev. 17:9-10



... which hath
... are seven
... woman sitteth.
... : five are
... other is not
... meth, he must

The Great Red Dragon

- Red
- 7 Heads
- 10 Horns
- 7 Crowns upon its 7 heads



Crowns:

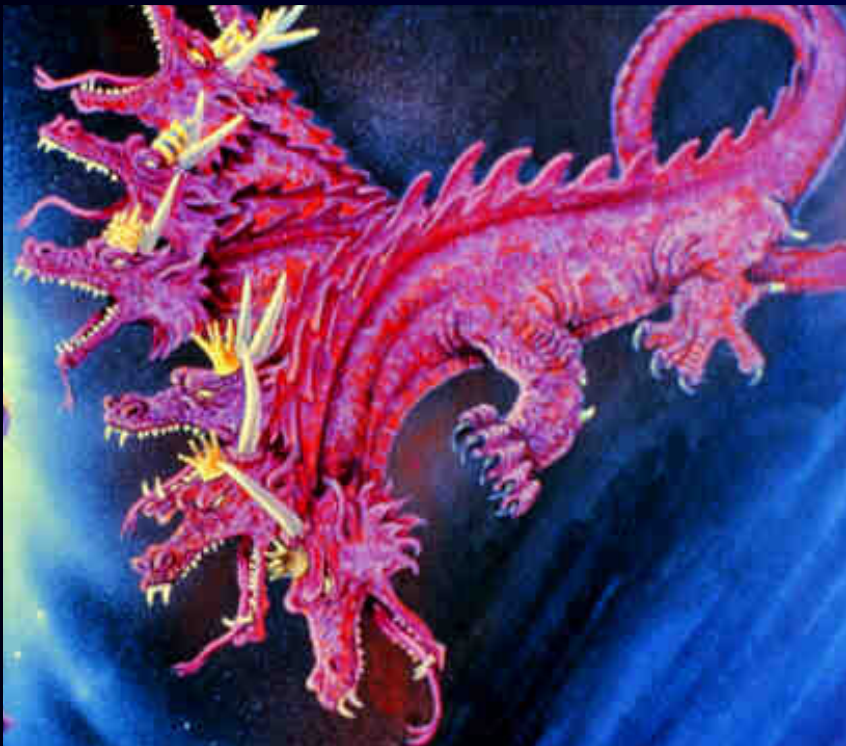
- Meaning - Diadem (#1238)
- Occurrences: Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 19:12
- Symbolic of Kingly or imperial dignity – not associated with reward.
- Among the Greeks and Romans it was a distinctive badge of royalty, and it was adopted from the Persians.
- Diocletian was the 1st Roman Emperor to wear it constantly.

Crowns on Heads:

- Contrast Rev.12:3 & Rev.13:1

The Great Red Dragon

- Red
- 7 Heads
- 10 Horns
- 7 Crowns upon its 7 heads

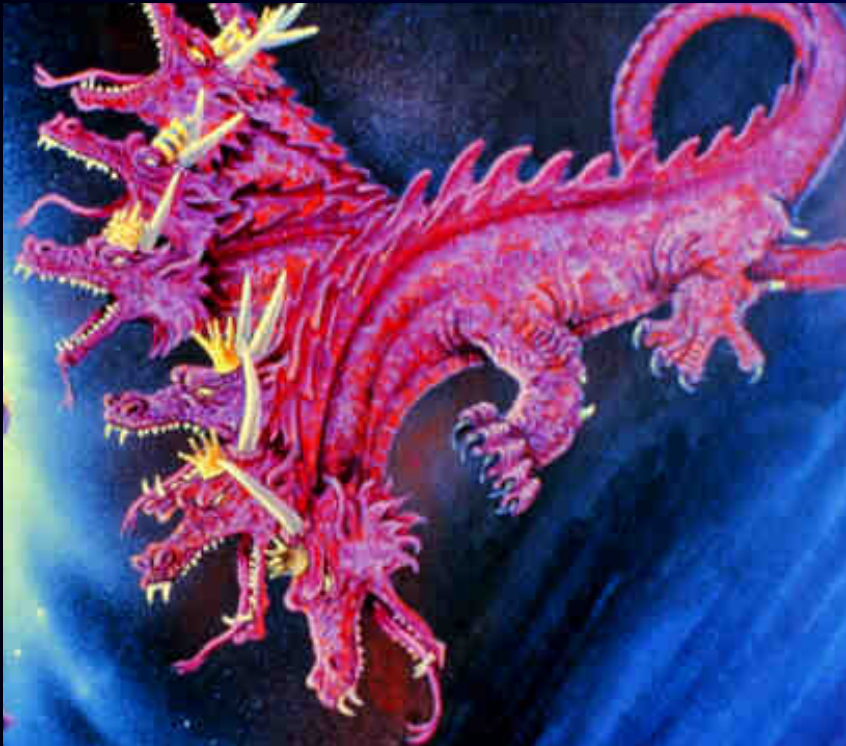


Red:

- Colour of sin – Isa. 1:18
- Warlike behaviour – Rev. 6:4
- Word means “fiery”
- “...This is appropriate to the symbol, for it is said that the Generals of Pagan Rome often had fire carried before them, as an offering to the gods, as they marched to battle. Here, its obvious purpose is to indicate the wrathful and hostile attitude of the Dragon, the military power of Rome, towards Christianity.” – *Bro. H.P. Mansfield*

The Great Red Dragon

- Red
- 7 Heads
- 10 Horns
- 7 Crowns upon its 7 heads



Dragon:

- Originally a symbol of Egypt – Ezek. 29:3 – “Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.”
- Egypt symbolizes ‘sin power in political manifestation’
- Dragon was used as symbol in Pagan Roman Empire

The Great Red Dragon

- Red
- 7 Heads
- 10 Horns
- 7 Crowns upon its 7 heads



Dragon:

- Synonymous with the serpent, devil, and Satan:

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (Rev 12:9)

- Devil = Diabolos. Also translated as: False accuser, slanderer. Rev. 2:10.
- Satan = Satanas. Meaning: the accuser.
- 1 Pet. 5:8 & Eph. 6:8-9

Serpent symbol: The pagan Roman system bruised “the seed of the woman” in the heel. (Gen. 3:15)

The Woman of Revelation 12

The Woman in Glory (12:1):

- Clothed with the sun
- Moon under her feet
- Crown of 12 stars on head

The Pregnant Woman (12:2,5):

- She with child cries, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered
- Brings forth a man-child who was to rule all nations with iron rod

The Persecuted Woman (12:6,13-17):

- After her child is born, she flees to wilderness
- Persecuted by Dragon once he was cast down to earth
- Fed / nourished in wilderness 1,260 days
- Flies into wilderness where she is nourished for time, and times, and half a time
- Given two wings of a great eagle
- Has a place prepared of God in wilderness
- Helped / Protected by the earth from serpent's / dragons persecution
- Dragon makes war with the remnant of her seed, which keep God's commandments, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ

The Woman of Revelation 12

Woman: Representative of the Christian Community

(both true & False)

- Eve (1st Woman) at war with serpent – rep. of God's elect
- The seed of the woman in Rev. 12 are the true believers (v17)

2 Corinthians 11:2

“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

3 Women in the Apocalypse:

- The Woman Jezebel – Rev. 2:20 – calls herself a prophetess, yet teaches and seduces God's servants to commit fornication, eat things sacrificed to idols, commit adultery
- The Woman of Rev. 12
- The Woman of Rev. 17 – decked with gold and precious stones, drunk with blood of saints, identified as “that great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth”



The Woman of Revelation 12

Rev 12:1

“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.”



Sun – Moon - Stars



Symbol of Israel:

- Genesis 37 – Joseph's Dream

Symbol of False Worship:

- Deut 4:19-20; 2 Kings 23:5; Jer 8:1-2

Symbol of Nations:

- Isa. 24:23 – Sun and moon darkened when God reigns in Zion
- Ezek 32:7 – Egypt sun, moon, stars darkened
- Joel 2:10,31; 3:15 – Sun, moon, stars darkened in time of final judgment
- Matt. 24:29; Mark 13: 24-25; Luke 21:25 – Olivet Prophecy
- Rev 6: 12-13 – 6th Seal of Pagan Rome's Departure
- Rev 8:12 – 1/3 of sun, moon, and stars cast away

Sun – Moon - Stars

Symbols of the political heavens:

- Sun – The strongest source of light and energy
 - “The sun is always a symbol of power and prosperity. These in the Roman Empire were identified with the imperial thrones.” (R.R.)
- Moon – Lesser source of light, reflecting light of the sun
 - “The moon as a symbol stands in the same relation to the symbolic sun as the literal moon does to the literal sun: it is co-ordinate with the sun but not equal to it. It shines with it in the same heaven but borrows its light from it. What power in the Roman State sustained this relation to the Roman sun of imperial power? The priesthood of the national religion undoubtedly – the religion of the gods of Rome. The Pagan hierarchy stood in the same relation to imperialism as the established clergy do the state. They were a power in the State secondary to the secular power and sustained by it. The ecclesiastical order is symbolically the moon in any system.” (R.R.)



Sun – Moon - Stars

Symbols of the political heavens:

- Stars – Distant suns reflecting their own (lesser) light
 - “As the sun represents governmental authority, and the moon represents state religion, so the stars represent the princes of the realm. At the time of the vision, 12 principle rulers had governed Rome since the establishment of the Imperial system by Augustus: (HPM)
 - Augustus (-18)
 - Tiberius (18-37)
 - Claudius (41-55)
 - Caligula (37-41)
 - Nero (55-68)
 - Galba (68)
 - Otho (68)
 - Vitellius (68-69)
 - Vespasian (69-79)
 - Titus (79-81)
 - Domitian (81-96)
 - Nerva (96-98)

Crown = Stephanos (4735)

- The victors crown as a symbol of reward or prize
- Token of public honour for distinguished service and military prowess
- Different from the crowns on the dragons heads

From Vine's Dictionary



The Woman of Revelation 12



The Woman in Glory (12:1):

- Clothed with the sun
- Moon under her feet
- Crown of 12 stars on head
- Clothed with imperial favour
- Pagan religious system in under her subjection
- She has been awarded political ascendancy and honour through military achievements

The Pregnant Woman (12:2,5):

- She with child cries, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered
- Brings forth a man-child who was to rule all nations with iron rod

The Woman of Revelation 12

Rev 12:2,5

“And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered...

“And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron...”

2 Corinthians 11:2

“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”



Dire Warnings

2 Tim. 4:3-4

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

2 Thess. 2:3

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition”

2 John 1:7-8

“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.”

Beginnings of Apostasy

Pergamos – Rev. 2:14-15

“But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”

Thyatira – Rev. 2:20-22

“Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.”

The Development of Apostasy

1 John 2:15

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

Rom 13:1-2

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.”

John 18:36

“Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.”

Doctrines to be Rejected:

35. That we are at liberty to serve in the army, or as police constables, take part in politics, or recover debts by legal coercion.

The Development of Apostasy

“The Christian ecclesias, originally a chaste virgin, were now a woman pregnant with iniquity. There were only a few names who had not defiled their garments, and who held fast to their separateness from the world. The majority had forgotten the admonition of John, “love not the world, neither the things that are in the world”; they longed for recognition and the honours of the world.”

— *The Dragon and The Lamb*, page 43.

The Development of Apostasy

“...the community developed by the apostles contained two elements – the real and the unreal, the actual and the nominal: those who were earnestly subject to the law of Christ and those who were professors without heart – who accepted Christ as a tradition but were uninfluenced by it in a practical way. The latter were in the majority. It was by their means that the political revolution in favour of Christianity was brought about. They were not fastidious about the commandments of Christ which forbid the use of the sword or identification with the politics of the present evil world. Therefore they felt themselves at liberty to plot and intrigue and fill the army and offices of State, and set up a military champion in Constantine. The other class, described (v17) as “those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ”, were the minority, an element – a remnant in the midst of others. Broadly viewed, they were both one community and therefore in relation to the Pagan dragon, one woman. In another relation of things, they were two – the one the shell, the other the kernel – the one the shadow, the other the substance. To the one class, Jesus tells us he will say in the day of account, “I never knew you” (Matt.7:23). To the other, he will unite himself in glorious marriage as a bridegroom to a bride. In the ultimate aspect of things, the latter class only are the woman – the Bride, the Lamb’s wife; and although in relation to the aspects of human history, the nominal are part of the woman as well as the true, yet in even the current recognitions of Christ, the true only are the woman. The false are finally symbolized in the Apocalypse as a shameless prostitute. – *Thirteen Lectures, page 102.*

The Woman of Revelation 12

Rev 12:2,5

“And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered...

“And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron...”

- Christian community pregnant with iniquity
- Gives birth to a man-child





Who Is The Man-Child?

- He is to rule all nations with a rod of Iron (v5)
- He is caught up to God and to his throne (v5)
- He is given the name Michael (meaning: Who is like God) – v7
- He commands angels (v7)
- He wages war against the dragon (pagan Rome) and casts him to the earth (i.e. out of the political heavens) – v7-9
- He conquers in the name of Christ (v11)
- He establishes a Kingdom of God on earth (v10)

CONSTANTINE

CONSTANTINE

Full Name: Flavius Valerius Aurelius Constantinus

AKA: Constantine the Great, Constantine I, Saint Constantine

Born: Feb. 27, 272

Father: Constantius Flavious

Death: May 22, 337 (66yrs)

Mother: Helena



Notable Achievements:

- First Christian Roman Emperor
- Reversed Persecutions of Diocletian
- Signed Edict of Milan (313) giving religious toleration
- Re-united the Empire under one head
- Transformed Greek colony Byzantium into new imperial residence, Constantinople

Constantine's Rise to Power

- V2 – Pregnant woman travailing in giving birth and pained to be delivered
- V4 – Dragon stands ready to devour woman's child when it was ready to be delivered
- V5 – Woman gives birth to the man-child
- V5 – Child caught up to God and to His throne
- *V6 – Woman flees into wilderness*
- V4 – Dragon's tail draws 1/3 of stars of heaven and casts them to the earth
- V7 – War in Heaven: Michael vs The Dragon
- V9 – Dragon cast out of Heaven into the earth



The Empire in the time of Constantine

< 285 AD

Emperor: Diocletian

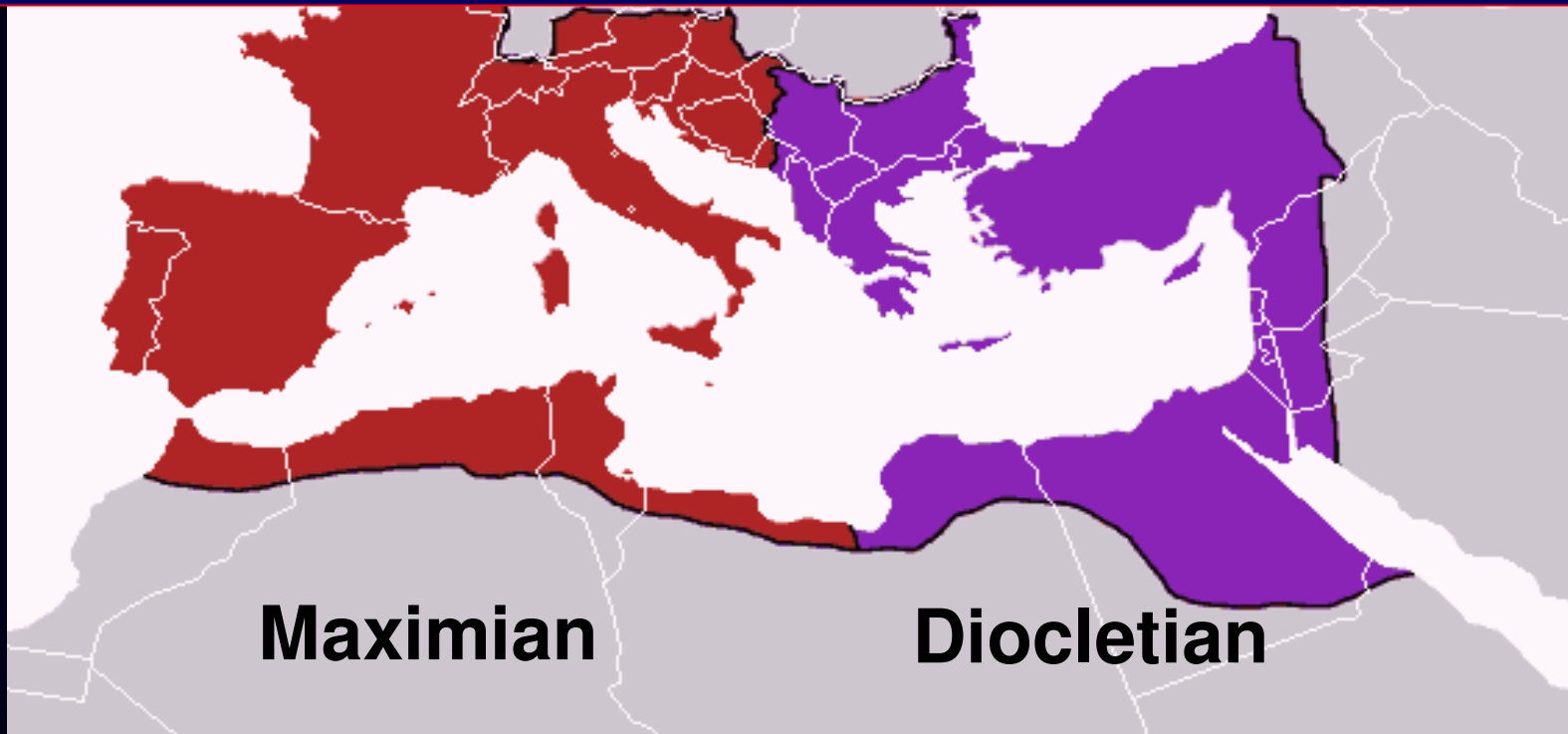


The Empire in the time of Constantine

285 - 293 AD

Emperor: Diocletian

“Each emperor would have his own court, his own military and administrative faculties, and each would rule with a separate [praetorian prefect](#) as chief lieutenant. Maximian ruled in the West, from his capitals at [Mediolanum](#) ([Milan](#), [Italy](#)) or [Augusta Treverorum](#) ([Trier](#), [Germany](#)), while Diocletian ruled in the East, from [Nicomedia](#) ([İzmit](#), [Turkey](#)). The division was merely pragmatic: the Empire was called "indivisible" in official panegyric, and both emperors could move freely throughout the Empire.”



The Tetrarchy – Rule of 4

293 AD

Emperor: Diocletian



Augustus:
Senior
Emperors

Caesar:
Junior
Emperors

