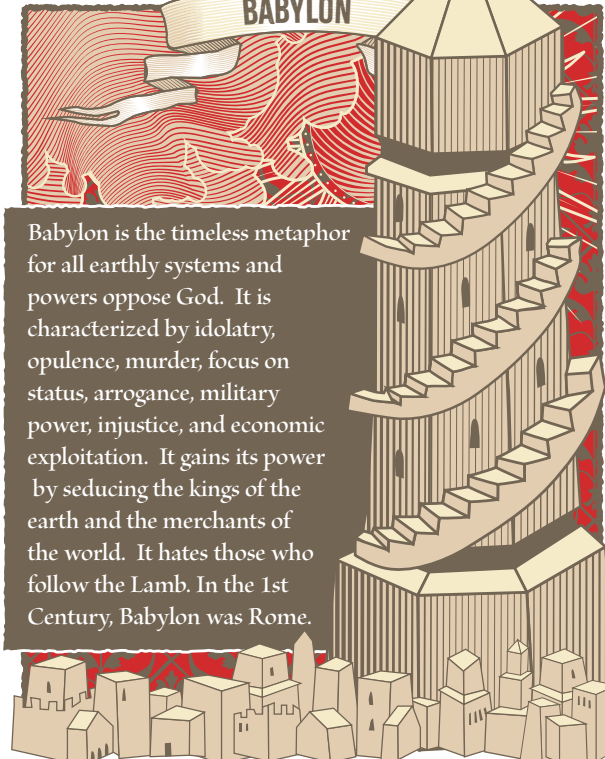


## THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH



The Beast from the Earth spreads propaganda for the Dragon. It looks like the Lamb but acts like the Dragon, performing fake miracles, and deceiving the world. It forces humans to accept "the mark of the beast."

## BABYLON



Babylon is the timeless metaphor for all earthly systems and powers oppose God. It is characterized by idolatry, opulence, murder, focus on status, arrogance, military power, injustice, and economic exploitation. It gains its power by seducing the kings of the earth and the merchants of the world. It hates those who follow the Lamb. In the 1st Century, Babylon was Rome.

# THE BOOK OF

# Revelation

## Introduction

### CHAPTER 1

Letters of challenge and encouragement to the seven 1st Century churches in Asia Minor, present day Turkey

### CHAPTERS 2 - 3

### The First Telling

### CHAPTERS 4 - 11

The first telling of the story focuses on the protagonists, God and the Lamb. It begins in heaven (4-5) where God commissions the Lamb to carry out his plan to restore His reign on earth. The plan involves a series of judgments against the powers of this earth (6-10) and culminates in the triumph of the Lamb over the world (11). This first telling of the story celebrates the authority of God and the Lamb and reveals the full extent of his power.

### The Story of

### GOD Establishing

His rule on Earth Through a

### Cosmic Battle Between

Good and Evil

Early Church tradition identifies the author as either John, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, or a different individual known as John the Elder. Based on the writing style, it is likely that John was a Jewish Christian who spent some time in Palestine.

### Author

The Book of Revelation was written in the genre of apocalyptic literature, which was commonly used by Palestinian Jews from around 200 BC to 100 AD. Apocalyptic literature often uses symbols and includes fantastical images and beings. There is no direct equivalent to this genre today, although fantasy literature, such as *The Lord of the Rings*, shares some similarities.

### Genre

### The Second Telling

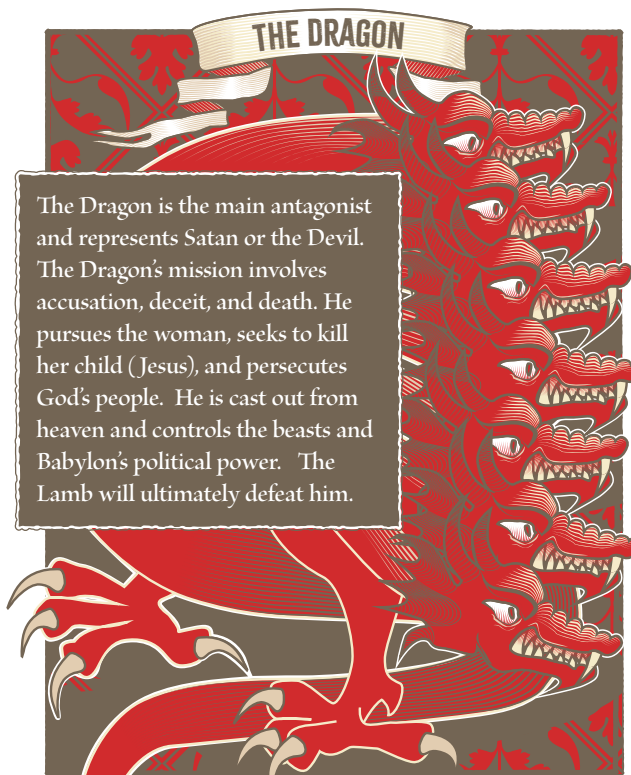
### CHAPTERS 12 - 22

The second telling of the story focuses on the main antagonist, the Dragon, who represents Satan. The Dragon attempts to kill the king-child but is defeated and cast out from heaven (12). In

his anger, the Dragon calls out two powerful beasts from the Sea to wage war against God's people (13-14). God responds by waging war against the power of the Dragon which is concentrated in the city of Babylon (15-19). In the end, God triumphs and establishes his reign on earth (20-22).

## THE END

## THE DRAGON



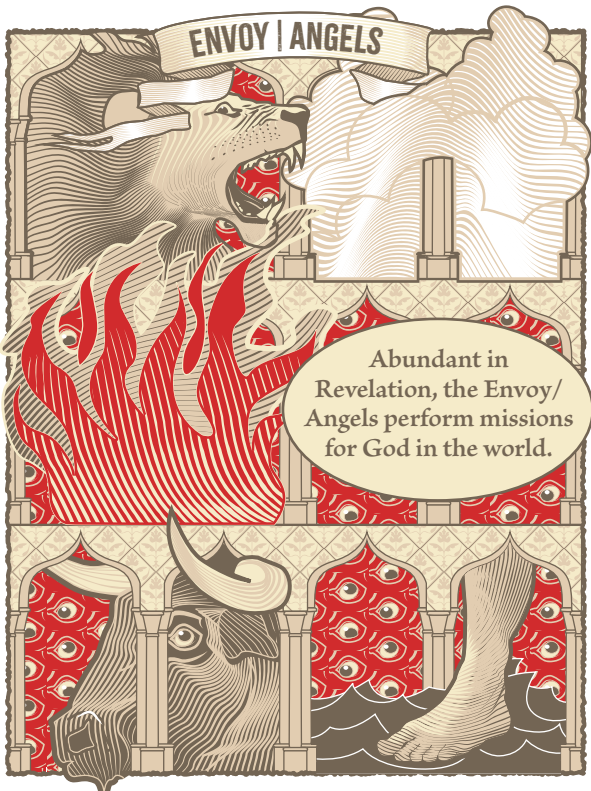
The Dragon is the main antagonist and represents Satan or the Devil. The Dragon's mission involves accusation, deceit, and death. He pursues the woman, seeks to kill her child (Jesus), and persecutes God's people. He is cast out from heaven and controls the beasts and Babylon's political power. The Lamb will ultimately defeat him.

## THE BEAST FROM THE SEA



The Beast from the Sea does the will of the Dragon by ruling over evil empires. Humans worship it; it represents chaos, power, deception, and opposition to the Lamb.





### ENVOY | ANGELS

Abundant in Revelation, the Envoy/Angels perform missions for God in the world.



### THE WOMAN

The woman appears to morph from Eve, to Israel, then to Mary (the mother of Jesus), and finally the Church. The Dragon tries to kill her baby (Jesus), but she escapes. However, the Dragon goes after her offspring (God's people).

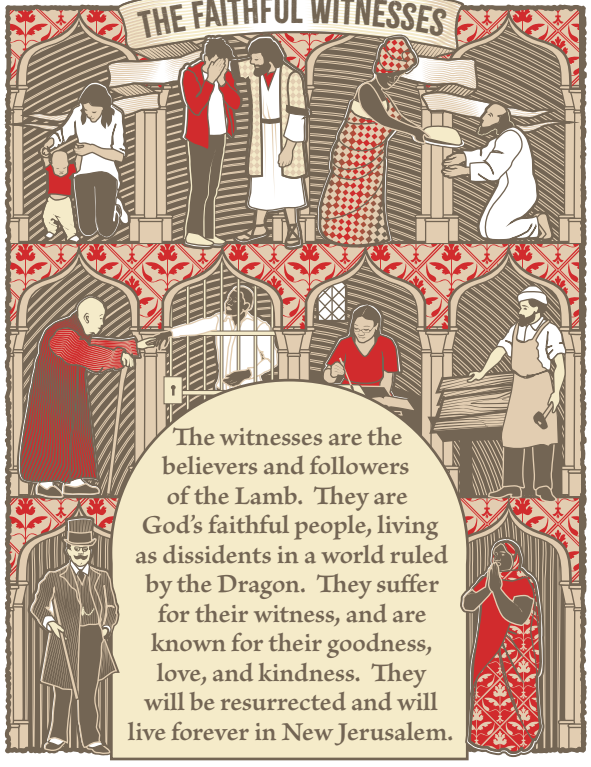


### GOD ON THE THRONE

The God of Israel, the Father, the sovereign God over all, who orchestrates the events of the story to establish His reign on earth. God will defeat the Dragon, banish death, and establish life in New Jerusalem. To Him belongs all glory and honor.

### THE LAMB

The Lamb is the main protagonist of the story. He is the Lord Jesus Christ. Through his sacrifice, he gains the authority to execute God's plan of salvation. The Lamb will triumph over the forces of the Dragon and dwell with his people in New Jerusalem.



### THE FAITHFUL WITNESSES

The witnesses are the believers and followers of the Lamb. They are God's faithful people, living as dissidents in a world ruled by the Dragon. They suffer for their witness, and are known for their goodness, love, and kindness. They will be resurrected and will live forever in New Jerusalem.



### NEW JERUSALEM

New Jerusalem is the ideal future city (world) designed by God. It will be home to those who wish to dwell in God's presence and with whom God resides. It is heaven on earth.