

*"Aunt Kate"*

**TEACHES**

**REVELATION**

**VISUALIZED**

A presentation of Revelation for Children of all ages.

Adaptable for Young People and Adults.

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## LESSON 14

### THE TRINITY OF SATAN

SCRIPTURE FOR TEACHER: Revelation 12:13; Zechariah 12:10; Isaiah 4:4; 25:7-9; 59:20-21; 60:1-3, 20-21; Romans 11:26; Genesis 37:5-10.

MEMORY VERSE: "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony" Revelation 12:11a.

APPROACH: As we get into our faith plane today, we need to go in two directions. We need to go into the past, and remember Joseph's dream in Genesis 37, and then go into the future to see this dream fulfilled, for we find it in our lesson today. The scene we will see comes out of the seventh trumpet and the third woe. (Review first six trumpets very briefly so the children will see the connection between this lesson and the previous ones.)

In his dream, Joseph saw his father and mother as the sun and moon, and the twelve sons as stars. From this family came the whole nation of Israel, God's chosen earthly people. Some day, when God turns them from their sins, His people will be the ruling nation of the world (Isaiah 2:2, 3).

In the book of Revelation, we see the nation of Israel pictured as a woman, clothed with the sun, perhaps like this glorious sun-halo which we see in our picture. Her feet are standing on the moon, and she has a crown of twelve stars on her head. This tells us that in the future, when Israel stands redeemed in the light of the Lord Jesus, she will reflect His glory as she rules and leads the other nations of the earth (Isaiah 60:1-3). The twelve tribes, represented here by the twelve stars in the crown, will be rulers to govern under their sovereign King, the Lord Jesus (Matthew 19:28).

PRESENTATION: What a wonderful day it will be when Jesus is King, when His chosen people have returned to Him, and when all the earth is governed in righteousness! But that time will not come until after what happens in our story today.

As we trace the story of God's chosen people, let us start with what happened to them long ago. In Old Testament days, they turned away from God and worshipped idols many times. They refused to hear God's message through the prophets, and did not turn away from their sins.

Later, when God sent His Son from heaven, the people refused Him too. How sad it was that He came unto His own, but His own received Him not. So God let them have their own way, and He turned to the gentiles (non-Jews) to choose from among them a group of believers during this church age. When the Church is completed, God will return to His work with Israel as a nation (Zechariah 13:9).

Now let us see how Satan has tried again and again to hinder God's plan. The Lord Jesus was born a Jew in the flesh (Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2, 3; Galatians 4:4; Romans 9:4-5). (*Point out manger.*) At that time Satan, through King Herod, tried to kill the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:13), but God saved His life until time for Him to die for our sins (*cross*). Here again Satan was defeated, for the Lord Jesus rose from the dead the third day, and is now seated at the right hand of His Father (*throne*) until He shall rule on the throne of David as King over the whole earth (*crown*). (See Zechariah 14:9.)



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Satan still hates the Lord Jesus and Israel, God's chosen earthly people. In Revelation 12, we see him again trying to destroy them. For there is a war being fought in heaven. Michael and his angels, on the side of God, fight against Satan and his angels.

How is Satan described here? "A great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his head." A dragon pictures great power, fury and cruelty. The heads, horns and crowns on the dragon stand for power, leadership and authority.

The result of the war in heaven is that Satan comes out losing. He and his angels are thrown out of heaven onto the earth. When this happens and Satan sees that he has only a very short time left, he turns all his anger on the nation of Israel.

Satan sends out a flood of people (compare Revelation 17:15) to persecute and kill the people of Israel, just as the Nazis did in World War II. But the other nations overcome this flood of persecutors. Satan then becomes very angry over the escape of Israel, and turns on the Jews who are witnessing for Jesus (Israel's remnant). But God gives Israel a place of refuge in the wilderness for three and a half years. There He will provide for them as He once did for forty years when Moses led them out of Egypt into their own land. How wonderful it is that God is always able to protect His own! Now at last Israel can see that God's Word is true, that the Lord Jesus really is the promised Saviour, and that Satan is only a tricky deceiver.

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Satan's method of deceitful rule is to try to imitate and counterfeit God's rule. Notice how Satan has his trinity also (Revelation 16:13; 19:20; 20:2, 10).

To see how Satan is against God in all his deceitful imitations, we will use the word "anti," which means "against." Satan, the great dragon, (*point out*) is anti-God. In contrast to God the Father, Whose Son, the Lord Jesus, is the world's true ruler, Satan is the father of the false world ruler, a very wicked man described in Revelation as "the beast."

The beast, (*point out leopard*) who rules over seven major kingdoms, is anti-Christ. The power which he employs to rule on earth and be worshipped for three and a half years, is given to him by the dragon, Satan (I John 2:22).

Many nations today use beasts as their emblems. For example, Great Britain uses the lion and Russia uses the bear. The power of the Anti-Christ is pictured by these emblems: the swift leopard, the strong bear, and the mighty lion. (Compare Daniel 7:7.) The ten rulers of the beast's kingdom will speak evil of God.

The third person of Satan's trinity is represented by a beast out of the earth. (*Point out lamb with horns.*) He is also called the "false prophet." Our pictures show that he stands against the Holy Spirit and tries to counterfeit His power. In contrast to the Holy Spirit, Who leads us to worship Christ, this ruler causes "the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast."

The false prophet is described as having two horns, which stand for sources of power. Perhaps this means he will join idol worship to government power. He looks like a lamb, but speaks like a dragon. He is a powerful deceiver, hiding behind the mask of a peacemaker.

The false prophet also has the ability to work many miracles. The people marvel and believe in him when he is given power to bring down fire from heaven. (Compare II Thessalonians 2:9-12; II Peter 2:1-3, 12, 19.)

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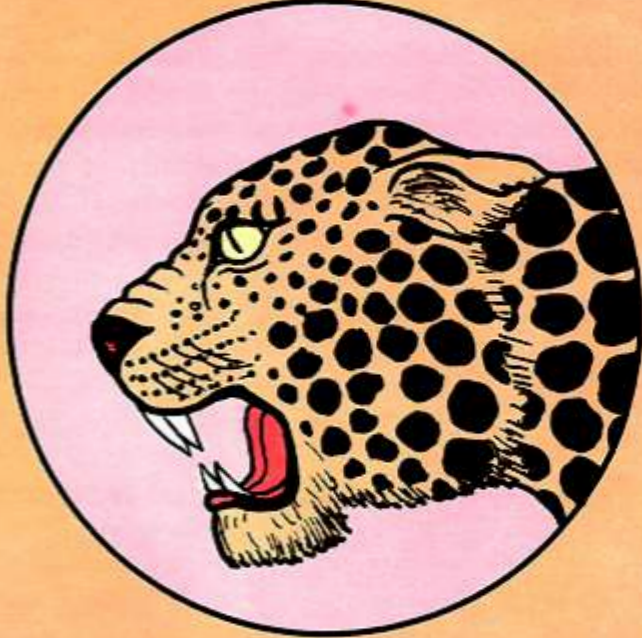
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The false prophet makes a great statue that can speak, and commands that all who will not worship this image must be killed. Perhaps this image is the "god of forces" that Daniel tells us about (Daniel 11:38). No one can have a job or buy food, clothes or anything else unless he denies the Lord Jesus and claims to believe and worship the Anti-Christ. (*Show picture of man depicting Anti-Christ.*) God gives us his number; it is 666, the number of man. He will be a man of much cunning and power. He will have great plans for solving the many deep problems of the world. People will admire him, praise him and follow him. They will believe him to be their hope for a better world.

But they are terribly mistaken. (*Remove picture of man.*) John saw him as he really is, a deceitful, terrible person. He describes him as a wild beast like a leopard with feet like a bear, and a mouth like a lion. The ten horns with crowns stand for ten nations who give their power to this world ruler. When he is firmly in power he shows his true nature. He speaks terrible things against God and those in heaven. He makes war on God's people all around the earth. He rules over every nation and every tribe.

**APPLICATION:** God shows us what great power Satan has! We see how he can deceive people, even working counterfeit miracles and causing people to worship a counterfeit God. We also see how he can persecute God's chosen people Israel, making them suffer.

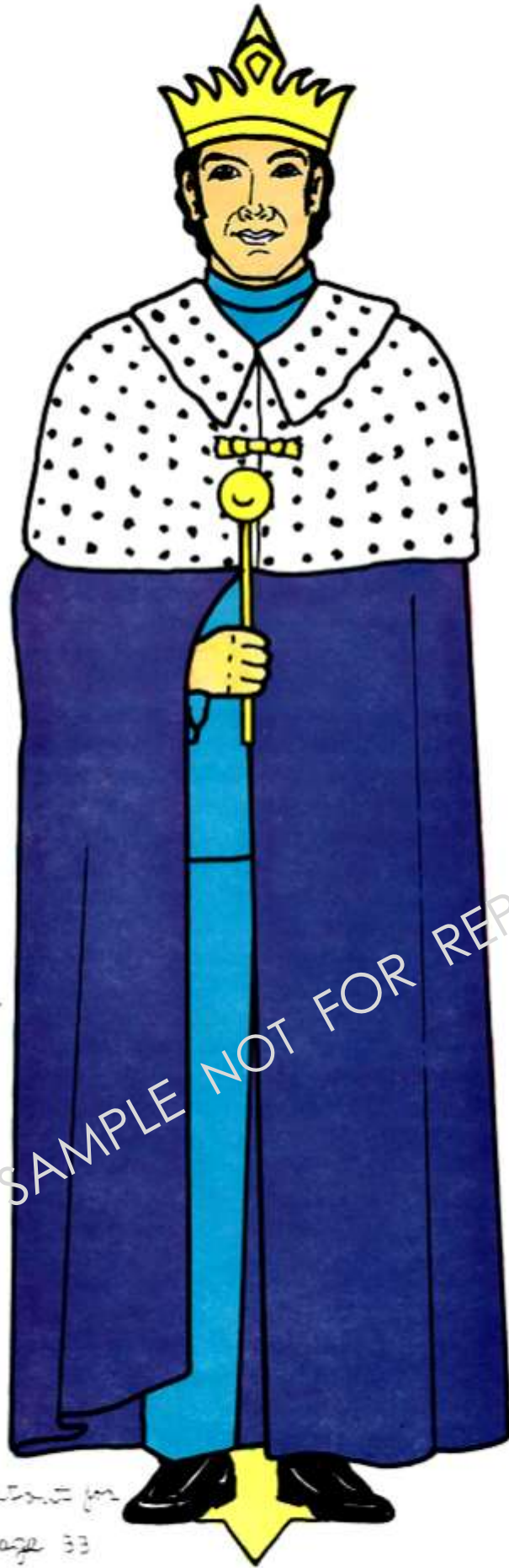
But although Satan is strong, we see that God is still stronger. In spite of all Satan does, God will save a chosen remnant for Himself.

As we see what Satan will do in the future, we don't want to forget that he is still trying to use his wily tricks on us today. He can fool us also if we do not know God's Word and trust the Lord Jesus.

(*Turn back to page 31.*) Today we are on God's side (*point out God's Trinity*) or on Satan's side (*point to Satan's group*). You must choose. (*Close with prayer and let those who have questions remain after class.*)

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