

The Dragon (5/18/25)

Discussion Questions

Summary: A scary red dragon emerges in Revelation 12, but dragons and monsters actually appear throughout the Bible! Humans created in God's image were meant to rule over the beasts, but were deceived by a beast (serpent) and lured into sin. With sin always crouching in the shadows, waiting to pounce on us, we are all vulnerable to the temptations of the world, our own sin and the devil. But we can stand firm in the Lord if we 1) take refuge in His protection; 2) rest in the finished work of Christ and; 3) resist temptation by trusting in Jesus and testifying to His grace and power.

"The LORD said to Cain, '...Sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.'" Genesis 4:7

How to Stand Firm in the Lord:

1. Take **Refuge** in His protection
 - The way God protected Israel, Mary and Joseph is how He protects all of His people: **Adorning** us with His glory (v. 1), strengthening us in our **Suffering** (v. 2, 6, 14), and **Fighting** our greatest enemies for us (v. 7-9, 15-16)
2. Rest in the **Finished** Work of Christ
 - Jesus **Triumphed** over sin, death and the devil through His death and **Resurrection** (v. 5, 7-11)
3. Resist the world, your own sin and the devil by **Trusting** in Jesus and **Testifying** to His grace and power (v. 3-4, 10-11)
 - We should expect fierce **Opposition** to our message, since Jesus **Divides** the good from the evil (v. 17; Ps. 2)

"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed... Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him." Psalm 2:1-2, 10-12

Get Started:

1. Read Genesis 1:20-21. "Great sea creatures" there means "great dragons" or "huge sea serpents." What does it tell us about these beasts that they were made on day 5?
2. What is your favorite dinosaur? Why?

Dig Deeper:

3. Read Revelation 12:1-17. What stands out to you in this passage?
4. What do you think the woman represents in v. 1-2?
5. What does the dragon represent in v. 3-4?
6. Who is the male child in v. 5 and what does God's protection remind you of (think about Israel and Jesus)?
7. What do v. 7-12 teach us about spiritual warfare? How do we defeat the devil and his minions? (See v. 11)

8. How does God protect the woman in v. 13-17? What Old Testament stories does this bring to mind?

Move Forward:

9. Read Ephesians 6:10-20. What kind of battle are we actually fighting?
10. What resources has God given us for this spiritual warfare?
11. How can we pray for you to stand firm in the Lord this week?