

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Ten

Dragon and Beast, False Authority

In the book of Revelation we read of a seven head ten horn dragon which is also called Satan, that old serpent, and the devil: Rev 12:3 "And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads." Since the number ten is associated with the subject of law, commandment, and authority and the word, horn, is associated with authority we see that the dragon possesses authority and gives commandments and laws. The problem with the dragon's authority is that it is a false authority that is not derived from God, but is the result of rebellion and the dragon's own might. This authority is in direct conflict with the authority of God.

This conflict in authority was manifest in the Garden of Eden. God had told the man that he was not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, for in the day he ate thereof, he would surely die. In conflict with this authority the serpent told the woman, Gen. 3:4 "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." When Adam and Eve followed the serpents authority they both sinned and died. We sin when we follow the dragon's authority.

Furthermore, the dragon caused a beast to rise up out of the sea: Rev. 13:1 "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority." Notice that the power, seat, and great authority of the beast was given to it by the dragon. The beast was in the dragon's image and had been given its authority by the dragon. This is a false authority.

As children of God, we should recognize that the authority of the dragon and the authority of the beast is a false authority and is in opposition to the well-being of God's children. We should stand in opposition of this false authority and false laws

and commandments that come forth from the dragon and the beast. We derive our true authority from God and we are under the laws and commandments of God and not under the laws and commandments of the dragon or the beast.