



The Church in Revelation

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A. Spiritual War

Understanding the Church's War

- ◆ Christ is our head and our king
- ◆ We follow him
- ◆ We follow him in spiritual war
- ◆ Against the attacks of Satan and his hosts

B. Counterfeiting

Satan's Assistant: Rev. 13:1

Satan (12:3)

- ◆ **Dragon**
- ◆ **7 heads**
- ◆ **10 horns**
- ◆ **Crowns on heads**
- ◆ **Pattern**



Assistant (13:1)

- ◆ **Beast**
- ◆ **7 heads**
- ◆ **10 horns**
- ◆ **Crowns on horns**
- ◆ **Reflected image**



Imaging

– God
the Father

Christ
the Son (Col. 1:15)

◆ God

Adam



Counterfeiting



◆ Dragon

Beast (Rev. 13:1)

Pattern

Reflected Image

Counterfeit Trinity

Original	Function	Counterfeit
◆ The Father	originates	◆ Dragon
◆ Christ the Son	executes	◆ Beast
◆ Spirit	witnesses	◆ False Prophet

The Beast Counterfeits Christ

Christ	Feature	Beast
19:12	Diadems	13:1
19:11,12,16	Name	13:1
12:5,10	Power	13:2
1:18	Resurrection	13:3,12
1:6	Worship	13:4
Exo. 15:3,11-12	Praise	13:4
14:1; 7:3	Seal	13:16
5:9	Nations' allegiance	13:7-8

Eschatological War



**Divine Holy
Warrior (19:11-16)**

**Abyssal Unholy
Warrior (13:1-8)**

Failure of the Beast

- ◆ Symbolically speaking, he is a **beast**.
- ◆ Destined to be subdued by **man**.

In Genesis 1

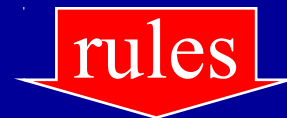
Adam



animals

In Revelation 19

Christ

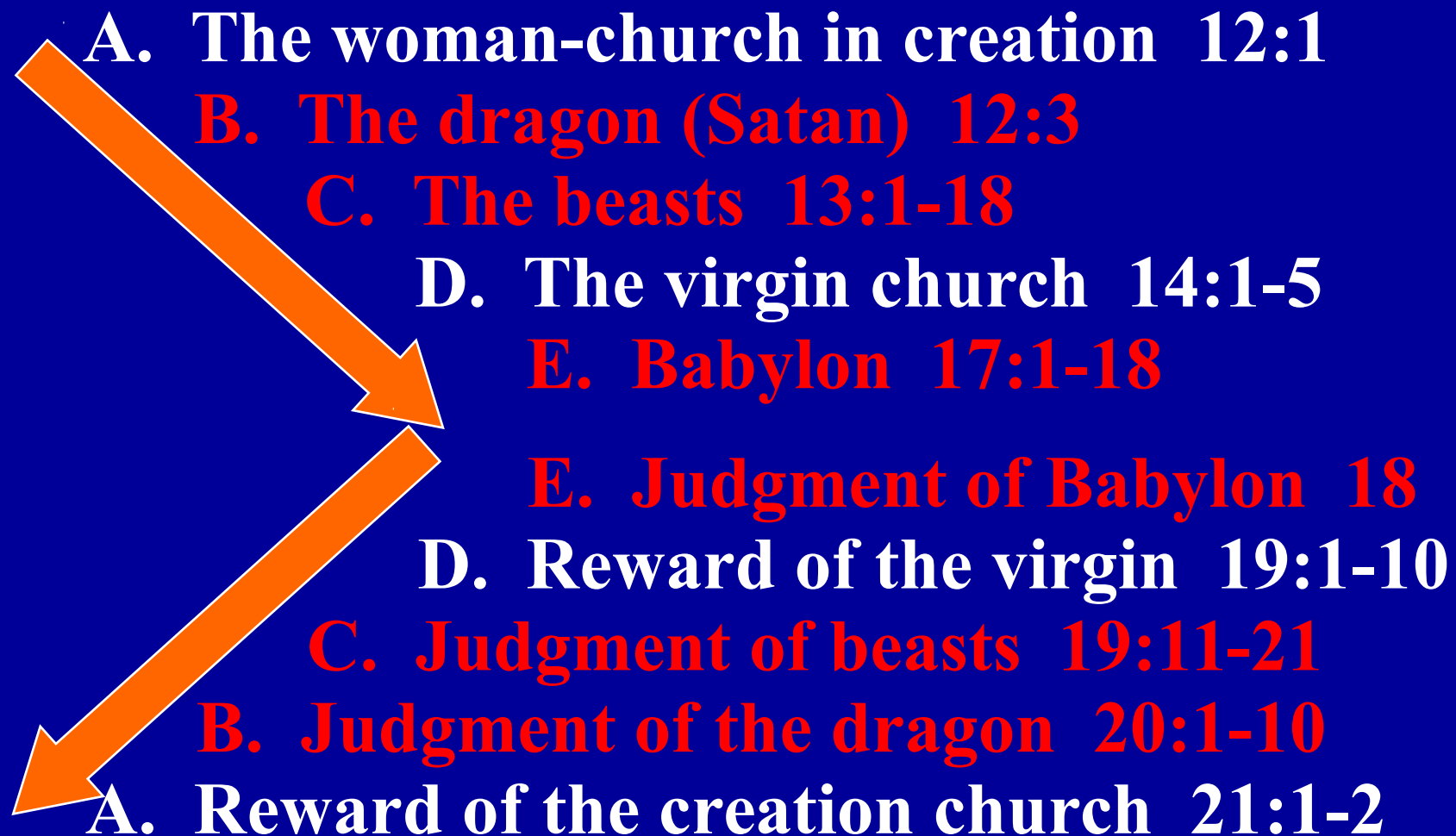


Beast

Who Counterfeits the Bride?

Original	Function	Counterfeit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The Father◆ Christ the Son◆ Spirit	<p>originates</p> <p>executes</p> <p>witnesses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Dragon◆ Beast◆ False Prophet
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Bride	<p>gather,</p> <p>worship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Prostitute

The Role of the Characters in the Course of the Battle

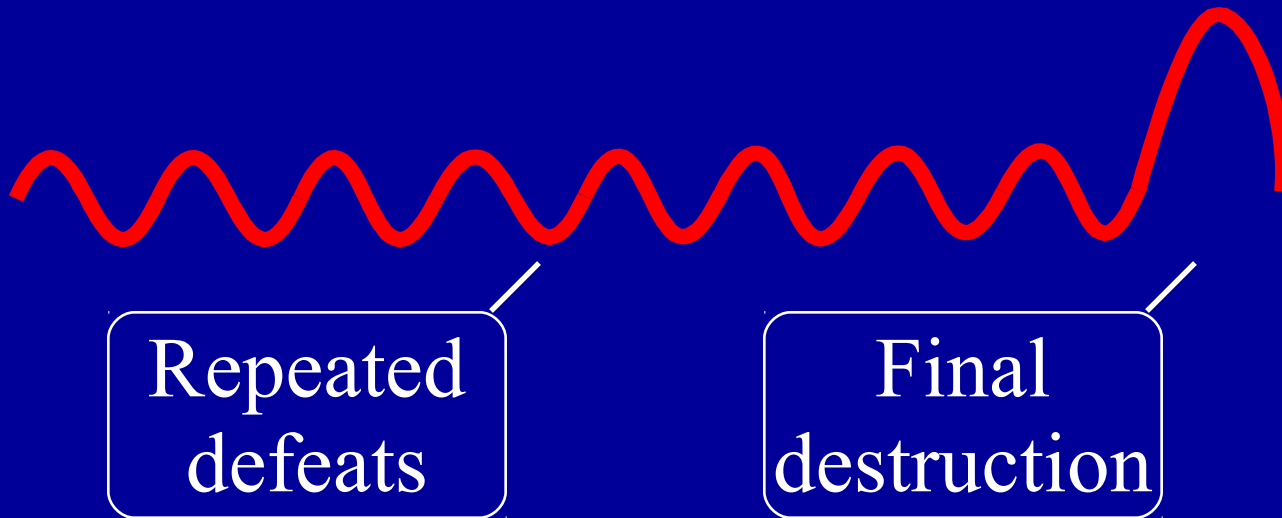


Lessons from Counterfeiting

- ◆ You are either for God or against him.
- ◆ Satan as a creature must imitate God (2 Cor. 11:14).
 - Danger in passing off the counterfeit
 - Satan is not the Creator/Originator
- ◆ Repulsiveness of the counterfeit.
- ◆ Fit punishment for followers is to be under the Beast.
- ◆ God controls Satan and all history, Job 1-2; Ps. 76:10; Rom. 8:28.

Summary of Defeats

- ◆ Spiritual war throughout history
- ◆ The dragon is repeatedly defeated
- ◆ The pattern of defeat leads up to his final destruction.



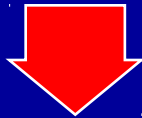
C. Role of the Beast



Bamberg Apocalypse

Background for Rev. 13:1-10

Beast of
Rev. 13:1-10

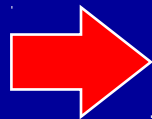


OT text

?

Daniel 7 and Rev. 13:1-10

Daniel 7



Revelation 13

- ① lion
- ② bear
- ③ leopard
- ④ iron teeth &
ten horns

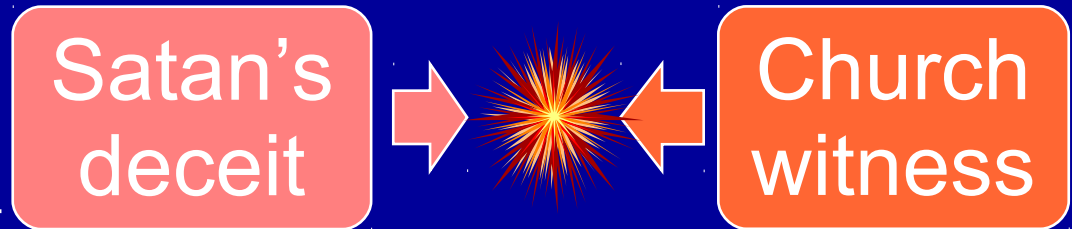
- ◆ lion's mouth
- ◆ bear's feet
- ◆ leopard
- ◆ 10 horns



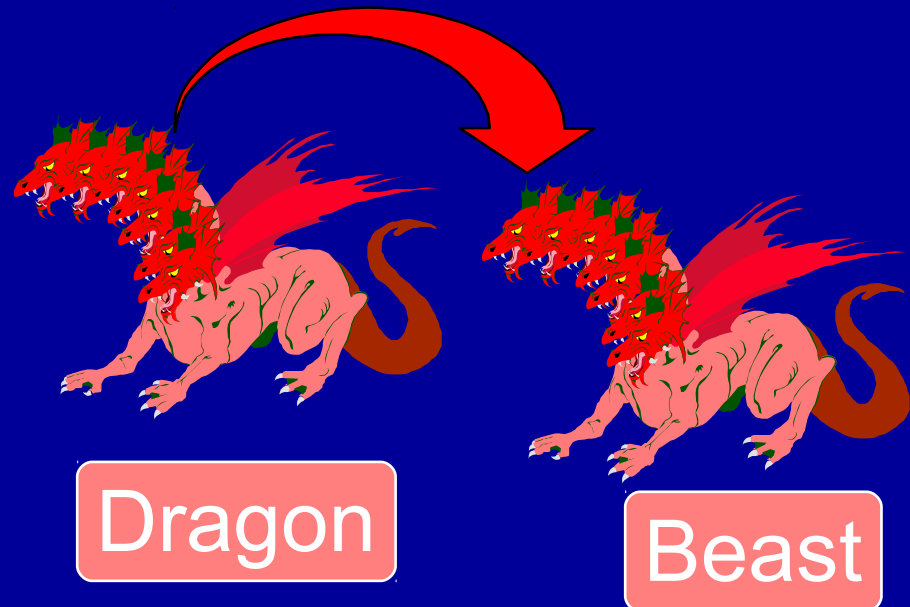
Composite horror

Satan's Counterfeit "Son"

- ◆ Rev. 12:13-17:
Satan cannot defeat the church by deceit alone.

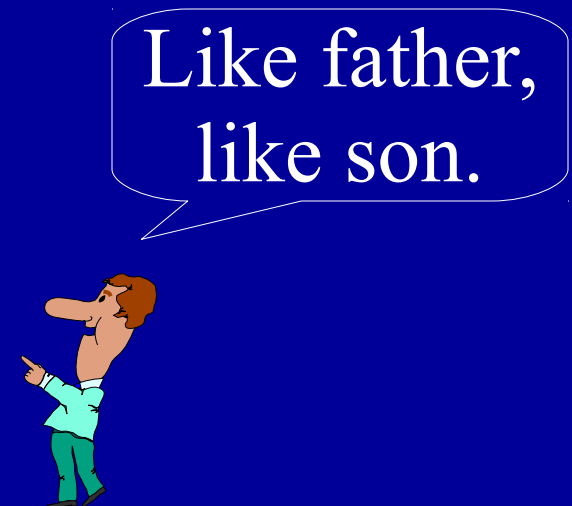
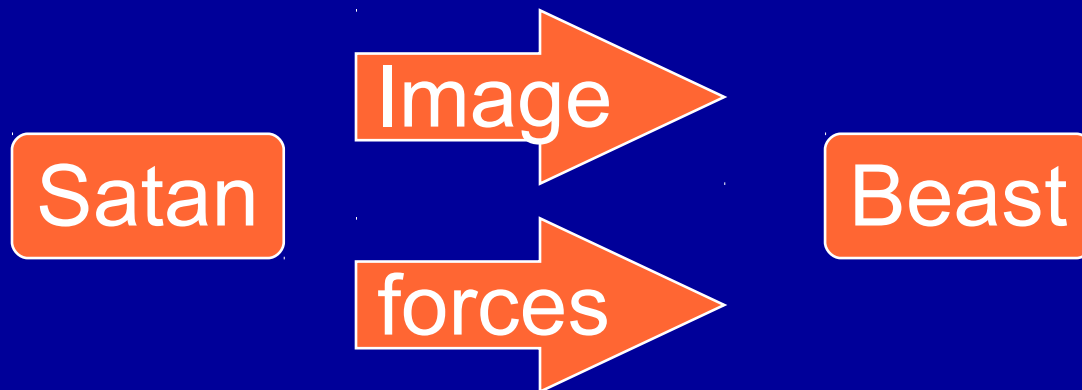


- ◆ Rev. 13:1,2,4:
he creates a monster in his image.



Repeated Manifestations

- ◆ Satan has repeated defeats (pattern or war)
- ◆ The Beast can have
 - repeated manifestations
 - and repeated defeats.



Fourfold Work of Beast

- ◆ Roman persecution ◆ Suetonius, *Domitian* 12.2.
- ◆ Final persecution ◆ 2 Thess. 2:6-8
- ◆ Persecution NOW, 2 Tim 3:1,12 ◆ Totalitarian aspirations
- ◆ Repeated persecution ◆ Dan. 7 spans this age; 2 Tim. 3:1, 12

D. The False Prophet

Two Monsters

Rev. 13:1-10

A beast
from the sea

Called
“The Beast”

Rev. 13:11-18

A beast
from the earth

Called
“The False Prophet”

Note Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10.

The False Prophet

- ◆ False Prophet assists the Beast.
- ◆ He promotes worship of the Beast, 13:12-15.
- ◆ He counterfeits the Holy Spirit.

False Prophet as Counterfeit

Holy Spirit

- ◆ Promotes worship of Christ
- ◆ Leads into truth
- ◆ Works miracles
- ◆ Exercises authority of Christ

False Prophet

- ◆ Promotes worship of the Beast
- ◆ Deceives
- ◆ Counterfeit miracles
- ◆ Exercises authority of the Beast

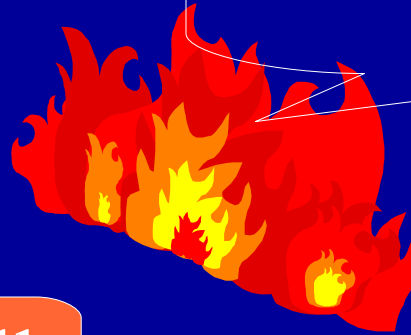
E. The Prostitute



West Flemish Apocalypse

Two Opponents

Who will defeat God's people
for me?



I will



I will



Strategy of Opposition

How?



Persecution!



Seduction with
money and sex!



Response to Opposition

Calling of the church:

Light-bearing
Witness

Endurance
(13:10)

Virgin
purity

Separation
(18:4)

Opposition:

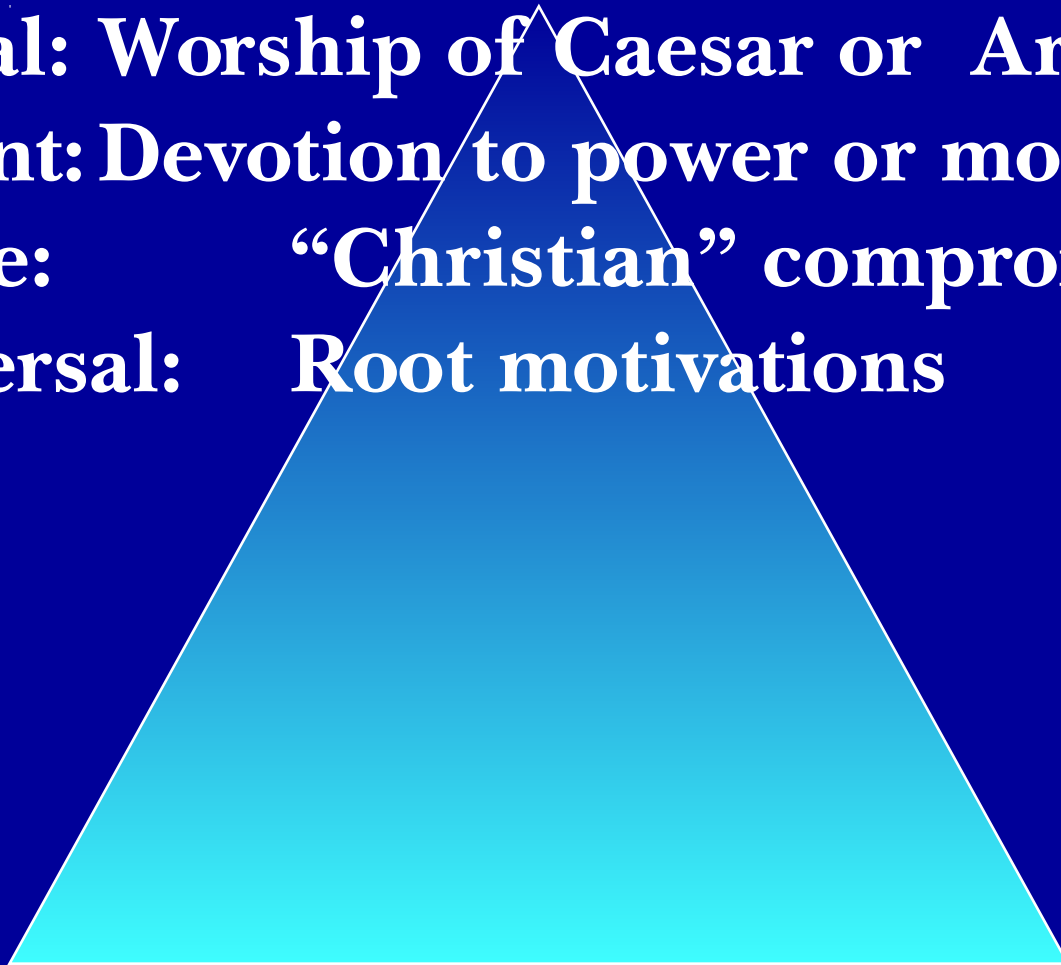
Persecuting power
of the Beast

Seductive luxury
of the Prostitute

F. Levels of Application

Forms of Idolatry

- ◆ **Literal:** Worship of Caesar or Artemis
- ◆ **Blatant:** Devotion to power or money
- ◆ **Subtle:** “Christian” compromises
- ◆ **Universal:** Root motivations



Idols in USA

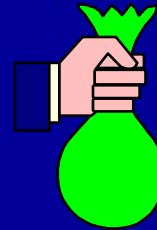
Beast

◆ **Power**
– State



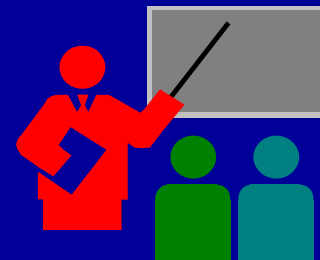
Prostitute

◆ **Pleasure**
– Leisure



False
Prophet

◆ **Propaganda**
– Education
– Media



Blatant and Subtle Idolatry

Beast

- ◆ Statism
- ◆ Manipulation
 - Pressuring
 - Pleasing man

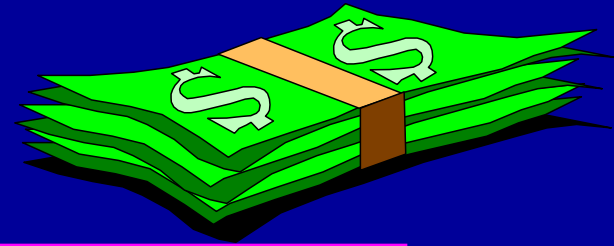
Prostitute

- ◆ Money, sex
- ◆ Fantasizing
 - Being rich
 - Sexual flirtation



It's tempting.

Money as Subtle Idol



- ◆ After a tithe, greed. It's MINE.
- ◆ Or monk's poverty.
- ◆ Or self-righteous simple life-style.
- ◆ Or Marxism (let experts do it for me).

Sex as Subtle Idol



- ◆ Promiscuity: “if it feels good, do it.”
- ◆ Selfishness within legal boundaries
- ◆ Monk’s celibacy
- ◆ Prudery: despising the body
- ◆ Feminism (let experts do it for me).

Universal Idolatry

Beast

- ◆ Fear
- ◆ Passive,
retreating
- ◆ Avoid pain
- ◆ At any cost
- ◆ For ME

Prostitute

Lustful desire
Active,
advancing
Get pleasure
At any cost
For ME

Solution for Idolatry

- ◆ Worship Satan
- ◆ Deceptive redemptions
- ◆ Fear false power
- ◆ Lust for money
- ◆ Lust for sex

False

replaced by

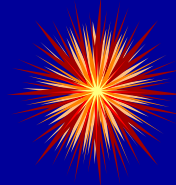
- ◆ Worship God (4)
- ◆ True redemption in the Lamb (5)
- ◆ God's Throne (22:1; 4:2)
- ◆ God's Wealth (21:21; 4:3)
- ◆ God's Marriage (19:7; 21:9)

True

Destruction of Idols

- ◆ God judges idols, 15:1.

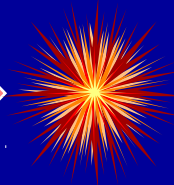
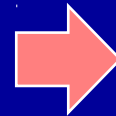
God



Beast

- ◆ Idols destroy idolaters, 17:16-17.

Beast



Prostitute

Hallelujah!



Examples of Self-Destruction

- ◆ Statism consumes wealth (communism).
- ◆ Self-pity needs suffering.
- ◆ Self-righteousness is self-willed.
- ◆ Self-love repels would-be lovers.
- ◆ God will purify you to the utmost.

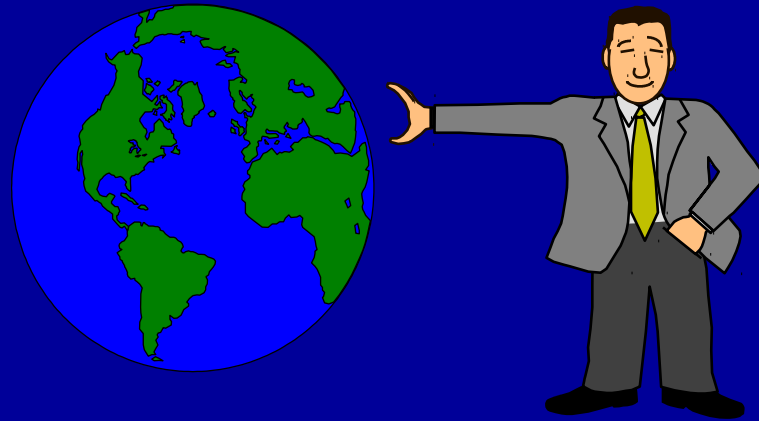
G. Truth and Error

Counterfeit Ideas

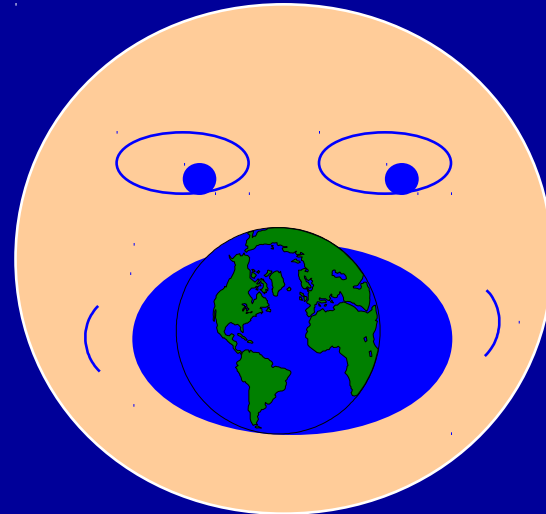
- ◆ False ideas are counterfeits
- ◆ Institutionalized
- ◆ Containing enough truth to be plausible
- ◆ Containing spiritual poison
- ◆ Originating in Satanic deceit
- ◆ Useful for Christians?

Bad Reactions to Counterfeits

◆ Pure rejection



◆ Pure acceptance



Using Counterfeit Ideas

- ◆ Extract the truth
- ◆ Set in a Christian context
- ◆ But will we fall prey to deceit?
- ◆ The importance of spiritual discernment in scholarship and cultural analysis
- ◆ Revelation as promoting discernment
- ◆ Ultimate failure of the deceit