

Sunday, September 9, 2018
Apocalypse Now: The Lion Roars
“The Holy War”
Revelation 12 & 13
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Revelation 12 & 13 (focal: 12:11)

Revelation chapters 12 & 13 help us understand our lives and times in terms of the larger picture of a cosmic battle between God and the devil, between good and evil. The Christian in this life is always at war, for he belongs to the militant church on earth. He is engaged in *holy war* not only against the world’s temptations and his own old nature, but he is also involved in a necessary, serious, spiritual, and holy war against Satan. This is a fierce battle. Thank God that Satan is only a fallen angel and does not have the power of God.

On the other hand, however, he *is* a fallen angel, and therefore is much more powerful than we are and more powerful than the church is in her own strength. Moreover, John sees two beasts rise, one from the sea (13:1) and the other from the earth (13:11). The two beasts are both allies of Satan in his war on the church. As his agents, they are invested with his power, throne, and authority. These two beasts, closely resembling their lord and prince, fight alongside Satan against the saints. We are in a *holy war*, and the believing church can only get the victory over Satan by faith in and through the Lord Jesus Christ.

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