

SERMON:

Revelation 12

The Saga of the Dragon:

Chapter 1 + 2 – The Backstory

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Revelation of John is a Christocentric book that shows us the pattern of this world from Christ's first coming to His second coming.

John wants us to see the spiritual realities around us, to recognize the dangers that face us, and to know that God is going to win.

Revelation calls us, then, to wisdom, to perseverance, and to worship.

OUTLINE OF REVELATION

Prologue (Revelation 1)

1. The Seven Churches (Revelation 2-3)

The Throne Room of Heaven (Revelation 4-5)

2. The Seven Seals (Revelation 6)

144,000 Sealed and a Great Multitude (Revelation 7)

3. The Seven Trumpets (Revelation 8-9)

The Two Witnesses (Revelation 10-11)

4. The Sevenfold Saga of the Woman and the Dragon

REVELATION 12

¹And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ²She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. ³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. ⁵She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, ⁶and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

REVELATION 12

⁷Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world---he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

REVELATION 12

¹⁰And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹²Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"

REVELATION 12

¹³And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. ¹⁵The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. ¹⁶But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. ¹⁷Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

Proposition: As the Church faces trial and tribulation on earth, She must remember (1) that she is on the front lines of a much greater war; (2) that she has a powerful enemy against her; (3) but she has a protector who is much greater.

- A. An Introduction to the Saga of the Dragon
- B. The Woman and the Dragon: A Cosmic Battle
- C. The Child Victorious and the Dragon Defeated
- D. The Dragon's Hopeless Retreat and Us

THE SAGA OF THE DRAGON

AN INTRODUCTION

The Literature at the Center of Revelation

REVELATION: SEVEN SEVENS

- 1. The Seven Churches (Revelation 1-3)**
- 2. The Seven Seals (Revelation 4-7)**
- 3. The Seven Trumpets (Revelation 8-11)**
- 4. The Sevenfold Saga of the Woman and the Dragon (Revelation 12-14)**
- 5. The Seven Bowls (Revelation 15-18)**
- 6. The Seven Final Judgments (Revelation 19-20)**
- 7. The End and the Beginning (Revelation 21-22)**

THE SAGA OF THE DRAGON: SEVEN STORIES

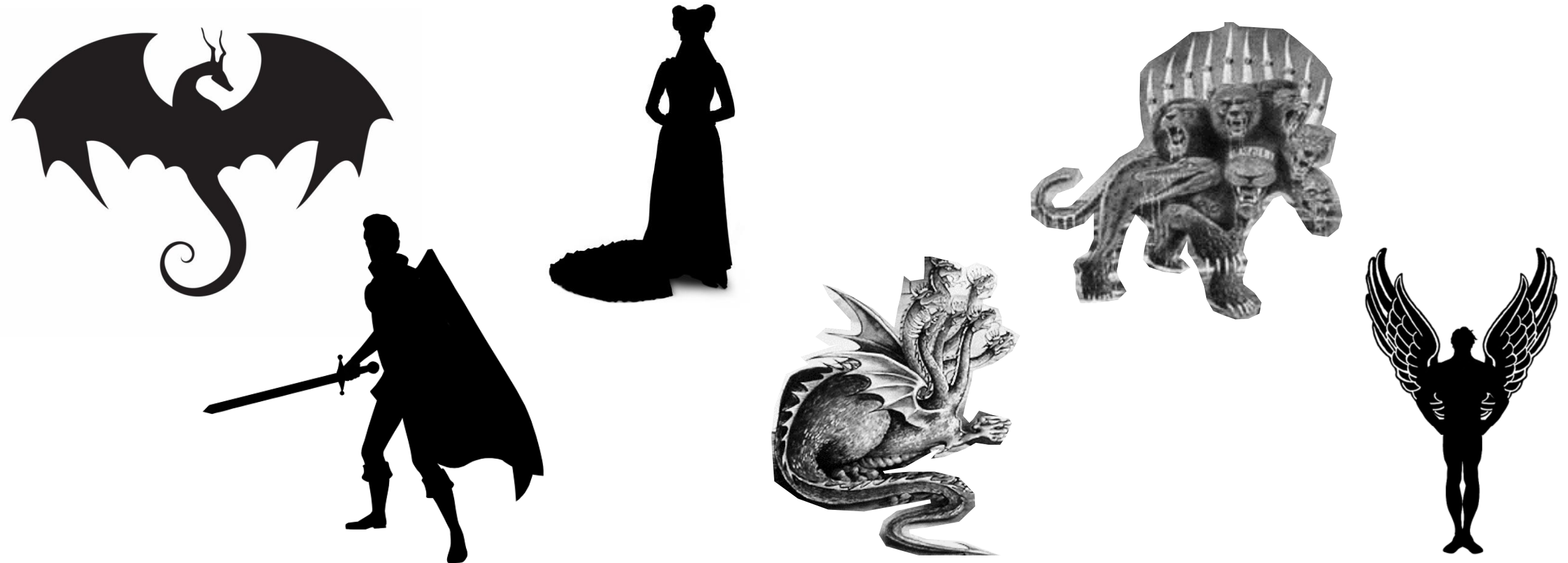
- 1. The Woman and the Dragon**
- 2. The Child Victorious and the Dragon Defeated**
- 3. The First Beast**
- 4. The Second Beast**
- 5. The Lamb and the 144,000**
- 6. The Three Angels and a Voice from Heaven**
- 7. The Harvest of the Earth**

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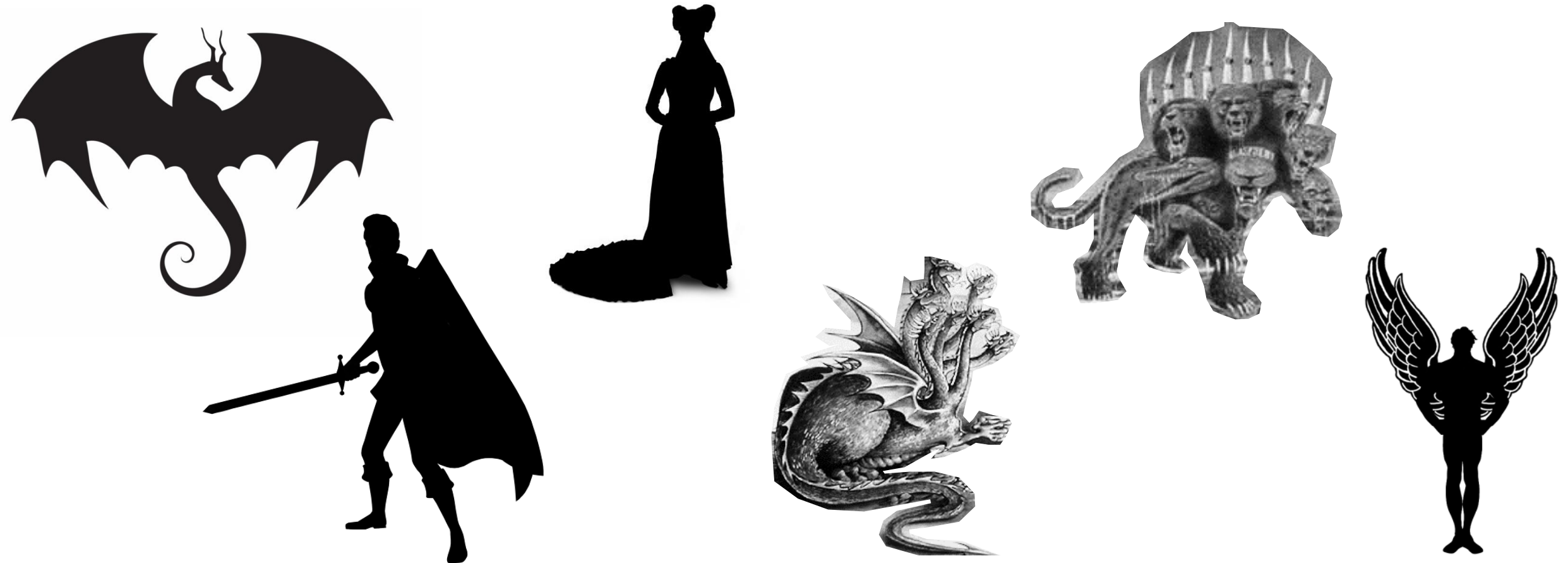
THE SAGA OF THE DRAGON: A RICH ALLEGORY

Allegory: a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning (Oxford)



THE SAGA OF THE DRAGON: A RICH ALLEGORY

Purpose: to tell a rich story that makes us feel a certain way so that when we interpret it, we see a new perspective



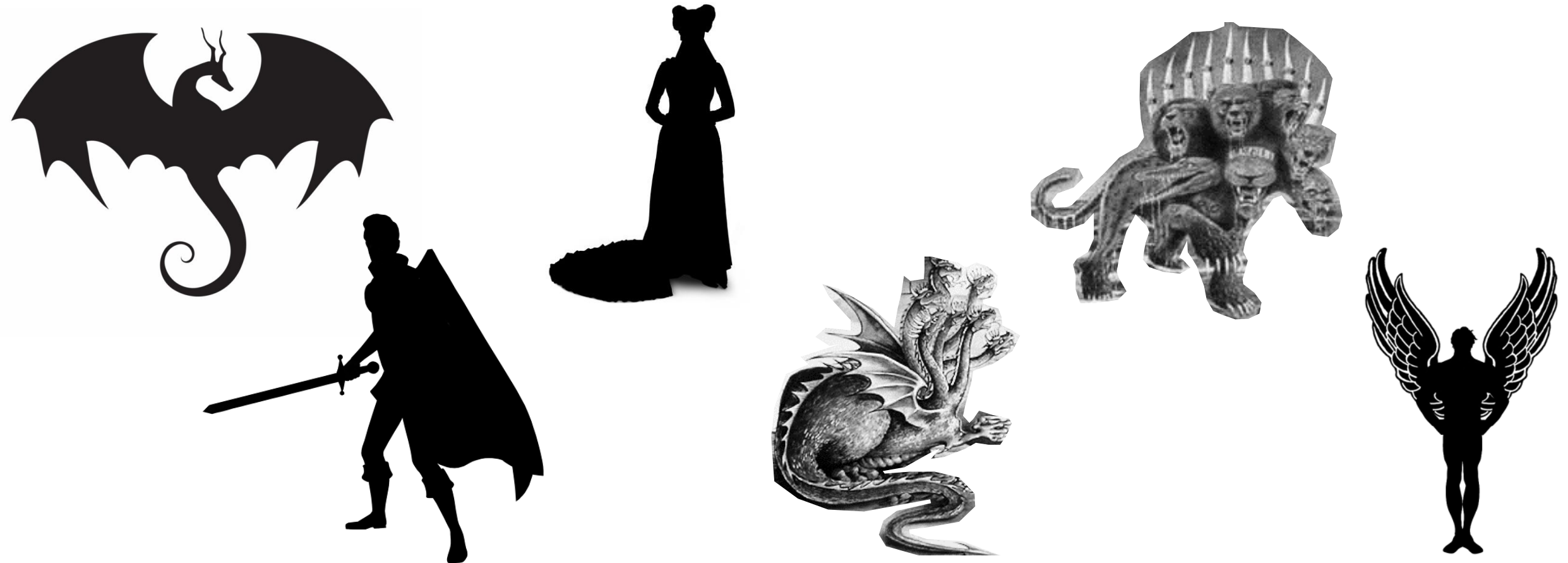
NARNIA: A (RELATIVELY) CURRENT EXAMPLE

Purpose: to tell a rich story that makes us feel a certain way so that when we interpret it, we see a new perspective



THE SAGA OF THE DRAGON: A RICH ALLEGORY

The Old Testament will define the characters of our allegory



THE SAGA OF THE DRAGON

THE WOMAN AND THE DRAGON

A Cosmic Battle

REVELATION 12:1-6

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¹And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ²She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. ³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth.

REVELATION 12:1-6

And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. ⁵She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, ⁶and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

REVELATION 12:1-4

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GENESIS 37:9-11

The whole house of Israel
God's People

⁹Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?" ¹¹And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

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GENESIS 3:14-15 **The Promised Son** **The Adamic Covenant**
The Abrahamic Covenant
The Davidic Covenant

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

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DANIEL 7:7-8

⁷After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. ⁸I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

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MATTHEW 2:16-18

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

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3.5 years: the time between the times

THE SAGA OF THE DRAGON

THE CHILD VICTORIOUS + THE DRAGON DEFEATED

The Battle Is Won

REVELATION 12:7-12

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THE SAGA OF THE DRAGON

THE DRAGON'S HOPELESS DEFEAT AND US

The War Is Not Over

REVELATION 12:13-

REVELATION 12:13-17

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KIDS' QUESTION:

**WHY DOES THE CHURCH SUFFER WHILE
WE WAIT FOR CHRIST'S RETURN?**

Because our Enemy, the Devil, hates his
defeat and wants to destroy all who
represent his Conqueror.

KIDS' QUESTION:

SO WHAT MUST WE DO WHILE WE WAIT?

Love Christ supremely so that we could
give up even our lives without loss.