

Hope you all don't mind, but today the Bulletin has only one point. May this bless your Christmas season:

- A Christmas Message

"Away in a manger,
no room for a bed,
the Little Lord Jesus..."

....Declared war. He invaded Satan's turf to destroy Sin, Death, and the Devil. To end all suffering.

I bet your favorite nativity set is missing a very important piece. The red, seven headed dragon who intends to devour Baby Jesus at his birth.

Not familiar with this part of the Christmas Story?

It comes from [Revelation 12](#). To paraphrase: The red dragon was standing "before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations."

Emmanuel, God with us, our Savior, was born into war. From the moment of his birth, Satan was on the offensive, putting Jesus in constant danger. Our Lord had to defy great odds.

First, he had to survive the unsanitary conditions of his birth. Then, a bit later, King Herod the Great tried to kill him. Jesus was taken on a harrowing trip on foot to Egypt where he and his family had to hide until the king's death. Satan continued his assault all through Jesus life; the temptation at the beginning of his ministry; turning great crowds against him. And eventually, the Dragon succeeded. Satan devours Jesus on the cross.....

But, that devil ate the poison that is "the Blood of the Lamb" (Rev 12:11). His apparent victory was his deathblow. Yes, Christ died on that Good Friday. But in that shed blood, Satan was "...thrown down" (Rev 12:10).

Defeated.

Buried with Christ were all our sins and iniquities. Then he, as the firstborn of all creation, rose again. His resurrection marked the ripping open of the barrier between us and the Father. The Dragon was put to death, and the gates of everlasting life were flung open for all who trust in this promise.

In that lonely stable, 2000 years ago, God took on flesh and made his dwelling among us so that he might wage war against all that would separate us from Him.

He won! And, the spoils of his victory are His gift to us. The only gift that matters as we gather with family and friends to celebrate his birth.

Merry Christmas! The Dragon is dead! The Baby is alive! And you are set free!

Let us celebrate this joy this holiday season!

*Adapted from [blog post](#) by Rev. Chad Bird