

the main points again...

Keeping the balloon tethered

What do you feel about evil?

Taking evil seriously
Recognising the complexity of evil

The **challenge** and the **reality** of living in a world where evil has been dealt a decisive blow but remains influential...

Threatening a wonderful life

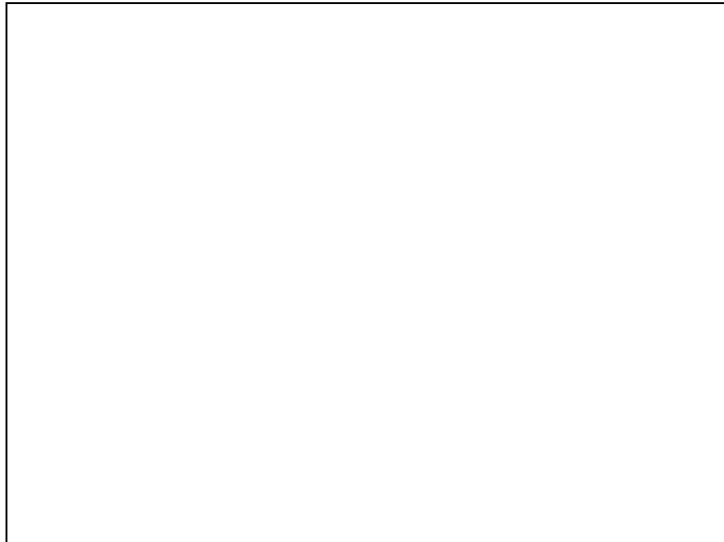
A new perspective on the Christmas story

A **Dragon** in the labour ward

A **Dragon** trying to steal your Christmas present...

Living with birth pangs (Roms 8.22) or death throes (Rev 12.12)

Choose life...(Deut 30.19)



The Unholy Trinity

The Beast from the Sea- a parody of Christ

Accepting the authority from the Dragon that Christ rejected
(Matthew 4.8-10)

'He puts blasphemies in the mouth of the state, so that it proclaims 'I am God' by demanding from its subjects a total, unconditional allegiance, such as those whose are written in the Lamb's book of life will never give to any but Christ'

'Killing the opposition is the Sea Beast's way of solving its problems. It is not ours. Ours is endurance and faith'

The Beast from the Land- a parody of the Holy Spirit

The other Beast's marketing agent offering a new brand- 666
A misleading signpost

'Dragon, Sea Beast and Land Beast are a satanic trinity that infiltrates the political world in order to deflect our worship from God whom we cannot see to the authorities we can see, and to deceive us into buying into a religion or belief system that has visible results in self-gratification'

'We're really quite nice and friendly, but everyone has a **beastly** side to them, don't they?'
- Sid Vicious

The Response of the Church

This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.

(Revelation 14.12)

What God Judges

The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness.

(Revelation 15.10)

URGENT...

**CHOOSING A GUIDE CHOOSES THE DESTINATION
BEING A GOOD SIGNPOST**

So what?

How do you feel about the word 'evil'?

Do you use the term readily?

Do we use it too lightly or should we be bolder?

How does the cross have to say about evil?

Consider Eugene Peterson's remarks:

'Killing the opposition is the Sea Beast's way of solving its problems. It is not ours. Ours is endurance and faith'

Read chapter 12 of Revelation

What does this suggest about the status of evil in the world now?

What difference does this chapter imply Jesus' life made?

What difference would it make to you if Jesus had never lived- if the Dragon took your Christmas present?

Consider the unholy Trinity of the Dragon and the two beasts...

Discuss what each seems to be doing

How significant does a choice of worship seem here?

'Dragon, Sea Beast and Land Beast are a satanic trinity that infiltrates the political world in order to deflect our worship from God whom we cannot see to the authorities we can see, and to deceive us into buying into a religion or belief system that has visible results in self-gratification'

What do you think of this statement?

The response that John seeks from his church is repeated from chapters 2-3

'This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.'

Does endurance and faithfulness mean simply 'putting up with things'?

Or can faithfulness be more than passive?

Read 15.10- what exactly is God judging here?

What should the response of our church be to these words?

Does it make mission seem more urgent? So what? **PRAY**

Sunday July 6th 2008

it's curtains

Peeping into Revelation



Beastly Behaviour?

Revelation 11.19-16.21

Devoted to Christ, people, mission