

The Second Witness

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An archive of past issues is available [here](#).

Pictured above: The original site of the Altar of Pergamum in Turkey, the structure which the Bible identifies as "Satan's Throne" (Revelation 2:13).

In 2015 we offered you lead articles drawn from our book-in-progress, *"The Soon Second Coming of Christ."* While there is much we still want to publish in this newsletter from that project, we're going to switch gears for a while and introduce to you material from a separate book-in-progress: *"Where Satan Dwells: Antichrists Through the Ages."*

This issue features an article by my son Samuel Lively.

Satan and Antichrist

*"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! **For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'** Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the pit."* Isaiah 14:12-15.

The ancient Book of Job has never been accurately dated but is believed by many to recount events roughly from the time of Abraham. In it Satan famously receives God's permission to test Job's faith and puts this blameless man, figuratively speaking, "through hell."

In Job 1:7, *"The LORD said to Satan, 'From where do you come?' Then Satan answered the LORD and said, 'From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.'"*

If the Book of Job is taken literally, it confirms that Satan's casting down to earth by God in Isaiah 14 is a past, not future event. It also supports the belief that demons "roam" the earth in a disembodied form but can "walk around on it" in a human host.

Jesus described this phenomenon in Matthew 12:43-45

"Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came'; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation."

The Book of Job indicates that Satan takes possession of human hosts in the same manner as unclean spirits do. That host then becomes the literal embodiment (in-body-ment) of evil on the earth, the person we call the Antichrist.

The Bible provides special insight into the relationship of Satan and Antichrist in Ezekiel Chapter 28. In this chapter, God gives the prophet Ezekiel two messages to deliver to the King of Tyre, an Antichrist figure. The first message in verses 1-10 address the king in his Antichrist role, while the second message in verses 11-19 speak "past" or "through" the King of Tyre to Satan himself.

The first message is to the King of Tyre as the Antichrist:

*"The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord GOD; **Because your heart is lifted up, and you have said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet you are a man, and not God, though you set your heart as the heart of God:** Behold, you are wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from you: With your wisdom and with your understanding you have gotten yourself riches, and have gotten gold and silver into your treasuries: By your great wisdom and by your trade have you increased your riches, and your heart is lifted up because of your riches#: Therefore thus says the Lord GOD; Because you have set your heart as the heart of God; Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon you, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom, and they shall defile your brightness. They shall bring you down to the pit, and you shall die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas. Will you yet say before him that slays you, I am a god? but you shall be a man, and no god, in the hand of him that slays you. You shall die the deaths of the uncircumcised by the hand of strangers: for I have spoken it, says the Lord GOD"* (Ezekiel 28:1-10).

The second message speaks "past" or "through" the King of Tyre to Satan:

“Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyre, and say unto him, Thus says the Lord GOD; **You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. You have been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering,** the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of your timbrels and of your pipes was prepared in you in the day that you were created. **You are the anointed cherub that covers;** and I have set you so: you were upon the holy mountain of God; you have walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. **You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, till iniquity was found in you.** By the multitude of your trade they have filled the midst of you with violence, and you have sinned: therefore I will cast you as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty, you have corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor: I will cast you to the ground, I will lay you before kings, that they may behold you. You have defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of you, it shall devour you, and I will bring you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold you. All they that know you among the people shall be astonished at you: you shall be a horror, and never shall you be anymore” (Ezekiel 28:11-19).

The Bible reveals quite plainly here that this King of Tyre was the Antichrist of his time, possessed by Satan.

Satan on the Earth

"Again, the devil took [Jesus] up into an exceedingly high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And said unto him, All these things will I give you, if you will fall down and worship me. Then said Jesus unto him, Begone, Satan: for it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve" (Matthew 4:8-10).

As Matthew 4 notes, Satan has authority to delegate political power and wealth to his followers in this world. He is “*the god of this world*” (2 Corinthians 4:4) and “*the prince of the power of the air*” (Ephesians 2:2). He will remain “*the ruler of this world*” (John 12:31) until the Second Coming of Christ (Revelation 19:11-18; 20:2).

He is a “*murderer from the beginning*,” and the “*Father of lies*,” whose “native language” is lying and deceit (John 8:44). His purpose is to “*steal, kill and destroy*” (John 10:10) and to enslave.

The Satanic Attributes of the Antichrist

In his spiritual form, Satan “*prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour*” (1 Peter 5:8), but when he has taken a host he can actually work in the physical world to accomplish his objectives. The host takes on the personality of Satan and reflects his nature in a variety of ways.

The following scriptures offer details about the personality of Satan/Antichrist:

“Let no one in any way deceive you, for [the Day of the Lord] will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of

destruction, who **opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship**, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, **displaying himself as being God**...For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, **the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness** for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-9).

"By your wisdom and understanding You have acquired riches for yourself And have acquired gold and silver for your treasuries. By your great wisdom, by your trade **You have increased your riches** And your heart is lifted up because of your riches" (Ezekiel 28:4-5).

"Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if **his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness**, whose end will be according to their deeds" (2 Corinthians (11:14-15).

We find additional details in the Apocryphal books 1st and 2nd Maccabees. While not inspired scripture, these books are nevertheless highly reliable historical records which document the partial fulfillment of events prophesied in Daniel 11 and the actions of the Antichrist figure Antiochus IV Epiphanes.

"He shed much blood, and spoke with great arrogance.... He plundered the city, burned it with fire, and tore down its houses and its surrounding walls. They took captive the women and children, and seized the livestock....On every side of the sanctuary they **shed innocent blood**; they even **defiled the sanctuary**....they erected a desolating sacrilege on the altar of burnt offering. They also built altars in the surrounding towns of Judah...**The books of the law that they found they tore to pieces and burned with fire.** Anyone found possessing the book of the covenant, or anyone who adhered to the law, was condemned to death by decree of the king...they **put to death the women who had their children circumcised, and their families and those who circumcised them; and they hung the infants from their mothers' necks**" (1 Maccabees 1:24-61).

We can also recognize attributes of Satan and the Antichrist in the specific worship rituals by which Satan's human followers were degraded: primarily human sacrifice of children and extreme sexual perversions involving incest, homosexuality and bestiality (Leviticus 18; 1 Kings 11:4-7). And, of course, there are various extra-biblical records that can assist us in our study.

By the examination of these sources, and looking for common denominators in the lives and actions of the individuals in Biblical history most clearly associated with Satan, we can establish a core profile of the Antichrist through the ages. We are thus looking for especially evil individuals whose actions are directed against Hebrews and/or Christians, and who display one or more of six key satanic attributes:

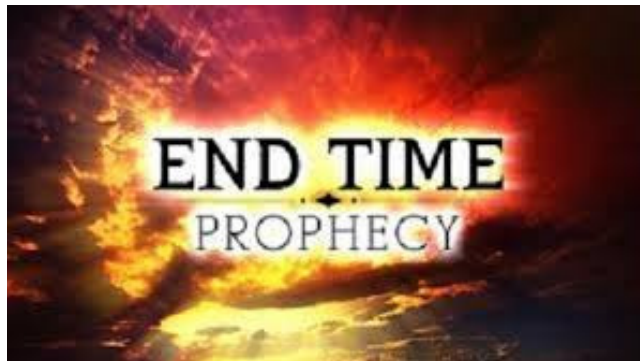
- Extreme meglomania. Often expecting worship, especially as head of a pantheon of gods. Sometimes employing vast slave armies to build monuments to himself.
- Wanton cruelty and sadism. Often involving torture, mass murder, genocide, infanticide or war, most especially targeting Jews and/or Christians.

- Enormous wealth and power -- through inheritance, theft and/or commerce.
- Sexual perversion -- especially incest, homosexuality and/or bestiality.
- Habitual lawlessness and deceitfulness.
- Insanity.

Importantly, the Antichrist does not demand worship only for himself but allows and even encourages the worship of all of his demonic underlings as well. The earthly influence of Satan's demonic kingdom is thus perpetuated even when he is absent from a host body.

##

In the next issue, we will begin unmasking the Antichrists of earliest antiquity.



Fundamentals of End-Time Prophecy

Eschatology 101A

A Certificate Program of Redemption Gate Bible College

In the Spring of 2015, I developed a 5-week class on prophecy for Redemption Gate Bible College. This newsletter will feature the material from that class over the next year as I work to refine and strengthen it for use as a correspondence course. To that end I solicit your input.

The original course featured 35 questions (seven in each class session) which were asked and answered during an interactive discussion period.

We will address one or more of those (and likely additional) questions each week in this segment of the newsletter.

Session 2: The Context for Understanding Prophecy

(Question 8 of 35)

8. Who is the Most Important Prophet of the Bible?

Jesus is our ultimate guide and authority, and He is also a prophet. Remember that the Hebrew word for prophet, Nabi, means “to bubble forth” like a fountain of living water, pouring forth the declarations of God. Jesus said : “*For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. “I know that His commandment is eternal life;*

therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me” John 12:49-50.

Who then is “The Most Important Prophet of the Bible?” Our preferred answer is:

Jesus



The Samson Option: The Biblical Case for Donald Trump

by Samuell Lively

American clergy and Christian conservative pundits have conditioned the Religious Right to hold those aspiring to national leadership to the standard of Christ. Absolute moral clarity, humility unto (political) death, compassion for enemies and strangers - these have been the virtues serious-minded believing voters have searched for in candidates. Hence the enormous early appeal of the humble, soft-spoken, gentle Ben Carson. Many others are flocking to the principled but opportunistic Ted Cruz, who adopts the cheesy Sunday morning drawl of a Southern Baptist preacher whenever he faces the camera, or to Marco Rubio (aka J.F.Que?), who commands goosebumps to rise with every impassioned salvo against Planned Parenthood and the moral bankruptcy of the Democrats.

The conditioning that draws us to these candidates also inflames every fiber of our political being to cry out against Donald Trump. He boasts incessantly. He casually drops profanity and below-the-belt insults. He never repents. He doesn't forgive or ask for forgiveness. He doesn't turn the cheek. He equivocates on the crucible issues of abortion and gay marriage. He loudly and proudly prioritizes the material over the spiritual. For Christians trained to run candidates through the eye of the needle, the Camel-sized Trump is *prima facie* no-go. Through a Christian lens, he is the world and the flesh, and all we need is a little bit of the left's politically correct reflex to tack on the devil. Hence the widespread and emphatic renunciation of Trump by Christian conservative leaders like Russell Moore and Rod Dreher.

Christians like me who find themselves rooting on Trump in flagrant contradiction to all of our training and conditioning can't help but feel unfaithful, drawn by some base depravity to worship at the feet of this Golden Calf that just sprang out of the fire.

Could it be that we are stopping our ears to the still small voice and instead hearkening to a heartbeat quickened by the satanic appeal of our pagan, barbarian ancestry? Is Trump Conan, luring us back to the old creed of crush your enemies, see them driven before you and hear the lamentations of the women?

To these nagging questions and those who raise them, I pose a strong biblical counter-example. He was the ultimate man's man and an archetype of Christ, celebrated by the author of Hebrews in the ranks of the faithful leaders of Israel along with Gideon, David and Samuel. I'm talking about Samson.

The parallels between Trump and Samson are extraordinarily close and abundant and I am far from the first to notice them - Pat Buchanan referred to Trump's Samson Option in early August and blogger/satirist David Burge, responding to the Trump favorite Bible verse controversy, dubbed him the "jawbone of an ass." But to my knowledge, no Christian conservative commentator has considered the depth of the comparison or its implications.

Samson arose during a time of bondage. On the eve of his birth, the Lord had delivered the Israelites into the hands of the Philistines. America today suffers under cultural bondage that is rapidly transforming the political and demographic landscape of the country. The modern connotation of Philistines is "people who are hostile or indifferent to culture" and you couldn't ask for a better description of the political and social elites in this country. There is no greater existential threat to American culture than mass immigration, yet that is the only issue on which the establishments of both parties can agree. A similarly unified front on the doctrine of political correctness polices all dissent on this issue while gradually decoupling modern America from its heritage by the escalating demonization of white privilege, patriarchy and Christian values. Both situations cry out for nationalist heroes to break the yoke.

Like Trump, Samson was anything but a pure Messianic figure (other than the hair). Neither did he fit the Robin Hood/Batman "heroes that Gotham/Nottingham deserved" vigilante archetype. Rather he was the villain that the Philistines deserved. Like Trump, Samson was a sworn foe of the Philistines on the political/national level, while being almost indistinguishable from them on a personal level. For most intents and purposes, he was one of them. He scorned his own people to sleep with Philistine women and spent most of his time in Philistine territory where he could give his many vices free rein. And God wasn't even mad - he wanted Samson in there getting dirty with the unholy so he'd be able to do more damage (Judges 14:4). Sort of a continuation of His rationale for Jesus intermingling with the hookers and vice merchants: you send the physician to the sick and you send the wrecking ball to the crumbling tenement.

It's because Trump has slummed (or slum-lorded) with the Philistines that he's such a potent force within their midst. The Apprentice, a million Hollywood cameos, golf dates with every conceivable celebrity, media mogul and power broker, donations to every establishment candidate - he started this war from the middle of their wheelhouse. Again and again he strolls into their centers of power, runs headlong into their traps, and walks off with the city gates on his shoulders.

As many have declared of Trump, Samson was almost completely non-ideological. His acts were motivated by hunger, self-preservation, greed, lust, hatred and vengeance, and yet they always resulted in gain for his people. He obviously had a knack for brute-force destruction, but he was also resourceful and cunning. His

firebrands-to-foxtails strategy mirrors Trump's mastery of social media, and he showed a similar inclination to troll those plotting against him with conniving riddles and baiting proclamations to expose their hidden agendas for the world to see. The parallels are also striking to Christ's use of disciples to multiply his impact and clever parables to confound the Pharisee media.

Samson always pushed the envelope further than any of his people would or could. So much so that his own people delivered him into the Philistines' hands just as the Lord had delivered them. Even his lovers had no qualms about turning him over. We've seen this over and over with Trump, as his GOP fellow travelers compete for the chance to trip him up and turn him over to the other side to demonstrate that they had nothing to do with his hell-raising. No one ever exposed the duplicity and cravenness of frenemies better than Samson or Trump.

Samson's fighting style was crude, often unfair, and barbaric, but it was brutally effective, not only in defeating the enemies that had overwhelmed his people, but in exposing their own barbarity. When he struck down 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of an ass/donkey (about as pregnant a double metaphor as you can get with Trump), he declared in characteristically bombastic fashion, "with a donkey's jawbone, I have made donkeys of them." (Sly as always, Samson was punning - the Hebrew word for donkeys is apparently a homonym for piles or heaps). So has Donald's unbridled jaw laid waste to surprised opponents who had come to expect gentle, heavily-qualified rhetoric from GOP frontrunners. It has also provoked a torrent of crude ass-braying from prominent liberals and the media, unmasking the visceral hatred lurking behind tolerant facades.

The Samson comparison has a tragic dimension that might not bode well for Trump the man. Their shared predilection for cannonballing into enemy honey traps ultimately produced Samson's downfall, ending with him as a blinded carnie freak show trotted out for a sadistic Philistine mob. Even so, by bringing down the evil Philistine establishment with him in a final act of vengeance, he ended up doing even more damage to Israel's enemy than when he lived.

Meanwhile, as much as the biblical headlines focus on these sensational scraps with the Philistines, none of these unserious hijinks or dangerous flirtations disqualified him for the serious job of judging the Israelites during a volatile time. Judges 14:20 tells us that Samson led, i.e. judged, the Israelites for twenty years. While he was unquestionably an agent of chaos for the Philistines, the Bible gives us no indication that he was a bad executive for the Israelites. Indeed, the author of Hebrews puts him on a veritable Rushmore of faithful Hebrew leaders, with the group being recognized for having "through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight." Trump would put it more succinctly: they made Israel great again.

There is ample reason to believe that Trump could provide a steady hand at the wheel, even as the other wields the jawbone against his enemies. His business record, while not as spectacular as his boasts, suggests a competent administrator, evaluator and entrepreneur, however unorthodox and flamboyant his public persona. His ability to delegate has been on excellent display during the campaign: he couldn't have picked better ghost writers for his policy papers on immigration, tax policy and gun control. His dominance of the media has demonstrated again and

again his ability to set the terms of debate and advance his message in even the most hostile environments. This undercurrent of competence has consistently been discounted by conservative commentators, even those who admire his work against the establishment. They see the destroyer and not the judge.

The biblical precedent then for a leader like Trump is concrete. If these are Samsonian times and America is truly in the hands of modern-day Philistines, as I believe most Christians would agree, the worries about Trump’s motivations, principles, character and demeanor are largely irrelevant. The matter of greatest consequence is whether he or any of the other candidates are strong enough to bring down the Philistine establishment and return the country to its people.

A Few Housekeeping Items

I am pretty-much a one-man show and run two highly active ministry organizations. Because I maximize my time to achieve the greatest impact possible for the Kingdom of God, I value straight-to-the-point resources and communications. If you desire to communicate with me on any matter including this newsletter please be as concise as possible and please use email, not the telephone, even if you have my phone number (except in emergencies).

You may reach me at scottlivelyministries@gmail.com

Donations

I have always followed a policy of providing my writings and other self-created resources without charge whenever possible. However, my support, and that of both of the ministry organizations I run, rely upon donations to operate. For all matters related to my prophecy studies and writings donations should be sent to Redemption Gate Mission Society, PO Box 2373, Springfield, MA 01101 or online [here](#). If you want your donation to be designated for any specific purpose, just send me a note or an email to say so, otherwise it will be used where most needed.

Today's Hot Links:

Apparently our links haven't been working, so henceforth we will simply cut and past the url below. It won't connect just type it into your own browser:

The Seven Feasts of the Lord:
<http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Holidays/Introduction/introduction.html>

Fate of Iran Deal falls on Jewish Days of Judgment
<http://www.breakingisraelnews.com/45436/fate-iran-deal-decided-jewish-world-days-judgement/#07Hu7c4hxxAzE9t2.97>

[Final Point: "Gay Marriage" as a Sign of the End Times](#)
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