

THE DYNASTY OF DARKNESS

SATAN'S LONG SERPENTINE TRAIL THROUGH HUMAN
HISTORY IN THE ROLE OF SUCCESSIVE ANTICHRISTS,
AND THE IMMINENT RISE OF HIS LAST-DAYS KINGDOM

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INTRODUCTION

The study contained in this book began as a hypothesis suggested by a film titled *The Rape of Europe* which discussed the occultic roots of the European Union. The film drew a causative connection between the presence of the Altar of Pergamum (aka the Seat of Satan) and events in Germany following its excavation and removal to Berlin. Beginning as it does by asking whether the film's suggestions could be supported Biblically, this work is necessarily speculative, but it is not eisegetical. It holds the Bible as the authority and simply asks whether the text confirms the hypothesis. There is no attempt to force the Scripture to fit the hypothesis, and in fact the hypothesis has been altered and refined as the truth of the matter has been more clearly revealed in the scripture. Contrary to the dogma of some denominations, there is no Biblical prohibition on speculation as to the meaning of Scripture.

Readers who have been conditioned by the materialistic orientation of the modern church to view spiritual matters with skepticism may have difficulty with this study. It treats as factual or plausible many ideas that have been mocked or mythologized in American popular culture for at least two generations, but which are fully Biblical in a literal reading of scripture as it would have been understood by the Apostles and their Disciples.

Chapter One:

Where Satan Dwells

*“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this: ‘I know where you dwell, **where Satan’s throne is**; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, **where Satan dwells**” (Revelation 2:12-13).*

*“And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. **And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him**” (Revelation 12:7-9).*

“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’ ” (Job 1:7).

“Again, the devil took him 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).

During the four-century gap between the end of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament, an ancient prophecy of Daniel was partially fulfilled. The Seleucid King Antiochus IV Epiphanes, demonically possessed by Satan himself, tried to extinguish the worship of Jehovah God by the Hebrew people in Jerusalem.

His strategy was multifaceted. He corrupted the Levite priests with flattery, led the young men into moral compromise, and defiled God’s Temple with pig’s blood and other unclean things. Finally, he set up the “Abomination of Desolation” on the holy altar, foreshadowing the last days Antichrist of Revelation.

One heroic man, Judah Maccabees (Judah the Hammer), led a successful revolt against Antiochus and preserved the Hebrew religion and culture.

Roughly upon the death of Antiochus, his key political ally and mentor King Eumenes II of Pergamum built the Altar of Pergamum, which is described in Revelation Chapter 2 as “Satan’s Throne.”

“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this: ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells’” (Revelation 2:12-13).

Satan’s Throne sits today in the Pergamum Museum in the center of Berlin, Germany after it was excavated and restored in the late 1800s. It became the property of the Germans shortly before German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche began preaching the satanic mantra “God is Dead.”

It’s acquisition was considered by Kaiser Wilhelm II to be the highest achievement of his rule -- a regency which included (by some accounts) his surreptitious launch of World War I to divert public attention from a long series of criminal scandals at home. It was the inspiration for the design of Adolf Hitler’s Nuremberg Rally Complex, the ultimate expression in architecture of his satanic megalomania that gave us World War II and the Holocaust. (And, incidentally, it was the inspiration for the design of the stage on which candidate Barack Obama accepted the Democratic nomination for President of the United States in 2008.)

Satan’s Throne was owned by the Romans during the reign of its most grossly evil emperors, the Arabs during the rise of Islam, the Germans during Third Reich, the United States during the official displacement of Christianity by Secular Humanism, the Soviet Union during its decades as the “Evil Empire,” and the European Union from its inception to the present day.

SATAN’S THRONE?

Is the Biblical reference to the Altar of Pergamum as Satan’s Throne merely metaphorical, or is it literal? Did Satan actually dwell in Pergamum, or more specifically in or upon the Altar of Pergamum? Was the Altar his spiritual gateway into the material world? And if so, has it served that purpose thorough the ages, even to this very day? Is the Altar his exclusive dwelling place or have there been others?

This study posits that the center of evil in the world at any given moment in time is where Satan dwells and that this evil is manifested throughout history in the actions of a series of human rulers (or other men strategically situated to serve his interests) who fulfill the role of “Antichrist” under his direct influence -- an influence which is somehow tied to their possession of or authority over Satan’s material dwelling place. Using these assumptions we will attempt to trace the history of Satan in the world.

The list of Antichrist figures presented in this first publication is incomplete, as this will be an ongoing study, but we believe enough of the chronology is provided to confirm the hypothesis on which it is based.

Before we begin to identify the individual persons who appear to fulfill the “office” of the Antichrist through the centuries we must address a few of our presuppositions and caveats.

First, that Satan is a finite, created being with limitations defined by God (Ezekiel 28:15). Though he has great power, and an army of demonic angels at his command, he can only be in one place at a time.

Second, while Satan is the king of the demonic realm and the most wicked of all creatures, he is not the only evil entity at work in the world (Revelation 12:7-9).¹ There are many “*principalities and powers*” working to deceive, degrade and enslave human beings (2 Corinthians 10:3-6). The existence of more than one wicked ruler in the same time period is not an argument against one of them being the Antichrist.

Third, while the holy angels who serve God have the power to take human form and walk unnoticed among men (Hebrews 13:2), demons, including Satan, seem to have more limited access to the physical world and must “possess” living hosts, both human and animal (Matthew 8:28-32).

Fourth, at least some demons are based in specific geographic territories. This does not seem to be true of angels. While Michael the Archangel is identified in Daniel 12:1 as “*the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people*” (by implication wherever they may be) the actual “*prince of Israel*” (the land) is a demon who will rule until the return of the Messiah (Ezekiel 21:25). The Bible also speaks of the “Prince of Persia” (Daniel 10:13) and of specific towns and cities named after the Baal or “lord” that presides there: for example Baal Peor, named for a demon called Chemosh, worshipped by the Moabites (Num. 25:3-5), and “*Baal-zebul [the Lord of the Flies], the god of Ekron*” (2 Kings 1:16).

So, from the time of the expulsion from the Garden of Eden until the brief period in which he is allowed greater freedom by God to lead the last days rebellion (Revelation 13), it would seem that Satan’s influence in the world is limited to what he can accomplish through a human host.

Since we suppose that Satan was somehow tied to the Altar of Pergamum as his dwelling place, we will also ask where, if anywhere, did Satan dwell *before* the Altar was built for him. We will address several possible sites/structures in this study, including the very City of Babylon, whose name in the original Akkadian language means “Gate of God,”² and which housed the Temple of Marduk (aka Bel or Baal).

SPIRITUAL PORTALS

There is a theme interwoven throughout scripture of the phenomenon of specially constructed altars or other structures which serve as portals from the spiritual to the physical world.

The most important of these was, of course, the Tabernacle of God, within which is the Holy of Holies, which held the Ark of the Covenant, whose top is called The Mercy Seat. The Tabernacle had two separate altars, one for burning incense and the other for animal sacrifice. Each of these was specially constructed according to His detailed instructions (Exodus 25-31; 36-40). God's presence was intimately associated with the Tabernacle in the form of a pillar of smoke by day and of fire by night (Exodus 40:34-38). The Tabernacle was the model for the Temple of God which was constructed much later.

God also instructed His people to make altars of un-hewn stone (Exodus 20:25). Long before the time of the Exodus, Abraham built such altars to God (Genesis 12:7, 8; 13:18) and the practice continued throughout the Old Testament.

Importantly, the Lord was not in any way limited in His access to the world, but these structures and the regulations related to them somehow facilitated His interaction with His people, and served as a protection to human beings who attempted to draw near to Him. Without them, the very Holiness of His presence would destroy them (Exodus 19:21-22; 20:19; Leviticus 10:1; 2 Samuel 6:7).

In a similar but far more restricted manner, those who worship demons access the spiritual world through physical altars and other structures. There are numerous examples in scripture but perhaps the most significant involves King Ahab of Israel who built both an altar and a temple to Baal in Samaria, the capital city of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Ahab, of course had married Jezebel, the daughter of King Ethbaal of Zidon (1 Kings 16:31-33). Importantly, Ashtoreth, female counterpart to Baal was "*the goddess of the Zidonians*" (1 Kings 11:5). Thus the marriage of Ahab and Jezebel appears in this context to be the literal union of Baal and Ashtoreth (Satan and his bride, as it were), the man Ahab being possessed by the demon Satan and the woman Jezebel by the demon called Ashtoreth.

Ahab was considered by God the most wicked of all the kings of the House of Israel (though King Manasseh of the House of Judah may have surpassed him in wickedness -- 2 Kings 21:1-16). In contrast, King Josiah of Judah was considered the most righteous of the Hebrew monarchs of either house. 2 Kings 23 and 2 Chronicles 34 offer extensive details of Josiah's reforms, which emphasized the destruction of pagan altars and other sites and structures used to worship demons throughout Jerusalem and the surrounding hills as well as in the Temple of God. An enlightening glimpse at the spiritual defilement of the Temple is provided in Ezekiel's vision in the Book of Ezekiel, Chapter 8.

We will examine the Antichrist role of various Judean and Israelite Kings more extensively later in this book. Our purpose here is simply to identify a few demonic spiritual portals to demonstrate that there is extensive Biblical support to the idea that demons can operate in the world in association with physical objects and structures.

Let us proceed then with our study of Antichrists through the ages.

CHAPTER TWO:

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 who is 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 sinned³: 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 (2 Peter 2:1-19).

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” 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 extraordinarily evil individuals whose actions are directed against Hebrews and/or Christians, and who display one or more of six key satanic attributes:

1. Extreme megalomania. Often expecting worship, especially as head of a pantheon of gods.⁴ Sometimes employing vast slave armies to build monuments to himself.
2. Wanton cruelty and sadism. Often involving torture, mass murder, genocide, infanticide or war, most especially targeting Jews and/or Christians.
3. Enormous wealth and power -- through inheritance, theft and/or commerce.
4. Sexual perversion -- especially incest, homosexuality and/or bestiality.
5. Habitual lawlessness and deceitfulness.
6. 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.

¹ Some Christians, bolstered by certain apocryphal writings cited in the Bible, believe that demons are the disembodied earth-bound spirits of the pre-flood “Nephilim,” half-breed offspring of the “Sons of God” and the “Daughters of men,” and that these demons are distinct from “principalities and powers” which are held to be good and evil angels which live in the heavenly realm. It is an interesting and plausible theory, but the distinction is largely irrelevant to this study and we will herein define demons as simply evil angels.

² www.ancient.eu/babylon

³ See footnote 2.

⁴ The pantheons of gods and goddesses worshipped in the “mythology” of various pagan cultures appear to be shadowy images of the hierarchy of fallen angels. Certainly, human imagination greatly influences the manner in which these entities are perceived and portrayed but at their root the “myths” seem to reflect a deeper spiritual reality.