

# 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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## CHAPTER THREE:

# UNMASKING THE ANTICHRISTS OF EARLIEST ANTIQUITY

### ANTICHRISTS IN THE ANTEDILUVIAN (PRE-FLOOD) WORLD

*“[Satan] was a murderer from the beginning”* (John 8:44).

If our assumptions are correct, the only way Satan is capable of murder is by the hand of a human host. The first murder in the Bible was of Abel by his brother Cain, who introduced that grievous sin to human society. The first Antichrist, therefore, appears to be Cain. For His own reasons, the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one finding him would slay him in vengeance, warning *“whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him seven-fold”* (Genesis 4:8-15). This “Mark of Cain” is reminiscent of the last days “Mark of the Beast” in that both marks are inseparably associated with a man of evil by which the whole world can recognize him. Again, this is speculative, but quite plausible.

Several generations later, Cain’s direct descendant Lamech, the first person specifically identified as a polygamist in the Bible, fits the Antichrist profile even more closely.

*“Lamech said to his wives, Adah and Zillah, Listen to my voice, you wives of Lamech. . . For I have killed a man for wounding me, And a boy for striking me. If Cain is avenged seven-fold, then Lamech seventy-sevenfold”* (Genesis 4:23-24).

Not only is polygamist Lamech the second identified murderer of the Bible, and the first identified megalomaniac, his boast reflects a satanic principle of vengeance that directly contradicts the Messiah’s commandment in Matthew 18:21-22. In that passage Peter asked the Lord whether it was his duty to forgive his brother seven times. Jesus replied we must forgive *“seventy times seven”* times.

It appears that Lamech was the Antichrist of his time. Based on the average multi-century lifespan of the pre-flood world, Lamech’s term as Antichrist may have extended through his entire lifespan, perhaps until the flood itself.

In any case, insufficient details are provided to specifically identify other Antichrist figures before the great flood. However, from what we read in Chapter 6 we know that through his agents both human

and angelic (and perhaps hybrids of the two -- Genesis 6:4), Satan managed to corrupt the pre-flood world so completely that God was forced to cleanse the earth of all human beings except righteous Noah and his family (Genesis 6-9).

There is no indication that Satan was limited in antediluvian times to any particular territory.

## **NIMROD AND THE TOWER OF BABEL**

The first Antichrist figure in the post-flood world was Nimrod, who became “*a mighty one on the earth.*” Nimrod was the grandson of Ham and great-grandson of Noah.

Ham appears to have served as a carrier of the wicked pre-flood culture into the new world, corrupting at least two of his sons (Canaan and Sidon). Ham’s son Canaan was banished from Noah’s presence for what was most likely an act of homosexual molestation of his grandfather Noah (Genesis 9:22-25).<sup>1</sup> Ham’s grandson through Cush was Nimrod:

He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, “*Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD.*” ***The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah***” (Genesis 10:8-11).

Nimrod’s campaign to build the Tower of Babel was an implementation of the Satanic goal described in Isaiah 14:13: “*For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.’*” Under Nimrod’s rule, the people said, “Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and **a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves** a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” (Genesis 11:4).

The majority opinion regarding the Tower of Babel is that it was an attempt to build the tallest possible human-made structure. Some argue further that the goal was to build the tower higher than the water level of the great flood.

In his 1893 classic *The Witness of the Stars*, Christian writer E. W. Bullinger, presents an alternate view arguing that “top...into heaven” in Genesis 11:4 is not primarily a reference to the height of the Tower of Babel, but that the tower itself depicted the constellations of the Zodiac.<sup>2</sup> This would comport with Satan’s boast in Isaiah 14:13 that his throne would be exalted “*above the stars of God.*”

Bullinger quotes then-famous Babylon archeologist Lieutenant General Cheney:

“About five miles S.W. of Hillah, the most remarkable of all the ruins, the Birs Nimroud of the Arabs, rises to a height of 153 feet above the plain from a base covering a square of 400 feet, or almost four acres. It was constructed of kiln-dried bricks in

seven stages to correspond with the planets to which they were dedicated: the lowermost black, the colour of Saturn; the next orange, for Jupiter; the third red, for Mars; and so on. These stages were surmounted by a lofty tower, on the summit of which, we are told, were the signs of the Zodiac and other astronomical figures; thus having (as it should have been translated) a representation of the heavens, instead of 'a top which reached unto heaven' " (Bullinger:17).

Of course, these alternatives are not exclusive of each other, and it is equally likely that the Tower of Babel both depicted the Zodiac *and* attempted to reach a height above the level of the great flood.

In any case, the Bible reveals Nimrod as a totalitarian megalomaniac who exploited all of the people and resources under his control to build a monument to himself. This is the model of Antichrist government we will see repeated throughout the following centuries. Time after time, from the Pharaohs of Egypt to the Emperors of Rome, to the Fuhrer of the Third Reich, we will see armies of slaves building gigantic structures intended to reflect the god-like power and importance of the supreme ruler. Nimrod was the first in the post-flood world.

Importantly, centuries later, the two nations founded by Nimrod (Babylon and Assyria), were, respectively, the conquerors and enslavers of the two Houses/Kingdoms of the Hebrew people. The House of Israel was conquered by the Assyrians in 722BC and the House of Judah was conquered by the Babylonians in 586BC.

There is limited information about Nimrod from extra-biblical sources and a variety of conclusions drawn from it but I believe the following summary of the life of Nimrod and his wife Semeramis is probably true:

“After establishing his kingdom in the Tigris/Euphrates region Nimrod consolidated his power by establishing . . . a religion that included deification and worship of the emperor (himself), worship of Satan and his demons, and star-worship (corrupted from a pure antediluvian astronomy). A key unifying factor in his religion was to be an astronomical/astrological observatory built upon the pinnacle of a pyramid, or tower, at Babel. . . After their deaths, Nimrod and his wife Semiramis (the ancient 'queen of heaven') were confirmed by their priests as gods and given homage as Marduk and Astarte" (NIMROD, MARS AND THE MARDUK CONNECTION, by Bryce Self, <http://www.ldolphin.org/Nimrod.html>).

It is generally accepted (and largely intuitive) that Marduk and Astarte are spiritually synonymous with Baal and Ashtoreth of the Bible. These are simply different, culturally-specific names of the same two demonic entities. Baal (Satan), the male figure, is known in different places and times as Marduk, Zeus, Jupiter, Allah, Wotan, etc.. Ashtoreth (the Bride of Satan as it were), the female figure, is also known as Astarte, Ishtar, Isis, Ostara, Gaia, etc.. This is not an exact science, and there are many arguments

over which specific god or goddess in any given pantheon corresponds to Baal or Ashtoreth, but the important and indisputable fact is that these two specific demonic entities exist cross-culturally and are known by a variety of names.

Later in this study we will profile Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, who in 586BC completed his years-long conquest of the Kingdom of Judah, destroyed Jerusalem and God's Temple, and took the Judeans into captivity for 70 years. Three years later, in 583BC, as part of a vast public works project (likely funded by the treasure he had plundered from Jerusalem), he built the Ishtar Gate, called by the Hebrews the "Gate to Hell." As noted above, Ishtar (aka Astarte) is the demon "Bride of Satan." Inscribed on the Ishtar Gate was the boast that Nebuchadnezzar was "appointed by the will of Marduk."

Today in Berlin, Germany, the Pergamum Museum holds two primary exhibits: 1) The Altar of Pergamum, aka "Satan's Throne," and 2) the Ishtar Gate: Satan and his bride united under one roof, it would seem.

Is the demon known as Ishtar tied to the Ishtar Gate in the way we assume Satan is tied to the Altar of Pergamum? Were either or both of them connected to other structures, such as the Tower of Babel or the Pyramids? The Bible is silent on these matters so we can only conjecture as we proceed with our study.

## **THE CITY OF SODOM AND ITS KING OF EVIL**

Genesis 14 tells the story of Abram's rescue (before he became Abraham) of his nephew Lot from King Chedorlaomer of Elam (and his allies) who had taken Lot and his goods as plunder after a successful attack on Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboim and Zoar. Chedorlaomer's attack was in response to the rebellion of King Bera of Sodom (and his allies) in the 13<sup>th</sup> year of Chedorlaomer's rule over them. Lot was living in Sodom and was captured along with the rest.

On Abram's return from successfully recapturing the people and property that had been stolen, Abram was met by two figures who represent good and evil in the world:

- Melchizedek, the King of Salem (a Christ figure identified as Priest of the Most-High God, whose name means "King of Peace"), and
- Bera, the King of Sodom (an Antichrist figure whose name means "King of Evil").

Under King Bera "*the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD*" (Genesis 13:13 -- Interestingly, 13 is the Biblical number of rebellion.) Years later God would destroy Sodom with fire and brimstone (Genesis 19).

Significantly, "*The king of Sodom said to Abram, 'Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself.'*" Abram said to the king of Sodom, "*I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, that I will*

*not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, for fear you would say, 'I have made Abram rich' ”* (Genesis 14:21-23). But to the King of Salem, Abram gave a tithe of all he had (Genesis 14:20).

Clearly, Bera is an Antichrist figure but he lived in Sodom, far from Satan's first post-flood appearance in Babylon.

Again, one of our hypotheses is that Satan's available candidates (to become Antichrist by his spiritual possession of them) must be under the political authority of the "owner" of his dwelling. If Babel, the capital city of Babylon, or more precisely the Tower of Babel (or later the nearby Temple of Marduk) were a dwelling place of Satan prior to the building of the Altar of Pergamum, it would need to be "owned" by the same entity that "owned" the Kingdom of Sodom in order for the King of Sodom to qualify as an Antichrist candidate under our theory.

As it happens, The Kingdom of Elam, of which Chedorlaomer was king, was in those days a large empire that stretched from modern day Khazakstan and Iran through Babylon to the cities of the plain south of the Dead Sea. This means that Sodom was indeed within the political control of the nation which also controlled Babylon, bringing its king within Satan's jurisdiction, as it were.

## **THE PHARAOHS OF EGYPT**

We have so far observed that Satan has possessed a succession of individuals who serve the Antichrist role for a period of time. We don't have enough information to say that there was always an Antichrist figure alive in the world from Cain to King Bera of Sodom. It may be that Satan was a disembodied spiritual entity for periods of time between hosts. We just don't know.

However, with the emergence of dynastic human kingdoms and empires after the flood we begin to see the spiritual equivalent of Antichrist "dynasties" arise, in which Satan possesses successive generations of individuals from the same family (a monarchy) or group of families (oligarchy). It stands to reason that Satan would prefer a host who is already in control of or is heir to great power and resources. And it would be doubly valuable to him if the governmental system they controlled were institutionally corrupt, providing him with a greater selection of potential candidates whose lust for money and power was culturally ingrained.

The first of the post-flood Antichrist dynasties arose in Egypt.

The Pharaoh of Egypt at the time of Abraham was not a wicked man. He treated Abraham well despite being deceived by him in the matter of passing off Sarah as his sister (Genesis 12:10-20). In fact, we have shown above that the Antichrist figure during that period was King Bera of Sodom.

Following God's destruction of Sodom, there is no obvious Antichrist figure identified in the Bible for several generations. We have only one Biblical clue as to where Satan might have been operating during

that time: the land of Canaan. In Genesis 15:13-16 God warns Abraham about his descendants' coming time of slavery in Egypt and adds an explanatory comment at the end:

*“And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. **But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.**”*

The clue is in the mention of the Amorites, one of the most ancient of the Canaanite nations -- a nation that both populated Babylon and stands in scripture as a symbol of Canaanite wickedness, representative of the seven nations (all Canaanite) targeted for genocide by God in Deuteronomy 7:1. In His later rebuke of Jerusalem's unfaithfulness in Ezekiel 16:3, for example, God states *“thy father was an Amorite.”* It may be that Satan dwelt in Canaan, cultivating its iniquity during part of that time, like God had cultivated goodness in the Garden of Eden before the fall.

However, the remainder of the Genesis 15 passage supports the conclusion that Satan somehow relocated to Egypt prior to, and probably in anticipation of the birth of Moses. We thus see the first Antichrist dynasty arise there. Exodus 1:8-14 provides some context:

*“Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph... So they appointed taskmasters over them to afflict them with hard labor. And they built for Pharaoh storage cities, Pithom and Raamses... The Egyptians compelled the sons of Israel to labor rigorously; and they made their lives bitter with hard labor in mortar and bricks and at all kinds of labor in the field, all their labors which they rigorously imposed on them.”*

This new king, known as the “Pharaoh of the Oppression,” not only turned the Hebrews into slaves he tried to kill Moses (a Christ figure) as a baby in the decree of Exodus 1:16, which ordered the Egyptian midwives kill all Hebrew children during delivery.

*“Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives... ‘When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.’” But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live... Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, ‘Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive’ ” (Exodus 1:15-22).*

This effort foreshadowed that of another Antichrist figure, Herod the Great, who tried to kill Jesus as a baby by massacring all of the Hebrew male children under two years of age in the vicinity of Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16).

The “Pharaoh of the Oppression” was succeeded by the “Pharaoh of the Exodus” who vigorously opposed Moses' efforts to free his people, bringing upon himself the 10 Plagues, including the death

of all the firstborn sons of Egypt (Exodus 5-14). His refusal to free the Hebrew slaves until forced by God, and his subsequent effort to slaughter the fleeing multitudes until his army was crushed by the Red Sea, is a partial pattern for the end-times Antichrist and the Bowl Judgments described in Revelation.

A third Pharaoh is addressed in Ezekiel 31, in comparison to another Antichrist figure, Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon. The entire chapter is devoted to this comparison. They are both equated with Satan, described as the grandest of the “Trees of Eden” before being cast into hell:

*“To which among the trees of Eden are you thus equal in glory and greatness? Yet you will be brought down with the trees of Eden to the earth beneath; you will lie in the midst of the uncircumcised, with those who were slain by the sword. **So is Pharaoh and all his hordes!** declares the Lord GOD’ ” (Ezekiel 31:18).*

It is not clear whether this reference is to the Pharaoh of the Exodus or a later Egyptian king.



<sup>1</sup> “‘And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan...’ (Genesis 9:29). To ‘uncover nakedness’ is a Biblical idiom for sexual intercourse. “None of you shall approach any blood relative of his to uncover nakedness; I am the LORD” states Leviticus 18:6. The Genesis passage has been interpreted some to mean that Ham had sex with Noah’s wife, producing Canaan by incest, a conclusion bolstered by Leviticus 20:11: ‘The man that lies with his father’s wife, has uncovered his father’s nakedness.’ Alternately, the sin is interpreted to be the homosexual molestation of Noah by Canaan. We have chosen the latter interpretation, partly because this was the conclusion of Hebrew scholars of their own language, but primarily because it more closely aligns with the pattern of conduct we have exposed in this study, and thus seems more plausible” From *The Forgotten Last Days Warning About Homosexuality in the Bible*,” (2013), by Dr. Scott Lively.

<sup>2</sup> It is well established that the “Zodiac” was a Babylonian corruption of a more ancient God-established astronomical system for reading the signs in the heavens, called the Mazzaroth (See Job 38:32; Psalm 19).