

INSTALLMENT 7, WHICH INCLUDES CHAPTER SIX, PART ONE, OF THE SERIAL RELEASE.

# 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 SIX (PART ONE):

# THE ANTICHRIST CAPITALS OF THE NORTH

Roughly from the time of King Jehu of Israel (841-814BC) until the first coming of Christ, Satan used three nations to the north of the Promised Land as his primary bases of operation: Assyria, Babylon and Pergamum.

### THE KINGS OF THE NEO-ASSYRIAN EMPIRE

During the reign of Ahab and Jezebel the nation of Israel was entirely given over to the worship of Baal and Ashtoreth which occurrence marked the beginning of the withdrawal of God's hand of protection: *"In those days the LORD began to cut off portions from Israel; and Hazael [of Damascus] defeated them throughout the territory of Israel: from the Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites and the Reubenites and the Manassites, from Aroer, which is by the valley of the Arnon, even Gilead and Bashan"* (2 Kings 10:32-33).

Thus began the process of divorcement of Israel by God that is described in Jeremiah 3:6-8, of which Assyria was the instrument of fulfillment:

*"Then the LORD said to me in the days of Josiah the king, 'Have you seen what faithless Israel did? She went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and she was a harlot there. I thought, After she has done all these things she will return to Me; but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce.' "*

This "harlotry" was the Canaanite practice of Baalism that began in the northern kingdom under Ahab and ended in the conquest of the House/Kingdom of Israel in 722BC by King Shalmeneser of Assyria. At that time both Ahaz, King of Judah and Hoshea, King of Israel were vassals of Shalmaneser (2 Kings 16:3-12; 17:1-6) whose power in the world was unmatched.

The ancient capital of Assyria was Nineveh, founded by Nimrod, son of Cush, brother of Canaan, the first post-flood Antichrist, who also founded Babylon. Significantly, the two empires rooted in these capitals conquered and enslaved Israel and Judah respectively.

The peak of Assyrian power, and the time of its greatest wickedness, was during the Neo-Assyrian Empire which lasted for about 300 years, from 911BC to 609BC. In other words, it started during the reign of Jeroboam, first King of Israel (roughly 930 to 910 BC) and ended shortly after the conquest and deportation of all the Hebrews of Israel and the repopulation of the land with the foreign people who

would become known as Samaritans. The very purpose of the Neo-Assyrian Empire, it seems, was to serve as the instrument of God's punishment of the northern kingdom.

There likely were numerous Antichrists in the line of Assyrian kings from its earliest days, especially during the Neo-Assyrian Empire. These would probably include King Ashurnasirpal (883-859 BC) whose boasted of his own cruelty: "[T]heir men young and old I took prisoners. Of some I cut off their feet and hands; of others I cut off the ears noses and lips; of the young men's ears I made a heap; of the old men's heads I made a minaret. I exposed their heads as a trophy in front of their city. The male children and the female children I burned in flames; the city I destroyed, and consumed with fire."<sup>1</sup>

However, we are most interested in what appears to be an Antichrist dynasty that spanned the period of Israel's incremental dismemberment as a nation. This included, in succession, Tiglath Pileser III, his son, Shalmaneser V, Sargon II (Shalmaneser's brother), and Sargon's son Sennacherib.

Tiglath Pileser III took power by killing off the prior ruling family, establishing the world's first professional standing army, and introduced the policy of mass forced deportation of conquered peoples to foster subservience and discourage rebellions. He greatly expanded the Assyrian empire and was the first Assyrian king to annex parts of Israel.

Shalmaneser V was the ruler who conquered Israel and began the deportation of the Israelites.

Sargon II killed Shalmaneser in a coup and completed the processes of depopulating the Kingdom of Israel.

Sennacherib was de-facto co-ruler with his father Sargon, and later succeeded him, continuing the attacks on the Hebrew people after his uncle's conquest of Israel, working systematically to defeat Judah in the same manner (Isaiah 36). The Assyrian practice of dragging captives away with iron hooks in their noses is referenced obliquely in Isaiah 37: 29 in reference to Sennacherib. However, near the end of Sennacherib's reign, Manasseh emerged as the King of Judah and at some point thereafter assumed the Antichrist role, probably upon the death of Sennacherib, six years into Manasseh's rule.

The Assyrians kings, known for their barbarism generally, were exceptionally sadistic and tyrannical during the Neo-Assyrian Empire: "Assyria was the most ferocious [of the nations of that period]. Their very name became a byword for cruelty and atrocity. They skinned their prisoners alive, and cut off various body parts to inspire terror in their enemies. There are records of Assyrian officials pulling out tongues and displaying mounds of human skulls all to bring about stark horror and wealthy tribute from surrounding nations. Nowhere are the pages of history more bloody than in the records of their wars."<sup>2</sup> ([www.bible-history.com/olt-testament/the\\_Assyrians.html](http://www.bible-history.com/olt-testament/the_Assyrians.html)).

Importantly, some of these same horrific practices became the hallmark of the self-declared Moslem Caliphate known as ISIS (the Egyptian name for Ishtar/Astarte). The base of ISIS' power encompassed

much of the same territory as the ancient Assyrian heartland (the Iraqi city of Mosul, for example, is roughly the same location as Nineveh).

### **THE BLACK OBELISK OF SHALMANESER**

In the mid-1800s, British archeologists uncovered an object in modern-day Nimrud, Iraq that lends credence to the hypothesis that Assyria was a dwelling place of Satan, and its royal families a ready source of Antichrist candidates. The Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III<sup>3</sup> was carved roughly a century before Tiglath Pileser's reign and provides insight to the demonic influence in Assyria.

The inscription begins with an acknowledgement of the demonic hierarchy to which Shalmaneser is subject:

“Assur, the great Lord, the King of all the great gods;  
Anu, King of the spirits of heaven and the spirits of earth, the god, Lord of the world;  
Bel [Baal] the Supreme, Father of the gods, the Creator.”

Christians will recognize here, in reverse order, a satanic counterfeit of the Holy Trinity:

- God the Father,
- God the Holy Spirit,
- God the Son, Jesus Christ, King of Kings.

Reversing the order in the Assyrian version it is

- Assur (King).
- Anu (Spirit)
- Bel (Father)

The inscription continues with a number of lesser gods, including

“...Beltis, the wife of Bel, mother of the gods...  
“...Ishtar, sovereign of heaven and earth, who is the face of heroism perfected; the great, determining destinies, making great my kingdom. I am Shalmaneser...”

Lastly, the obelisk displays an engraving depicting Jehu, 10<sup>th</sup> King of Israel delivering tribute to Shalmaneser.

Jehu, it may be remembered, was not an Israelite, but the son of Jehoshaphat the righteous King of Judah. Apparently, the Kingdom of Israel had become so thoroughly defiled under Ahab that God found it necessary to “import” a deliverer from Judea.

Elisha, by the hand of his servant, anointed Jehu as King of Israel (2 Kings 9:1-13), and as king, Jehu carried out God's vengeance on Jezebel and the descendants and followers of Ahab (2 Kings 10). Nevertheless, even as God's anointed, Jehu was not a deliverer for Israel, except in the matter of ending Ahab's influence in Israel. The die had been cast regarding Israel's fate because of its great rebellion against God under Ahab and Jezebel. Despite being a righteous king, Jehu was forced to deliver tribute to the King of Assyria.

## **BABYLON, THE "GATE OF THE GODS"**

The City and Nation of Babylon is the ultimate symbol of rebellion against God by human government. Founded by Nimrod, who led the first post-flood rebellion at the Tower of Babel, it has always been associated with Satan, known there first as Marduk and then as Bel (Baal).

We have surmised, based on our original study of the Pergamum Altar (the "Seat of Satan" in Revelation 2), that demons, including Satan must use material objects as spiritual portals to enter the human realm. If this is true, the Temple of Marduk in Babylon is likely one of the most significant of them. Scholars believe the name Babylon is a derivative of the Akkadian word *bav-il* or *bav-ilim* which literally meant "Gate of God" or "Gate of the Gods."<sup>4</sup>

Temples to Marduk in Babylon date at least to the reign of Amorite King Hammurabi (1792-1750 BCE) and perhaps even to Sargon of Akkad (2334-2279 BC) though he may have been known by some other name. During the Neo-Babylonian Empire, founded by King Nabopolassar, the Temple was called "The Ésgila, a Sumerian name signifying 'É (temple) whose top is lofty,' (literally: 'house of the raised head')... In this temple was the cult image inhabited by Marduk... [housed in a] central shrine, consisting of an anteroom and the inner sanctum which contained the statues of Marduk and his consort Sarpanit [known alternately as Ishtar or Beltis]."<sup>5</sup>

The Esagila complex, completed in its final form by Nebuchadnezzar II, was the very center of Babylon physically, culturally and spiritually.

It is no surprise, therefore that Babylon would be the capital city of a series of Antichrist governments in the ancient world including that of Nebuchadnezzar II destroyer of Jerusalem and the Temple of God, and Antiochus Epiphanes IV, the Antichrist of Daniel 11 who defiled the Second Temple and set up the Abomination of Desolation on the altar in Jerusalem. In the Book of Revelation, "Mystery Babylon" is the sponsor of global apostasy that characterizes the reign of the end-times Antichrist who sets himself up as God in the Third Temple.

Significantly, the Neo-Assyrian Empire "owned" Babylon and the Esagila during the period we have identified as its Antichrist dynasty, which supports the hypothesis that the Esagila was Satan's dwelling

place during this time period in the same manner as the Altar of Pergamum was after 164 BC. Indeed, the further history of this Temple strengthens our case.

Secular sources record that Assyrian King Sennacherib destroyed the temple complex toward the end of his reign, in the very time frame that we assert that Manasseh, King of Judah supplanted him as the Antichrist figure. Could it be that Sennacherib, delivered from satanic possession (as Satan transferred to a Hebrew host), destroyed the Temple as an act of revenge? Though the destruction was in the context of a rebellion against his rule by the Babylonians, Sennacherib's "extreme measures were considered impious by the people generally and Sennacherib's court specifically and he was soon after assassinated by his sons. His successor, Esarhaddon, re-built Babylon and returned it to its former glory"<sup>6</sup> In other words, destroying the Babylonian temple complex was Sennacherib's personal agenda not supported by his fellow Assyrians.

In any case, the restored Temple of Marduk was thus again available as a Satanic spiritual portal during the remainder of the Neo-Babylonian Empire, especially the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar II, whom we have noted improved and expanded the Esagila Complex during his rule.

Is there Biblical support for the idea that Babylon was the physical dwelling-place of Satan? Yes. In the same way that the prophet Ezekiel revealed the spiritual link between the Antichrist King Ethbaal of Tyre and Satan in Ezekiel 28, Isaiah the Prophet links both the City and King of Babylon with Satan in Isaiah 13 and 14.

Writing over a century before Judah fell to Nebuchadnezzar, and more than 2500 years before the second coming of Christ, Isaiah describes the coming destruction of the City of Babylon in Chapter 13, of which God says "*I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity*" (v.11).

Let's look at this in the broader context of Isaiah 13:1-17:

*"The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see...I have commanded my sanctified ones, I have also called my mighty ones for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness. The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: **the LORD of hosts mustereth the host of the battle. They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land. Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt...***

*"And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof*

*out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible....*

***“Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it...And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.”***

Note the clear association of the destruction of Babylon with the Day of Atonement in the last days calendar, and all of the parallel imagery to the return of Christ in Revelation 19 (the host of heaven) and Matthew 24.

As is typical of Old Testament prophecy, a partial fulfillment occurs in the relatively near future, foreshadowing the complete fulfillment in the last days. In this case, the City of Babylon was in fact largely destroyed by the Medes in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC (around 300 years after Isaiah's prediction in Isaiah 13:15-17). But Babylon awaits the fulfillment of 13:9-13 when *“the sun will be darkened in its going forth; and the moon will not cause its light to shine...in the wrath of the Lord of Hosts,”* the same still-future context that is described by Jesus in Matthew 24:29. Interestingly, in modern times the Babylonians are Iraqis, and the Medes are Iranians: the Sunni and Shiite Moslems respectively, embroiled in deadly enmity.

Then in Chapter 14, Isaiah addresses the King of Babylon, first as Antichrist, and then as Satan.

*“[T]ake up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say, ‘How the oppressor has ceased, And how fury has ceased! The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, The scepter of rulers Which used to strike the peoples in fury with unceasing strokes, Which subdued the nations in anger with unrestrained persecution’” (Isaiah 14:4-6).*

*How you have fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! ‘But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High’” (Isaiah 14:12-17).*

The Babylonian king at the time of Isaiah's prophecy was Baladan and is clearly not the person referenced by Isaiah in Chapter 14 since he is a relatively insignificant figure. Interestingly, however, King Baladan's son, Berodach-Baladan is the one to whom King Hezekiah of Judah showed off the wealth of his treasury and was rebuked by Isaiah, saying *“Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day will be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,” says the LORD* (2 Kings 20:12-17).

<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashurnasirpal\\_II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashurnasirpal_II)

<sup>2</sup> [www.bible-history.com/olt-testament/the\\_Assyrians.html](http://www.bible-history.com/olt-testament/the_Assyrians.html)

<sup>3</sup> Black Obelisk: see <http://www.bible-history.com/black-obelisk/the-discovery.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ancient.eu/babylon/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esagila>

<sup>6</sup> *ibid.*