

Man's Enemies are NOT Human

“For our struggle is **NOT** against FLESH and BLOOD, but **against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms**” (Ephesians 6:12).



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Our oldest enemy is Satan and his entourage, but there are rulers, authorities, and powers in the heavenly realm who too, work against us—**recent** enemies who are powerful.

“They made him jealous with their foreign gods and angered him with their detestable idols. They sacrificed to demons, which are not God—**gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your fathers did not fear**” (Deuteronomy 32:16-17). These are gods, sons of God who have in these recent 4,000 years, a mere four days ago in God’s time, turned against the Almighty God and caused the nations to worship them, in addition, boasting how the people were making idols of them for worship.

David understood this and so did Daniel. “I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless” (Daniel 10:7-8).

Gabriel was sent to Daniel to give him the interpretation of this terrifying vision, but he was delayed. “**The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days**; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the **kings of Persia**. Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come” (Daniel 10:13–14). Gabriel adds, “Do you know why I have come to you? And now **I must return to fight against the prince of Persia**; and when I have gone forth, indeed **the prince of Greece** will come. But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince” (Daniel 10:20-21).

THE PRINCE OF THE KINGDOM OF PERSIA was fighting against Gabriel to keep him from revealing to Daniel the meaning of the terrifying vision. Gabriel adds that he must return to fight against the **prince of Persia** and later the **prince of Greece**. These are not human kings; no human king can restrain a mighty angel. These are royal rulers—sons of God who recently have turned against their Father, the King and Creator.

God has a holy council comprised of his sons. “**God presides in the great assembly**; he gives judgment among the ‘gods’” (Psalm 82:1) and “I said, ‘**You are ‘gods’; you are all sons of the Most High**’” (Psalm 82:6). At the time of Babel, mankind began rebelling against their Creator again, so God decided to divide the nations and give, as an inheritance to His sons in His holy council, rulership over the nations to teach them the law of God and the way of God.

“When the Most High assigned lands to the nations, when he divided up the human race, he established the boundaries of the peoples **according to the number in his heavenly court**” (New Living Translation Deuteronomy 32:8).

God saved the descendants of Abraham and the land of Canaan as His inheritance in this division. But, sometime after rulership over the nations began, these sons turned to desire self-worship. Like a domino effect, all of them fell into rebellion against the Almighty God. Prior to and at the time of Daniel, God Almighty was fighting against these rebels.

King David urged these gods, “Let all those be ashamed who serve graven images, **who boast themselves of idols; worship Him, all you gods.**” (Psalm 97:7). These gods were boasting how the nations were making idols of them, as part of worshiping them. But alas, it appears that these gods have refused to repent. “I [God Almighty] said, ‘You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High. But **you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler**’” (Psalm 82:6).

The Book of Ezekiel records the significant battles of God against the gods. Throughout the years, God has been taking them down—in His time, as He has scheduled, according to His plan.

THE PHARAOH—GREAT HOUSE, MONARCHIAL RULER—KING OF EGYPT, God Almighty is against you! “You say, ‘The Nile is mine; **I made it for myself**’” (Ezekiel 29:3).

Who is this god who can make a mighty river? Is he a creator?

The son of God ruling Egypt blessed his inheritance. “**Great House**, may it live, prosper, and be in health.” Earliest records indicate that the name ‘**Pharaoh**’ was originally in **reference to the royal palace and not the person**, but over time, Pharaoh was added as a title. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharaoh>

Records reveal more about the name of Egypt. “The name 'Egypt' comes from the Greek Aegyptos which was the Greek pronunciation of the Egyptian name 'Hwt-Ka-Ptah' (“**Mansion of the Spirit of Ptah**”), originally the name of the city of Memphis. Memphis was the first capital of Egypt and a famous religious and trade centre; its high status is attested to by the Greeks alluding to the entire country by that name.’ <http://www.ancient.eu/egypt/>

“The Egyptians were the first example of a human civilisation whose rulers amassed extremes of wealth and absolute power over men. Their unprecedented riches and glory were underpinned by a belief that when they left this world they would join the gods in heaven for all eternity. Those who curried sufficient favour could be taken along too, if Pharaoh so chose, entering into a blissful life amongst the reeds of everlasting peace.” <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/world-history/the-power-of-the-pharaohs-how-a-mighty-civilisation-arose-in-egypt-1607595.html>

Recorded history remembers the ancient gods and their religious teachings. The intended outcome of these rogue gods was to overthrow the Almighty God and decide for themselves the fate of mankind. “To the Egyptians, life on earth was only one aspect of an eternal journey. The soul was immortal and was only inhabiting a body on this physical plane for a short time. At death, one would meet with judgment in the Hall of Truth and, if justified, would move on to an eternal paradise known as The Field of Reeds which was a mirror image of one's life on earth. Once one had reached paradise one could live peacefully in the company of those one had loved while on earth, including one's pets, in the same neighborhood by the same stream, beneath the very same trees one thought had been lost at death. **This eternal life, however, was only available to those who had lived well and in accordance with the will of the gods** in the most perfect place conducive to such a goal: the land of Egypt.” <http://www.ancient.eu/egypt/>

In great pride, the ruling son of God built Egypt into a superpower admired by all and he turned the eyes of the nation to worship him. He declared himself a creator; the creator of the Nile. As he revelled in self-glory, he became self-determined and self-reliant, so God Almighty went to battle against his dearly loved son.

“I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, you great monster [a rebel superpower] lying among your streams [the place where you increase your strength—your allies] ... I will put hooks in your jaws [capture it] and make the fish [other ruling heavenly entities who ally with him] of your streams stick to your scales. I will pull you out from among your streams with all the fish sticking to your scales. I will leave you in the desert [a life-destroying place], you and all the fish of your streams. You will fall on the open field and not be gathered or picked up. I will give you as food to the beasts of the earth and the birds of the air. Then all who live in Egypt will know that I am the LORD [the nations watching the destruction of such might know that the ruling gods have lost their battle against the Almighty God]” (Ezekiel 29:3-6).

“Because you said, ‘The Nile is mine; **I made it,**’ therefore, I am against you and against your streams [allies], and I will make the land of Egypt a ruin and a desolate waste from Migdol to Aswan, as far as the border of Cush... I will make the land desolate among devastated lands... for forty years. At the end of forty years, I will gather the Egyptians from the nations where they were scattered. I will bring them back from captivity and return them to Pathros, the land of their ancestry. **There they will be a lowly kingdom. It will be the lowliest of kingdoms and will never again exalt itself above other nations.** I will make it so weak that it will never again rule over the nations” (Ezekiel 29:9-16).

God gave the kingdom of Egypt over to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon and he carried off all of their wealth. "I have given him Egypt as a reward for his efforts **because he and his army did it for me**, declares the Sovereign LORD" (Ezekiel 29:20).

John Oakes answers the question many ask about the Babylonian invasion of Egypt. "The Persians/Medes did conquer Egypt under Cambyses, the son of Cyrus in 525 BC. However, the Persians were not the first to conquer Egypt. The Hyskos 'The Peoples of the Sea' conquered Egypt about 1750 BC. After that, Egypt was conquered by the Assyrians. The Assyrian armies destroyed Thebes, the capital of Egypt in 663 BC. Eventually, an Egyptian dynasty was re-established. Later, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon became the dominant power in the Near East. He attacked an Egyptian army at the famous battle of Carcemish in 607 BC, nearly destroying Egyptian power. According to his own annals, Nebuchadnezzar invaded Egypt, conquering parts of the Nile valley in 567 BC and "dealt a severe blow to its supremacy and power."

<http://evidenceforchristianity.org/jeremiah-43-prophecies-that-egypt-would-be-conquered-by-babylon-secular-historians-said-that-egypt-was-conquered-by-the-persians-can-you-explain-this-discrepancy/>

The fall of the sons of God ruling over the nations did not happen all at one time. The heavenly ruler of Babylon was loyal to the Creator at that time and Nebuchadnezzar was the tool in God's hand. "No longer will there be a prince in Egypt" (Ezekiel 30:13). The prince was crippled never to fight again. "I will break both his arms, the good arm as well as the broken one, and make the sword fall from his hand" (Ezekiel 30:22).

And so, it was done. The ruler in the heavenly realm brought Egypt down and it remains a lowly kingdom to this day.

O CEDAR, TALLEST IN LEBANON—KING OF ASSYRIA, Egypt did not learn from the destruction of Assyria. "Consider Assyria," God said to humble his son ruling over Egypt. "The cedars [great leaders in God's holy council] in the garden of God [God's government] could not rival it, nor could the pine trees equal its boughs, nor could the plane trees compare with its branches—**no tree [no leader] in the garden of God could match its beauty. I made it beautiful** with abundant branches, **the envy of all the trees of Eden in the garden of God**" (Ezekiel 31:8-9).

The Assyrians were Semitic people living north of Mesopotamia. "Ashurism was the first religion of the Assyrians. The very word Assyrian, in its Latin form, derives from the name of Ashur, the Assyrian god." <http://www.aina.org/brief.html>

The desire to head a superpower, to be the one ruling over all the others, spread like a disease without a cure. The sons of God ruling the nations were now competing and battling against each other. "The Assyrian dream of empire began with monarch, Tiglat-Pileser (1116-1090), who extended Assyrian dominance to Syria and Armenia. But the greatest period of conquest occurred between 883 and 824, under the monarchies of Ashurnazirpal II (883-859 BC) and Shalmeneser III (858-824 BC), who conquered all of Syria and Palestine, all of Armenia, and, **the prize of prizes, Babylon and southern Mesopotamia.**

The monarchs of Assyria, who hated Babylon with a passion since it constantly contemplated independence and sedition, destroyed that city and set up their capital in Nineveh. Later,

however, feeling that the Babylonian god, Marduk, was angry at them, they rebuilt the city and returned the idol of Marduk to a temple in Babylon. The last great monarch of Assyria was Ashurbanipal (668-626 BC), who not only extended the empire, but also began a project of assembling a library of tablets of all the literature of Mesopotamia. Thirty thousand tablets still remain of Ashurbanipal's great library in the city of Nineveh; these tablets are our single greatest source of knowledge of Mesopotamian culture, myth, and literature." <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-assyrians>

The son of God, the tallest of all the cedars [holy council leaders] in God's government—His garden of Eden, fell into wickedness seeded from the pride of his great height. "Because **it towered on high**, lifting its top above the thick foliage, and because **it was proud of its height**, I handed it over to the ruler of the nations, for him to deal with according to its wickedness, I cast it aside, and the most ruthless of foreign nations cut it down and left it" (Ezekiel 31:10-11).

Another painful cut into His heart, God was forced to cast out from before Him the leader in His heavenly court who was the finest example to all of His holy council members and God loved this son dearly. In heavenly joy, the excitement of creation takes the breath away; in painful mourning judgment squeezes the breath out.

"On the day it was brought down to the grave, I covered the deep springs with mourning for it; I held back its streams [it's life support], and its abundant waters were restrained. Because of it, I clothed Lebanon [God's government] with gloom, and all the trees of the field withered away. I made the nations tremble at the sound of its fall when I brought it down to the grave with those who go down to the pit" (Ezekiel 31:16-17).

"After Ashurbanipal, the great Assyrian empire began to crumble; the greatest pressure on the empire came from their old and bitter enemies, the Babylonians. Aided by another Semitic people, the Medes, the Babylonians led by Nabopolassar eventually conquered the Assyrian capital of Nineveh and burned it to the ground, ending forever Assyrian dominance in the region." <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-assyrians>

God loves His creation. The pain He bears from this event is still fresh. In His time, it is but only a few days old. The sons of His holy council—the choicest and best, await judgement in the earth below. "Then **all the trees [leaders] of Eden, the choicest and best of Lebanon [in God's holy council], were consoled in the earth below. Those who lived in its shade, its allies among the nations, had also gone down to the grave with it, joining those killed by the sword**" (Ezekiel 31:16-17).

All of the sons of God in His holy council, those who inherited the nations, turned against Him. Seeking self-worship, they became self-reliant, self-determined, and self-glorifying.

King David pleaded with God, "Rise up, O God, judge the earth, **for all the nations are your inheritance**" (Psalm 82:8).

Taking the nations given as an inheritance back from His sons, can only be done in a legal conquest. God has a plan—a plan kept secret from them for if they knew, they would have never **crucified the Lord of glory**" (I Corinthians 2:8).

God, himself “will take a shoot [Christ will be mortalized and made weak] from the very top of a cedar [top of God’s holy council] and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain heights of Israel [government of Israel], I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar” (Ezekiel 17:22-23).

And so, it was done. The heavenly ruler of Assyria was overthrown and Assyria fell, never to rise up again. God’s plan cannot be thwarted. From that small sprig [Christ made mortal] God seeded His new government—in Israel, among His people a splendid leader will rise.

That splendid cedar through testing became perfect. He paid the price for our sins and while on the cross, the remaining ruling sons of God circled and taunted him as he was dying. In their ignorance, they believed they easily won a critical battle against God. “Many **bulls** surround me; strong **bulls of Bashan** encircle me. Roaring **lions** tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint... Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing” (Psalm 22:12-17).

God’s Holy Spirit had long since been drained from these rebellious sons of God. Upon Christ’s resurrection, God Almighty gave Christ all power and authority in heaven and earth to be King of kings and Lord of lords. “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me**’” (Mathew 28:18). After his resurrection, Christ gathered the remaining rogue sons of God and imprisoned them to the lower parts of the earth—in the pit.

“He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the **written code, with its regulations, that war against us** and that **stood opposed to us**; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having **DISARMED THE POWERS AND AUTHORITIES**, he made a **PUBLIC SPECTACLE OF THEM [in the lower parts of the earth before the other rogue sons of God], TRIUMPHING OVER THEM BY THE CROSS**” (Colossians 2:13-15).

“This is why it says: ‘When He ascended on high, **He led captives away, and gave gifts to men.**’ What does ‘**He ascended**’ mean, except that **He also descended to the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the very one who ascended above all the heavens**, in order to fill all things” (Ephesians 4:8-9).

Having won this major battle, Christ took the authority originally given to the heavenly holy council members, which was the authority **to teach** the nations to obey God and live His way and he gave that authority to his church, “...some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, **to prepare God’s people for works of services, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we ALL reach unity in the father** and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ**” (Ephesians 4:11-13). A new partnership has formed: Christ and his church.

And so, it is done. The rogue sons of God have been silenced—now 2,000 years. 21st century mankind has mythicized these gods, but they will be surprised during the Great Tribulation, a coalition like no other is prepared and waiting to battle God and take mankind hostage.

“Who is like the beast?” the nations will say. “Who can make war against him?” (Revelation 13:4b).

O TYRE whose city is Babylon, the great power of perfect beauty on the high seas. This heavenly domain comprises of:

- a king—Satan
- a ruler—a rogue son of God [a cedar of Lebanon]
- offspring of a forbidden union—giants [oaks of Bashan]
- earthly leaders of lesser stature, yet hold significant positions allying with Tyre (Ezekiel 27:3-9).

Tyre is a foreboding trading center where all the nations come to buy and sell. The king is not satisfied to remain in the high seas—that heavenly place of wickedness; he has plans for expansion.

“Son of man, because Tyre has said of Jerusalem, ‘Aha! The gate to the nations is broken, and its doors have swung open to me; now that she lies in ruins I will prosper’ (Ezekiel 26:2).

While God punishes His people for their rebellion, His center of truth and righteousness [Jerusalem] appears to have collapsed. God’s enemy springs into action to increase his kingdom by trading his wares with the nations. He sells his knowledge, wisdom, and way of life: self-reliance, self-determination, self-glory and from it, the nations expand and grow rich in selfish-power and deception.

During the last days, the nations will cry out, “‘Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!’ The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more—cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men” (Revelation 18:10-13).

This deceptive city sold everything that sustains a physical life of temporary wealth and riches, but nothing that could bring eternal life filled with spiritual truth and wisdom. They imprison mankind into self-saving their dying existence through lies and deceit. They have no intention of revealing **the true purpose of mankind—a new family of sons in the royal kingdom of God through the sacrifice of Christ, filling their positions that they once held.**

Our battle is not against flesh and blood. These rebellious heavenly rulers and powers puppet the nations to their destruction. God is aware of mankind’s limitations and the extent of their

deception. “Your merchants were the world’s great men [those who have significant influence]. **By your magic spell all the nations were led astray**” (Revelation 18:23). God Almighty remains in charge. He has given all power to Christ who is King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ will restore things as they were before iniquity was found. To the king and ruler of Tyre, God has spoken; your destruction is sure.

O RULER OF TYRE you say, “‘I am a god; I sit on the throne of a god in the heart of the seas’ (Ezekiel 28:2). But, you are destined to become a man and die like mere men. “They will draw their swords against your beauty and wisdom and **pierce your shining splendor [eternal beings have their own glory that shines brightly]**. They will bring you down to the pit, and you will die a violent death in the heart of the seas. Will you then say, ‘I am a god,’ in the presence of those who kill you? **You will be [future tense] but a man, not a god**, in the hands of those who slay you. You will die the death of the uncircumcised at the hands of foreigners.’ I have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD” (Ezekiel 28:8-10).

The Psalmist wrote, “You are ‘gods’; you are all sons of the Most High. But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler” (Psalms 82:6-7).

This ruler fell into wickedness through the pride of his wisdom. But, God challenged him. Was he as wise as Daniel of whom no secret was kept? God alone gives wisdom and reveals secrets. This ruler had fallen away from God, so God withheld knowledge from him and eventually He was forced to battle against him. He was overthrown and imprisoned in **the pit** [lower parts of the earth] with all the other fallen enemies of God.

As prophesied, two great battles remain for God against the gods. Both will take place on earth: the Great Tribulation and the battle against Gog. Again, they all will fall and these rulers will die a violent death. All of them will be reduced to mortality and die like a mere man.

The Apostle Paul confirmed the location of the “pit” in Ephesians. “This is why it says: ‘When He ascended on high, **He led captives** [those rogue sons of God] **away**, and **gave gifts to men** [authority to teach the Word of God].’ What does ‘He ascended’ mean, except that **He also descended to the lower parts of the earth**? He who descended is the very one who ascended above all the heavens, in order to fill all things” (Ephesians 4:8-10).

A mere moment of self-glory was traded for eternal life serving the Creator who had given them so much honor in His holy council.

OUR OLDEST ENEMY, the serpent—O king of Tyre, the guardian cherub will be captured, judged and thrown into utter darkness, forever out of sight. In the world of darkness, this ancient enemy reigns supreme. He was created by God—a model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. He was anointed a guardian cherub, no mere messenger but a guardian cherub in the holy government of God. He was adorned in precious stones: ruby, topaz, emerald, chrysolite, onyx, jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl set in gold. He held a most honorable position walking among the fiery stones—the sacred places of the ordained. He was blameless, until iniquity was found in

him. His heart became proud because of his beauty and his wisdom became corrupted because of his splendor (Ezekiel 28:17). So, God expelled him from among the sacred places (Ezekiel 27).

He was not alarmed, rather he set out to establish his own kingdom on the high seas [a place of wickedness in heaven] (Ezekiel 27:4). There he built his domain and sort to expand his kingdom on earth. When man was created, he was ready to debate the word of God and take them down. "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:4). So, Eve ate and gave it to her husband, Adam and he too ate.

God said to the serpent, "I will put **enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers**; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel" (Genesis 3:15).

O king of Tyre, Satan, the dragon and the devil deceives the whole world and leads mankind away from obeying and worshiping God. Be on guard, be vigilant because this enemy has no mercy, he is vicious and relentless. He has NO concern for mankind. Our total destruction is his plan along with overthrowing Christ, our Savior and establishing a throne above the Supreme God. Foolish devil, he underestimates the power of our supreme, Almighty God.

SATAN IS YET TO BE CAST DOWN TO EARTH BY THE ALMIGHTY GOD. "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, **which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him**" (Revelation 12:9).

SATAN IS OUR OLDEST ENEMY AND HE HAS NO CONCERN FOR US. "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [how] art thou cut down to the ground, which **didst weaken the nations!**" (Isaiah 14:12).

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your **adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour**" (I Peter 5:8).

"And **no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light**" (II Corinthians 11:14).

THIS DEVIL IS NOT ALONE. HE TOOK ONE THIRD OF ALL THE ANGELS WITH HIM.

"And **his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven**, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born" (Revelation 12:4).

"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast [them] down to hell, and delivered [them] into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" (II Peter 2:4).

"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" (Jude 1:6).

IN ADDITION TO HIS DOMAIN ON THE HIGH SEAS IN HEAVEN, SATAN HAS A BASE ON EARTH. ONE BEAST WILL RISE OUT OF THE SEA (HEAVEN) AND THE OTHER WILL COME OUT OF THE EARTH. SATAN WILL GIVE GREAT POWER TO THEIR LEADERS: THE FALSE PROPHET AND THE ANTICHRIST. Now there will be war in heaven. Michael and his angels will fight against Satan, the dragon, and his angels—but Satan will not win this critical battle. He will be thrown down to earth. Then, he will know that his time is short and he will be furious (Revelation 12:9, 12). Raging and seething in anguish, He will try to destroy God’s faithful church, but she will be supernaturally protected, so the dragon will attack her **law-keeping offspring. He will stand on the shore of the sea watching his ancient establishment rise, a beast with ten horns and seven heads led by the Antichrist. The false prophet leads the beast on the earth.**

THE NAMES OF THE FALSE PROPHETS ARE NOT REVEALED BECAUSE THEY ARE MANY. THEY ARE IDENTIFIED ONLY BY THEIR ACTIONS. BUT, IN THE LAST DAYS, THERE WILL BE ONE WHO WILL RISE ABOVE THEM ALL. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **Therefore, by their fruits you will know them** (Matthew 7:15-20).

Don't be deceived for this false prophet will perform the same miracles as righteous Elijah who called fire down from heaven. Deception will be the card played. The great wonders and miracles will be spectacular easily deceiving the masses, but specifically targeting God's elect with the plan to destroy them. "For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders **to deceive**, if possible, **even the elect**" (Matthew 24:24).

But, by their actions you will know them. They may appear and speak of friendship and love, but their actions are evil and in direct violation to God's law. "And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if **his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works**" (II Corinthians 11-14).

The role of a true prophet is to speak on behalf of our creator God and to lead the people to obey and worship Him. A false prophet speaks on behalf of false gods and authorities in the heavenly realm and causes people to stray away from the Almighty God to obey and worship rogue, rebellious rulers and authorities—such are the actions of false prophets. "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12).

A true prophet will teach people how to love the Almighty God, urge repentance and baptize so that God's Holy Spirit is received, opening the heart to a willing desire to obey His commands and live His Way. "You shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your **God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His**

commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him” (Deuteronomy 13:3-4).

David Grabbe from the Church of the Great God states, “The hallmark of a true prophet is his upholding of the law of God, while false prophets dodge moral teaching and instead preach a message that appeals to the masses. God's truth is abhorrent to the natural mind (Romans 8:7), and thus it is quite common for God's prophets to be killed, while the false prophets enjoy widespread popularity and support. The current trend of outcome-based churches serves as a good example. Their leaders preach a widely popular message, and thousands of people follow them. Yet, Jesus says in Luke 6:26, ‘Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets.’ Popularity is not a good measurement of God's pleasure with a leader! **A false prophet, then, can be anyone who claims to be speaking for God, but whose message is contrary to God.** False prophets will not convict people of sin, for they themselves do not feel convicted. While **true prophets speak according to God's law and testimony**, false prophets speak soft, easy things to make them more popular. They will tell people what they want to hear.” <http://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Library.sr/CT/PW/k/1177/False-Prophet.htm>

False prophets serve rogue rulers, powers and authorities in high places (Ephesians 6:12). Satan is the great wizard against mankind, “by his magic spell, all the nations were led astray. In her [his false religious body] was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth” (Revelation 18:23-24). The final false prophet of this evil age will give an electrifying performance on the world stage filled with supernatural wonders. “With these signs he will delude those who receive the mark of the beast and worship his image” (Revelation 19:20). But, he will not continue beyond the time allotted to him by the Almighty God. He will die. “The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur” (Revelation 19:20).

THE ANTICHRIST WILL LEAD THE BEAST THAT COMES OUT OF THE SEA. “The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world” (Revelation 13:5-8).

Again, Babylon will appear on the international scene trading; she will build a thriving enterprise that will dazzle the world for a time, times, and a half. But, she will not be alone; she will be forced to share the stage with a rival—a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head (Revelation 12:1). This loyal and faithful group of people follow Christ wherever he goes and they will freely give the word of God to the world and expose the deception of our ancient enemy. This competition will be tolerated for only a time before Satan will turn with the intent to utterly destroy her. He will pursue her, but she will receive divine help. “The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach” (Revelation 12:14). This will not go well for Satan, in greater fury he will

turn to “make war against her offspring, those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus” (Revelation 12:17).

The Antichrist will be cruel and foreboding not only for those obeying God but forcing all nations into submission. “Which in anger struck down peoples with unceasing blows, and in fury subdued nations with relentless aggression...” (Isaiah 14:5-6). Now, the battle of God against the gods and the devil has swept up mankind where a choice needs to be made. Are you for God or against Him?

“I saw a beast coming out of the sea... **the dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority... the beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise authority for 42 months... He is given power to make war with the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation**” (Revelation 13:1-7).

Bible.org provides meaning of Revelation 13. “The ‘sand of the sea’ undoubtedly portrays the many people who make up the nations, the number of whom is as the sand of the sea (Revelation. 20:8). Standing on ‘the sand of the sea,’ suggests Satan’s position as the usurper of the earth and its many peoples and of his power over them. Remember that Isaiah likens the nations to a roaring and restless sea that cannot be quiet and whose waters (their humanistic way of life and political agitation) can only churn up refuse and mud; a fitting picture of the products of a world without peace with God. They have no peace because they have rejected the true Prince of Peace and will turn to their own solutions to life and to the antichrist as their means to world peace, but in reality, this will be not much more than a self-centered pursuit for comfort and personal affluence (cf. Isa. 17:12-13; 57:20-21; Rev. 17:1, 15). <https://bible.org/seriespage/19-beast-and-false-prophet-rev-131-18>

12 Woe to the multitude of many people
Who make a noise like the roar of the seas,
And to the rushing of nations
That make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!
13 The nations will rush like the rushing of many waters;
But God will rebuke them and they will flee far away,
And be chased like the chaff of the mountains before the wind,
Like a rolling thing before the whirlwind (Isaiah 17:12-13).

The nations living in wickedness produce filthy hatred, violence, corruption—wickedness that stirs up trouble. God will rebuke them and bring them before His government seat in judgment.

20 But the wicked are like the troubled sea,
When it cannot rest,
Whose waters cast up mire and dirt.
21 ‘There is no peace,’
Says my God, ‘for the wicked’” (Isaiah 57:20-21).

While the false prophet and the Antichrist rule, God urges the saints to patiently endure and remain faithful (Revelation 13:10, Revelation 14:12) for the beast was “given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation” (Revelation 13:7). This is God’s process of purifying the saints, awakening the wicked, and bringing all of mankind into a deep and everlasting repentance. When God’s work is done with mankind, He will authorize Christ to battle against the rogue rulers, powers, and authorities from the heavenly realm. The display of God’s power given to Christ during this battle will surpass their imagination.

“The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who **for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast**. They have **one purpose** and will **give their power and authority to the beast**. They will make war against the Lamb, but **the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings**—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers” (Revelation 17:12-14).

When God gave His holy council members their inheritance, that is, rulership over the nations, ten princes in His heavenly kingdom had not been given their inheritance to rule over a nation. God will fulfill His commitment to them. During the Great Tribulation, they will receive their kingdom for but one hour. They will battle against Christ and fail.

God’s plan for the destruction of these rogue forces begins by the beast destroying the prostitute [the false religious organism] and Christ destroying the beast [the false governmental structure]. Ultimately, the two leaders: the false prophet and the Antichrist meet their demise in a fiery lake of burning sulfur. “The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur” (Revelation 19:20).

O TYRE, THE ANCIENT DOMAIN IN THE HIGH SEAS WILL BE BROUGHT DOWN TO EARTH AND DESTROYED. They may look for you, but they will not find you. “The east wind [God comes from the east] will break you to pieces in the heart of the sea” (Ezekiel 27:25) and ““Will not the coastlands tremble at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan and the slaughter takes place in you? Then all the princes of the seacoast will step down from their thrones and lay aside their robes and take off their embroidered garments. Clothed in terror, they will sit on the ground, trembling every moment, appalled at you... I will bring you down with those who go down to the pit, to the people of long ago I will make you dwell in the earth below, as in ancient ruins, with those who go down to the pit, and you will not return or take your place in the land of the living. I will bring you to a horrible end and you will be no more. You will be sought, but you will never again be found,’ declares the Sovereign LORD” (Ezekiel 26:15-16, 20-21).

SATAN WILL BE EXPOSED FOR THE DEVIL THAT HE IS. God will make a spectacle of Satan and his dishonest trade will be exposed. He promised life but gave them death. The nations of earth will be appalled at him and he will “come to a horrible end and will be no more” (Ezekiel 28:18-19).

“How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, **you who once laid low the nations!**” (Isaiah 14:12).

SATAN’S DESIRE IS QUITE THE OPPOSITE TO CHRIST’S.

SATAN: O morning star, “You said in your heart **I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God;** I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; **I WILL MAKE MYSELF LIKE THE MOST HIGH.**’ But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit” (Isaiah 14:13-15).

CHRIST: “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, **HE MADE HIMSELF NOTHING** by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, **HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF BY BECOMING OBEDIENT TO DEATH—EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS!**” (Philippians 2:6-8)

Christ’s desire was always: “not my will, but yours, be done” (Luke 22:42).



Compiled by Janette Andrejowich