

The Book of Ezekiel (141-160)

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"Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall." Pr. 16:18 Everyone in the history of mankind who has been overcome by the spirit of Satan has had this spiritual disease. Every type, every symbol of the antichrist has this mark upon it. That makes it easy to understand those who are types. The heart of Tyrus was exalted above measure. Filled with pride which ruled all ability to properly evaluate his position in life. So great had he become in his own sight that he declared himself to be a God. That immediately placed the seal of Satan upon him. That reminds us of the time when Lucifer believed that he could be like unto the most High and tried to exalt himself beyond measure. Pride is a self inflicted misfortune which can only lead to destruction. Isa. 14:14

It is important to a proper understanding of the antichrist that we thoroughly recognize that the very first insurrection against the Lord took place in His very throne presence. Satan was known as the anointed cherub. The holy anointing oil of the Lord, the Holy Spirit was upon him. His was the responsibility of covering or the leader of the protecting forces of the Lord. His place was on the holy mountain, or the high place of God. He had moved up and down amongst the stones of fire, the building materials of the temple. Again, indicating the fire of the holy Spirit. He was the closest of all of creation to the Lord. The inner circle. The enemy within. Eze. 28:14

Paul wrote concerning the antichrist and said that he would be a person with the spirit and nature of opposition. Particularly, in hostility against Christ. The current attack of trying to remove Christ from Christmas is ridiculous but a small sign of what is to come. His purpose in resisting is that he might exalt himself that he might be known as God and that all worship be directed toward him. Be alert to the fact that he is from the inner circle of spiritual leaders. He is revealed as one who is occupying the very temple of God where he proclaims himself to be God. A proper understanding of just exactly what the temple of God is, is vital at this point of our study. "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in

you.” 1 Cor. 3:16 This transaction will not take place in any physical building made of stone or other materials. The antichrist will first of all be an individual who is well known for his spiritual exploits. Jesus said on choosing the twelve disciples that one of those chosen ones was a devil. John 6:70 That one we know by the name of Judas. The spirit of opposition was in him. He opposed the anointing of the Lord Jesus (because he was a thief). John 12:4 In so doing he persuade other to follow suit and complain. Mt. 26:8-9 The enemy is within. The other disciples were not aware of his nature, even up to and until the last supper. Mark 14:18-19.

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It is an imperative that every true child of the Lord have a proper knowledge of the events of the end of the age. In particular the character, the nature of the one called the antichrist. Peter wrote and warned of false teachers who would gain a place of prominence and trust, then “bring in damnable heresies” false teachings, lies which would mislead the church. Through their devious ways they will attempt to negate the truth. Which brings us to another sign that is glaringly evident in the false church. It was an outstanding feature of Tyre and will be of the false church. The key word is merchandising, of which Tyre was no doubt a capitol. Jesus drove the merchants from the temple saying that they were making His Father’s house a house of merchandise. John 2:16 If He was that concerned about the sale of doves in that day, how does He feel about the merchandising being conducted by churches and those in leadership today. One thing that is predominate in the last day harlot church is her ability to make her adherents rich. Rev. 18:11-15

This woman of Revelation eighteen, the last day harlot church is an object of great beauty. She is gorgeously clothed with the very best of fine and costly clothing. The appeal of riches is not only one of her doctrines but it is aptly displayed that she too is a partaker of the riches of this world, counting them to be the evidence of her spirituality. She is extremely rich, but in one hour all that she had accumulated unto herself was completely destroyed. Those who had been made rich by her and had trusted their future to her, suddenly found themselves in the financial depression of all depressions, for all commerce will cease. Rev. 18:11

History, the experiences of others, our own experiences, and certainly by no means the least, the Word of the Lord are all there to guide and direct the lives of those who will learn in a manner conducive to peace and tranquility. The wise man said; "That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun." Eccl. 1:9 In the days of Peter the church had been visited by those who sought to destroy the way of truth. Using the systems of the world they looked upon the sheep as objects of merchandising. Rather than seeing the needs of the spiritual man they saw only the wool (\$ \$) and were out to shear the sheep. 2 Peter 2:3 This is the seed which fell among the thorns, they heard the Word of the Lord, but the cares, the riches and pleasures of this world choked out the inspiration which was generated in their hearts when they heard the Word. Any spiritual aspirations they may have are quickly swallowed up by the appeal of this earthly life. Luke 8:14 They bring no fruit to perfection in the very time when the Lord will have a glorious church. Eph. 5:27.

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A being of extreme wisdom. Eze. 28:3 Considered to be wiser than Daniel and Daniel was much wiser than all the wise men, the magicians, astrologers and so called wise men of the kingdom who sought wisdom by satanic means. How interesting that Ezekiel would refer to Daniel here, for the book of Daniel is the key to a proper understanding of the end of the age. The book of Daniel gives us a good insight into the plan of the Lord for these last days. The antichrist will be anti-God and will make great declarations against the Lord. The antichrist will be an exceptionally eloquent speech maker. A man skilled in the use of language, and the power of words. He will be a silver tongued orator, particularly when he is speaking out against the Lord. Dan 7:25 During his reign on earth he will open his mouth with the intention in mind of directing his vile remarks toward God in an effort to degrade and vilify Him. He will also direct his statements against the name of God, which is the Lord Jesus Christ. At the same time his attack will be directed against the tabernacle of the Lord. If the saints are raptured before the antichrist takes over, who are these who are the tabernacle? His blasphemy is also to be against those who dwell in heaven. Rev. 13:6.

"He shall persecute the saints." Dan. 7:25b NKJV. "shall wear out the saints of the most High." KJV. His concerted actions and his purpose is to defeat, and destroy those who are the saints of the most High. This statement is the door to a accurate understanding of the great tribulation and the second coming of Christ called the rapture. His reign of terror will be imposed on the peoples of this world for a time (one year) a times (plural, therefore two years) and the dividing of a time (six months) for a total of three and one half years. That is the period of time allotted to the reign of the antichrist. If all those who are saints are raptured before or as the antichrist comes on the scene, who are the saints whom he will persecute and against whom he will make war? Rev. 13:7 That there are those who are termed to be saints in the great three and one half year tribulation is very evident by the fact that there are going to be those who will be victorious over all the wicked plans and deeds of the antichrist to rule and destroy them. They are seen gathered on the sea of glass where the glory of the Lord, the fire of the Spirit accompanies them. Rev. 15:2 They did not bow nor worship the image of the antichrist. They refused to receive his mark or take his name, which makes it very, very evident that they were in the tribulation and were not raptured at the beginning of it. They sing the song of Moses and the Lamb. That makes them Messianic Jews. Rev. 15:2-4.

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Another indication of the powers of Satan knowing the plan and purposes of the Lord is seen in the statement, "THERE IS NO SECRET THAT THEY CAN HIDE FROM THEE." Eze. 28:3b This is particularly true of the secret and hidden sinful actions of Christians. He accuses them day and night before the Lord. Rev. 12:10 Lucifer, because of his access to the very throne presence of the Lord and his knowledge of the plan of the Lord, knows the time element involved. For instance, when he will launch his attack against the perfected church, the bride of Christ, He knows he has but a short time. Rev. 12:12 Briefly, before she is transported into her place prepared for her for the duration of the great tribulation, the dragon, Satan, will persecute the church. Rev. 12:13.

It is remarkable that among the fundamentals of the downfall of Tyre we find two outstanding achievements which speak to the cause of its downfall. Wisdom and riches. Both are outstanding desires of those in

the church world of today. The irony of it is in the fact that the wiser the world becomes the greater we manage to create confusion and difficulties. We are right in the midst of Bible prophecy. The ability to "run to and fro" has greatly increased, we fly, cruise and vacation with great ease because of the many inventions of mankind. Knowledge has increased to such a degree that our feeble brains cannot contain it all. So, we ask the computer, we go on line and there we find a vast warehouse of wisdom and knowledge. In spite of it all, we live in a tired world because we try to cram so much into each and every day, both work and leisure. We are on the run. Dan. 12:4.

Riches, it is absolutely fitting that one of the doctrines taught by the church in the last days would be the doctrine of prosperity. The harlot church is extremely rich. When the Lord judges her, all of her riches will be destroyed in one hour. Rev. 18:17 The recent failure of the financial systems of the world should open our eyes to the fact of the uncertainty of the riches of this world. Trillions of dollars, world wide, perished overnight. James 5:2 Do we need more of the same to convince us that the riches of this world are of the most uncertain kind. 1 Tim. 6:17 The Lord gives to His own, richly, in abundance, all things to enjoy. Jesus said that the riches of this world are deceitful and choke out the good seed to such a degree that there is no fruit, the Word of the Lord becomes ineffective. Mt. 13:22 When the Lord is first and uppermost in our lives, all the needs and necessities of life here and in that which is eternal will be supplied. Mt. 6:33 Try it, it works.

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All that produces pride in the heart of mankind is evident in the Word of the Lord to Tyre. Because of a desire to usurp the power and position which belongs solely to the Lord, Tyre was to be slain with the sword. Be it the sword of the Lord or the sword of men, such extreme pride could only result in death. It is noteworthy that special mention is made of the destruction of the beauty of their wisdom and their brightness would be defiled or polluted. The very elements which had been the foundation of their greatness would be the cause of the downfall of Tyre. Eze. 28:6-8 When faced with the enemy will the declaration, "I am God" deliver Tyre. No, for at that moment of time it shall be proven that he was but a man. Eze. 28:9 Ezekiel commanded to take up a lamentation for Tyre. It was to be a funeral dirge, a time

of mourning. In it we find the very high and exalted position and power which the Lord had bestowed upon His created being, Lucifer. He was a unique creation in the hand of the Lord. There is no question but what the Lord loved him greatly. Consider the excellent and wondrous description voiced by Ezekiel concerning him:-

THOU SEALEST UP THE SUM. Eze. 28:12 You were the seal of perfection. NKJV. He was the ultimate, the very epitome, the extreme height of creation. He was the seal, the signet of all that was and is to be perfect. A seal or signet enables the one having it to act on behalf of the person whose name or face appeared on the seal. Just think of the tremendous power and authority which was invested in the person bearing the seal. All that perfection is, was found in Him. He fell from that high and holy place. Now the Lord is now taking just the opposite approach. He is taking fallen humanity, saving them, cleansing them and bringing them to perfection. They are being sealed with the Holy Spirit. 2 Cor. 1:32 The final work of the Lord will be in finding a perfected church/bride who is like Himself in every aspect of the word. Holy and perfected with all the perfection of the Almighty. Eph. 5:27 Seal and sum both indicate that which is the final thing. In this case he was the completed pattern and nothing could be added to him. There was no other being as close to the Lord as this created being. He established an example which is to be seen repeatedly in the history of the relationship found in the scriptures between the Lord and mankind. All the types point to the enemy within. The antichrist will be a member of good standing in the last day church. What is unfolding before us in this lamentation will be repeated in the future revelation of the antichrist. He comes from the church. He will leave the church, in his time, because he is of a different spirit and character. 1 John 2:19.

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FULL OF WISDOM. Eze. 28:12 Filled to the brim with the wisdom of the Lord. Full, in the sense of having received the fullness of his ability to receive. Most definitely not all the fullness of the wisdom of the Lord, but to a capacity which made him a very wise being. However he did not use his God given wisdom to keep him out of trouble. Pride entered in, his heart was exalted and that holy wisdom was corrupted. Eze. 28:17 Consequently, he lost his high and holy status in the courts of heaven. He was cast to the ground. Jesus remarked that He beheld

this casting down, this fall of Satan, when he fell as lightning. Luke 10:18 In his fall he became the god of this world and will continue in that capacity until the end of the age. 2 Cor. 4:4.

He is the prince of the power of the air over this world. His spirit is that which is so evident in this age of disobedience. Eph. 2:2 He will once again be cast down from heaven after a brief insurrection and a quick battle. Rev. 12:7-9 Michael (who is like God), and could be none other than the Lord Jesus, appeared as the Archangel Michael. Jesus is the commander in chief of the heavenly host. Not all angels are created angels. The term angel has a broad meaning and in its simplicity it means a messenger, heavenly or earthly. Michael is the Archangel of resurrection. He contended with the devil over the body of Moses, not to bury it but to resurrect it. Jude 9 We know Moses was resurrected and lives in heaven for he appeared with Elijah on the mount of transfiguration and conversed with the Lord Jesus concerning the up coming events of His life which would soon take place in Jerusalem. Mt. 17:3 Luke 9:30-31.

PERFECT IN BEAUTY. Every creation of the Lord has this seal and stamp upon it. He made all things beautiful, in their original creation. Ecc. 3:11 Adam and Eve, created in the image and likeness of the Lord must have been people of a gorgeous countenance. The mark of beauty was to be upon everything used to worship the Lord. For instance, the garments of the high priest were to be "for glory and for beauty." Ex. 28:2 In its beginning, Jerusalem was considered to be the perfection of beauty, for in her the glory of the Lord had been revealed.. Ps. 50:2 The Lord had bestowed such beauty and majesty upon Jerusalem that her reputation was well known. He placed His comeliness upon her but she did not respect the work of the Lord and took pride in her own beauty, consequently loosing both, the beauty of the Lord and her own, to licentiousness. Eze. 16:14-15 Tyre, Lucifer, Jerusalem, Babylon and the antichrist as well all bear a beauty which appeals to mankind, but in the end they loose it. Sin is deceptive in its appeal and appearance of beauty as something which is most desirable but its ways are the ways of death. Eze. 18:20.

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THOU HAST BEEN IN EDEN. Eze. 28:13 It is very evident that there is a reference made here to someone other than the king of Tyre. That

being is none other than the devil, himself. The name of this beautiful garden of God bears the connotation, delights, which is in the plural, indicating unlimited pleasures forevermore. Ps. 16:11 Every delightful plant, tree and experience was present and to be enjoyed in this beautiful garden of the Lord. To be found among the gorgeous display of flowering trees and plants was the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The most important and vital of all the planting of the Lord, for they are spiritual trees and mankind's partaking of them indicates their eternal destiny. Gen. 2:9 This most pleasant place was also the dwelling place of the man whom the Lord had created. Gen. 2:8.

In this delightful atmosphere and place the Lord brought forth a companion for the man Adam whom He had created and placed in the garden. What a glorious type this transaction is as it portrayed the ultimate, the grandest of the creative ability of the Lord, the Bride of Christ. This was the final act of the original creation of the Lord. The grand finale, the crown and glory of all that He had brought forth. The perfected Bride is the goal and purpose of the Lord which is to reach its accomplishment in the end of the age. She is a living Bride and does not include those who have passed and gone to heaven. Eph. 5:27 Adam, under the power of the Spirit of the Lord, was made to be impervious to pain during the surgery performed by the Lord. A deep sleep from the Lord fell upon him. In the process, the Lord opened the side of Adam, very likely a bloodless surgical act, nevertheless blood was exposed. Gen. 2:21 From the side of the last Adam, the Lord Jesus, blood and water flowed as He was pierced by the spear of a soldier when nailed to the tree. John 19:34 As Eve, in the form of a rib, was taken from the side of Adam, so the church is brought forth by the blood and water and will be made to be His Bride. John 3:5.

Both natural birth and spiritual birth are by blood and water. The blood of redemption and the waters of baptism. Under the Law, washings were many and very necessary for entrance into the holy place. The unwashed would die for entering unwashed. Ex. 30:21 Paul was told to be baptized to, wash away his sins. Acts 22:16 It is an integral part of our first works as a Christian. Acts 2:38 Then there is that constant cleansing which is a result of the workings of the Word of the Lord in those who read and hear it. Eph. 5:26.

Not only was the devil in Eden, the garden paradise of the Lord but he was there as a fallen, cast down creature of great beauty. The serpent was able to present itself in an extremely attractive way to Eve. There is no repulsion of fear displayed by Eve. Gen. 3:1 He knew exactly the manner in which he should approach and convince Eve of the benefits of partaking of the forbidden fruit. The only thing in the whole garden that was off limits, yet so attractive. Just how appealing was the serpent? According to Ezekiel he was covered with every kind of a precious stone and then he listed nine different stones which were a part of his garments and decoration. These were mounted in settings of gold. What a rich and attractive display of glittering color these would have presented. A sight pleasing to the eye. We also take note that the number of stones mentioned are nine and nine is the number of the Holy Spirit. Nine fruit, nine gifts, nine virtues.

THOU ART THE ANOINTED CHERUB. Eze. 28:14 Further indicating the high and unique position held by this beautiful creature. No, the Lord was not deceived by this being. The whole scenario is according to the sometimes mysterious but resolute objectives of the Lord. To think of anything as precious as the anointing of the Spirit of the Lord being applied to such a creature it difficult to receive. The holy anointing oil used in anointing the tabernacle and the priest was extremely holy and was to be used solely for that purpose. Ex. 30:25-31 It was not to be used in a random manner and placed upon just anyone. Ex. 30:32-33 Anyone who tried to duplicate it was to be cut off from among the people. Ex. 30:33, 38 If we sin against the Father, or the Son there is forgiveness. Sin against the Holy Spirit and there is no forgiveness. Mt. 12:31-32 Inasmuch as sin originated in the high and holy place, with one who was the anointed of the Lord we can understand why any sin against the Holy Spirit has no forgiveness. Heb. 6:4-6 Once again we see that it is, the enemy within, who is the real enemy.

THE COVERING CHERUB. Eze. 28:14,16 The one to whom was assigned the duty of covering and protection. To give us an idea of how extremely close this created cherub was to the Lord we consider the mercy seat of the tabernacle and temple. Made of one piece of gold, showing the unity of the Godhead. The mercy seat was sprinkled with blood. Christ is our propitiation our mercy seat. 1 John 4:10 The mercy seat was overshadowed by the figure of a cherub on either side,

representing the Father and the Spirit. The covering cherub was not from eternity, he was not God but was the highest of the highest order of created beings.

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I HAVE SET THEE SO. Eze. 28:14 His place, his actions in heaven and on earth were established by the Lord. He was appointed and established in his position before the throne of the Lord. The Lord never loses control. He is the final ruling authority and there are none greater than He. Nebuchadnezzar was a fortunate man, inasmuch as the Lord did not extend his punishment beyond seven years. Dan. 4:32 At the conclusion of that time his sanity was returned unto him. He had experienced a change of heart, lifting his head up to the Lord, he blessed the most High and praised and honored him who lives forever. He also confessed that the Lord is the king of an everlasting and eternal kingdom. Ruling over the inhabitants and the armies of heaven with such authority that none can stop his will nor demand of Him an explanation of His actions. Dan. 4:34-35 The Lord is in absolute charge, even today. We may not like some of the things that are done by elected officials, or all others who rule and reign for that matter but they are ordained of God to lead and govern. Even when their guidance is unpleasant and negative. The Lord is still in control. Rom. 13:1

YOU WERE ON THE HOLY MOUNTAIN OF GOD. Eze. 28:14 This is further indication of the high and exalted position occupied by this one who was to fall with the sound of a great crash. He was actually thrown out of heaven, cast down as something that was foul and polluted. Because of their merchandising they had filled the city with violence and sin. Eze. 28:16 Obviously along with the legitimate trade which was a part of the life of the city, there were also illegal activities of every sort. Even as we see that today, those who trade in things which are illegitimate not only rule in trade but are second and in some instances first governments ruling their area. Concurrent with the deliverance of the Bride of Christ into the place prepared by the Lord, there will be war in heaven, resulting in a final and eternal expulsion of the dragon and his fallen angels from the throne presence of the Lord. Rev. 12:7-8

In my life time I have seen America change from a country which basically supplied itself to a nation dependent, of all things, on trade with the whole world. Through our extreme indebtedness we are owned by the former poorer nations of the world with whom trade has been established because their labor is cheaper. We have just gone through a period of time where commerce has slowed to the pace of a snail. It will happen again in such a great manner that all world commerce will come to a smashing halt. In one day great Babylon will suffer a threefold judgment. Plagues, death and famine. At the same time she will be completely destroyed by fire.

Rev. 18:8 .

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YOU HAVE WALKED UP AND DOWN IN THE MIDST OF THE STONES OF FIRE. Eze. 28:14 He was comfortable and felt at home as he strolled through the environment of the God. The God who is a blazing fire and His anointed are stones of fire. Heaven is a place of the exceeding great glory of the presence of the Lord. Isaiah saw the throne of the Lord and remarked that the house was filled with smoke. Not a choking, nauseating smoke but an atmosphere created by the fiery presence of the Lord of glory. Isaiah saw the throne of glory. Isa. 6:4 The presence around that throne was so sacred and holy that he cried out like the leper, unclean. He was sanctified by a coal of fire, from the altar before the throne, touching his lips. Isa. 6:5-7 Ezekiel saw the throne of fire. Eze. 1:27 The face of the Lord Jesus on the mount of transfiguration shone as the fire and glory of the sun. Mt. 17:2 As the mighty messenger, John saw, the future event when He will descend from heaven and His face will shine as the sun and His feet will be as fire. Rev. 10:1 As Isaiah confessed his sinfulness when he saw the Lord of Glory, so with any true revival, there must first be conviction of our sinfulness and then the burning, purging, purifying power of the fire of the Lord. The baptism of the Spirit is more than speaking in tongues, it is a baptism of the fire of the Lord. Luke 3:16 On the day of Pentecost there was a visible evidence of the descending fire. It is not necessary that there be a repetition of that particular sign, outwardly, but it is an imperative that the baptism be a baptism of fire which will sanctify the vessel being filled. Acts 2:3 How else can His ministers be made a flaming fire? Heb. 1:7.

Once again, it is the enemy from within. Satan was well acquainted with all that went on in the presence of the Lord. He liked what he saw and desired to be like the Most High. Isa. 14:14 Judas was no stranger to the life style and ministry of the Lord Jesus. He was their treasurer and held the bag. He also objected, so he was a dissenter, to the use of such costly ointment being used by Mary to anoint the feet of Jesus. His excuse was that it should have been sold and its gain be given to the poor. The poor being mainly himself for that would have put more in the bag for him to steal, for he was a thief. John 12:3-6 Jesus knew from the beginning of His choice that Judas would betray Him. John 6:70 Nevertheless, Judas became one with them and not only beheld all the mighty works of the Lord Jesus but was a partaker of them and was sent forth to minister to the people. Acts 1:17 He held the position of an Apostle. Acts 1:25 He is also given the title son of perdition. John 17:12 The second coming of Christ will not take place until the man of sin, the son of perdition, the antichrist is revealed. 2 Thess. 2:3 First things first. Wake up church or be deceived by the antichrist. Yes, it is just that serious.

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It might be well for us to consider here one of the types of the antichrist found in the history of Israel. A man who bore the prophetic name which indicated exactly what he would become; Achan (troubler) or Achor, the troubler of Israel, who transgressed in the thing accursed. 1 Chron. 2:7 When Israel conquered Jericho all the valuable metals were to be consecrated unto the Lord and be taken into the sanctuary of the Lord.

No one was to take anything for themselves under the sentence of death. To them, it was the accursed thing. Achan saw, he desired, he lusted, after that, he took and hid great riches. Josh. 7:20-21 As a matter of fact, Achan stole from the Lord, not from Jericho. Even in our time men are still trying to steal from the Lord that which is His. Mal. 3:8-9.

Achan saw and purloined a beautiful Babylonish garment, definitely of great value, else he would not have taken it. In his stolen loot there were two hundred shekels of silver plus a wedge or tongue of gold. Overnight he had become a rich man, but had committed a gross sin before the Lord. It is interesting that there were three items stolen. If we would spiritualize them the robe would become a robe of

righteousness. Silver speaks to redemption and gold of the glory of the Lord. But Achan had to confess that he coveted, took and hid that which he had taken. When actions are based on a desire to deceive, or a wrong motive is involved, there will be a time of exposure. Sin cannot permanently be hidden.

Achan's sin had its effect on the whole of Israel. They were defeated at Ai because sin was in the camp. Not only were they physically manhandled but psychologically in mind and heart they were utterly cast down. Josh. 7:1-5 Joshua humbled himself before the Lord but in his prayer boldly spoke his feelings before the Lord. If Israel is defeated, Lord, what will that do to your great name. A prayer of wisdom for he knew that the Lord would respond and He did so by exposing the fact that there was sin in Israel. Josh. 7:6-9 The actions of one had its effect on the whole of the nation of Israel. The enemy within. One of their own but a man who disobeyed the Lord causing the whole of the nation to be brought under condemnation. The lineage of Achan ceased right then and there. The punishment was equal to the sin for by his actions thirty six of the brave warriors of Israel lost their lives. Josh. 7:5 Consequently Achan and all that was connected with him were stoned to death and burned. Josh. 7:25-26 To obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken than the fat of rams. 1 Sam. 15:22b.

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Absalom (father is peace) is another who foreshadows the antichrist, the enemy within. He was the third son of King David. He had his brother Amnon killed because of his incest with Tamar their sister. 2 Sam. 13:28 He was a favorite of David for he longed after him when he fled to Geshur. 2 Sam. 13:39 Joab was commanded to go Geshur and bring Absalom to Jerusalem. 2 Sam. 14:24 Only David was not yet ready to see him face to face. 2 Sam. 13:24 Little did David know the problems and difficulties he had brought upon himself in having Absalom return to Jerusalem.

This Absalom is a perfect example of the physical appearance of the antichrist. In an age, such as ours, where every segment of society has its "idols" and much of this is based on beauty or handsomeness, he fits the bill. In all of Israel there was not a man so highly praised, or celebrated for his excellent beauty. The envy of every man and the

desire of the ladies. Were he alive today, with our attitude of exalting certain individuals because of their good looks, his portrait would be everywhere on everything. He would be the model of the decade. There was no blemish in him from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. 2 Sam. 14:25 Incidentally he had a head of hair that was most impressive inasmuch as particular note is made of its weight. 2 Sam. 14:26

From the words of the description given in Ezekiel we note, the perfection. Eze. 28:14 The beauty. 28:17 Wisdom. 28:17 Brightness. 28:17 The modern day worship of individuals from every facet of life is preparing humanity for the man of sin. This spectacular man who is yet to come and will appeal to all because of his stature, handsome appearance, his wit and wisdom, his religious and political know how. He will be exactly the type of person that mankind has been conditioned to receive, even a sector of the Christian community will gladly receive him. He had a very calculating mind and knew exactly how to deal with people. On being ignored by Joab he set his field on fire to get his attention and it worked. He used Joab as a go between to gain an audience with his father, king David. He was graciously received and was kissed by his father so once again he was in his good graces. 2 Sam. 14:28-33 King David was a condoning father who little realized the price he would ultimately pay for his willingness to accept his son so readily and thus restoring him to the former status which he had held among the people. Of the gifts of the Spirit today there is none more necessary than the gift of the discerning of Spirits. Only by knowing what to expect, through the Word and the Spirit, in the nature and person of the antichrist will we be able to discern who he is and that he is about to fulfill his destiny.

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In all innocence and love David had kissed Absalom and forgiven him, thus reinstating him into the succession of those who at sometime might replace him as king. Absalom now started to show the intent and purpose of his heart. To exalt himself and show forth his self imposed importance he became the showoff of the city with his horses, chariots and the fifty who ran before him. His choice of fifty men is rather interesting for we know fifty to be the number of the feast of Pentecost. His actions well advertised his presence. Everyone knew who he was and exactly that which was his purpose. 2 Sam. 15:1

Absalom immediately set about to "steal the hearts of the men of Israel." 2 Sam. 15:6 He ungraciously started a campaign to undermine the king, his own father. The very one who had forgiven him. What an obnoxious character this Absalom is about to become. The spirit and works of Absalom are practiced today by unscrupulous individuals who seek to usurp the authority of those in church leadership. It will be the main means whereby the antichrist will split the church in the last days. He stood in the gate of the city undermining the duty and responsibility of the king by offering himself as a counselor and judge. Those who turned aside to pay him homage he drew unto himself and kissed them. Truly the kiss of a traitor. Just like Judas. A prospective king being disloyal to his king. A son double crossing his very trusting and perhaps doting father. 2 Sam. 15:2-6 Absalom is an excellent example of the coming antichrist. The attitudes of those who will be deceived by him are to be found in this bit of history.

After four years (a better number than forty), Absalom covered his rebellion by requesting permission to go to Hebron (league, confederacy, alliance) that he might serve the Lord by offering a sacrifice which he had previously vowed unto the Lord. The duplicity of Absalom rival that of the last day antichrist. A religious act, a front, with the intent of drawing the people unto himself. In all that he had set out to accomplish there is intertwined the spirit and mind of one who is a deceiver of the worst kind. Just as innocently as could be, David wished his God speed, so there will be those in the church in the last days who will gullibly follow this charismatic individual whom the scriptures call the antichrist. 2 Sam. 15:7-9 Take heed to the words of the Apostle Paul concerning the last days. A form of godliness is deceptive for it is but an empty shell. We are the best educated population that the world has ever seen. Pertaining to spiritual comprehension we fit perfectly into his prophecy, "Ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 2 Tim. 3:7 What is your conception of the coming antichrist?"

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Truth will out. The time of deception and rebellion as demonstrated by Absalom had arrived. Absalom had secretly built himself a strong following throughout Israel. They were to be alerted, by the sounding trumpets, to the fact that he was establishing a new government

located in Hebron. Mr. deception personified. As the son of David, he couldn't have had closer ties to the King appointed by the Lord. One of the inner court, a member of the family. Like Lucifer and Judas of the inner circle. 2 Sam. 15:10 His ability to influence the innocent is demonstrated by the two hundred naive men who so gullibly followed him to Hebron. They had no conception of his reason for inviting them to go with him. This may anger some, but they are an example of a multitude of Christians today who fail to listen to the voice of the Spirit and have no working knowledge of the Word pertaining to that which will take place in the end of the age. They will run off after any man who can make great claims. They feed on the spectacular. One of the signs of the end of the age is the departure of some from the faith once delivered unto the fathers, being led astray by seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.

1 Tim. 4:1 Absalom is a perfect example of the deception whci will perpetrated by the antichrist. 2 Peter 3:3-5 Note, there are some who are willingly ignorant. In other words they know better but for what ever reason go along with the flow of the tide.

Ahithophel, (brother of foolishness), the man who was the advisor to king David. Another of the inner court. By the meaning of his name he became an example of those who occupy high places but their inspiration is carnal and not spiritual. He readily followed Absalom, there is even the possibility that he was in this conspiracy from the beginning. 2 Sam. 15:12 Those who followed Absalom increased in number daily as the movement became stronger and stronger. David wrote the feelings of his heart under these circumstances and they become a prophecy of that which speaks of the coming antichrist. Strikingly, he wrote of a desire to seek peace in the wilderness by means of the wings of a dove (symbol of peace). Ps. 55:6-7.

The Bride of Christ will find her place of rest and peace in the wilderness having been transported there on the power of eagles wings, (the power of the Holy Spirit). Rev. 12:16 He desired a shelter from the storm and tempest

which had broken out around him. In this Psalm he expressed the turmoil which had come into his life. The condition of the world when the church is delivered will be such turmoil such as has never been before. The powers of darkness will be loosed to their fullness. The voice of thunder from heaven warns them of the fall of Satan and his

great wrath which he will demonstrate, not only against the Bride but against all men. He is filled with wrath and will display it in a magnitude never before seen. It is called the great tribulation because that is precisely what it will be. Rev. 12:12.

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YOU WERE IN EDEN. Eze. 28:13 The Lord, in order to accomplish His objective has permitted Satan access into the presence of all areas that are pure and holy, namely the presence of the Lord. In Eden, Satan appeared as a serpent, thus forever giving snakes a bad reputation among men. As usual, the Devil presented himself in the form of something created by the Lord. It was not the serpent who was the deceiver but the spirit of Satan which controlled the serpent. Lucifer is given the epithets of, the dragon and the old serpent. Rev. 20:2 In form, he is neither but in spirit and action he is the very worst of both combined.

EVERY PRESCIOUS STONE. Stones of great beauty and value were his covering, or garniture. Eze. 28:13 That he was a creature of great beauty there is no question. The various colors of the stones and their reflection of light was spectacular. There are nine stones mentioned which embellished him. Nine is the number of the Holy Spirit and we note that this fellow was called the anointed cherub. Gold, that which is most precious was used as the framework holding the stones. There has to be a reason why the sin against the Holy Spirit has no forgiveness. Mt. 12:31-32 Lucifer was the first to sin against that very presence which beautified him. Twelve stones were used for the breastplate of the high priest. The names of the twelve tribes of Israel were engraved as a memorial. In this manner they were always on the breast (heart) of the priest as he ministered before the Lord. Ex. 28:15-21 There are also twelve precious stones which will be used as a foundation for the new Jerusalem. Rev. 21:19-20

YOU WERE PERFECT IN YOUR WAYS. Eze. 28:15 A being who was thoroughly furnished and made complete in the eyes of his creator. As with all the creation of the Lord, created and made to be the very best, the finest, complete and whole. A creature, who like mankind, was given the freedom of thought and intent. All of his works were right and proper until the day when the thought arose in his heart that he was so close to God, that he could become God. A spirit of rebellion

was made manifest in him and he became corrupted by means of his sin. A spirit of personal pride gripped his heart because of his high and holy position and the great beauty with which the Lord had created him. His splendor had such a powerful effect on him that it thoroughly corrupted the God given wisdom which had been given him of the Lord. Eze. 28:13 This introduces a divine principle, "Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall," Prov. 16:18 Thus attitude, common to mankind originated with Satan, therefore it is devilish and destructive.

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CAST OUT. Sin separates from the Lord. We remember that Jesus said that he beheld Satan fall from heaven as lightning. Luke 10:18 The scripture also reveal that his time is now spent before the Lord accusing the brethren day and night, so access to heaven is not yet totally denied him. He will be expelled eternally at the end of the age after the birth of the man child. Rev. 12:9 An event which will involve a brief war in heaven where he is defeated and he and his angels are never again seen in heaven. Rev. 12:7-8 Heaven is cleansed, sanctified eternally, this will be the last of the likes of him.

THE MOUNTAIN OF GOD. Mountains are noted for their height. So the mountain of the Lord is the height, the fullness or the very epitome of His presence. It is called the mountain occupied as a dwelling place of the justice and holiness of the Lord. Jer. 31:23 Daniel saw a stone carved from the mountain of the Lord which would destroy the kingdom of the antichrist. Dan . 9:35 That same stone was to continue on until it became a great mountain filling the whole earth. Thus, we see a Messianic prophecy which will reach its climax in the end of the age. That mountain will become a well established mountain in the last days as a source of revival and the renewing of the Spirit of the Lord in the people. It is a like a great magnet attracting the multitudes of the world to the mountain, the Lord Jesus. Mic. 4:1 The finished product, the pinnacle of the highest of mountains is the mountain upon which the new Jerusalem will be established, it is noted as being a great (the greatest) and high (the highest) mountain. Rev. 21:10.

I WILL DESTROY YOU. Eze. 28:16 This sentence is imposed upon Tyre and all that it signifies. Which definitely includes the antichrist and eventually the devil himself. From the beginning the Lord said that the

man, the seed of the woman, would bruise (to overwhelm, break or cover) the head of the serpent, the devil. Gen. 3:15 That seed not only includes the Lord Jesus but the final act prior to the complete disruption and casting down of Satan, is the birth of the man child. His immediate translation into heaven triggers the final blow of the accuser of the brethren. Rev. 12:9-10.

He knows he has but a short time (three and one half years) to accomplish his final works on earth. Rev. 12:12 At the close of that period of time he will be bound for a thousand years and cast into the bottomless pit where he is placed in solitary confinement. Only to be loosed for a brief period of time when he will attempt to deceive the nations one more time. Rev. 20:2-3,7 His final destination is the lake of fire along with his cohorts, the antichrist and the false prophet. Rev. 20:19 Never again will he be an influence of any kind. Eze. 28:19.

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YOU HAVE DEFILED YOUR SANCTUARIES. Eze. 28:18 Lucifer was created and placed in the Holy of Holies, which by his actions, he defiled. His presence corrupts and will deprave all places where his attendance. is to be found. Jesus speaking of him proclaimed him to be lustful, a murderer, one who fell from the truth for no truth is to be found in him. He is not only a liar but the father and source of all lies. John 8:44 His presence produces deaf ears. Jesus said to the Pharisees that they could not understand his speech because they would not hear His Word. John 8:45 In their spiritual ignorance and blindness they were so convinced of their own religious ways that there was no ability nor spiritual response to the Word of the Lord. His speech. His Words are Words of life, they are more than speech or writing, they contain life, everlasting life. The ear may hear them but they are understood by the heart. They are life giving words and can only be understood by the Spirit of the Lord revealing them to the hearer, the spiritual man.

A FIRE FROM YOUR MIDST. This one who was very familiar with the fire of the Lord is to be destroyed by a fire of his own instigation. A harvest is exactly according to the seed that is sown. The Devil is a source of trouble with a capital T. The fiery judgment of the Lord He demonstrated when He destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, turning them into ashes. 2 Peter 2:6 The fire of the Lord, a manifestation of the presence of the Holy Spirit is most pleasant and

enjoyable. The fire of His judgment is most horrendous. The second coming, the rapture, will be a most glorious event for those who are in Christ. Those who are not in Christ will find it to be the worst moment of their lives and of the history of mankind on the earth. For He will come with flaming fire, an exceeding great and glorious moment for those who are ready. 2 Thess. 1:8 Satan, his angels and the unsaved inhabitants of the earth will be totally annihilated at that moment of time. Jude 6-7 They will suffer the vengeance of the Lord manifest in that eternal fire which is a part of His nature. The final destiny of the devil is the eternal lake of fire. Rev. 20:10 His power of death and hell are likewise cast in with him. Rev. 20:14 Also, the ungodly, those whose names are not written in the Lambs book of life are cast in to the lake of fire. Rev. 20:15 Those who live by the sword will die by the sword. Likewise those who play with the God who is a flaming fire will suffer the vengeance of that same eternal fire. Heb. 12:29 Even the devil will reap a crop comparable to the seed which he has sown, as will all of mankind.

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Ezekiel commanded to prophecy against Zidon or Sidon (fishing town). Eze. 28:21 Located some twenty miles from Tyre and a companion city. Likewise a city involved in shipping and merchandising. According to Ezekiel (Eze. 27:8) Zidon supplied the mariners for the ships of Tyre. The spirit and nature of the city was comparable to Tyre. The cause of an impending judgment was because of their wickedness which was the same as Tyre.

I am against you. What awesome and fearsome words to hear from the Lord. Concerning such a confrontation Nahum wrote; "Who can stand before His indignation? And who can abide in the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by Him." Nah. 1:6 A condition, which the statements concerning the coming of the Lord Jesus as found in the New Testament greatly enlarge. His coming is with flaming fire. 2 Thess. 1:8 The prayers of the ungodly will be answered in that day, for they pray for the rocks to fall on them and they will. In the first place, the One who comes is the Rock, Christ Jesus. 1 Cor. 10:4 Also there will be an abundance of asteroids, comets and other astronomical debris, such as, the remnants of stars which have exploded, which will be striking the earth

at that period of time. Rev. 8:13 The earth will end up looking like the moon, pitted and pock marked and for a brief period of time as dead and barren as the moon. Jer. 4:23.

The Lord was to be glorified within her. He will be exalted or magnified, by the revelation of His mighty ability to rule over all nations and to do with them that which pleases Him. Eze. 28:22 It is most unfortunate that there are those individuals who do not recognize the sovereignty of the Lord until they are in the midst of a display of His fury and then it is too late. Plague and sword were to come upon them resulting in an acknowledgement that the Lord is God. The Lord will display His authority and power in their midst. They will be completely removed from being a problem to Israel.

Blessings upon Israel are pronounced. Their coming release from Babylon is foretold by the Lord. It is well to remember that this prophecy was fulfilled when they were given permission to return and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. The story of the release and return of Israel is to be found in the books of Ezra, Haggai, Nehemiah and Zechariah. One of the important signs of its fulfillment is that the people neglected to build the house of God by building for themselves houses to dwell in. Eze. 28:30 Accomplished and fulfilled. Hag. I:4.

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A prophetic word given concerning Egypt, who is then depicted as a great dragon, hiding itself in the midst of the river Nile and the canals branching off from it.

Eze. 28:3 In the mean time Pharaoh was proclaiming that he was the creator of the river Nile, to Egypt a god and the source of life. Our thoughts immediately are focused on Revelation twelve where we see the great red dragon standing before the woman ready to straight away destroy her child as soon as it was born. Rev. 12:3 Give prayerful and earnest consideration to the situation pictured here and you will find no comparison to the birth and life of Mary and Jesus. The persons mentioned here are not Mary and Jesus but the church and Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. The book of Revelation is not history but a full and complete prophecy of the end of the age. The ascension of the child born of the marriage between Christ and His church will create such a furor in heaven that it will break out into a war between said dragon and Michael (Who is like God, now who do you suppose that

might be). The dragon, the devil and all of his angels are permanently cast out of heaven onto the earth. Rev. 12:7-9 Woe to the earth for an exceedingly angry devil has been cast down to the earth and fully understands that his time is limited to a period of three and one half years. The world has never seen the results of an ungodly anger such as this, but they will. Rev. 12:12

The dragon is destined for defeat but not until he has accomplished more damage on the earth. Having failed to destroy the man child his wrath is turned against the woman who bore the man child, the true church. He will institute a time, a season of persecution against her. Rev. 12:13 Those who teach that the church will go out, or be raptured and never see persecution wear blinders. There is no persecution when the church is as ungodly as the world. Paul said that; ALL those who would live godly in Christ Jesus SHALL suffer persecution. 2 Tim. 3:12 The history of the first church in Jerusalem was that of great persecution until the members were scattered throughout the areas of Judea and Samaria. Revival bring resistance and persecution. Acts 8:1 Jesus spoke of a division even in the family unit because of the gospel. Luke 12:52-53 Victory for the redeemed of the Lord is through the blood of the Lord Jesus and the witness and testimony that they are of the ability of the Lord to deliver and keep from all sin. Unfortunately, there is a remnant class, those who are "hangers on" in the church. They will not be delivered at that moment of time. A frustrated dragon, in his great anger, will then turn against them and war against them Rev. 12:17 They are seen as those destroyed by the persecution wrought against them during the great tribulation. Rev. 7:13-17.

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The fall and emptying out of Egypt declared by the prophet. Israel had turned to them for help in battling the forces of Babylon but they were defeated. Egypt was like a broken, useless reed to Israel. They were to be scattered among the nations for a period of forty years. After that period of time the Lord would gather them and place them back in their land. All this that the nation of Egypt might know that the Lord rules among the nations of the world. He proved to them that the river was His and not theirs. They returned a humbled people and would no more have the prominence they once enjoyed among the nations of the world. Eze. 29:1-17 The riches of Egypt became the wages of the king of Babylon for his defeat of Tyrus. The Lord had not forgotten

Israel for He proclaimed that at that time Israel would begin to bud, to return to life as a nation. Eze. 29:21 The fulfillment of this prophecy as far as Israel is concerned was accomplished under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah as they returned to Jerusalem and established their religion once again.

The methods of the Lord are made quite visible in His dealings with the nations. As He proclaimed and made known His judgments in that day, so in the end of the age, He will accomplish His purpose in the world. What the scripture speaks of as "The day of the Lord," is a day of howling and an outcry of anguish and sorrow, because of the thing that has come upon the world. Their howl will be equal to the display of the mighty hand of the Lord in all of its majesty. In all of this we need to remember that Egypt is a type of captivity and bondage. He delivered Israel from the control of Egypt and He will deliver His own in the end of the age. But woe be to the world when He does. As the sword was prominent in defeating Egypt, so the sword of the Lord will be evidenced in the end of the age. Eze. 30:1-26.

The sword of the Spirit is the Word of the Lord. Eph. 6:17 What a perfect and mighty weapon. To wield it, one need but to speak the Word of the Lord and its power is displayed. In the book of the end times, the book of Revelation, the words of the Lord Jesus are as a two edged sword. Sharp on both sides, effective when swung in any direction. The sword of the double portion, or the fullness of the power of the Lord. Rev. 1:16 When directed toward the church its message is repent. Rev. 2:12, 16 His is a sword of unlimited power and ability. Though He is depicted as coming with an army of the redeemed, He needs but speak and the battle is won. Rev. 19:15

The opposing enemy need not be attacked by the army of the Lord for that which proceeded from His mouth will utterly destroy them. Rev. 19:21.

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