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Discovering the Mark of the Beast

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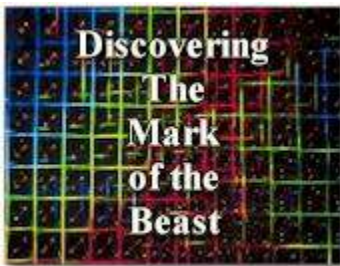
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The Antichrist empire prophesied to develop over all the world in the period just prior to the Second Advent of Christ will be characterized by an identifying sign or mark. It is called in the Book of Revelation "**the Mark of the Beast.**" This beast represents the final world kingdom of mankind which will come through the actions of Satan the Devil. It will be allowed by God the Father and Christ Jesus to manifest to the world. All people need to know the tell-tale signs (or the central "**mark**") that identify this end-time empire.

Introduction

A great counterfeit system to the prophesied future Kingdom of God under the authority of Jesus Christ will emerge on the political scene. This counterfeit system will resemble so closely the millennial kingdom of Jesus Christ that people on earth will come to appraise it as the true kingdom of Christ and that the person heading it is no less than Christ Himself returned to earth. What a shock it will be for all people in the world when they find out and realize that this end-time empire is really ruled by Satan the Devil himself.

Let us understand some of the main characteristics of Satan the Devil that many people in the world know nothing about. They imagine Satan looking like the very epitome of a person with a forked tail, horns on his head, red all over, showing the evil eye, pitchfork in hand, a goatee beard and uttering forth a continual stream of obscenities and blasphemies from his mouth. This is the normal depiction of Satan that has been foisted on the world since the time of Constantine the Great in the 4th century AD. But such a description is as far off as anyone could get. Indeed, this is the very image Satan wishes all people to imagine he looks like. In no way is such a description correct.¹

¹ The Mark of the Beast has no connection with any disease. See Dr. Martin's article "[Disease Epidemics and Bible Prophecy.](#)"

Satan's True Presentation to the World

The Bible makes it clear that Satan the Devil appears to mankind as being the epitome of righteousness and goodness. The apostle Paul under divine inspiration from Christ said that Satan appears with his ministers as righteous and holy individuals.

“For Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness.”

• **2 Corinthians 11:14–15**

Satan's true appearance is really of an **“old serpent** [very wise and cagey] **called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world”** (Revelation 12:9). He has deceived the totality of this world, at one time or another, into believing that he is an evil looking personality which represents one of utter repugnance and horror to all human beings no matter who they are in the world.

As a matter of fact, all human societies throughout the various ages of the world have depicted some kind of supreme evil being who causes harm and destruction to humans. They almost always depict him as a hideous-looking personality which all humans would naturally abhor.

It is this evil looking creature what Satan wants people to imagine as the great slanderer and adversary of mankind. The reason for this is to deceive mankind into accepting his teachings and manner of life. In no way does Satan appear as an evil being with horrendous characteristics.

He actually appears, as the apostle Paul said, as an angel of light. He looks good, wonderful, glorious, and righteous on the surface. Note that our first mother Eve was quite attracted to the teachings and appearance of the **“serpent”** who instructed her in the Garden of Eden. Eve even equated him and his authority with that of God Himself. He appeared to Eve as a being that could compete with God and one who had the appearance of authority and wisdom. Eve was deceived into believing that Satan (that old serpent called the Devil) was a representative of heaven itself and one who possessed the wisdom of the Almighty (Genesis chapter 3).

The Bible describes Satan and his servants (angels or men) as appearing righteous. People would think them as “true men of God.” Note that the spirit entity called the **“King of Tyre”** was

“... full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. You have been in Eden the Garden of God; every precious stone was your covering ... You are the anointed cherub that covers [his symbolic wings covered the Ark of the Covenant].”

• **Ezekiel 28:12–14**

The truth is, when people would see Satan in vision or through some other kind of manifestation (or his angelic cohorts), they would be witnessing resplendent beings who to most people would show righteousness, beauty, and Godly authority. Some might even mistake them for Christ Jesus or the Father because of their actions and beauty. Most people today (who imagine Satan as a very repugnant appearing individual) would not think that an appearance of Satan in vision or through some spiritual manifestation was Satan. They would be prone to believe that he was a divine being who must be equal in status to Christ or the Father. And this is how he appears to many people.

Indeed, Satan could very well appear to people as though he were Christ Jesus (or perhaps even God the Father). Is this possible? Without a doubt this is possible. This is because Satan was called by Christ Jesus as a spiritual being who did not abide **“in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it”** (John 8:44). He is quite prone to lie to people and to tell them he is Christ or the Father.

The apostle John warned early Christians not to believe every manifestation of a spirit being (in vision or whatever) because many of them are telling falsehoods in the name of God.

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God [as most spirits say they are]: **because many false prophets** [lying prophets] **are gone out into the world.”**

• **1 John 4:1**

Note that the apostle John did not say a few false prophets had entered the world to deceive people, but he said there were **“MANY false prophets.”** Visionaries are often such “prophets.” These false prophets inspired by lying spirits (among whom Satan is the father) can even come in the name of Jesus Christ claiming to be Christ’s representatives. Christ Jesus warned His people about these individuals in the Olivet prophecy:

“And Jesus answered and said unto them.

‘Take heed that no man deceive you. For many [Christ did not say “FEW,” but He said “MANY”] shall come in my name saying [even admitting and confessing] I am the Christ; and shall deceive many [not the few].

... And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”

• **Matthew 24:5, 11**

The majority of people [“MANY,” as Christ described them] who come in the very name and authority of Christ Jesus will deceive most in the world to believe that they are teachers of the truth, and they will all look so good and righteous on the surface. Since Paul recognized that Satan himself appears as an angel of light, he felt that Satan’s ministers would also appear in the same deceptive way. Paul said that Satan’s ministers would **“also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness”** (2 Corinthians 11:15).

These false ministers of Satan will come in the name of Christ Jesus claiming that Christ is Lord and asking people to accept Christ as their personal savior.

Many will even perform miraculous works in Christ’s name and claim they are His divine authorities. Some will even claim to have visions from him to “authenticate” their ministerial works. But note this passage in Matthew:

“Not everyone that says unto me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that does the will of my father which is in heaven. Many [note the word MANY, not the FEW] will say to me in that day,

‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? and in your name have cast out devils? and in your name done many wonderful works?’

And then will I profess unto them, ‘I never knew you: depart from me, you that commit iniquity.’”

• **Matthew 7:21–23**

A Counterfeit System Is Prophesied

As shown in my previous Prophetic 1990 article, titled **“Coming: The New World Order,”** the kingdom of the Antichrist will arrive on the scene just before the Second Advent of Christ and raise up a worldwide economic and political dominion that will resemble in many ways the prophesied Kingdom of Christ that will occur during the Millennium. The word “anti” in Antichrist actually signifies “in the place of,” Christ. Its primary meaning is not “against” Christ. The apostle John meant that this man’s kingdom will be like Christ’s kingdom and that it will be raised up by Satan to replace the prophesied kingdom of Christ. It will be like the kingdom of Solomon, and it will emphasize peace, safety and prosperity for mankind, not military war and destruction.

Read Dr. Martin’s 1992 Prophetic articles for details about the type of kingdom or world empire this Antichrist government will impose on people.

[“The Life and Times of the Antichrist Part 1”](#)

[“The Life and Times of the Antichrist Part 2”](#)

When this Man of Sin (called the Antichrist or the Beast in the Book of Revelation) appears on the world scene, he will govern a glorious empire. It will be the epitome of man's endeavor to bring in the kind of society of peace and safety that mankind has been looking for since the time of the Garden of Eden. It will resemble in almost all its details the very kingdom of Christ, but it will actually be that of Satan the Devil.

So cleverly deceptive will the exterior factors of this kingdom be to everyone, that most of mankind will conclude that this Satanic system is indeed the prophesied kingdom of Christ on earth. Christ told His apostles that even they (the very elect themselves) would be within an ace of believing that this final kingdom of man will be that of Christ and that the ruler of that kingdom is Christ Jesus returned from heaven. Note what Christ said to His apostles about two days before His crucifixion.

“Then if any man shall say unto you, ‘Lo, here is Christ, or there’; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; inasmuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.

Wherefore if they shall say unto you, ‘Behold, he is in the desert’; go not forth [to rally to him]: ‘behold, he is in the secret chambers’ [inside the Temple of God]; believe it not. For as the lightning comes out of the east, and shines unto the west [like the Sun]; so shall the coming of the Son of man be.”

• **Matthew 24:23–27**

Let's face it. If this human ruler called the Antichrist (the False Christ) would come looking like some Babylonian Gentile priest

- with a mitre of Dagon the fish-god on his head,
- demanding Sunday worship,
- demanding the observance of pagan holy days associated with the Spring Equinox or the Winter Solstice,
- teaching that all should come under the authority of a Gentile city in Europe,

there would be no apostle of Christ who lived in the 1st century AD who would accept such a man as the supposed Christ.

A Fake Second Advent

Indeed, there will even be a fake “Second Advent” that the world will witness and mistake as that of the true Christ. Recall that Satan and his angels will be thrown out of heaven (Revelation 12:7–17). These angels of Satan will even appear to some people disguised as recently departed loved ones or prominent individuals. People will mistake this for the resurrection of the dead that is prophesied to occur at Christ's true advent. This will be like the familiar spirit that came to Saul disguised as Samuel though the real Samuel was dead in his grave and no longer alive (1 Samuel 28:11, 14).

Most of the world will believe that Christ has returned and the resurrection from the dead has occurred for the “righteous.” The world will believe it because the apostle Paul wrote this about the working of Satan and the Man of Sin:

“And then shall that Wicked [one] be revealed, whom [later] the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, [Why?]

[1] **that they should believe a lie** [in Greek “**the lie**” with the definite article]:

[2] **That they all might be damned** [judged] **who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness** [injustice].”

• **2 Thessalonians 2:8–11 Greek, emphasis mine**

The Antichrist will look so much like the prophesied Christ that he will put into force Sabbath observance (from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset), along with the biblical holy days, and he will make his capital at Jerusalem.

He will use the holy days of God to control completely the daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly activities of the people of the world. So strict will he make the observance of the weekly Sabbath that if anyone tries to flee from his authority on the Sabbath, he or she will be easily spotted and rounded up for punishment (Matthew 24:20). While the Sabbath and holy day laws of themselves are good and proper if people wish to adopt them to worship God in a personal way, they can be a means of absolute servitude if men put them into action to control and rule other men.

The prophecies of the Scriptures show that this Antichrist will adopt the Mosaic days as well as the religious principles and teachings advocated by Moses (with Christian interpretations) to control the affairs of mankind throughout the earth. His procedures will look so much like people expect Christ to introduce at the Millennium that even the very elect people of God would be close to accepting him as Christ returned from heaven if they did not know better, and this includes even the apostles of Christ.

Look at another important point. The apostles who lived with Christ throughout the span of His ministry on earth would not only know about the teachings of Christ given to them in private, but they would be aware of all the personal nuances of His physical and psychological characteristics associated with Him. Personal attributes such as these can normally help to identify a person in a precise way. But even with the advantage of knowing these personal and unique nuances associated with Christ’s character, Christ still told the apostles that even they would be close to accepting the claims of this man if they did not know better.

To deceive the world (and even the very elect if that were possible), the Antichrist will force into action (in a wrong way) the very laws of God to put yokes of subservience on the people just as the Jewish authorities demanded of the Jews in the time of the apostles (*e.g.*, Acts 15:10). Just because one establishes such laws for world observance does not make the person or his kingdom righteous and holy. After all, Jewish society in the early 1st century AD was the most rigorous in demanding Sabbath observance, holy day keeping, and adhering to the principal laws of Moses, yet Christ called that society a **“generation of vipers”** (Matthew 23:33). That generation of Sabbath keepers wound up crucifying Jesus and killing most of the apostles of Christ.

What Is “The Mark of the Beast”?

Once it is understood that the world empire of Antichrist will be a counterfeit of Christ’s millennial kingdom (and that **“the Man of Sin”** inspired by Satan will misuse the Mosaic legislation with Christian overtones to control the world), it will be easy to recognize what the mark of the beast really is. In fact, any Jewish person reading the Book of Revelation in the 1st century AD would have had no difficulty in comprehending what the “mark” was. Let us notice the factors that identify the “mark.”

“And he caused all, both small and great, rich, and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their forehead. And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark ...”

• **Revelation 13:16–17**

One of the cardinal rules for properly interpreting the Scriptures is to let teachings in other sections of the Bible (which use the same terms or principles in other contexts) be the guide to understanding the more obscure sections. In the Bible there is only one other usage of the phrases **“in the hand”** and **“in the foreheads.”** These are all in the Law of Moses and they refer to keeping the commandments, statutes, judgments, and holy seasons or days given to the Israelites in the time of Moses.

The first reference to consider is Exodus 13:9 where it states that the Days of Unleavened Bread associated with the Passover were given **“for a SIGN unto you upon your hand, and for a memorial between your eyes [in the forehead].”** These are indications of religious observance.

The word “sign” in the above verse is translated as “mark” in its second occurrence in the King James Version in the Bible. (It refers to the “mark” given to Cain in Genesis 4:15.) The biblical definition of the “mark” (or “sign”) in the hand and forehead is associated with holy days on the Mosaic calendar. This usage is recorded in Deuteronomy chapter 6 with reference to the Great Commandment²:

“You shall love YHWH your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart: And

you shall teach them diligently unto your children, and

[you] shall talk of them

when you sit in your house, and

when you walk by the way, and

when you lie down, and

when you rise up. And

you shall [1] bind them for a SIGN upon your hand, and they

[2] shall be as frontlets between your eyes. And

you shall write them upon the posts of your house, and on your gates.”

• *Deuteronomy 6:5–9*

So now you can understand that the “sign” or “mark” refers to the commandments, statutes, and judgements that the Israelites were to perform when they entered the land of Canaan. **“You shall bind them for a sign [or “mark”] upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes [in the forehead].”**

The third reference is similar to this and is given in Deuteronomy 11:18. The weekly Sabbath is described as such a **“sign”** [or “mark”] in Exodus 31:12–17.

“And YHWH spoke unto Moses, saying, Speak you also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths you shall keep: for it is a SIGN between me and you throughout your generations; that you may know that I am YHWH that does sanctify you.

You shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defiles it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever does any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to YHWH: whosoever does any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual [olam, an age-lasting] covenant.

It is a SIGN between me and the children of Israel for ever [olam, for the age]: for in six days YHWH made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

• *Exodus 31:12–17*

If we thus let the Bible interpret the Bible then the “mark” [or sign] in the hand and in the forehead refers to the keeping of the Mosaic legislation (God’s holy day system and regulations for the people of Israel in the land of Canaan). And this is precisely what the Antichrist will subject the world to do when he commences his reign in Jerusalem just before the Second Advent. He will display to the world his supposed divinity — and the world will accept it.

² Jesus explained the meaning of this Great Commandment in Matthew 22:34–40.

Then he will sit himself with great ceremony in the rebuilt Temple at Jerusalem and he will proclaim himself the true divinity which has come from heaven to reside among men:

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come

[1] a falling away first, and

[2] that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped;

[Why?] so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

• 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4

The Image of the Beast

The Book of Revelation on eight occasions indicates that the Antichrist will set up an image of himself for the people to admire and recognize. [Revelation 13:14–15, 14:9, 11, 15:2, 16:2, 19:20, and 20:4. DWS] As strange as it may seem, the image that the Antichrist will set up of himself in the very Temple of YHWH to remind people of himself when he is away from Jerusalem. This is also found within the Mosaic legislation.

That is correct. The making of such an image is even allowed (it is actually commanded) in the Law of Moses. Let us understand clearly because the Mosaic legislation will be used by the Antichrist to legitimize the setting up of his image in the Temple. The Book of Daniel and Jesus called this the **“abomination of desolation”** (Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Matthew 24:15). The erection of this image will be a wrong use of the Law of Moses.

Many people do not realize that the Mosaic law does countenance (indeed, it commands) that a single molded-together image (Exodus 37:7) of two spiritual beings be positioned in the Holy of Holies (Exodus 25:18–22).

“And he made two cherubims of gold, beaten out of one piece made he them, on the two ends of the mercy seat.”

• Exodus 37:7

“And you shall make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof.

And you shall make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shall you make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall you make the cherubims on the two ends thereof.

And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. And you shall put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you.

And there I will meet with you, and I will commune with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give you in commandment unto the children of Israel.”

• Exodus 25:17–22

That single image shows a pair of cherubs whose symbolic wings overshadow the Mercy Seat (the throne of YHWH). It depicts in symbolic form the actual throne of God in heaven.

In Scripture we are told that YHWH sits between the “cherubim” (*e.g.*, Psalms 80:1; 99:1) and the making of this single image of two cherubim with the Mercy Seat was completely legal in the eyes of God. It is this very image that the Antichrist will restore in the Temple at Jerusalem. It will even resemble the two cherubs (both are identical twins in appearance). One is on the right hand of the Father and the other on the left.

[Editor’s note: For a detailed explanation of this matter, see Dr. Martin’s article, [“Lingering Idolatry in the Temple of God.”](#) DWS]

Who Do These Two Cherubs Represent?

The Bible identifies one of the cherubs as **"the king of Tyre"** (the spiritual entity who ruled or still rules the realm of Tyre — the great merchandising power which exercises commercial authority in the world). He is called **"the anointed cherub that covers [the Mercy Seat]"** (Ezekiel 28:14), but he is also shown to be a fallen cherub.

"You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, till iniquity was found in you. By the multitude of your merchandise, they have filled the midst of you with violence, and you have sinned: therefore, I will cast you as profane out of the mountain of God [he will be thrown out of the Temple]: and I will destroy you, Oh covering cherub."

• ***Ezekiel 28:15–16***

It is interesting that as soon as Satan is thrown out of heaven with his angels, the "Beast" ascends from the sea or the **"bottomless pit"** (Revelation 13:1; 17:8) and with his false prophet **he** begins to rule the world. He will set up an empire based on merchandising and commerce (controlling economic factors on earth so that no one can buy or sell without his permission). Since all of Revelation 18 emphasizes the Beast's commercial control, this is a fit description of the King of Tyre becoming Satan's full agent. This cherub is subordinate to Satan, as my research on the Angelic Powers shows.³

The Image of the Beast Will Be An Image of a Cherub

This Beast (called the Antichrist) will then set up a single image of two cherubs in the Temple at Jerusalem to be there when he is in other areas so that people will not forget him or his authority. He will claim the authority of Moses to erect this image in the Temple (Exodus 25:17–22 quoted above) and the whole world will observe this command of Moses and accept it. The Beast will also show the world that Ezekiel prophesied that cherubs would be depicted on some walls in the millennial Temple (Ezekiel 41:17–26). Note especially these verses:

"To that above the door, even unto the inner house, and without, and by all the wall round about within and without, by measure. And it was made with cherubims and palm trees, so that a palm tree was between a cherub and a cherub; and every cherub had two faces; So that the face of a man was toward the palm tree on the one side, and the face of a young lion toward the palm tree on the other side: it was made through all the house round about.

From the ground unto above the door were cherubims and palm trees made, and on the wall of the temple. ...

And the temple and the sanctuary had two doors. And the doors had two leaves apiece, two turning leaves; two leaves for the one door, and two leaves for the other door. And there were made on them, on the doors of the temple, cherubims and palm trees, like as [the cherubim and palms] were made upon the walls ..."

• ***Ezekiel 41:17–20, 23–25***

And Ezekiel even shows that a lion depicts a part of a cherubic image (verse 19), and this could well be the reason that the Book of Revelation refers to the Antichrist also as a "Beast" — a wild beast!

The actions of the Antichrist could cause even the apostles themselves to accept his credentials as the true Christ if they did not know better. Even the very elect would be close to accepting them. This is because the Antichrist will not set up an idol of Zeus (or some other pagan deity) in the Holy Place at Jerusalem. Why, no apostle or elect person of God (or even Jewish or Moslem people) would accept such sacrilege. But to erect an image (molded together as one piece) of two cherubs with a human and lion motif (the beast part) would

³ Here is a list of these angelic articles in order of publication: "[Do You Have a Guardian Angel?](#)," "[Angels - the Facts and the Fictions](#)," "[Why Did God Create Angels?](#)," "[The Positive Good that Angels Perform](#)," "[How God Uses Angels to Govern the Universe](#)," "[Jesus Was Not An Angel](#)." DWS

be readily allowed because such a thing is called for in the Law of Moses and even the millennial Temple of Ezekiel displays cherubs.

These two cherubs covering the Mercy Seat (associated with the Ark of the Covenant) were in the most holy place in the tabernacle of Moses and in the Temple of Solomon. With the destruction of the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar in the 6th century before Christ, we no longer hear of the Ark of the Covenant in later Temples, either that of Zerubbabel or that of King Herod in the time of Christ. Once the cherub called the **“King of Tyre”** was demoted in the time of Ezekiel, he was disqualified from being in the Temple.

Where is the Ark of the Covenant today with its image of two cherubs? We are told in Revelation 11:19 that an Ark is in heaven (the word translated “testament” means “covenant”). But John may have referred to the heavenly Ark of which the earthly was a type.

As far as the earthly Ark is concerned, we are told in [2 Maccabees 2:1–13](#) (written about a hundred years before Christ) that early Jewish records said Jeremiah buried the Ark along with other Temple furniture near the tomb of Moses when the Temple was destroyed in the time of Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah is reported [in the Maccabees account] to have said that the Ark would one day be found so that it could be placed in a new Temple at Jerusalem and that fire would come down from heaven as a sign of dedicating the Temple. The Antichrist could be the one to discover this Ark. He could then place it in the new Temple even though one cherub was disqualified, and it would be an “abomination” for it to be there. But to show God’s “approval,” fire will come down from heaven as “Jeremiah” said (Revelation 13:13). God could permit this as a part of the **“great delusion.”**

The Other Cherub Covering the Mercy Seat — Identified

It is important to note that both cherubs with their symbolic wings stretched out over the Mercy Seat are identical in appearance. No one could distinguish them if they were separated from the Ark of the Covenant. But one of them is a cherub fallen from favor. Who does the other cherub represent?

YHWH has an angel that in every way resembles Him (again, see my three research studies on the Angelic Powers in Footnote 2 above which explain this about this cherub).

This angel can act with power of attorney in any situation that YHWH or Christ Jesus directs. He is called **“the Angel of YHWH,”** and he is allowed to be called by the name “YHWH.” He acts so much like YHWH that in the Bible they are indistinguishable in certain texts. Though Christ is not an angel (read Hebrews chapters 1 and 2), He has a special angel to represent Him (Revelation 1:1). Christ is shown to be in superior rank on the Father’s right hand, and in Psalm 110. Christ is intimately united with a “right hand” angel (or cherub) called the “King of Salem,” or Melchizedek.⁴

Now note this. Ezekiel calls the other cherub the **“King of Tyre”** and it represents Satan and his ways. The two cherubs are understood as being perfectly identical in appearance. They are analogous to the two goats selected on the Day of Atonement to carry away the sins of Israel (Leviticus chapter 16). One of the goats was to be YHWH’s, to be killed for the sins of Israel, and the other was the scapegoat (the evil one) who was led away into the wilderness alive. The first in symbol refers to Christ dying for the sins of Israel, while the other is Satan bearing those sins alive in prison for 1000 years (Revelation 20:1–5).

Note that angelic beings (whether righteous or evil) often appear like the persons they represent or persons over whom they are guardians. (1) Christians thought “Peter’s angel” looked like Peter (Acts 12:6–17) and (2) the lying spirit that appeared to Saul (the “familiar spirit”) also looked like Samuel to Saul (1 Samuel 28:7–21). Some powerful evil spirits even try to assume the role of Christ Jesus. The spirit entity called the **“King of Babylon”** was reckoned as the **“Son of the Morning”** (Isaiah 14:12), though this is the proper title of Christ who is the **“Bright and Morning Star”** (Revelation 22:16).

⁴ See my article, [“Who Was Melchizedek?”](#) where I take a somewhat different view of who this individual named Melchizedek is. DWS

Distinguishing the Two Cherubs

There is, however, one sign that can identify the two cherubs on the Ark of the Covenant. We are given a symbolic key of identification when it comes to false and evil spirits. They are presently shown as having long hair — like the hair of women that flows down over the shoulders (Revelation 9:8). This denotes a sign of shame (1 Corinthians 11:14) which God and Christ are not associated with (verse 11:7). At present, the cherub who represents righteousness has short hair (as he always had) but the fallen one is groomed with long, flowing feminine hair to accord with the description of wicked spirits who emerge from the **“bottomless pit.”** Any long-haired deity is depicting a fallen spirit.

God our Father and the true Christ are in appearance groomed with short hair and Paul dogmatically stated this as fact (1 Corinthians 11:3–16). Our modern pictures of a long-haired “Jesus” are groomed after the pagan god Serapis, the Egyptian form of Zeus. But Ezekiel wrote that YHWH’s priests should have short hair:

“Neither shall they shave their heads [bald], nor suffer [allow] their locks to grow long; they shall only poll [trim] their heads.

• *Ezekiel 44:20*

This is an important truth because the priests were the stand-ins for God. When the people saw the priests, they were supposed to be looking at God Himself. Indeed, it was common custom for Jewish males to have short hair and this is attested by Josephus the Jewish historian and priest in the 1st century AD (*Contra Apion* I.172–175, Thackeray translation).

Jesus did *not* have long hair because He would have stood out among Jewish men. Recall that Judas had to kiss Christ to identify Him among others. If Jesus had long hair it would have been simple to point Him out as the man with the long hair. And though Jesus was from the town of Nazareth, He was not a Nazarite because He drank wine (Luke 7:33–34).

But who are depicted with long hair? Fallen spirits or angels who ascend from the **“bottomless pit”** are shown as having long hair: **“the hair of women”** (Revelation 9:8). Christ went to these fallen angels after His resurrection and preached to them (1 Peter 3:18–19). Paul referred to this visit to captive angels in 1 Timothy 3:16 and in Ephesians 4:8–9 when he quoted Psalm 68:18 that Christ led captive the wicked angels who had captivated humans and He then gave their angelic authority to the apostles, etc.

Psalm 68 quoted by Paul spoke of those rebellious angels in their watery prison.

**“God Himself shall smite the head of His enemies, those proud sinners with their flowing locks.
YHWH says,**

‘I will return from the Dragon, I will return from the depths of the sea.’”

• *Psalm 68:21–22, New English Bible*

Remember that Paul said Christ had gone **“into the depths of the earth”** — after His resurrection into the prison of the wicked angels (Ephesians 4:9) — and that He returned (or ascended) from the underworld to take away the captivity that wicked spirits had imposed on humanity (verse 8). Dr. Moffatt and the Jerusalem Bible (Catholic) state that the Hebrew of Psalm 68:21 shows those rebellious ones in their watery prison are described as being **“long-haired.”** (The King James Version has **“hairy scalp.”**) This agrees with what the apostle John recorded about those evil spirits the prison called the **“bottomless pit.”** They have long hair, **“the hair of women.”**

Even Josephus tells us that Jewish men who were similarly in human prisons expressed their shame for their crimes by letting their hair grow long (*Antiquities* XIV. 172). Ordinary Jewish males shunned wearing long hair like women because of its association with criminals and those wicked spirits who were normally consigned to the **“bottomless pit”** (Psalm 68:21; Revelation 9:8). And remember, the Beast (the Antichrist) ascends from the **“bottomless pit”** (Revelation 17:8). It is interesting that most of the cherubs of the Gentiles (who were reckoned as their spiritual rulers) were depicted in ancient times with long hair. If a being (either in vision or in person) appears with long hair flowing down to the shoulders (like the hair of women), it is

clearly a lying spirit from the underworld.

More About the King of Tyre

What about the cherub called the “**King of Tyre**”? From the time of Ezekiel,

- that cherub became an evil angel who was then thrown out of his position next to YHWH in the Temple.
- That cherub is now abominable and under the sway of Satan.
- It then became improper to place him in the same position with the righteous cherub within the Temple.
- Thus, Jeremiah buried the Ark with its cherubs and stated that the time was coming when no Ark of the Covenant will be needed in worshipping YHWH (Jeremiah 3:16).

This is one reason why there was no Ark with its two cherubs in the Temples of Zerubbabel or Herod, nor will there be in Ezekiel’s millennial Temple. Ezekiel’s Temple (which will be located at Shiloh, not Jerusalem, to accord with the prophecy of Genesis 49:10) has cherubs only pictured on the walls and doors of the Holy Place, and not in the Holy of Holies.

But if 2 Maccabees is recording reliable information from Jeremiah, he did say that the Ark (with its two cherubs) would again be discovered and dedicated in a new Temple. This could only be in the “Antichrist’s Temple” when the Beast will install his cherubic image in his Temple at Jerusalem.⁵

Remember, the two cherubs covering the Ark were like twins in appearance (though one now has long hair). They are like Jacob (Israel) and Esau (Edom). Esau was the “hairy one” who was defrauded of his birthright and blessing by Jacob, his deceptive brother and twin. Jacob was not “hairy” like Esau. He is described as a “smooth” man.

The Pulpit Commentary states: “**The primary idea of ‘smooth’ is to cut off the hair**” (Vol I, p. 335). In a word. Esau was uncultivated in grooming — “**a cunning hunter, a man of the field.**” Esau had much more hair. The hair of his head was long and his right and left hand sides of his body (not his hands alone) were “hairy.” But Jacob was “**smooth of the neck**” — he had short hair. To deceive Isaac, Jacob had to wear the skins of goats on his head and the sides of his body. Note what Keil and Delitzsch say about this covering of hair.

“We must not think of our European goats, whose skins would be quite unsuitable for any such description. It is the camel goat of the East, whose black, silk-like hair was used even by the Romans as a substitute for human hair. See *Martial* xii.46 Vol I, p. 275). The long straight hair with its jet black color is referred to in the Song of Solomon as equal to the natural hair of beautiful women (4:1; 6:5).”

• Keil and Delitzsch Old Testament Commentary, [Genesis 27:5](#)

This account in Genesis of Esau (Edom) and Jacob (Israel) shows that Esau was not only had more body hair than Jacob but he also wore his hair long, while Jacob was different in his grooming and exposed the “**smooth of the neck.**” He wore his hair short. But Esau (Edom) had his birthright and blessing taken away from him by the deceptive tactics of Jacob. Isaac did give (Edom) a different blessing and told him that a time was coming when his descendants “**shall have the dominion and that they would break the yoke of Jacob from his neck**” (Genesis 27:40). That time would come at the end-time.

Isaiah and the End-Time Kingdom

Isaiah wrote that the final end-time worldly kingdom God will destroy will be that of Edom (Isaiah chapter

⁵ The coming Temple will be legitimate, planned and endorsed by another Zerubbabel (a Jewish leader who led construction of the Zerubbabel-Nehemiah-Ezra Temple built by Jews who returned from Babylon), the “Elijah to Come,” and the one like Moses. One or two of these people may be the “two witnesses” of Revelation 11:1–14. DWS

34). Indeed, much of the cardinal teaching of the Book of Revelation comes directly from Isaiah chapter 34 about Edom.

The world empire of the Beast will be the kingdom of the “hairy one” — Edom. The word “Edom” when vowel-pointed correctly means “man” or “mankind,” as James the leader of the Jerusalem *ekklesia* interpreted it in Acts 15:17 when he quoted Amos 9:12. The number of the Beast is 666 — the number of man (*adam*) or Edom.

The final world empire will be activated by Esau (Edom) trying to recover from Jacob (Israel) the birth-right and blessing stolen from him by his twin brother. Since Jacob deceived his father Isaac by putting on the hairy mantle, the “**King of Tyre**” (representing “Edom”) will think it proper to deceive the world by taking off his covering of long-hair.

In a future prophetic report I will give historical proof that Tyre was colonized by Edomites and that the literal “**King of Tyre**” was actually an Edomite.⁶

Since we are told that God will send the world “**strong delusion**” to believe the lie (2 Thessalonians 2:11), the fallen cherub will once again appear “righteous.” Indeed, he will claim to be Christ returned from heaven. He will finally proclaim that the daily animal sacrifices are no longer needed as a substitute for Him (Daniel 9:27; 12:4) and he will even (finally) dispose of the Ark of the Covenant and his image to accord with Jeremiah 3:16:

“And it shall come to pass, when you be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, says YHWH, they shall say no more, ‘The ark of the covenant of YHWH’:

neither shall it come to mind:

neither shall they remember it;

neither shall they visit it;

neither shall that be done any more.”

• **Jeremiah 3:16**⁷

But how can the Antichrist pull off this strategy since the Book of Revelation makes it clear in chapters 13, 17 and 18 what he and his false prophet will do? There is a simple way if one has the wisdom to see it.

The Role of the Two Witnesses

Before the career of the Antichrist begins in a full way, there will appear on earth two witnesses from God who will prophesy from the Temple at Jerusalem (Revelation chapter 11). These two witnesses have roles that resemble those of Moses and Elijah. In fact, it may well be that one of these two witnesses, who will certainly be priests because they are able to enter the Holy Place, will be the prophesied Elijah to come (Malachi 4:5–6 and Matthew 17:11).⁸

Now look at this. The world will not like these two witnesses! They have power to stop the rains and they can turn the waters of the sea into blood (verse 6). The people of the world will not like the prophecies they give, and they will be put to death by the Antichrist (Revelation 11:7).

Then the Antichrist will establish his world empire of “peace.” Since the Antichrist will claim to be the returned Christ (though the Beast will be inspired by Satan expelled from heaven — Revelation 12:7–17), he

⁶ See Dr. Martin’s article written in 1997, 7 years after this Mark of the Beast article: “[The Most Significant Gentile Nation in the Bible](#).” You will learn about the past, present, and future of the people of Jacob’s brother Esau, the Edomites.

⁷ The ark was in the Tabernacle (Hebrews 9:4) and the Herodian Temple, that Jesus Himself called “**My Father’s house**” (John 2:16) was destroyed in 70 AD. The Tabernacle and the Temples in Jerusalem were “models” or representatives of the true ark of the covenant in heaven that the apostle John saw as he wrote in Revelation 11:19, in most translations (other than the King James Version) the word “testament” is translated “covenant”:

“And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament [covenant]: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.” DWS

⁸ See Dr. Martin’s article, “[The Elijah to Come](#)” which explains the activities of the two witnesses in detail. DWS

will point to chapter 13 of Revelation and state to the world that those two witnesses were in fact the Beast and the False Prophet mentioned in Revelation and that they have now been destroyed and the rule of the “true” Christ with his “true” Elijah can now begin.

The Beast and False Prophet will charge the two witnesses with being the Beast and False Prophet of the Book of Revelation and that they are the true returned “Christ” and the prophesied “Elijah.” After all, this False Prophet will be able to bring down fire out of heaven in the sight of men (Revelation 13:13) like Elijah did when he countered the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:38).

Malachi prophesied that an “Elijah” would be sent to the Jews just before the Day of the Lord (the Day of YHWH) to turn the children to the fathers (Malachi 4:5–6). This is one reason why the Beast and the False Prophet will reintroduce the Law of Moses. However, instead of this applying to the Jews in the Holy Land, they will extend its strictures for all the world — including Gentiles.

The true Elijah will restore this for the Jews only, and all Jews will be expected to adhere to the Law’s precepts. Let’s face it, the Law of Moses is the law of God for the Jewish people and that it is a proper legislation for those to whom it was (or will be) intended. But it was never designed to be used for Gentiles or to make God’s people to be the slaves of the religious hierarchies of men.

Christ said that “duty” was not the reason for establishing the Sabbath: **“I will have mercy, and not sacrifice”** (Hosea 6:6; Matthew 9:13 and 12:7).

The Sabbath day of itself was made for the benefit of man. It is even acceptable for people to assign the days on the Mosaic calendar as days for reflection on biblical themes if they voluntarily wish to do so, though observing those days is not necessary for salvation (Romans 14:1–6; Galatians 4:10; Colossians 2:16–17). Some Christians may even wish to keep the various Sabbaths for nostalgic reasons. God allows it, but Paul said such people are **“weak in the faith”** since “days” are no longer required (Romans 14:1).

The Antichrist Will MANDATE Obedience to the Law of Moses

The Mosaic legislation of itself (with its Sabbaths, holy days, judgments, and statutes) is not bad. The law is actually **“holy, just and good”** (Romans 7:12) if a person uses it properly. Paul stated this fact with dogmatism. **“But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully”** (1 Timothy 1:8). But herein lies the problem. What man has ever used the law lawfully? The Jewish authorities did not use it lawfully in the days of Christ or the apostles, and the apostle Peter absolutely stated this to be the case.⁹ I know several denominations today who use a part or all the Mosaic laws to rule over their people and making them to be slaves to the church hierarchies. They are using the **“Mark of the Beast”** already and Paul knew it:

“For the mystery of iniquity does ALREADY work: only he who now lets [hinders] will let until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked [One] be revealed.”

• **2 Thessalonians 2: 7–8**

The Man of Edom (666) will use “Moses” in an unlawful way to bring the world under his religious slavery. But Christ’s real kingdom will be different — He will release us and everyone from slavery, make us to be kings. He shall come down from his throne to serve us at table (Psalm 23:5; Luke 12:37; 22:24–30). In other articles, I give scriptural assurances that we who will live at the time of the Antichrist can have protection from God to escape his slavery. Protection is ours. Remember: **“Cast all your care upon Him (Christ); for He cares for you”** (1 Peter 5:6–7).¹⁰

Ernest L. Martin, 1990
David Sielaff, 2021

⁹ Peter said about the Law of Moses, **“Now therefore why tempt you God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?”** (Acts 15:10).

¹⁰ These articles are **“[How to Fully Escape the Great Tribulation](#),” “[Personal Safety During End-Time Prophecy](#),” and “[The Place of Safety](#).”**

Addendum: The Mark of the Beast Has Religious Significance – by David Sielaff

I write this for publication in October 2021, our national and worldwide political and social decisions have NO relationship to any religious concepts except seeming to be anti-God. For this reason alone, government requirements, mandates, and enforcement of any rules and regulations are unrelated to the Mark of the Beast that requires a fraudulent “Christ-like” figure with religious authority.

All government decisions being put forth today are secular at this present time. They have no reference to God, and in fact are directly opposed to any commands of God. They are totally unrelated to future counterfeit orders by the Antichrist which, as Dr. Martin points out, have to do with the Law of God being enforced through social pressure and social control by relatives, friends, acquaintances, as well as local, regional, and national governments. In fact, we are told that the Elijah to come, and his message from God will restore families and help many if not most in the world establish or reestablish a relationship with their Creator. God will make Himself known to the world.

Any attempt to create a one-world government will fail at this time, but it will succeed later. The foundation of the Antichrist world-wide government is certainly being laid down for the future when he is revealed. You might find these articles interesting and comforting. Some are recent, some are older:

- [“The End Time? Not Yet!”](#) — Too much prophecy must to be fulfilled for Christ to come in a few years. (and yes, **“for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened”** (Matthew 24:22).
- [“The 'Great Generation' and Modern Prophecy”](#) — Dr. Martin explains how many prophecies have three fulfillments throughout the plan of God for mankind.
- [“Antichrist and Salvation”](#) — His presence has nothing to do with your salvation.
- [“Nebuchadnezzar and Antichrist”](#) — Study Daniel, Jeremiah, and Nebuchadnezzar to learn how an evil “world ruler” is under God’s total control, and how he is used as a tool for God’s judgment.
- [“The Antichristian Doctrine of the Trinity”](#) — The trinity is false, and the Antichrist will **not** teach it..
- [“The Elijah to Come”](#) Extensive biblical information of this man’s future repetition of Elijah and John the Baptist’s prophetic ministries.
- [“Falsification of Prophecy”](#) — Learn what prophecy can and cannot teach us.
- [“Cherubim on Wheels”](#) — The cherubim that Ezekiel saw were part of a living vehicle. The Ark of the Covenant was on wheels.
- [“Assumptions About Satan”](#) — Detailed information about Satan from a different perspective than this article.
- [“Satan and the King of Tyre”](#) — A short and different perspective on why Satan is not the King of Tyre in Ezekiel chapter 28.
- [“Christ, Satan, and Michael”](#) — I show why Satan is not the Cherub in Ezekiel chapter 28.
- [“Prophetic Birth of Our Civilization”](#) — This article shows how YHWH used Jeremiah to perform a world-wide mission to establish our current Babylonian system as a set-up for the eventual appearance of the Antichrist.

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David Sielaff