

The Man of Sin

WHO IS HE?

Interest continues to mount and speculation is far-ranging over who the Man of Sin might be and how one can determine this beforehand. He is to be a charismatic individual, having much political savvy, and also a great military leader. A goodly number follow Martin Luther's postulation this might well be the pope. Not the present pope, but the next head of the Roman Catholic church at the time of the end.

A number of groups continue to assure themselves that the coming Man of sin is indeed the head of the Roman Catholic church. History does record many atrocities of the popes in the past. The dead from the numerous religious wars, persecutions, crusades, inquisitions, and martyrdom runs into the millions. Until Napoleon the Catholic Church ruled over the emperors and kings of state. Colonizing the New World was done under the jurisdiction of the pope who apportioned out territories to various nations.

Both Daniel and Revelation reveal the Man of sin will cause the death of millions. In fact, he will turn on the saints as well as the city of Jerusalem, after breaking a seven-year agreement. It is when he breaks the covenant in the midst of seven years that the persecution of the saints begins. For three and one-half years the terror of persecution is carried out before the Savior appears. The Bible does give us ample warning in different places and describes in general how this will play out.

NUMBER 666

The number 666 is looked upon as a significant clue to the Man of sin, and the following verse is the source of the number given to this beast system which is soon to come upon the world:

“Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore [and] six.” (Revelation 13:18)

By ascribing a numerical value to each letter of the alphabet one's name then has a numerical value. While the Bible employs the Hebrew alphabet's gematria to reveal the number of the beast, numbers are ascribed to our English alphabet to arrive at the number 666.

THE GREAT FALLING AWAY

Over the years many names have been suggested by prophecy buffs which fit this 666 puzzle. This includes Willy Brandt, Eleanor Roosevelt, Ronald Wilson Reagan and Ellen G. White, to name a few. All of which indicates there is not yet definitive proof who this Man of sin might be. Yahweh will reveal who it is before the Savior returns:

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come the falling away first, and that Man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.” (2Thes. 2:3)

There is coming a great falling away from the truth of the Bible. We already are aware that interest in the Bible and things spiritual each year become less and less. Teaching the truth of the Bible does not interest the vast majority of our world. This ignorance paves way for the great deception which will be rampant at the end of the age. Not only did the Savior warn us that deception by the Adversary would be commonplace, but He and Paul were concerned that even the very elect would be on the verge of being deceived. In fact, we are told that Satan already

deceives the whole world (Rev. 12:9). But the Bible warns we have seen nothing compared to the deception which is coming!

In 2Thessalonians 2:4 we are told this Man of Sin will sit in the Temple in Jerusalem, and will persecute the saints for 3 1/2 years. It may be that attempting to seat himself in the Temple brings the realization that this man is indeed an imposter. Which means that for the first 3 1/2 years of the 7 year covenant, he was accepted by the world as the returned Messiah! His wrath aroused when his move into the holy of holies is opposed; he then sets out on a program to squelch all opposition.

It is then he turns on the saints and all those refusing his number, mark or his name. The saints refuse to go along with the Man of Sin, and those who are wise seek to obey Yahweh. The Man of Sin's anger is directed at Yahweh Himself and the saints along with the heavenly host:

“And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against Yahweh, to blaspheme His Name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.” (Revelation 13:6-7 AV)

How is this man of sin able to deceive the world into thinking he is the returned Messiah? Being a great military leader indeed makes him popular, but not only does this man have natural leadership ability, but Satan himself empowers him to perform great feats and is given world attention. Besides the Man of Sin whose number is 666, Revelation 13 warns of another beast. The Man of Sin is from the sea but another is from the earth:

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.” (Revelation 13:1)

Some scholars feel the sea represents people; a restless people as in Revelation 17:15 (the waters where the fallen woman sits). However, the waters here represent people from all over the world, whereas the sea evidently indicates his origin as the Mediterranean area. Some have postulated he might be from the Tribe of Dan. Others feel he might be from Judah. Others that he might be from Edom as was King Herod.

ANOTHER BEAST FROM EARTH

This first beast is the Man of Sin and arises from the sea. The second comes out of the earth: *“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.” (Revelation 13:11)*

While Revelation says there are two beings who will play a major role in the end times, it is the first beast which arises from the sea on which we want to focus. He is a head of state, a ruler and a military man. Bible scholars contend the Mediterranean is referred to here, indicating the beast will arise from the area of the Middle East.

This second beast is not the “Man of Sin” but is a religious leader, having two horns like a lamb, possibly imitating the Savior, speaking with great authority:

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs [come] out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.” (Revelation 16:13)

Notice the three seem to be in consort, speaking blasphemies against Yahweh and His saints. The dragon represents the Adversary himself. The first beast is the "Man of sin," a political and military leader. The second beast is the religious leader who is able to perform miracles and pull off stupendous acts and miracles. (This man would be a world renowned leader much like the Pope.)

BEASTS CAST IN LAKE OF FIRE

Those seeking miracles instead of the truth of the Bible will be led astray as Yahweh sends them a false delusion that they should believe a lie. Miracles by themselves prove nothing. (John the Baptist did no miracles, John 10:41.) However, the miracles by the false prophet will deceive huge numbers who are ignorant of the Bible and its warning of coming deceptions, who will gladly accept the mark, name or number of the beast and worship his image.

“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.” (Revelation 19:20)

Interestingly, the future miracles are a result of Satan's direct participation. Satan will be actively engaged in his evil works (as Jannes and Jambres in Egypt) right here on earth. The Bible credits the devil as the one who is behind the greatest deception ever, whose end is to be cast into the lake of fire [the second death]:

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet [are], and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” (Revelation 20:10) [*were cast - Bullinger, et ali.]*

SON OF PERDITION

The Savior's warning about being deceived reveals the deception will be so great that the elect themselves will be in jeopardy:

“For there shall arise false Messiahs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the VERY ELECT!” (Matthew 24:24)

It is as if Yahshua were telling His chosen disciples who had spent three years with Him studying and learning deeper truth could almost be swayed by the coming performance of miracles and pompous words of the greatest of all deceivers. Yahshua implies that even those in close, personal instruction from the Savior could well be taken in by one who claims to be deity. They would come within an eyelash of believing the deceiver is the "promised one." That possibility is growing today.

MIRACLES, SIGNS, WONDERS

If the very elect are in peril, almost on the verge of believing the coming son of perdition, what about those who are virtually ignorant of Bible truth? There are many tactics the deceiver could and likely will use to convince the world the Man of Sin is indeed the promised Messiah. Both Paul and John emphasize the coming working of miracles, signs and great wonders:

“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 Elohim shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: (2 Thessalonians 2:9-11)

“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down _from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,” (Revelation 13:13)

The stage is already set for this grand deception. The majority of those attending the churches each Sunday are ignorant of basic Bible truth. Most often the sermons each week are “be good to yourself,” or often reached is the “health and welfare,” or “getting it while we can” and “live a

life of luxury,” or “claim the promises of the Bible today.” Listeners and viewers are promised they can enjoy the good life, for the Almighty does not want us to suffer any deprivation, but to receive all the blessings of heaven, NOW, with no effort on our part.

The great majority of church-goers do not have the understanding of the Bible as those 50 years ago. They know little of the Old Testament, and are taught confusing concepts such as going to heaven, we have an immortal soul, being raptured off to heaven, the Trinity. Most have no idea how they came to keep Sunday, when the Bible teaches a Saturday Sabbath. They know precious little of the annual Feast Days which follow the earth's harvests and reveal Yahweh's plan of salvation.

MUCH TRIBULATION

The Bible never promises an easy road to the Kingdom. We are told just the opposite. We read that Paul and Barnabas kept busy:

“Confirming the souls of the disciples, [and] exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of Elohim.” (Acts 14:22)

Very few understand what the Bible says about prophecy and the future of mankind. Going to heaven to roll around all day is about as far as their thinking carries. Many feel if they are good church members, their church will carry them through. They feel anyone studying prophecy and seeking deeper truth is some sort of oddball Bible-thumper. However, we are told: *“Study to show ourselves approved unto Yahweh, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2Tim 2:15)*

It is these people who in their ignorance will likely be moved to accept the beast's fraudulent miracles and deceptions as genuine and support the coming satanic system. It will sound so good, and appear to be firmly based on the Bible. In fact, there will be many references made to the Bible, leading many to accept this emerging satanic system believing it is based upon the Bible.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament appears as the basis for the grand deception that will be brought about by the Man of sin. Selection of certain verses and twisting them to fit a program will easily delude many to believe a lie. Those ignorant of the Old Testament will easily fall in line with the coming one world program. Few messages from the pulpits today delve into Yahweh's plan to save both physical and spiritual Israel, nor do many ministers show the message found in the Old Testament was the basis for the teachings of Yahshua, for that was all that was available during His time.

It will be necessary for the Man of Sin to convince other religions in addition to Christianity that he is the savior promised as far back as the time of Adam and Eve. Relying heavily upon the Old Testament to bolster his position, he will seek to persuade the Jews that he is fulfilling prophecies of the ancient prophets. Portions of Isaiah and Jeremiah, Ezekiel and even the minor prophets will be used to convince the world he is the promised Messiah. It would be to his advantage to ignore the New Testament's warnings of deception, saying the two witnesses of Revelation 11 point to the man of sin and his false prophet!

REINTERPRET THE NEW TESTAMENT

Re-interpreting the Christian New Testament to justify his position, the Man of sin will likely concentrate upon the Old Testament to reach out to the Jews and also to Islam. Old Testament

teachings can be twisted to bring the Islamic people in line with his program. Most of the Islamic peoples are familiar with the Old Testament, but generally reject the new. They follow their Koran. Perhaps in questioning the veracity of the New Testament, the Man of Sin could emphasize the Old Testament and his fulfillment of various Portions:

Yahweh your Elohim will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; (Deuteronomy 18:15 AV)

By casting aspersions on the New Testament, and basically ignoring it, the Man of Sin could concentrate on verses such as the above to convince the world he is the Messiah. He could emphasize those verses in the New Testament that seemingly he has fulfilled.

The Man of Sin likely will attempt to get the Jews and Arabs to tolerate one another by urging them to unite against the "aggressors." Are not Jew and Arab both of father Abraham? Why let sibling rivalry stand in the way of achieving the kingdom on earth? After all, both believe in the Old Testament. Are both Arab and Jew brothers? With miracles, smooth talk, granting parcels of land, and being a superb politician, he will make it happen.

DECEIT AND DECEPTION

Paul warned of the coming deception:

Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called Elohim, or that is worshipped; so that he as Elohim sitteth in the Temple of Elohim, shewing himself that he is Elohim. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

The falling away from the truth of the Bible has shamefully already taken place, especially noticeable since World War II. Bible students realize churchianity's most widely recognized and celebrated "holy times" are nowhere taught in the Bible. Pagan holy days celebrated by carnal mankind were accepted by the church early on to accommodate the growing pagan population. The gentile church was filled with the unconverted and the spiritual decay continues to spread like wildfire today.

Make no mistake about the Man of sin. He will be a very charismatic, popular, energetic, engaging, personable, man apparently having answers to the many problems facing our world.

BIBLE WAYS

What if instead of going along with the current doctrines of Churchianity, this Man of sin rejected the present unbiblical stance of the so-called "holy days." Suppose he pointed out that xmas, Easter, Lent, Halloween, were all derived from paganism, and are nowhere commanded or sanctioned by Scripture? He might be lenient, allowing people to observe these pagan holidays for a time (as did Alexander and other world rulers) but he would restore and supposedly enforce the holy days of Leviticus 23.

A move to champion the keeping of the laws of the Bible would solidify his claim as the Messiah. The Man of sin could quote Old Testament verses as Isaiah, Jeremiah, or Micah as proof:

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, [that] the mountain of Yahweh's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, to the house of the Elohim of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people..."(Isaiah 2:2-4)

This same prophecy is found almost exactly in Micah 4:1-4. Other Old Testament prophecies dealing with Yahweh's laws being enforced include Isaiah 66:23; Jeremiah 31:31; Ezekiel 45:21-24; Zechariah 14:16-18, etc.

It would be a simple matter for the Man of sin to teach obedience to the laws of the Bible. Or he might allow his subjects to worship as they will, but to keep in mind that in the final end, all worship goes to HIM! He would go on to say that he is going to keep the laws of the Torah, and that includes the weekly and annual Sabbaths.

By so doing, the Man of sin would convince the Jews and Arabs as well as most of churchianity, for he could point to the verses such as Isaiah 66:23 that he is fulfilling prophecy. He is keeping the Bible's laws. Soon all mankind will be keeping these laws!

BIBLE HOLY DAYS

In a further attempt to prove he is the Messiah, when he begins to enforce the Sabbath. This will surely convince many, for it is indeed the day that will be observed in the Kingdom. This would explain the following verse which Yahshua warned us:

But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. (Matthew 24:20-21)

Here the Man of sin is enforcing the Sabbath laws and other laws and appears to be diligently keeping the Torah!

How could a "Universal Sunday Law" deceive the people? If the Man of Sin enforced a Sunday Law, kept Easter, xmas, Halloween, walked around swinging a plate with candles and incense—would the Jews and Muslims and Christians flock after him? He would be an obvious hoax. The Bible clearly says that in the Kingdom the Sabbath will be kept. How can this imposter enforce Sunday when the Bible says otherwise?

The deception will come when this imposter sits in the Temple and claims to be the Messiah. Would the Jews allow one who enforces Sunday (and other pagan days) to sit in the Temple in Jerusalem?

Notice: *“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called Elohim or that is worshipped; so that he as Elohim sits in the Temple of Elohim, shewing himself that he is Elohim.” (2 Thessalonians 2:4)*

Only one from the tribe of Judah, the line of David, will be allowed to be in the Temple and sit in the Holy of holies (Greek = *naos*). If he is not a Jew from the house of David, he may well have false credentials as did Herod who was king during Yahshua's reign.

THE UNITED NATIONS

The Man of sin's flaws in the presentation of himself as the messiah will be covered by his religious representative, the second beast of Rev. 13. But from all appearances this imposter will be the promised savior of the world. Just how this all will be carried out is not certain, but the United Nations or even NATO certainly would be logical vehicles he could use to enhance his stature in the eyes of the world.

In spite of the efforts of the United Nations to prevent war, it has been too weak to interfere in a meaningful way to stop wars and atrocities. However, the UN still carries some respect, and a strong, determined leader could rescue this faltering world league of nations and use it to his advantage.

JERUSALEM, CITY OF THE KING

Being involved in the United Nations would give the Man of Sin stature and popularity, and he could vault himself to world popularity. He could meet and persuade world leaders. He would be able to dictate terms to Israel with the approval of the world body. He could eventually move the UN headquarters to Jerusalem as prophesied in Daniel:

And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him. (Daniel 11:45)

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, to the house of the Elohim of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:3)

The city of Jerusalem could well be taken over by the United Nations which would move there to stabilize the tensions between Arab and Jew. Perhaps the Man of Sin moves into the Temple in Jerusalem and there establishes himself as the "King of kings."

This will not be an easy time, but we are promised that Yahshua will never leave us nor forsake us. The Man of Sin will attempt to cajole and convince the saints to follow him and he likely will promise rewards of sorts. Even those in the world will cling to the saints when they realize Yahweh is on the side of His people:

And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their Yahweh shall be strong, and do exploits. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. Now when they shall fall, they shall be helped with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed. (Daniel 11:32-35 AV)

Satan and his demons will be destroyed by the brightness of the coming of Yahshua. Satan and all his tricks and miracles and signs will do him no good when he meets up with Yahshua:

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom Yahweh 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, (2 Thessalonians 2:8-9).

What better ending than to take the promises found in Daniel and taking that reassurance from Yahweh's word we can stand fast in the time of trouble, knowing that those who stand fast and finish the race will be in the Kingdom with Yahshua!

And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. (Daniel 7:27 AV)

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2963 County Road 233, Kingdom City, Missouri 65262

View us online at: www.YAIY.org

Call Toll Free: (877) 642-4101

Main Line: (573) 642-4100