

Who is the antichrist?

This chapter taken from the book *When Faith Came* by Franklin Whittenburg © 1998-2006

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I want to just put this information out for someone to do a deeper study if they feel led, maybe they can use this in their studies. Most of my studies are focused on the “things above”, but during those studies, I still come across interesting things.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:1).

When talking about the antichrist, the Bible says that the number of the man is “six hundred three score and six” or 666.

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).

The only other places in the KJV Bible where the exact phrase “six hundred threescore and six” is used is in describing the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year. The number is associated with two men. The one that received the gold (Solomon) and the one that gave the gold (Hiram the king of Tyre). Let’s look first at the one that received the gold.

Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold, (1 Kings 10:14).

Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred and threescore and six talents of gold; (2 Chronicles 9:13).

Who was Solomon? He was the son of David. The Bible says that Solomon ruled from the throne of his father David.

So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David. And the days that David reigned over Israel were forty years: seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem. Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly (1 Kings 2:10-12).

Solomon even sat on the THRONE OF THE LORD!

Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him. (2 Chronicles 29:23)

The Bible says that the Messiah (Jesus), who is also called the son of David, will rule from the throne of his father David.

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end (Luke 1:31-33).

Solomon was born of the flesh and ruled a natural kingdom; Jesus was born of the Spirit and rules a spiritual kingdom that overcomes the natural kingdom.

What about Hiram the king of Tyre? How do we know it was Hiram that sent the gold to Solomon and not someone else? The answer is hidden in the Bible, but closer study reveals it. We know that Hiram's navy brought gold to Solomon by 1 Kings 10:11.

And the navy also of Hiram, that brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir great plenty of almug trees, and precious stones (1 Kings 10:11).

The Bible speaks of two navies' that brought gold to Solomon. The navy of Tharshish and the navy of Hiram. The Bible is careful to point out that the navy of Tharshish only came once every three years.

For the king had at sea a navy of Tharshish with the navy of Hiram: once in three years came the navy of Tharshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks. So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom (1 Kings 10:22,23).

The Bible says the gold that weighed "six hundred threescore and six" came in one year and not three, which would exclude the navy of Tharsish, leaving only the navy of Hiram.

Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold, (1 Kings 10:14).

Are there any similarities between the king of Tyre and Lucifer? The Bible connects them in several places. Tyre and Tyrus are two different spellings of the same place. The Bible says in 1 Kings 10:11 that Hiram sent precious stones to Solomon as well as the gold.

And the navy also of Hiram, that brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir great plenty of almug trees, and precious stones (1 Kings 10:11).

Where did Hiram get the precious stones? Did Solomon use these precious stones in making the “breastplate of judgment” for the priests which Jesus later calls serpents and vipers (Matthew 23:33)? Are precious stones associated with Lucifer?

Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire (Ezekiel 28:11-14).

Point to Ponder: When Jesus spoke to the Pharisees, He called them serpents and vipers and said their father was the devil.

Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell (Matthew 23:33)?

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it (John 8:44).

If Jesus said that the Pharisees had the devil as their father, what was their similarity? The Pharisees and Lucifer both wore the same clothes! They both wore the “breastplate of judgment”!

Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire (Ezekiel 28:13,14).

And thou shalt make the breastplate of judgment with cunning work; after the work of the ephod thou shalt make it; of gold, of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine twined linen, shalt thou make it. Foursquare it shall be being doubled; a span shall be the length thereof, and a span shall be the breadth thereof. And thou shalt set in it settings of stones, even four rows of stones: the first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this shall be the first row. And the second row shall be an

emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond. And the third row a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst. And the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper: they shall be set in gold in their inclosings (Exodus 28:15-20).

Remember that the serpent in the Garden of Eden didn't "crawl on his belly" till after God cursed him for deceiving Eve (Genesis 3:14).

The Christian wears the "breastplate of righteousness" by faith as part of the armor of God (Ephesians 6:14) instead of the "breastplate of judgment" that the Pharisees wore that were condemning the Christians. How can you judge yourself unrighteous and wear the breastplate of righteousness at the same time? Remember that the breastplate of righteousness that the Christian wears is not our righteousness but God's righteousness given to us as an eternal gift for our faith in Jesus. It is the judgment of the Lord on our life that the Christian trusts in now.

Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord (1 Corinthians 4:1-4).

And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth (John 9:39-41).

For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son (John 5:22).

Who do you want in the judgment seat of your life, the law of Moses, the Pharisees (religion), your cell / small group leader, your conscience, or Jesus Christ? After the mercy that Jesus showed me, I never want to sit under the judgment of anyone else but Jesus Christ! If I have done well, I embrace His blessing, if I have done bad, then I embrace His chastening (not condemnation Romans 8:1). Jesus' judgment of my life takes precedence over my judgment of my life.

And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When

Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more (John 8:3-11).

But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles (Acts 13:45,46).

And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouceable in his sight: (Colossians 1:21).

The Pharisees even taught “righteousness by works” in the synagogues. If they trust in their works, instead of Jesus, to become righteous before God, then they will be judged by those very same works at the last day.

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works (Revelation 20:11-13).

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; 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; whose end shall be according to their works (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan (Revelation 2:8,9).

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee (Revelation 3:9).

Jesus even referred to the synagogues of the Pharisees as “their synagogues”.

For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day. And when he was departed thence, he went into their synagogue: (Matthew 12:9).

And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works (Matthew 13:54).

Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: (Matthew 23:34).

As we just read, Paul knew the true freedom when he quit judging himself and surrendered to the judgment of Jesus! I also found this great liberty, mercy, and true freedom by surrendering the judgment of my life back to Jesus and I believe you will also. The “good news” of the gospel is that the one (Jesus) who has been given the right to judge you and condemn you for your sin actually took your judgement for you! I just don’t see how someone can reject that great of a blessed assurance, but sadly people still do. Doesn’t this next verse just make you want to shout, “Halleluah”!!

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his BLOOD, we shall be saved from wrath THROUGH HIM. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have NOW received the atonement (Romans 5:8-11).

Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us (Romans 8:33,34).

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I be judged of you, or of man’s judgment: yea, I judge not my ownself. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord (1 Corinthians 4:2-4).

As Paul plainly taught in this verse (1 Corinthians 4:2-4), he was experiencing the Lord’s judgment already which may again shine some more light when connected to the verse (Hebrews 9:27) and (Galatians 2:20).

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: (Hebrews 9:27).

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who LOVED me, and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20).

The Bible says that the king of Tyrus was in the Garden of Eden where the tree of life was. There is probably a good chance that he ate from the tree of life, which would then make him immortal. If he did eat from the tree of life and the Bible says Lucifer and the prince of Tyrus were both men, then the king of Tyrus could still be walking around today as an immortal man, until God causes him to be cast down. Are there any other connections to Lucifer and the prince of Tyre? In both Ezekiel and Isaiah we can see that Lucifer and the prince of Tyre are both described as MEN that tried to rise up to be like God and they were both cast down to the pit.

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; (Isaiah 14:12-16).

The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God: Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee: With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures: By thy great wisdom and by thy traffick hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness. They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas. Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, I am God? but thou shalt be a man, and no God, in the hand of him that slayeth thee. Thou shalt die the deaths of the uncircumcised by the hand of strangers: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD (Ezekiel 28:1-10).

Why did the prince of Tyre think he was God? Because he also ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil!

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken (Genesis 3:22,23).

How close was Solomon to Hiram?

And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him: and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a league together (1 Kings 5:12).

Hiram was skilled in building temples and Solomon had the wisdom of God. How much influence did Hiram have in shaping Solomon? Solomon could be influenced spiritually, because even Solomon's wives were able to turn him from the Lord to other religions (1 King 11:3). The Bible says that Hiram and Solomon were in league together. The book of 1 Kings described how they came together to build a temple for God to dwell in. The Bible says that Hiram loved David and also blessed God. Could Hiram's heart have been turned later like Solomon's heart by someone or something also?

And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the LORD his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet. But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name (1 Kings 5:2-5).

By these verses, it would appear that Solomon and Hiram were attempting to fulfill a prophecy that was meant for Jesus? Did Jesus ever build a temple for God?

Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body (John 2:19-21).

But Solomon built him a house. Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things? Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye (Acts 7:47-51).

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; (Hebrews 9:11).

Apparently Hiram and Solomon disallowed the cornerstone Jesus Christ when they built the temple so it eventually was destroyed.

And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house. And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stonesquarers: so they prepared timber and stones to build the house (1 Kings 5:17,18).

Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them. But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet (Matthew 21:42-46).

How about the mark of the beast? What is it? I have heard many different speculations on what this mark might be. Let's look at some different scripture about this. When man was created he was given dominion over the beast of the earth, but after the fall of mankind, the Bible says man became no different than a beast!

I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts. For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth? (Ecclesiasties 3:18-21).

The curse placed on Adam after he fell was to return to the dust of the earth like the beast. What about the spirit of man that goes upward and the spirit of the beast that goes downward? What determines the direction the spirit goes?

The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath (Proverbs 15:24).

According to Proverbs 15:24 wisdom points the "spirit of man" upward, but what points the "spirit of the beast" downward? The opposite of wisdom is ignorance. God said his people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6) and wisdom is a tree of life

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her (Proverbs 3:13-18).

Could ignorance be then a mark of the beast? The Bible says that the mark will be in the forehead or in the right hand.

So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee. Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand (Psalms 73:22,23).

Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish (Psalms 49:20).

Could Paul have been referring to fighting with spiritually ignorant men at Ephesus when he spoke to the Corinthians?

If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die (1 Corinthians 15:32).

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: (Ephesians 4:18).

But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves (Jude 10).

Job was accused of looking at his friends as beasts.

Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said, How long will it be ere ye make an end of words? mark, and afterwards we will speak. Wherefore are we counted as beasts, and reputed vile in your sight? (Job 18:1-3).

Fallen humanity is referred to in the Bible as sheep, goats, or swine. All these animals are considered cattle to be owned by someone for a use. Ideally we are to be sheep of God's pasture and considered His flock (Psalms 100:3). Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10). Pastors that lead the flock to green pastures above (John 10:9) are considered wise men of God. The Bible calls pastor's shepherds, not sheep. It is the sheep's job to produce the wool, not the shepherds.

Today there is a large move to get farmers to place a computer chip in their cattle as a mark to show ownership of the cattle. Science is also making strides with "neuro-chips" for implanting in the brain. In Bible days, earrings and tattoos were used to identify slaves and cattle. When the children of Israel left the bondage of Egypt, they took off their earrings. They then made a golden calf with them, but that is another study. I believe that this same computer chip used to mark cattle and pets today will be used by someone in the future to show ownership of other foolish and ignorant cattle (fallen humanity).

What about revealing the wicked one? Here is a theory I have.

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9).

For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God (1 John 3:20,21).

And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the Lord, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O Lord, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly (2 Samuel 24:10). (Now you know why David kept praying for a new heart and why he was also after God's own heart? Acts 13:22)

I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one (1 John 2:14).

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death (Revelation 12:10,11).

Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me (John 12:28-32).

Who is sitting on the throne in your temple?

Many pastors and organizations are still today building massive buildings and mega churches for God and calling them God's house. The Christian on the other hand lets God build their temple for them.

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:9-11).

For thou, O my God, hast told thy servant that thou wilt build him an house: therefore thy servant hath found in his heart to pray before thee (1 Chronicles 17:25).

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also (John 14:1-3).

