

## Satan's Superman

08/31/2014

Hymns: 11 How Great Thou Art 12 I'll Fly Away  
Psalm 8

*Faster than a speeding bullet (pi-ong),  
More powerful than a locomotive (chug-a-chug-a, chug-a-chug-a, chug-a-chug-a)  
Able to leap tall buildings at a single bound,  
Look, up in the sky!  
It's a **bird**.  
It's a **plane**.  
It's **Superman!**  
Yes it's **Superman** – strange visitor from another planet who came to earth with powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men. Superman – who can **change** the course of mighty rivers, **bend steel** in his bare hands, and **who** disguised as Clark Kent, mild-mannered reporter for a great metropolitan newspaper, fights a **never-ending battle for truth, justice, and the American way**.*

Who remembers Superman? That was the introduction from the 1950's television hit *Adventures of Superman*. As a boy, I first learned of him from this black and white television show and found it fascinating.

Today, we will **not** be studying a fictional Superman, but instead we want to see what the Bible says about a superman of different sort. He's the one who will shortly come on the scene and rule the whole world. Since he will be Satan's man, he can aptly be called *Satan's Superman*.

There are five books of the that Bible contain the primary description of him. Can anyone guess some of these?

1. Daniel
2. Matthew
3. II Thessalonians
4. I John
5. Revelation

He's called a number of names. As we move through these passages, we will discover and note them. Let's go first to the Epistle of I John and pick up one of these defining names.

I John 2

*[18] Little children, it is **the last time**: and as ye have heard that **antichrist** shall come, even now are there many **antichrists**; whereby we know that it is **the last time**.*

If John viewed his time **2000 years ago** as the *last time*, how much more it is the *last*

time in our day.

**[22] Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.**

So here we have one of the names, *Antichrist*, and some of his characteristics:

1. liar
2. denies God, the Father
3. denies the Son
4. denies that Jesus is the Christ (or Messiah)

Note too in verse 18, John refers to *Antichrist* in the plural, indicating that there is more than one person who qualifies for the name *Antichrist*. The word, found only in John's epistles, is best understood to refer to multiple of Satan's bad actors over the years and more specifically, as we shall learn, *two* of Satan's best (or worst) during the coming day of the Lord's wrath. The superman upon whom we will focus today is the **political leader** who will:

- first charm the whole world (he will be charismatic)
- then conquer and rule it
- and finally compel it to worship him

Speaking of evil rulers, can you recall any from your study or experience? Here are a few that come to mind:

- Nimrod
- Pharaoh of Egypt
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes
- Nero Caesar
- Adolph Hitler
- Joseph Stalin

Some of you were alive during the reigns of terror of Hitler and Stalin. Surely you must have wondered whether he was this evil one spoken of in the Bible.

Let's now move on and see what else the Bible says about him.

Daniel 7

**[8] I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, ...: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.**

Here we have a new name and a characteristic of this man. This “little horn” will be a great speaker.

His oratory will move the masses. The next chapter of Daniel contains what appears to be a dual reference – both to a forerunner, Antiochus Epiphanes, and the evil world ruler yet to come.

Daniel 8

*[23] And in the latter time of their kingdom, ...*

**a king**  
**of fierce countenance,**  
*and understanding [evil schemes],*  
*shall stand up.*

*[24] And his **power** shall be mighty,*  
*but not by his own **power**:*

*[we're told in the book of Revelation that his power comes from Satan]*  
*and he shall **destroy** wonderfully,*  
*and shall **prosper**,*  
*and [carry out his will],*  
*and shall **destroy** the mighty and the holy people.*

*[25] And through his policy also he shall cause deceit to **prosper** in his hand;*  
*and he shall **magnify himself** in his heart,*  
*and **by peace** shall **destroy** many:*

This man will use talk of peace to defeat his enemy. **If** the Nobel Peace Prize is still in operation when he comes on the scene, he will most assuredly receive it.

*he shall also stand up against the **Prince of princes** [that is, Jesus Christ];*  
*but he shall be broken without hand.*

*[Antiochus died suddenly at age 52 of a fatal illness. The Antichrist will succumb to the word of the Lord as we shall see in a few minutes.]*

Note particularly the repeated references to the words *destroy*, *power*, and *prosper*. There will be no stopping this brutal, boastful dictator during his brief reign.

In the next chapter, Daniel 9, one of the key prophetic passages in the entire Bible, we have another name given for this king found in verse 26 as prophesy is given for the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by Titus in 70 AD. The name given there is:

***the prince that shall come***

*[27] And he shall **confirm the covenant** with many for one week:*

There's that reference to peace again. Here the word *week* refers to seven years.  
*and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the [offering] to cease,*

*and for the overspreading of **abominations** he shall make it **desolate**, ...*

The verse goes on to say his desecration of the temple will continue until he's finally defeated.

Keep this language in mind, because in a minute we will find direct reference to it in the book of Matthew.

But let's take a brief look in Daniel chapter 11 first:

*[36] And the **king**  
shall do according to his will;  
and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god,  
and shall speak marvellous things **against** the God of gods,  
and shall **prosper** till the indignation be accomplished:*

...

*[37] Neither shall he  
regard the God of his fathers,  
nor the desire of women,  
nor regard any god:  
for he shall **magnify himself** above all.*

It seems we've been hearing a lot about narcissists lately. This guy will be the ultimate narcissist. He's so consumed with his own glory and lust for power, he has no desire for women.

This brings us to Matthew 24

*[15] When ye therefore shall see the **abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet**, stand in the holy place [that is where only the priests go in the temple], ...  
[16] Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:*

...

*[21] For then shall be **great tribulation**,*

The Antichrist will be a central figure in the Great Tribulation.

*such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

...

*[24] For there shall arise **false Christs**, and false prophets, and shall [show] **great signs and wonders**; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall **deceive** the very elect.*

We've heard from the Apostle John, Daniel, and Jesus Christ. Next, we have this from the Apostle Paul:

II Thessalonians 2

*[1] Now we beseech you, brethren, ...  
[2] That ye be not ... troubled, ... , as that the day of Christ is at hand.*

Keep in mind that in his first letter to the Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul showed them that they would be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before The Antichrist comes on the scene. We need not fear him. So shall it be with all who know the Lord.

*[3] 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;***

Here we have two new names for this monster.

*[4] Who **opposeth** and **exalteth himself above all that is called God**, or that is worshipped; so that **he as God sitteth in the temple of God**, **shewing himself that he is God**.*

Here we have another view of him taking the place of God in the temple.

Verses 5-7 indicate that he cannot come on the scene until a restraining force is removed. Many believe this refers to the restraining actions of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit let's Satan's man rule for a short period of time, things will become much worse.

*[8] And **then shall that Wicked be revealed**, ...*

Here we have another name for him.

*[9] Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with*

*all power*

*and signs*

*and lying wonders,*

*[10] And with all **deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that **perish****; [why?] because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

That's the flip side of John 3:16. Those who **reject** God's gracious gift of eternal life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ will **perish**.

Finally, let's return to the witness of the Apostle John, this time in Revelation chapter 13:

[1] *And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, ..., and upon his heads **the name of blasphemy.***

There appears to be a lot of symbolism going on here. We need to keep in focus that this man's actions are grotesque and ferocious. Comparative words *like* and *as* clue us in on this.

[2] *And **the beast** [here's another name for him] which I saw was **like unto** a leopard, and his feet were **as** the feet of a bear, and his mouth **as** the mouth of a lion: and the dragon [Satan] gave him*

*his power,  
and his [throne],  
and great authority.*

Then in verse 3, it says that **the beast** received a **mortal wound**, but it healed and then

*all the world wondered after the beast.*

[4] *And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

[5] *And there was given unto him **a mouth speaking***

***great things  
and blasphemies;***

*and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months [three and a half years].*

[6] *And he **opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme***

*his name,  
and his tabernacle,  
and them that dwell in heaven.*

[7] *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.*

[8] *And **all** that dwell upon the earth **shall worship him**, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

That is, with the exception of born-again believers, all will worship the beast.

The Bible goes on to describe a second beast, whom we will take a closer look at next time.

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**Summary**

**Names for Satan's Superman  
King**

Little Horn  
Prince that shall come  
Man of Sin  
The Antichrist  
Son of Perdition  
That Wicked [one]  
The Beast

### **His attributes**

Great speaker  
Fierce countenance  
Liar  
Does Satan's work through Satan's power  
Blasphemes against God and Jesus Christ  
Has no regard for any god  
Is not interested in women  
Views himself as god  
He's a Master in evil schemes and deceit  
Prosperous, powerful, and unrestrained  
Performs great signs and wonders  
He's a Destroyer  
Lulls his opponents with words of peace

### **Application**

You may have heard that two of the most famous actors who played Superman met **untimely** deaths. Here's a description of that phenomenon from Wikipedia:

*The **Superman curse** refers to a superstition that is based on a series of misfortunes that have plagued creative people involved in adaptations of Superman in various media, particularly actors who have played the role of Superman on film and television. The "curse" is frequently associated with George Reeves, who starred in Adventures of Superman on television from 1952 to 1958, and died of a gunshot wound at age 45 under disputed circumstances (officially ruled a suicide); and Christopher Reeve, who played the superhero in four theatrical films from 1978 to 1987, was paralyzed in a 1995 horseback riding accident, and died nine years later at age 52.*

It's ironic indeed that the man who shed bullets like raindrops died from a **single bullet** to the head and the man who flew high above the clouds and even to other worlds was **done in** by a short flight from the back of a horse.

Just like these actors, Satan's Superman, despite his power, will swiftly and surely be brought low. Let's look now at how the Bible describes his end:

Revelation 19

[19] And I saw **the beast**, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse [that is the Lord Jesus Christ], and against his army.  
[20] And **the beast** was taken, and with him the false prophet .... **These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**

**The** Superman curse continues. Satan's Superman will ultimately face an **untimely** death and receive his just retribution from the real God Man -- the man Christ Jesus.

We each have a choice to make. We can either trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and rule and reign forever in heaven with Him, or we can, like Satan's Superman, follow those who reject him and suffer their fate in the lake of fire. I pray that each person who hears this message make the right choice.

### **Benediction**

*Unto him that loved us,  
and washed us from our sins in his own blood,  
And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father;  
to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*(Revelation 1:5b-6)

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