
JERUSALEM

in



the

CROSSHAIRS

- Satan's Ambitions
- The Papacy's Plan
- Armageddon

A Warning For All!

JERUSALEM IN THE CROSSHAIRS

≡ An exposé of deception ≡

by

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&

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On May 23, 2014, 22-year-old Elliot Rodger went on a killing spree near the campus of the University of California, Santa Barbara. Rodger fatally wounded six people and injured 13 others. The day before the rampage, he uploaded a YouTube video detailing his upcoming attack. Planning it as a day of retribution, he considered himself a god, ready to take revenge against humanity for its "crime" of rejecting him. Though his intentions were clear, when reality hit, it was too late for anybody to take action.

With the advent of social media, postings can go viral in a matter of hours. It's out there for all to view and form reactions. Information is available at one's fingertips. The same thing can be said of the Bible. This book is highly accessible, but in the meantime, it is greatly ignored. To neglect the Bible by disregarding an imminent forecast of massive deception, which will engulf the entire world, puts you in serious trouble. Carelessly overlooking biblical warnings will prove to be eternally fatal! God through His Holy Scriptures has revealed the specifics leading up to it beforehand. Sinister powers are vying for the allegiance of all humanity, and their attention is primarily focused upon a certain key city – one that captures the awe and imagination of most today – Jerusalem.

■ The mastermind behind this plot is Lucifer. Under the symbol of the King of Tyrus, the Bible reveals his beginning, purpose, and downfall: "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I [God] 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. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." (Ezekiel 28: 14-15). Though "perfect" and invested by God with the highest authority given to created beings, at some point something happened to him that brought "iniquity" (lawlessness, sin) into his heart.

Under another symbol, the King of Babylon, Lucifer is described as taking the following steps to usurp God's authority, His place of rule, and His worship: "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." (Isaiah 14: 12-14). Originally, Lucifer wanted to "sit" (be enthroned with power) in the place of God in Heaven. Deceiving a third of the angelic hosts (see Revelation 12: 4), his dissatisfaction broke out into open rebellion: "And there was war in heaven: Michael

and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." (Revelation 12: 7-9). While the objectives of Lucifer (now Satan – the adversary) are clearly outlined in these verses, the one point that is almost universally overlooked is the place described as "the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north."

Where is this 'place'? The expression "mount of the congregation" in Hebrew is *har-mo'ed*, meaning "mountain of assembly/congregation." Where is this located? "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King." (Psalm 48: 2). And what is another name for "mount Zion...the city of the great King?" According to Jesus, "neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King." (Matthew 5: 35b). In heaven, Satan wanted to rule from "mount Sion...the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem." (Hebrews 12: 22). Losing the battle there, he is now imposing this same strategy on the earth. The target, as the end of the age and the return of Christ draw nearer, is the earthly Jerusalem. Long established as the worldly city of God, Jesus just before His death on

the cross, pronounced a curse upon it for Israel's national rejection of Himself as the Messiah (see Matthew 23: 37-39; compare with Luke 19: 41-44). From this time forward, God's perspective no longer viewed Jerusalem as a holy city. Henceforth, it was (along with the earthly temple), considered "desolate!"

Consequently, like Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Jacob, the ancient Christians understood that "here [on this present earth] have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come." (See Hebrews 13: 14; compare with 11: 8 - 16). Christ's victory at Calvary shifted the divine focus. Satan's failure to destroy God's rule over the earth dashed all his aspirations to eventually rule the universe from heaven. Abraham's "seed" (i.e., Christ - see Galatians 3: 16) won the decisive battle over Satan, thereby restoring God's kingdom on the earth ("Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." – Matthew 6: 10). The promises are now fulfilled by the reality. The temporal and earthly have been superseded by the eternal and heavenly. Though defeated, Satan has refused to yield the contest. Rather, he has changed tactics by shifting the emphasis. Ruling over the world from the earthly Jerusalem, once simply a means to an end, for him is now an all-consuming end in itself. Through false christs, apostles, prophets, and teachers, he has infiltrated the church under a pretended facade of righteous-

ness: "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." (2 Corinthians 11: 14-15). Under this deceptive cloak, the devil, his angels, and his human agents are re-doubling their efforts to divert the attention of God's people from the heavenly to the earthly. Down through the ages of the Christian era, this satanic work continues to be carried forward by the great prophesied anti-christian power foretold throughout the Scriptures. Described by Daniel as the "little horn" (Daniel chs. 7, 8), by Paul as the "man of sin" (2 Thessalonians ch. 2), by John as the "anti-christ" (1 John ch. 2), and in Revelation as the "beast" (ch. 13), this false church - with a "man" at its head - has for centuries been identified by students of God's Word as the Roman Catholic Papacy.

■ Beginning around the era of the Crusades, the interest of the Roman Church has been remarkably parallel to Satan's in drawing the attention of people to the earthly Jerusalem. In recent times, under the guise of "world peace," the eyes of humanity are fastened upon it as a symbol of this near-universal hope. The Papacy has been foremost in promoting this movement, desiring to root its plans to secure and control old Jerusalem as a worldwide city of peace for all nations. Back in April 1984, the intentions of the Vatican were trumpeted loud and

clear in a papal Apostolic Letter issued on "Good Friday" entitled *Redemptionis Anno*. Pope John Paul II proclaimed: "Jerusalem stands out as a symbol of coming together, of union, and of universal

Pope Francis

"May Jerusalem be truly the City of Peace! May her identity and her sacred character, her universal religious and cultural significance shine forth as a treasure for all mankind!"

May 26, 2014

peace for the human family. The Holy City, therefore, strongly urges peace for the whole human race ... The Roman Pontiffs, especially in this century, have witnessed with an ever anxious solicitude the violent events which have afflicted Jerusalem for decades, and they have followed closely with watchful care the declarations of the United Nations which have dealt with the rule of the Holy City. On many occasions the Holy See has called for reflection and urged that an adequate solution be found to this difficult and complex situation ... Indeed, there should be found with good will and farsightedness, a concrete and just solution by which different interests and aspirations can be provided for in a har-

monious and stable form, and be safeguarded in an adequate and efficacious manner by a special statute internationally guaranteed so that no party could jeopardize it ... The [Roman] Church, which looks at Christ the Redeemer and sees his image in the face of every man, invokes peace and reconciliation for the peoples of the land that was his. This peace proclaimed by Jesus Christ in the name of the Father who is in heaven thus makes Jerusalem the living sign of the great ideal of unity, of brotherhood and of agreement among peoples according to the illuminating words of the Book of Isaiah: "Many peoples shall come and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'" (Is 2: 3)."

This policy continues into the present century. In his May 2014 "Pilgrimage To The Holy Land," Pope Francis, in an address to Israeli President Shimon Peres, given at the Presidential Residence in Jerusalem, Israel, on May 26, 2014, stated: "I am happy to be able to meet you once again, this time in Jerusalem, the city which preserves the Holy Places dear to the three great religions which worship the God who called Abraham ... Precisely for this reason, their sacred character must be perpetually maintained and protection given not only to the legacy of the past but also to all those who visit these sites today and to those who will visit them in the future.

May Jerusalem be truly the City of Peace! May her identity and her sacred character, her universal religious and cultural significance shine forth as a treasure for all mankind!"

The papal motives may still appear somewhat veiled, but the goal for 'someone' to exercise authority and control over the city of Jerusalem in order to bring peace to the whole world has been thoroughly outlined. With this major player on the scene, measures to bring this to pass are moving forward. The Vatican is positioning itself to be that someone. According to Daniel chapter 11, prophecy declares: "And he ["the king" in verse 36] 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." (verse 45). This "king" is the Papacy and the "glorious holy mountain" is the city of Jerusalem (see Daniel 9: 16). Soon, events will transpire that will shift the spotlight to a 'divine like' being – appearing as "an angel of light" – claiming to be the long-looked-for Messiah. With the papal throne established in old Jerusalem, the devil will use this agent and its allies to deceive the nations into believing that the hope of Israel and the world has finally arrived. Peace and prosperity will lure all into welcoming 'God' to the Davidic throne which will be set up on the earth in Jerusalem in order for 'the Messiah' to begin his eternal rule. Says Scripture: "And I saw three un-

clean 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. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty ... And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." (Revelation 16: 13 -14, 16).

■ Armageddon (or Gr., *Har-magedon* – see NASB version) is the name of the place where "the battle of that great day of God Almighty" is fought, not the actual name of the battle itself. This name, while given in Greek in the text of Revelation 16: 16, is there said to be a Hebrew name. The Hebrew word which most accurately meets the requirements of the Greek transliteration – *Harmagedon* – is the compound term *Har-mo'ed*. This is the same word translated in Isaiah 14: 13 as "mount of the congregation" which, as noted earlier, is a reference to Jerusalem. Satan plans to gather "the kings of the earth and of the whole world" to old Jerusalem where, enthroned as the professed king of heaven and earth, he will launch his last battle against the true God and His few faithful people who have refused to give their allegiance to this imposter masquerading as God. His attempt to destroy this "little flock" (Luke 12: 32) will be thwarted by "the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Je-

'sus Christ" (see Titus 2: 13). This intervention, at the second coming of Christ, is what Revelation 16: 14 refers to as "the battle of that great day of God Almighty," and is described in greater symbolic detail in Revelation 19: 11-21. The delusion of "peace and safety" will engulf the planet at that time, and will fast be turned into "sudden destruction" (1 Thessalonians 5: 3) when the "wrath of God" is "pour[ed] out ... upon the earth." (Revelation 16: 1). Terrible will the slaughter be on all those who follow the anti-christ and his cohorts in their worship of Satan (see Luke 17: 26-30; 19: 12-15, 27; Revelation 6: 14-17; 14: 14-20; and 19: 17-21). The false religious system, described in the book of Revelation under the figure of "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH," comprised of the "dragon," the "beast," and the "false prophet," will be the first satanic power to experience God's wrath upon it. The union of the "great city" will collapse and all the false religion that comprised it will be judged and annihilated. The political and social parts remaining will all take part in turning against the "woman" just before the appearing of the true Messiah (Jesus) destroys them (read Revelation, chapters 15 through 20). The "present evil world" (Galatians 1: 4), will be replaced by "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (2 Peter 3: 13).

The earthly Jerusalem will play a very dominant role in the last remnant of time. The world's attention will be primarily centered upon it. God's Holy Word reveals that Satan and his angels will deceive the entire world into believing that this current age will usher in the long awaited kingdom rule of God on this sinful planet. Through miraculous signs and wonders, the unholy alliance of his earthly forces will work to bring 'peace' to Jerusalem and eventually to all of humanity. This evil facade will appear to be so genuine "that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." (Matthew 24: 24). Any who oppose it will be persecuted, even to the point of death (see Revelation 13: 15). Satan's ultimate goal to usurp the authority and worship of the true God by all the created intelligences – especially humans who were made "in the image of God" (Genesis 1:26-27) – will reach its climax at this point. However, it is not God who is ruling from old Jerusalem, but His arch-enemy! This is why the masquerade will be short lived. The entire system will fall apart fast. The wicked inhabitants of earth will then realize that by concentrating all their attention and hopes on this present world, they have been duped into exchanging eternal salvation for a false security and a worthless inheritance. Peace and prosperity will give way to fear, despair, and anguish, but it will all be too late. They chose to stand with Satan, and will ultimately suffer his fate (see Ezekiel 28: 17-19; Revelation 20: 10, 15).

The popular view today of the world and its future fate, no matter how varied and discordant, remains centered primarily on events happening here. In other words, the main focus is "this worldly." The Scriptures, by contrast, have always had an "other worldly" focus. For instance, when God promised Abraham and his offspring the land of Canaan, they literally understood the promise as eventually referring to "a better country, that is, an heavenly ... for [God] hath prepared for them a city." (Hebrews 11: 16). The "new Jerusalem," the city that Jesus declares as "the name of the city of my God ... which cometh down out of heaven from my God," is the "city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." (Revelation 3: 12; Hebrews 11: 10.) It will stand forever on the "new earth" and God throughout the eternal ages "will dwell with [us], and [we] shall be his people, and God himself will be with [us], and be [our] God." (Revelation 21: 1-3). This is the hope of Abraham and all his faithful offspring in Christ, Jew and Gentile alike (see Galatians 3: 28-29).

Our attention should be directed heavenward, for we are but "strangers and pilgrims on the earth" at this time. (Hebrews 11: 13b). And while "denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world," we must ever be mindful that "our conversation [country or citizenship] is in heaven; from

whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Titus 2: 12; Philippians 3: 20). There is no inheritance here for "the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (2 Peter 3: 10). Our hope is in "an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for [us]." (1 Peter 1: 4). Therefore: "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 [mind] on things above, not on things on the earth ... When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3: 1-2, 4). ❖

"The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested."

The Great Controversy, pg. 593

* All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version unless otherwise indicated. Places where emphasized were added by the authors.

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"Jews, Muslims and Christians alike call this city [Jerusalem] their spiritual home. How much needs to be done to make it truly a 'city of peace' for all peoples, where all can come in pilgrimage in search of God, and hear his voice, 'a voice which speaks of peace' (cf. Ps 85:8)! ... As a microcosm of our globalized world, this City, if it is to live up to its universal vocation, must be a place which teaches universality ... " Pope Benedict XVI, Homily on May 12, 2009.

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"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness ... " (Isaiah 5: 20).

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Jesus said: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. ... For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." (Matthew 23: 37-39; 24: 24).

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