

**No Sympathy for the Devil, Lucifer's Fall – Part Two  
Taking Out the Trash  
Isaiah 14:13 – 23**

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So why the world view warning when teaching about Lucifer?

The specific components most likely to keep born-again adults from having a biblical worldview are belief in the existence of absolute moral truth (54 percent of born agains dismiss the idea), the existence of Satan (60 percent of born agains are not sold on this), and the belief that it is impossible for people to earn their way into heaven through good behavior (53 percent fail to meet this criterion). These measurements do not bode well, theologically or sociologically, for the future of orthodox Christianity. (Barna 2011, 138)

We are in Isaiah 14, the format of this chapter is similar to Ezekiel 28. They are both about an earthly King who is motivated and controlled by someone else and in both cases the message morphs to talk more about that someone else.

As we saw from last time we met, Ezekiel 28 is about the creation, office and fall of the cherub named Lucifer, Isaiah 14 is more about the sin that led to the fall.

Both sections of scripture are tied in with Genesis 3.

Created by God and serving in the throne room seeing the face of God everyday...and he fell. Dr. Pentecost pieces it together.

But Scripture records the fact that the wisest, the most beautiful of God's created beings looked away from the Creator to himself. He failed to recognize that all he was and all he had came as a gracious bestowment from the hand of the Creator to whom he was responsible. In turning away from God, he turned to himself and became an essentially selfish being. Every man born into this world from the time of Adam's sin has had a nature just exactly like his father, the devil. That which characterizes sinful man is selfishness, self-centeredness. Man is characterized by pride. He lives his life in independence of God and he is only perpetuating the nature of his father, the devil. Unless you come to understand something of the basic selfishness, pride and independence that characterized Satan when he left his original state, you will neither understand yourself nor will you understand the temptations that come day by day. (Pentecost 1997, 18)

The heart of the unregenerate person, and the actions of that person, reflects, to one degree or another, the nature of their father, the devil. Jesus nailed it talking about the pharisees, but we tend to forget the

application to our own individual plight before coming to Christ. We came over from a corrupted world view, one which we thought was normal until meeting Jesus.

John 8:42–44

“Jesus replied, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come from God and am now here. I have not come on my own initiative, but he sent me. Why don’t you understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot accept my teaching. You people are from your father the devil, and you want to do what your father desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not uphold the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies.” (NET)

Being a Christian, a faithful follower of Jesus Christ, is countercultural.

In fact, being a believer is now considered an extremist view by many.

Many historic Christian beliefs and practices are considered to be extreme by large proportions of Americans—especially among non-Christians. For example, two out of five adults believe it is extremist to try to convert others to their faith; 60 percent of all adults in America and 83 percent of atheists and agnostics believe evangelism—one of the central actions of Christian conviction—is extremist. (Kinnaman and Lyons 2016, 41)

We study the whole counsel of God in the scriptures by going chapter by chapter, verse by verse. The Bible is the truth from the creator of the universe, and He has not changed His mind about any of it no matter how much we twist words. But Lucifer, he lies and does so continuously. He is the originator of truth twisting. Something we were all good at before Jesus.

We have already covered three I will statements made by Lucifer as part of his rebellion.

In his message, Isaiah recorded five specific instances in which the will of Lucifer was set against the will of God. These five “I wills” are manifestations of Lucifer’s rebellion. (Pentecost, Thy Kingdom Come: Tracing God’s Kingdom Program and Covenant Promises throughout History 1995, 24)

Isaiah 14:13

“But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.’” (NASB95)

In summary, he wanted to takeover heaven as his own, he wanted to rule over all the heavenly host, he wanted to rule over everything and do so from his substitute for Mt. Zion. He wanted to be in control of the universe usurping God’s authority.

Recall that when we see him make a final move against heaven as part of his rebellion, it is Michael the Archangel who casts him and all of his followers out.

Revelation 12:7–12

“And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.”” (NASB95)

Satan's being cast out of heaven to the earth is the result not of his contest with the Lord Himself, of which it is only an incident leading to a new phase, but of the appointed conflict with his faithful fellow-angels led on by the archangel Michael. (Alford 1976, 669)

Satan and his army is not strong enough to defeat Michael. Note, there is no intervention even needed by God as Michael and his army are sufficient for the task before them.

Lucifer continues with his "I will" pride statements in verse 14.

Isaiah 14:14

"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." (NASB95)

Frequently in Scripture "the clouds" refer to the dwelling place of God, which here shows that Lucifer wanted to exalt himself above God as well as the created angelic beings. In other words, he wanted to bring God under subjection to himself. (Pentecost, Thy Kingdom Come: Tracing God's Kingdom Program and Covenant Promises throughout History 1995, 24)

Lucifer characterizes himself as desiring to be the one above the clouds, or as the imitation cloud rider. In the thinking of a Jew, he is wanting to not only equate himself with God, but also with the Second Power in heaven who is clearly identified in Daniel 7 and who we know as Jesus Christ. They needed to report to him.

Daniel 7:13–14

"I was watching in the night visions, And with the clouds of the sky one like a son of man was approaching. He went up to the Ancient of Days and was escorted before him. To him was given ruling authority, honor, and sovereignty. All peoples, nations, and language groups were serving him. His authority is eternal and will not pass away. His kingdom will not be destroyed." (NET)

We have already seen he wants to be seated on the mount of assembly we also know he is a counterfeiter beyond compare. Baal had his headquarters on Mt Zaphon and in the literature of Ugarit, Baal is referred to as "the one who rides the clouds." "To ancient people all over the Mediterranean, Israelite or not, the "one who rides the clouds" was a deity—his status as a god was unquestioned. Consequently, any figure to whom the title was attributed was a god." (Heiser 2015, 251)

YAHWEH points out this counterfeit, multiple times in the scripture.

Deuteronomy 33:26

"There is no one like God, O Jeshurun, who rides through the sky to help you, on the clouds in majesty." (NET)

Psalms 104:1–4

"Praise the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are magnificent. You are robed in splendor and majesty. He covers himself with light as if it were a garment. He stretches out the skies like a tent curtain, and lays the beams of the upper rooms of his palace on the rain clouds. He makes the clouds his chariot, and travels along on the wings of the wind. He makes the winds his messengers, and the flaming fire his attendant." (NET)

We already saw the section from Daniel. Jesus also used this term of Himself and the Pharisees clearly understood He was saying He was God.

Matthew 26:63–66

"But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the

high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.”” (ESV)

For those who embraced the counterfeit and worshiped Baal, they had a different view of the term.

Lucifer needed a press agent or two and the folks who lived in Ugarit were equipped to write the appropriate press releases. “The Ugaritic phrase “Rider on the clouds” (rkb ‘rpt) occurs 15 times in the Ugaritic corpus, mostly in mythological texts (Rahmouni, Divine Epithets in the Ugaritic Alphabetic Texts, 290). It directly refers to Baal’s role as the bringer of rain (Pardee, “Ba’lu,” 248; Kapelrud, Baal in the Ras Shamra Texts, 61–62). In the Aqhatu story, for instance, Danī’ilu invokes Baal as “Rider on the clouds” in his prayer to end the drought that the premature death of Aqhatu has caused. Although the epithet is primarily associated with Baal as a storm deity, it often occurs in the context emphasizing Baal’s role as a warrior.” (Koowon 2016)

The biblical writers actually used this phrase, “The One Who Rides the Clouds,” of Yahweh specifically to make the point that it isn’t Baal who commands the clouds. And think about what that means. It means that if you command the clouds, you command rain, which gives you fertility in the land. It helps you have something to eat. You get crops from it. So their point is that Baal isn’t the one responsible for our survival here, for our food, for our sustenance—it’s Yahweh; it’s the God of Israel. Again, riding on the clouds is sort of a military thing because it’s a chariot figure in some instances, where you are commanding the heavens. No, it isn’t Baal who commands the heavens. It’s Yahweh. (Heiser, OT 291 The Jewish Trinity: How the Old Testament Reveals the Christian Godhead 2014)

What we clearly are seeing, again, is that since Lucifer is incapable of producing personally what he desires, he is not God, and his rebellion results in him being kicked out of his office; he relies on spreading lies and appropriates terms for himself that reflect his own grandiose ideas of himself. Ideas which YAHWEH is more than happy to cut down in the scriptures.

Isaiah 14:14

“I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” (NASB95)

The final “I will” statement from the rebel makes it crystal clear what the intent of his rebellion is, he wants to be like God.

We see people, made in the image of God, doing the exact same thing that Lucifer desired to do, he wanted to make himself to be God, so do we. We like being on the throne. That was what hooked Eve after all.

Matthew 4:8–10

“Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their grandeur. And he said to him, “I will give you all these things if you throw yourself to the ground and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go away, Satan! For it is written: ‘You are to worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’ ”” (NET)

### Dr. Chafer

“The master passion of Satan leads him, not only to strive for the success of his own projects, but also to wage an unceasing warfare against Jehovah. These two lines of activity are inseparable; for he cannot establish and develop his own kingdom, and, at the same time, permit his subjects to be translated out of his kingdom into another, especially when they remain in the midst as a living power and testimony against him. Nor can he reasonably allow the accomplishment of any of the projects of God; for it is predicted that at the completion of these his own doom will be at hand. The present time is, therefore, to Satan, the struggle for his own existence, as well as the realization of all that has been his ambition in the ages past.

The warfare is no mere passing amusement for him, for he, in desperation, is facing a terrible and awful judgment if he cannot succeed in his purpose.

The spectacle now presented to all enlightened beings of the universe, is that of a mighty celestial being, the god of the earth, who is by creation the full measure of perfection, both in wisdom and beauty, making his last and most desperate warfare, both to realize his own ambition and to thwart every movement of the Most High; knowing that in failure there is no ground for mercy, but only the terrible destruction that has been so long predicted. He knew when he formed this God-dishonoring purpose that it must either wholly succeed or he himself fall into terrible judgment. On the other side of the conflict there is perfect calmness and certainty as to the end, for the judgment and sentence are past; yet every true believer is implored to be instant in season and out of season in the present projects of grace, that the sufferings and separations of earth may be cut short in righteousness.” (Chafer 1909, 75-76)

The ultimate counterfeit is when Lucifer personally works with the Beast at the end of the age in his counterfeit of the trinity. “Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not arrive until the rebellion comes and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, and as a result he takes his seat in God’s temple, displaying himself as God.” (2 Thessalonians 2:3–4, NET)

The Targum of Isaiah, the Aramaic translation of the scriptures, makes this very clear.

14.14 I will ascend above all the people, I will be higher than them all.’ (Chilton, trans. 1990, Is 14:14)

14 I will have the ascendancy over all people; I will be higher than all of them. (Pauli 1871, Is 14:14)

God did not create Lucifer as a fallen satanic being, a rebel against God, the enemy of all good, the enemy of God. When Lucifer was created, he was created to be in subjection to God. But he was created with a capacity to choose. When God revealed His purpose for Lucifer, it opened up the possibility that Lucifer might rebel against the plan and purpose of God. Sin began when he pitted his will against the will of God and said five times, “I will ... I will ... I will ... I will ... I will ....” Each time he set his will against the will of God he was substituting his own purpose and program for the program of God. These five statements are significant because they reveal to us Satan’s program. He has not changed his purpose, nor has he altered his will; he is still determined to pursue these five desires. (Pentecost, Your Adversary, the Devil 1997, 20-21)

Isaiah 14:15

“Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.” (NASB95)

The contrast being provided is breath taking. Here this created being, this cherub who was made specifically to reflect the glory of God to all around him, this one who was full of wisdom and perfect in beauty serving in the highest place in the universe will go to the lowest of lows in the universe, to Sheol. He is cast out. The originator of rebellion, patient zero, must be removed from the scene and quarantined forever. The forever piece is coming but will be delayed for a thousand years. As he is cast down, we see the greeting he gets.

Isaiah 14:9–11

“Sheol from beneath is excited over you to meet you when you come; It arouses for you the spirits of the dead, all the leaders of the earth; It raises all the kings of the nations from their thrones. They will all respond and say to you, ‘Even you have been made weak as we, You have become like us. Your pomp and the music of your harps Have been brought down to Sheol; Maggots are spread out as your bed beneath you And worms are your covering.’” (NASB95)

Revelation 20:1–3

“Then I saw an angel descending from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the abyss and a huge chain. He seized the dragon—the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan—and tied him up for a

thousand years. The angel then threw him into the abyss and locked and sealed it so that he could not deceive the nations until the one thousand years were finished. (After these things he must be released for a brief period of time.)” (NET)

Lucifer knows exactly what his end is. He knows when it will take place but not the exact time. He knows that he will lead an army of fallen ones one last time against the forces of heaven and it isn't even a close fight.

During World War II, in both theaters, Germany and Japan continued to fight on even though they already knew they had lost. Hitler's generals had been wanting to sue for peace for some time. Some of the Japanese High command knew that all was lost. But in both cases, the primary leadership, which appears to have been demonically influenced in both cases, insisted on continuing the fight to the bitter end. In Germany, it was disaster. Only when the Emperor intervened did it end in Japan. “The knowledge that one has been vanquished does not keep him from fighting. The fact that Satan has been defeated, his judgment pronounced, and his destiny settled does not keep him from waging warfare against God, against the Son of God, and against the children of God. The course of his warfare has been detailed for us in the Scriptures.” (Pentecost, Your Adversary, the Devil 1997, 183)

What frustrates good people is evil, and what frustrates evil people is good. The final solution demands a separation, where there will be no more evil to frustrate good persons and no more good to frustrate evil persons. Each will have it according to their respective wills: Sin will be defeated in the saved, since they will be rescued from its very presence, and sin will also be defeated in the unsaved, since they will no longer be able to spread it to others. The infection of evil will be forever halted by its everlasting quarantine. Therefore, the good will be forever preserved from evil's deadly effects. (Geisler 2004, 174)

Jesus announced to his disciples, just prior to going to the cross, “our Lord announced to the disciples the certainty of His victory, and in a prophetic revelation, He revealed that Satan was a vanquished foe.” (Pentecost, Your Adversary, the Devil 1997, 183-184)

John 12:28–33

“Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd that stood there and heard the voice said that it had thundered. Others said that an angel had spoken to him. Jesus said, “This voice has not come for my benefit but for yours. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” (Now he said this to indicate clearly what kind of death he was going to die.)” (NET)

No matter what Satan whispers to us, no matter how hard he tries to convince the world he is a force to be dealt with, the reality is he is already defeated. “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I am going away. For if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong concerning sin and righteousness and judgment—concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.” (John 16:7–11, NET)

The word translated condemned is κέκριται (kekritai).

This comes from the word (krino) which means “To separate, distinguish, discriminate between good and evil, select, choose out the good. In the NT, it means to judge, to form or give an opinion after separating and considering the particulars of a case.” (Zodhiates 2000)

When Jesus uses the word, it is in a grammar form that communicates something to us. The verb is in the perfect passive indicative and that is significant.

The perfect tense is used to connote completed-stative action in present time. In order to reflect the completed action of the perfect tense, we will translate the perfect middle and passive indicative using the

present perfect. The first person singular of the verb “to see” would thus be translated as “I have seen for myself” in the middle voice and “I have been seen” in the passive voice. (Harvey 2007, 112)

Jesus is telling us the ruler of this world has been, past tense, judged, a present completed action. Jesus was letting His disciples know that a major enemy is about to be defeated as a result of the cross.

Satan, is already defeated. For Isaiah, when he was writing this, it was an event that was still to take place in the future. But it was an event that was certain to take place, so certain, he is telling us what YAHWEH says He will do with this rebel. He is being thrown down “to the recesses of the pit,” the lowest level. “The deeper in Sheol one falls, the more awful his condition.” (Young 1965, 443)

The punishment of helel is to live in the realm of the dead. Helel ends up in Sheol, the pit (bor); brought down to earth (’erets) by God, the truly Most High. (Heiser, *The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible*, First Edition 2015, 86)

However victorious Satan may have been over the first Adam, it is certain that he met a complete and final judgment and sentence in the Second Adam; and that bruising of the serpent’s head was realized which was a part of the Adamic covenant. (Chafer 1909, 18)

Colossians 2:14–15

“...by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.” (ESV)

Lucifer and his minions had no idea what was coming. They were filled with hate and had one goal, that was to destroy Jesus. They did not understand. “But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” (1 Corinthians 2:7–8, ESV)

Lucifer/Satan, took the bait. Jesus intentionally went to one of his primary locations, Mount Hermon, and presented Himself there. “And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.” (Mark 9:2–4, ESV)

Jesus intentionally went to what the Jews of the day would consider to be, Satan’s turf and there messaged, here I am, what are you going to do about it?

Right after that, it is off to Jerusalem. “for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.”” (Mark 9:31, ESV)

Isaiah 14:16

“Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, saying, ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms,”” (NASB95)

While the serpent was biting the heel of the Savior (by His crucifixion), the Savior was crushing the head of the serpent (by His resurrection). As one writer put it, Satan bit on the bait of Christ’s humanity and was caught on the hook of His deity. (Geisler 2004, 177)

Satan was defeated officially (legally) by the death of Christ (Rom. 3–5). He is defeated practically (applicationally) in our lives when we resist him by the power of the Cross (Rom. 6–7). And He will be defeated finally (ultimately) when Christ returns (Rom. 8) and redeems our bodies from death. (Geisler 2004, 177)

What we see here starting in verse 16, is the reaction of all of those in Sheol who see him. This is like the reaction to the King of Babylon, but this is speaking of the ultimate defeat of the enemy of all of us.

As he goes by in chains, here is what they say of him.

Isaiah 14:16–19

“Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, saying, ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?’ All the kings of the nations lie in glory, Each in his own tomb. But you have been cast out of your tomb Like a rejected branch, Clothed with the slain who are pierced with a sword, Who go down to the stones of the pit Like a trampled corpse.” (NASB95)

I think we lose the actual impact in the English translation and use of the word gaze in verse 16; they will stare in incredulity.

יַשְׁגִּיחוּ (yasgihu) - to notice, gaze at; more precisely to look at closely and to examine critically, ...to stare at someone who has been humiliated... (Koehler, et al. 1994-2000, 1414)

Literally staring in awe and considering, then verbalizing and saying, with incredulity “Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?” (Isaiah 14:16b–17, NASB95)

Can this man have effected such depredation on the work of God (he shook the earth and made the world a desert) and of people (he made kingdoms tremble and overthrew ... cities)? Did he really exercise such an inhumane grip on people that he would not let his captives go home? Yet that is what he did and, like all who do such things, he fell because of them. (Motyer 1996, 145)

Recall our study of the book of Revelation, all the violence, all of the judgement, the 4 billion or so dead, the destruction, are all because of this one passing before them in chains.

All the centuries of death and destruction. Lucifer is ultimately behind it, of course fallen man fell right into lockstep with him.

Now we understand the meaning behind Proverbs 16:18. “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” (NET) This is the ultimate example of a fall.

There is no memorial tomb for the King of Babylon, and there wasn't for Belshazzar, there will be no memorial tomb for this one either. In verse 19, the counterfeit side is referred to. “But you have been cast out of your tomb Like a rejected branch, Clothed with the slain who are pierced with a sword, Who go down to the stones of the pit Like a trampled corpse.” (Isaiah 14:19, NASB95)

### The Same Word in Hebrew

Earlier in Isaiah, we read about the Branch, Messiah, “In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth will be the pride and the adornment of the survivors of Israel.” (Isaiah 4:2, NASB95)

We also see that when the remnant return at the end of the age, this Branch, Messiah, will rule over the world. “Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.” (Isaiah 11:1, NASB95)

The plan of Lucifer has been to counterfeit what it is that God has done. He will impersonate the Branch.

We see he even goes as far as replicating the Trinity with his own version of the unholy trinity in Revelation 12 and 13.

Satan is the dragon as shown in Revelation 12 and as we saw in Revelation 13:4, the earth dwellers, at the outset of the Great Tribulation, now worship the dragon.

His false messiah (Branch), the beast, has the dragon's authority at his disposal and he is to an object of worship as a result of his purported death and resurrection.

To complete the unholy trinity, there must be a counterfeit of the Holy Spirit, and that would be the subject of Revelation 13:11 – 18, the beast from the land, also known as the false prophet.

As we discussed in detail in our Revelation study, this false prophet is the one who enables the worship of the image of the beast and enforces the mark of the beast as well. He will use AI, quantum computing and global broadband potentially as methods to counterfeit the Spirit.

Lucifer wants to be "like the Most High." His destination though is the most low. He is not "the Branch" nor is his surrogate whom he possesses "the Branch."

He is a false branch, he is not the real branch. Remember, the beast will be perceived by the nation of Israel, early in his career before he shows up at the Temple and says he is god, as a type of messiah.

The Jews have an idea that there are actually two Messiahs they should be looking for, and neither one is the actual Messiah.

Ben-Ephraim and Ben-David, the names of two Messiahs expected by the modern Jews. To evade the express predictions of the Old-Test. prophets concerning the mean condition of the Messiah, they confidently speak of looking forward to the appearance of two Messiahs; the one Ben-Ephraim, whom they grant to be a person of mean and afflicted condition in this world; and the other Ben-David, who shall be a powerful and victorious prince. (M'Clintock and Strong 1894, 431)

Jesus warned about this, "Jesus answered them, "Watch out that no one misleads you. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will mislead many." (Matthew 24:4–5, NET)

This has truly been the case over the centuries. "Persons who claim to be the deliverers of Israel divinely appointed to bring about the establishment of the promised Messianic kingdom. Some of the pseudo-Messiahs who have arisen at various epochs were impostors seeking to exploit the credulity of the masses for selfish purposes; others, victims of their own beliefs or delusions. All of them had as their goal the restoration of Israel to its native land. Some sought to accomplish this through penitence, fasting, and prayer, and looked forward to miracles to assist them; others appealed to arms. In connection with their Messianic rôle, some enacted the part of religious reformers, introducing innovations and even trying to subvert the existing Judaism. As there existed a belief in two Messiahs—an Ephraïtic Messiah, who would be the forerunner of the Davidic Messiah—there appear among the pseudo-Messiahs both those who claim to be the Messiah of the house of David and those who pretend to be the Messiah, son of Joseph. (Singer 1901-1906, 251)

The footnote in the Midrash explains the one anointed for battle as the first of two Messiahs, who would be a descendant from Joseph according to the ancient Jewish tradition of two Messiahs. Known as Messiah ben Joseph, he who would conduct the final war and would be the forerunner of the real Messiah, Messiah ben David, also known as the royal Messiah. (Huckel 1998, Dt 33:17)

This one anointed for battle, the one who promises to protect Israel, and who signs a seven years peace deal, that would be the Beast.

Daniel 9:27

"And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate,

even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.” (NASB95)

Daniel 11:31–36

“Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation. By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action. Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for many days. Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy. Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time. Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done.” (NASB95)

Isaiah tells us the impersonator, possibly a reference to the end times King of Babylon as well as to Lucifer, will be clothed with the slain. The image is that of bodies being thrown on top of the one who led them.

Isaiah 14:20

“You will not be united with them in burial, Because you have ruined your country, You have slain your people. May the offspring of evildoers not be mentioned forever.” (NASB95)

The judgment contained in this verse is a surprising one because it is unexpected. The reader expects to find the king judged for what he has done to the foreign lands which he has oppressed (so LXX “my land ... my people”), but instead it is his own land and his own people he has destroyed and for which he is judged. (Oswalt 1986, 324)

Isaiah 14:20

“so neither will be you clean, for you destroyed my land and you killed my people. You will certainly not remain into eternity, evil seed!” (Lexham Press 2020, Is 14:20)

The Septuagint gives us a totally different perspective on this judgement. The picture is one of a shepherd who does not do what he should and protect those who he has charge of. Whether his own people, or, the reality, those whom the Lord has allowed him to rule over...his people. Zechariah wrote about this foolish shepherd, the one who is empowered by Lucifer.

Zechariah 11:15–17

“Then the LORD said to me, “Take once more the equipment of a foolish shepherd. For behold, I am raising up in the land a shepherd who does not care for those being destroyed, or seek the young or heal the maimed or nourish the healthy, but devours the flesh of the fat ones, tearing off even their hoofs. Woe to my worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! Let his arm be wholly withered, his right eye utterly blinded!” (ESV)

The end goal for this one who ruined his/my country and people...no one will ever mention him or his offspring, those who followed and served him, again. “On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness. And on that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, so that they shall be remembered no more. And also I will remove from the land the prophets and the spirit of uncleanness.” (Zechariah 13:1–2, ESV)

Revelation 21:3–4

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will

wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” (NASB95)

Psalm 37:28

“For the LORD loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.” (ESV)

Isaiah 14:21–23

“Prepare for his sons a place of slaughter Because of the iniquity of their fathers. They must not arise and take possession of the earth And fill the face of the world with cities. “I will rise up against them,” declares the LORD of hosts, “and will cut off from Babylon name and survivors, offspring and posterity,” declares the LORD. “I will also make it a possession for the hedgehog and swamps of water, and I will sweep it with the broom of destruction,” declares the LORD of hosts.” (NASB95)

For the King of Babylon, the one coming up soon for Isaiah, that was the case. The line of Nabonidus / Belshazzar was cut off.

For the future King of Babylon. “Now the beast was seized, and along with him the false prophet who had performed the signs on his behalf—signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. Both of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire burning with sulfur. The others were killed by the sword that extended from the mouth of the one who rode the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves with their flesh.” (Revelation 19:20–21, NET)

After the return of the true Branch, the Messiah, His rule eliminates all the goats. Remember the term used for rulers on the earth was male goats? But the sheep enter the kingdom.

No longer will we see evil people rising and taking over government or establishing cities that are ruled contrary to the rule of Messiah. “From his mouth extends a sharp sword, so that with it he can strike the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod, and he stomps the winepress of the furious wrath of God, the All-Powerful.” (Revelation 19:15, NET)

As for Babylon, we see the future for it as we saw in Isaiah 13:21.

YHWH is depicted as a wife/child cleaning the house by sweeping (BDB 370, KB 367, Pilpel PERFECT). All the trash is removed. What a domestic, but powerful domestic metaphor (unique to Isaiah). (Utley 2001, 173)

The oracle against Babylon ends with YHWH taking out the trash. He sweeps the planet clean.

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