

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord May Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Christ or Antichrist - How Will He Be Known?

Introduction

One of the evidences of the spiritual blindness of Hollywood and the political world is the deification of Barack Obama. From that which I have read, it is reported that:

- a) At the Soul Train Awards in Las Vegas in 2012 Jamie Foxx said: "First of all, give an honour to God. Our Lord and Saviour Barack Obama". (The Huffington Post, 27th Nov. 2012)
- b) Newsweek called him "God of all things" in a pose like the Hindu god Shiva. (Newsweek 21st Nov. 2010)
- c) Barbara A. Thompson in her book, "The gospel according to Apostle Barack" called him: "An apostle sent by God to create a political Heaven on earth". She wrote: "Obama was taken to the mountaintop and allowed to see over the other side. He had the answers to unlock the kingdom of 'heaven here on earth' for his followers."
- d) Michelle, his wife said: "The President has brought us out of dark into the light". (The Weekly Standard, April 17th 2012)
- e) At the Democratic Convention there were posters concerning Obama which proclaimed: "Prophecy Fulfilled". Underneath was an open Bible with the name "Barack" highlighted. "Barack is of Hebrew origin, and its meaning is 'flash of lightning'", the poster said, adding that "Hussein" means "good and handsome".
- f) ABC's Jake Tapper wrote concerning the messianic tone of the 2008 election: "It's as if Tom Daschle descended from on high saying, 'Be not afraid; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people: for there is born to you this day in the city of Chicago a Savior, who is Barack the Democrat.'"

Could Obama be the Christ returned, or the beast, or a manifestation of what the beast will be?

For anyone to be acknowledged as Messiah, or accept without objection this being said about him, shows an individual who is either unspeakably depraved or demon possessed. What is the end of such a person who professes to be the Christ, or allows others to indicate he is such? The scriptures provide the answer from two individuals:

- a) The "Man of sin" who "Sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (2 Thess. 2:3-4). In Revelation John informs us concerning the end of this man. He is called the "beast" and of him it is stated that he and the false prophet "were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Rev. 19:20).
- b) In Acts 12 we read the response of the populous concerning Herod after he made an oration. They said: "It is the voice of a god, and not of a man" (Acts 12:22), and then it is recorded: "And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost" (Acts 12:23). There are no words which can describe the depths of depravity one in who allows sinful man to proclaim him as God.

In contrast, when the discussion came about John his answer was: “I am not the Christ . . . He must increase, but I must decrease (Jn. 3:28-30). No one who belongs to the Lord would tolerate any suggestion of equality with the Son of God.

Why would men speak of a mere mortal as has been spoken of Obama and many others? The answer is at least threefold:

- a) Spiritual blindness (2 Cor. 4:4)
- b) Demonic deception (1 Tim. 4:1)
- c) Individuals already under the judgment of God (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28)

Distinctions

The Distinction Between “False Christ’s and Antichrist”.

- a) It is important to distinguish between “false Christ’s” and “antichrist”
 - i) Antichrist:
 - 1. The word translated “antichrist” (antichristos) occurs in four passages of the scriptures (1 Jn. 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 Jn. 1:7). It is constructed of the preposition “anti” and the Name/Title “Christ”. The preposition “anti” governs only one case which is the “genitive”, and means “over against”, or “opposite”, or “in the place of” (Matt. 2:22 “Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod”, or Matt. 26:28 where we read: “For this is my blood of the new testamant, which is shed for many”). Thus, the word can mean someone who opposes Christ by usurping himself to stand in His place. It is used of those who are shadows of the man who will be “antichrist” (1 Jn. 2:18), and the salient features of the teachings of antichrist (1 Jn. 2:22; 4:3; 2 Jn. 1:7). I understand this to be the first Beast who stands on the shore (Rev. 13:1). Some of his other names or descriptive names are:
 - (a) The “Man of sin” (2 Thess. 2:3)
 - (b) The “Son of perdition” (2 Thess. 2:3)
 - (c) “Wicked” (2 Thess. 2:8).
 This man denies the deity, incarnation, and humanity of the Lord. In other words, he teaches that Jesus is a myth. We can see the world being prepared for him as we listen and observe the “intellectuals” who deny Christ ever was.
 - ii) False Christ:
 - 1. The word translated “false Christ” (pseudochristos”) occurs only in two places (Matt. 24:24; Mk. 13:22). This individual does not deny the person of Christ, but deceives the people by causing them to think that he is the Christ.
 - iii) I wonder if there is the possibility that the “Antichrist” and “false Christ” is the same person as distinct from the “false prophet” (Matt. 24:24; Mk. 13:22). If such were the case, being the false Christ would be the result of denying Christ ever came in the flesh.

The Distinction Between Christ and The Antichrist/Beast.

| Christ | Reference | Antichrist | Reference |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| The Son of God | Jn. 1:34 | The son of perdition | 2 Thess. 2:3 |
| Empowered by the Holy Spirit | Acts 1:2; 10:38 | Empowered by Satan | Rev. 13:2, 5 |
| Designated as “Christ” | Matt. 16:16 | Designated as “Antichrist” | 1 Jn. 4:3 |
| The man of sorrows | Isa. 53:3 | The man of sin | 2 Thess. 2:3 |
| Called the “Lamb” | Isa. 53:7 | Called the “beast” | Rev. 11:7 |
| Signs and wonders | Acts 2:22 | Signs and wonders | 2 Thess. 2:9 |
| Had a true prophet from God | Matt. 11:9 | Had a false prophet from Satan | Rev. 13:11-15 |

| Christ | Reference | Antichrist | Reference |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Died | Rom. 5:6 | Had a death blow | Rev. 13:3 |
| Rose from the dead | Mk. 16:9 | Was healed | Rev. 13:3 |
| Called the “Holy One” | Mk. 1:24 | Called the “Wicked” | 2 Thess. 2:8 |
| Has a bride and wife | Rev. 21:2, 9 | Associated with the great whore | Rev. 17:16 |
| The Prince of Peace | Isa. 9:6 | The profane Prince | Ezek. 21:25 |
| The good Shepherd | Jn. 10:11 | The idol shepherd | Zech. 11:17 |
| Ascends to Heaven, alive | Mk. 16:19 Acts 1:9-11 | Descends into the lake of fire alive | Rev. 19:20 |
| Christ rides a white horse | Rev. 19:11 | The beast rides a white horse | Rev. 6:2 |

How Will Christ Be Known?

- 1) By the manifestation of intimidating glory:
 - a) There are several passages which tell of the coming of the Lord in glory:
 - i) He shall come as He went away. He went as the Mighty Victor over Satan and death, and when He comes as such, no insignificant militaries led by the beast will be able to stand against Him. (2 Thess. 2:8-9; Rev. 14:19-20; 17:14; 19:15, 19-21)
 - ii) He went away with angelic hosts attending and will come again with the armies of heaven, the mighty angels. (2 Thess. 1:7; Jude 1:14)
 - iii) He shall come in flaming fire, unreserved fury, “taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”. (2 Thess. 1:8)
 - iv) He shall come to be: “glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe”. (1 Thess. 1:10)
 - v) When He comes the great men of earth shall cower and hide themselves in “the dens and in the rocks of the mountains” (Rev. 6:15), praying to them to cover them (Rev. 6:16).
 - vi) His coming will be after the tribulation and will be preceded by frightening celestial and terrestrial happenings. (Rev. 6:12-14)
 - vii) His coming will be with an opening Heaven as He comes forth riding a white horse. (Rev. 19:11)
 - viii) He is clothed, crowned and named with that which is suitable to the occasion. (Rev. 19:12-13, 16)
 - ix) Such will be the brilliance of His coming that: “every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him” (Rev. 1:7). It is not that He shall be suspended in space for twelve hours, for as the Lord said: “As the lightning cometh out of the East, and shineth even unto the West; so shall the coming of the Son of man be” (Matt. 24:27). However, because of that which Rev. 1:7 says, it indicates that such will be His brilliance that dead will be aware of its occurrence. When Christ was before the High Priest he said: “Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of Heaven” (Matt. 26:64). All the tribes of the earth shall see Him (Matt. 24:30).
- 2) By His voice:
 - a) After the Lord rose from the dead Mary knew Him by the sound of His voice (Jn. 20:16). When He comes again His voice will still be that of the many waters (Ezek. 43:2; Rev. 1:15). He will speak and the dead, irrespective of how long they have been dead, will rise (Jn. 5:28-29).
- 3) By His wounds:
 - a) Thomas knew it was the Lord by the wounds in His hands and side (Jn. 20:25-28). When the Lord comes to the earth His appearance to Israel will be such they shall realize: “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities” (Isa. 53:5), and “the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isa. 53:6). They shall look at Him who was pierced and they shall realize who He is (Zech. 12:10).

4) By His credentials for Kingship:

- a) There is only one Jew who has not only the genealogy for Kingship but also moral qualifications. Matthew and Luke both record the genealogy of the man “Jesus”. While this paper is not delving into the distinctions between the two accounts, several truths are evident. Jesus was the promised Son of David through the lineage of Solomon from David (Matt. 1:6-7), and Nathan from David (Lk. 3:31). There is no other Jew alive who can trace such a lineage, thus, He has the exclusive right to the throne of Israel. He also has the moral qualifications of which David spoke: “He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God” (2 Sam. 23:3). It is of Him Zechariah wrote: “Behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation” (Zech. 9:9). When Stephen was being interrogated, in His great answer he stated: “which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One” (Acts 7:52-53). Christ had the legal and moral qualifications.

5) By how He does things:

- a) After walking with the two on the Emmaus Road, the Lord at their behest sat at meat with them. Then He took the bread and blessed and broke it, and there was something about how He did it that made them realize: “This is Jesus, He is alive” (Lk. 24:29-35). When He comes: “His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives . . . and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst” (Zech. 14:4). Out from Jerusalem living waters shall flow (Zech. 14:8). “The Lord shall be king over all the earth” (Zech. 14:9).

6) By His knowledge:

- a) The disciples had been out all night fishing and had caught nothing. Then, unaware that the man standing on the shore was the Lord, He called to them: “Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They did so, and such was the catch: “they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes” (Jn. 21:6). It was then, the disciple Jesus loved, realized who the man on the shore was, and said: “It is the Lord” (Jn. 21:7). When the Lord comes, will He have universal knowledge? To judge the nations and know the attitude of them will require perfection of knowledge (Matt. 25:32-45). In that day political correctness will be abolished, and moral righteousness shall reign for:
 - i) “He cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall He judge the world, and the people with equity” (Psa. 98:9)
 - ii) “He shall judge the people with His truth” (Psa. 96:13)
 - iii) “With righteousness shall He judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked” (Isa. 11:4).

Such judgment will require perfection of knowledge.

7) By His fulfillment of the ancient prophecies:

- a) One has only to read such prophecies as:
 - i) “Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge His people.” (Psa. 50:3-4)
 - ii) “For, behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.” (Isa. 66:15)
 - iii) “And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” (Isa. 2:4)
 - iv) “Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” (Psa. 2:6-9)

Summary

Let there be no mistaking the facts, the only man who has all the qualifications to be the Christ, who has the right to be recognized and called the Saviour, is our Lord Jesus Christ. All who proclaim to be the Christ, or who allow others to verbally or otherwise declare the man as such, are not only deceived but soon will realize that they were wrong. Jamie Foxx, Michelle Obama, and Barbara Tyler, unless they repent and are saved by the grace of God, will come, and bowing their knees before Him, will acknowledge that He is Lord. (Phil. 2:10)

At that moment, no fleshy pride, no earthly pomp or glory, no intellectual ability, no fast talking lawyer, no human reasoning will be offered as a defense. In fulness of knowledge such will know the tragic stupidity of their speech and attitudes. Sadly, it will be too late. All I can say is, "May God have mercy on them all"; and stand in amazement at the words of Holy Scripture:

**“For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son,
that WHOSOEVER believeth in Him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.”
(John 3:16)**

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