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VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.
- Caught up: *harpazo* (Greek) *rapturo* (Latin)

WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

- Antichrist is a person (not a world system)
- He uses 10 kings that will arise out of the former Roman Empire
- He seems to also come out of the Roman Empire
- He doesn't serve the god of his fathers
- He has no regard for the "desire of women"
- He uses his resources to build up military power
- He comes to power at the mid point of the tribulation but is probably influential during the entire period
- He is spiritually empowered from the abyss
- He has a rider ("Babylon" coming to power with/on him)
- He gets his authority from Satan (Dragon)
- Jesus will bring his reign to an end

WHAT STARTED SATAN'S WRATH

- The antichrist comes to power at the mid point of the tribulation but is probably influential during the entire period
- **Revelation 12:7-9,12** ..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...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.

SATAN WANTS TO BE GOD?

- **Isaiah 14:13-15** "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. **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** make myself like the Most High.' Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.
- **Revelation 20:1-3** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

EXAMPLE FROM EZEKIEL

- Ezekiel speaks of two beings:
 1. The leader of Tyre
 - **Ezekiel 28:1-2** The word of the LORD came again to me, saying, "Son of man, say to the leader of Tyre, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Because your heart is lifted up and you have said, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods in the heart of the seas'; **Yet you are a man** and not God although you make your heart like the heart of God—
2. The king of Tyre
- **Ezekiel 28:11-13a** Again the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God;

IS THE KING OF TYRE HUMAN?

- **Ezekiel 28:13-15** "You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you *there*. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you."
- The leader of Tyre was a man
- The king of Tyre was Satan, the spiritual empowerment behind the man

SATAN AS A COUNTERFEITER

- **2 Corinthians 11:12-15** But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.
- **Ephesians 2:1-2** And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

RULER OF THIS WORLD

- **John 12:31** “Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”
- Satan usurped authority over the earth; God had given this authority to Adam: **Genesis 1:28** God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it;”
- **Revelation 13:3-5** *I saw* one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed *and followed* after the beast; they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?” There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.

SATAN'S AUTHORITY

- Satan gave his authority to the antichrist!
- Authority: *exousia*: the right to act; the right to use power; given by someone to someone else; must work within boundaries established by the giver
- **Revelation 13:7-8** It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone* whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.
- **Revelation 13:11** Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.

THE ANTI-HOLY SPIRIT

- Satan, who has always wanted to be God, is now seen completing his end-time fake trinity
- Satan is the false father; the first beast is the false christ (antichrist)
- **Revelation 13:12-14** He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.

THE IMAGE TO WORSHIP

- The anti-holy spirit makes an image requiring worship
- Failure to worship results in death
- **Revelation 13:16-18** And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and *he provides* that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, *either* the name of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.
- For this to happen, there must be some sort of world system of government and economy, obviously working with some sort of religious affiliation initially