

The Messenger

In 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, we read from the New American Standard (NAS) Bible Paul's words:

7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Many have made assumptions as to what that thorn in the flesh might have been—maybe some physical affliction or persecution or whatever. But to understand this, a more important question must be asked first, and that is: Who is this "messenger of Satan"?

To begin answering this, in John Gill's Exposition of the Bible, we read a different more revealing and even more accurate translation of this most important portion of verse 7, directly answering our question here. He explains (this text is updated to make it more readable for today):

But after all, I see not but that **the devil himself** may be meant as the subject here; for as before observed, the phrase "a thorn in the flesh" is metaphorical, and the other, a "messenger of Satan," is literal, and explains it. Therefore, the whole may be read thus: "there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, **the angel Satan** to buffet me." So we see that Satan—who was once an angel of light but now of darkness—is the "thorn in the flesh." And, Satan might be suffered to appear visibly to him from time to time in a very terrible manner, and which was very grievous to be borne. He might by permission have great power over his body, as he had over Job's, to use it ill, to beat and buffet it, for this also may be taken literally. And he might likewise in other ways greatly distress him by stirring up the corruptions of his heart; by following him with his satanical injections, suggestions, and temptations; by raising violent persecutions and instigating many of his emissaries against him. And this sense is the rather to be chosen, because it includes all others that have any show of truth.

Without getting too technical, while the NAS and other translations speak of "a messenger of Satan," the fact is that there is no preposition "of" between "aggelos" and "satan," or angel Satan. Furthermore, and this is most important, the noun "Satan" can be either nominative or genitive case, making a difference in its meaning. What is nominative and genitive? If "Satan" was nominative, then it has to read "angel Satan." But if it is genitive, it has to read "angel of Satan." For example, here is a genitive case relative to an angel: "But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord

appeared to him in a dream" (Matthew 1:20). The text here then supports the message. So, what do the Greek texts tell us?

Three of the major Greek texts that are used in Bible translation are the Byzantine text, the Textus Receptus, and the Westcott and Hort text. Of these three, Byzantine and Textus Receptus have the word Satan in the nominative case, or "the angel Satan." But the Westcott and Hort text has it in the genitive case, or "an angel of Satan." ([Click here](#) to see this distinction.) Therefore, at the Greek text level, it will go either way. But even more stunning is that with two of the three text supporting "the angel Satan," the translators have wholly ignored this. And for the sake of honest examination, let us look at another example regarding this matter.

In Luke 1:26 we read from the King James Version (KJV): "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth." You will notice that in regard to this angel, Gabriel, it does not say "the angel/messenger of Gabriel." But, this is the same nominative case as that found in 2 Corinthians 12:7, which KJV, like all the others, translates: "the messenger of Satan." So why the bias? Why on the one hand do they say "the messenger of Satan," but then say "the angel Gabriel"? They cannot be both ways. The fact is that when the nominative case is used in 2 Corinthians 12:7 just as it is used in Luke 1:26, then both of these angels have to be addressed in the same manner: "the angel Gabriel" and "the angel Satan." They are both nominative case.

Thus we see that the thorn in the flesh that humbled Paul was indeed the angel Satan. And what you are going to find now is that it is far more revealing and relevant that the angel Satan did indeed afflict Paul so as to keep him humble. Furthermore, you will find that the reality of this bears great significance for the church, as well as affirms the vital revelation of the fulfilling and culminating Elijah—all of this we will cover here. Let us then restate verses 7 and 8 with the accurate translation which we will use:

7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, the angel Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that he might leave me.

To begin this, in the above quote from John Gill, he cited Job as an example of the very thing that Satan effected upon Paul. Frankly, this is a MOST relevant correlation. In Job 1:8, we find that Yahweh spoke to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job?" In order to test Job, Yahweh gave Satan the authority to strip him of everything he had. First, all of his sons and daughters were killed, as well as his servants and all of his livestock. Next, Yahweh gave Satan the authority to smite him with sore boils from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head.

Three times we are told that all of this evil was brought upon Job by Yahweh God: Job 12:9, James 5:11, and in Job 42:11, which reads, "Then all his brothers and all his sisters . . . consoled him and comforted him **for all the evil that Yahweh had brought on him.**" While Satan performed all of these works that humbled and tested Job, he was in fact an angel sent by Yahweh to do so. Even remember, it was Yahweh who in the first place brought forward Job's name: "Have you considered My servant Job?"

In obvious like manner, Yahweh sent the angel Satan to afflict Paul. Three times Paul implored Yahweh to remove him. But He affirmed both the right and the purpose whereby Satan was to continue to have this authority: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Therefore, by the will of Yahweh Satan remained!

Beyond Paul's personal life, why would Yahweh do this to him in the same manner as He did to Job? Because both of these men clearly represent Christianity: Job in clear type, and Paul as its founding apostle.

How is Job a type of Christianity? Very clearly, even as the church is:

- (1.) The single-portion former rain with the first Remnant,
- (2.) Followed by the Body of Christ that is afflicted by Satan with loss,
- (3.) Then completed by the double-portion latter rain with the fulfilling second Remnant,

So Job's life evidenced the same:

- (1.) The single-portion blessing that came upon him,
- (2.) Followed by the affliction of Satan with loss,
- (3.) Then completed by the double-portion blessing.

There is no question at all that Job was a clear intercessional testimony of the church. And in both Christianity and Job, the angel Satan was given authority to afflict them. How then does this relate to Paul, and how does it prove that 2 Corinthians 12:7 does indeed speak of the angel Satan as the one who continually afflicted him so as to humble him? Most importantly, Paul is the apostle who was the father of Christianity; and as went Paul, so has gone Christianity. Even as Paul was afflicted by Satan, and even as Job was afflicted by Satan, so Christians, the Body of Christ, have been afflicted by Satan.

Of course this fate is also proven by the clear fact that Christ Himself was turned over to and afflicted by Satan. Satan entered into Judas (Luke 22:3-4), and thereby Yahshua was taken into captivity by the Jews (whose father was Satan, John 8:44) and the nations (over whom Satan rules, John 14:30, Luke 4:5-6), and thereupon He was afflicted and killed. Therefore equally true, and frankly most obvious, as went Christ, consequentially, so has gone the Body of Christ. And as we have noted, in like manner, as went Paul, so it had to be with the Body of Christ, Christianity. All three of these intercessors—Job, Yahshua, and Paul—were each given over to Satan, attesting what would happen to the church!

Now, let us consider another like evidence to this that is most relevant here. In 1 Corinthians 5:5, we read of Paul's actions to turn a man over to this same afflicter, Satan:

I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

But, this was not the only time Paul did this, for in 1 Timothy 1:20 we read that he now turns two men over to Satan:

Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

Therefore, as the foreshadowing founding apostle of Christianity, what does this hold for the Body of Christ? Very simple, we already know that Christianity was supposed to receive 3,000 years to perform their work, and then rest on their sabbath on the eighth day, their Sunday sabbath. But, that has to be cut short to 2,000 years, and Immanuel come and perform that which they have failed to accomplish in those years, and would fail to do so in the third 1,000 years as well. (Read [Death and the Passing of Christianity, page 2](#).) And most significantly, we read in 2 Corinthians 12:8 that specifically three times Paul asked that Satan might leave him. Well, hopefully he will be heard this time and Yahweh cut his requests short to two, and there be no need for that third request.

Do you already see now why Paul handed two men over to Satan to teach them not to blaspheme, and turned over a third man as well for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit might be saved? Clearly, two parts of the church have already been turned over to Satan; and if Yahweh does not cut their days short, as it is written, no **flesh** will be saved (Matthew 24:22 and Mark 13:20). The third part will be turned over to Satan as well, just as Paul did so to the man for the destruction of his **flesh**. We can be most glad that Yahweh will indeed end Satan's affliction of the church.

In addition, it seems most unusual that when Paul explained this work of Satan relative to himself, you will notice that he repetitiously used the same statement, even in the same sentence: "to keep me from exalting myself." "Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, **to keep me from exalting myself**, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, the angel Satan to torment me—**to keep me from exalting myself!**" Is there not also a significance in this as well? Are these possibly testimonies to the two parts, the 2,000 years, that Satan is given so as to keep the church from exalting itself? It certainly seems so, for otherwise it is unnecessary repetition.

And, do you recognize why Paul, from the natural standpoint, would so freely do this to these three men? Obviously, he turned these three men over to Satan for correction with the same intentions that were spoken to him by Yahweh: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Essentially, it is, "I'll just do the same thing God did to me." That is what he was acquainted with, and saw its value, so he repeated it—of course not knowing that his actions would be intercessorial and prophesy. But, Yahweh has His will and His way.

Continuing in this examination of Satan, we have noted that in 2 Corinthians 12:7 it accurately reads, "the angel Satan." So, was Satan an angel? Indeed he was, but he fell. In 2 Corinthians 11:14, we read the familiar statement, though here in a more literal translation: "for even Satan transforms himself into an angel of light." So, what is this transformation? Is it into an angel? Not at all. In Ezekiel 28:14-16, we see that he was in fact a cherub: "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. By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of

fire.” And in Isaiah 14:12 we read: “How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations!” And more directly, Yahshua said regarding Satan per se: “I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning” (Luke 10:18).

But, some claim that since the following was written about Satan, that he was actually created evil. These verses are therein cited to prove this, noting that he was a murderer and liar and sinned from the beginning.

He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies [John 8:44].

. . . for the devil has sinned from the beginning [1 John 3:8].

But, from what beginning? From his own beginning? Or, from the beginning of man, which we see in Genesis 3? By what we see in Creation, Yahweh God in fact creates all things good. But, because of man’s, and obviously an angel’s, weakness, they fall. Even angels obviously follow Yahweh God’s sowing-and-reaping trinity pattern:

Good —> Corruption and death —> Good in its fullness

Furthermore, 2 Thessalonians 2:13 states, “brethren . . . God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.” Does this mean that they believed from the beginning as well? Of course not. From the beginning it was planned, but took time to be fulfilled. Likewise, Revelation 13:8 states that Yahshua was “slain from the foundation of the world.” So, was He literally slain there, or was it 4,000 years after Creation? Again, it was later. In like manner, from the beginning it was planned that Satan would fall, and that took place at or before the Garden. Or, from Creation he has been a murderer and sinned. But just as man was created good and fell, so Satan was created an angel of the order of the cherubim and fell.

Therefore, we see that Satan is in fact a fallen angel. So, when we read that “Satan transforms himself into an angel of light,” that transformation is not that he becomes an angel, but that as an angel he presents himself as being light. Therefore, we see once again that the accurate message of 2 Corinthians 12:7 is: “there was given me a thorn in the flesh, the angel Satan to torment me.” Yes, the angel Satan.

SATAN’S EFFECTUAL WORK

Let us now consider Satan’s purpose in the works of God. Yes, Satan does indeed have a purpose in Yahweh God’s design, for as we have already seen in Job, he is sent by Him. Isaiah 45:6-7 clearly states, “I am Yahweh, and there is no other, the One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating evil; I am Yahweh who does all these.” And as you will see, there are many purposes in Satan’s work, and we will begin with the matter at hand.

Regarding Paul, we see that Yahweh God gave him over to Satan to torment him so as to keep him from exalting himself. What was His purpose in turning Job over to Satan? He proved Job, for Yahweh said that he was blameless, upright, feared Him, and turned away from evil. And in the end, as with Paul, Satan's work humbled him: "Therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). And what about the church? What is Satan's purpose in them? This is of course a most relevant and important question.

First, in [The Issue, page 3](#), we note that what Satan did to Christ at the hands of the Romans, so he does to the Body of Christ. Christ was blindfolded so that He could not see, so Satan blinds the Body of Christ so they do not see. Thorns were placed upon His head, so the cares of this world are placed upon the head of Christians. He was beat beyond recognition (Isaiah 52:14), so the Body of Christ does not look like the free and victorious Christ. They balded His cheeks (in other words they shaved off His beard, Isaiah 50:6), so the church has lost its masculine identity and is feminized. And the list goes on as to how Satan has afflicted, altered, and corrupted the Body of Christ. All of this was done so that the Body would stand in the place of the Crucified Christ. And of course for 2,000 years they have gone to death.

Adding to this, there is yet another testimony we see regarding the angel Satan and the church, and that is in the wilderness wanderings of the sons of Israel. What do we find there regarding Satan's purpose? In Exodus 33:2-3, we find that because of the continual failures of the Israelites, Yahweh declared that He would not go with them into the Promised Land, but would send an angel to go with them: "I will send an angel before [or in the presence of] you and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite. Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, because you are an obstinate people, and I might destroy you on the way."

We find that this forty-year wilderness journey was in fact a type of the period of Christianity. There are many evidences of this, some of which can be seen by [reading here](#). And, this is confirmed by the equally attesting like account of Yahshua's own forty days and forty nights in the wilderness, where He was tempted by the angel Satan. To read more about this clear testimony, [click here](#).

Now, you will recall that Yahweh said He would send an angel with them into the wilderness. Undoubtedly, this was one that would deliver them. However, this was not the case with Christianity's wilderness. Instead, the angel they received was the angel Satan. And, this is testified to in what is written about the Israelite's wilderness. In Deuteronomy 8:2 and 15, we read:

"You shall remember all the way which Yahweh your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. . . . He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint."

There is a great deal of similarity between this account and that of Paul's account regarding the thorn in the flesh. It is quite interesting that the Greek word for the "thorn" that was in Paul's flesh, "skolops," literally means "pointed." And similarly, in

the wilderness there were scorpions with their pointed stingers. And of course while Paul spoke of the angel Satan, the wilderness had its same type—the fiery serpents!



Whether it be the angel Satan tormenting Paul, or the testimony of Satan in the fiery serpents in the wilderness, or Yahshua in the like wilderness being tempted by Satan, or even Satan being sent to afflict and test Job in his own wilderness experience, we see in each the evidence that the angel Satan has been sent into the church to effect these like purposes. And one of the most revealing testimonies is that stated in Deuteronomy 8: “that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.” How well has the church done in this test? They have failed horribly!

Let us now look at another purpose in Satan’s role in the church. In fact, this is so significant and impacting that it will be covered in its own section. This is the role of Satan as the covering or head of the church for 2,000 years.

SATAN—THE COVERING, THE HEAD

One of the hardest things there is to accept, and provokes the most immediate and greatest objection and reactionary criticism, is the fact that Satan was given the right to rule over the church for 2,000 years, and thereupon has been its head and even substitutionary covering. Let us take a close look at this, for it is a sound and broadly-established truth. As you will find, there are multiple testimonies.

We will begin with Ezekiel 28, which is widely regarded as being a clear description of Satan. Though we have spoken of some of these verses already, let us repeat them, beginning with verse 13:

“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. By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire [13-16].”

You will notice here again that Satan bears the title “anointed cherub who covers,” or “covering cherub.” To aid your understanding of that which now unfolds, four sequential points will be set forth, starting with what was just stated:

- #1. Satan is the anointed cherub who covers.

This is most important to note. Now, one must then ask an equally necessary question:

#2. What is it that Satan covers?

Clearly, Satan is a covering. And, God indeed provides the answer to this question. We can know with certainty what it is he covers by simply looking at another passage that speaks of Satan as well.

There are two chapters in the Bible that are most often assigned to Satan's identity: Ezekiel 28, which we have already seen, and Isaiah 14. In Isaiah 14:12-15 we read:

"How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! 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."

So, who is it that is actually being spoken of here as a type of Satan? Verses 4 and 22 tell us, in addition to the preceding chapter 13. In fact, chapter 13 has been referred to on a number of occasions in the writings here. Who is this type? It is the "king of Babylon." Satan is thus synonymous to the king of Babylon, who at that time was Belshazzar. This too is obviously most important.

Now, by knowing what this king as a type of Satan covers—Babylon—we can know what Satan himself, this covering cherub, covers. Certainly, it is not natural Babylon, but it is in fact the fulfilling spiritual Babylon. And what is that? As addressed in [All's Well that Ends Well, page 2](#), mystery Babylon in Revelation 17 and 18 is Christianity. Therefore, we find that as the covering cherub, Satan is the covering over the Body of Christ.

#3. Satan covers spiritual Babylon, or Christianity.

Likewise, even as King Belshazzar was the **head** over Babylon, so Satan is the head over the Body of Christ. And the outcome for the king of Babylon tells us something most wonderful, confirming, and revealing about Satan's fate and final purpose.

In Isaiah 13 and one hundred and ten verses of Jeremiah 50 and 51, Yahweh explicitly prophesied the complete and utter destruction of Babylon. For example, in Jeremiah 50:3 we read: "For a nation has come up against her out of the north [specifically the Medes, 51:11 and 28]; it will make her land an object of horror, and there will be **no inhabitant in it.**" In 51:2-3 we read: "And I will dispatch foreigners to Babylon that they may winnow her and may devastate her land. . . . So do not spare her young men; devote all her army to destruction." And Isaiah 13:20-21 clearly states: "It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation; nor will the Arab pitch his tent there, nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there. But desert creatures will lie down there, and their houses will be full of owls; ostriches also will live there, and shaggy goats will frolic there. Hyenas will howl in their fortified towers and jackals in their luxurious palaces."

But did this take place as spoken by Yahweh? Not at all! When Darius the Mede did invade Babylon as prophesied, he and his army diverted the Euphrates River, drying up its bed (a prophetic type of Revelation 16:12), entered Babylon without any resistance or bloodshed, and one man alone was killed. Who was it? It was the head, King Belshazzar, the type of Satan! All the wrath Yahweh prophesied concerning the judgment of Babylon fell upon only one: the head! Thus in like manner, and in true fulfillment, the head of the Body of Christ, Satan, will be judged. And as with natural Babylon, he will pay the price, instead of Christians. Therefore:

#4. Satan, the head, will be judged to the preservation of the Body.

Briefly, we see a like testimony to this in David and Goliath. Vast Christianity is consistently identified with bronze: the bronze belly of the statue, the bronze serpent, and [more](#). It is thus most telling that giant Goliath was completely covered from head to foot in bronze (1 Samuel 17:5-6). And, just as David struck Goliath in the head with a small stone, and then took Goliath's own sword and cut off his head, so we see again that the head of giant Christianity, Satan, must be cut off with the word of God.

Let us quickly examine yet another testimony that Yahweh God provides regarding Satan's covering over Christianity: the tabernacle, which was "a copy and shadow of heavenly things" (Hebrews 8:5).

In the holy of holies, there was the ark of the covenant, and covering it with their wings spread over it were two angels. These were two cherubim (Exodus 25:19-22). Following is a representation of what the ark of the covenant with the mercy seat and two cherubim might have looked like (though it seems both wings would have somehow been over the ark):



Most significantly, the ark of the covenant was made of acacia wood. This was the tree from which the crown of thorns would have been made that was placed upon Christ, and is thus on the Body of Christ as well.



Why is all of this significant? Because the ark represented in type cursed acacia Christianity, with the two Remnant on each side. This is the same pattern found in Zechariah 4 where we see: olive tree, lampstand, olive tree; or, first Remnant, Christianity, second Remnant. Thus we find that the two are one and the same:



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In this we see that the two cherubs that cover the Body of Christ are in fact the two Remnant, one on each side. But up to now, there have not been these two coverings. So, without these two cherubs, what cherub then covers the Body of Christ? There is only one cherub this could be, and that is the “anointed cherub who covers”—Satan! Therefore, as testified in the ark of the covenant with the two covering cherubs, once again we see that Satan, the anointed cherub who covers, has been the covering over Christianity for 2,000 years.

And speaking of these 2,000 years, and being equally brief, do not forget that Satan was given the legal right from Yahshua Himself to take the 2,000 swine into the sea of death (Mark 5:13). This was of course a legal testimony that, just as Satan was given authority over Job, so he was given authority over the Body of Christ. Only in the case of the

Body, he now had the authority to take them to death. (For more about this testimony, read [Trinities, page 5](#).)

Of course, what did the demons have to say concerning Yahshua's timing? They asked Him, "Have You come here to torment us before the time?" (Matthew 8:29.) Yahshua was not due to come for another 2,000 years, in the Millennial Reign. That meant that Satan and his demons still had authority over the earth. This being the case, he had the authority to rule over Yahshua so as to torture and crucify Him. So, what has changed since then? Nothing regarding Satan's authority. Therefore, he has ruled over the Body of Christ as well. But the hope we have today is that his 2,000 swine, his 2,000 years, are over.

We have noted that the two Remnant serve as a covering for the Body of Christ. In reality, this is a relational testimony of the male and the female—the uncircumcised male is covered by the female in order to bring forth offspring. Read [The Covering Bride](#), and particularly [page 5](#), to understand this. But there is actually another important way we have to look at this matter of a covering as well. Let us now consider this.

In the online writing, [Coverings, chapter 3](#), we find the law and way of Yahweh God concerning changes in a covering. First, Yahweh places a covering over something. Then with the effecting of sin, that covering is removed and judgment comes. Thereupon, a substitutionary covering is now applied. Then finally, in the end the substitutionary covering is removed and the original covering is restored. This is exactly what we find with the covering over the church, the kingdom of heaven.

When Yahshua came to this earth, we have seen that He came before His time. One of the reasons this had to be was that in order for Him to become the sacrifice Lamb, men had to have the authority to kill Him. This, of course, would not be possible in the Millennial Reign. So, He had to come early when Satan had the right to rule this world.

In the wilderness that Yahshua was led into by the Holy Spirit, Satan "showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time," and said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours" (Luke 4:5-7). Have you ever noticed this fact? All the kingdoms of the world throughout time have been handed over to Satan, and he has had the authority to give them to whomever he wishes. Furthermore, 2 Corinthians 4:4 states that he is "the god of this world"; and in John 12:31 and 16:11, he is acknowledged by Yahshua as being the "ruler of this world."

Clearly, with this authority, Satan not only had the right to kill Yahshua, but for 2,000 years has had the same right to kill and corrupt the holders of the kingdom of heaven. Hebrews 2:14 clearly states that the devil, present tense, "has the power of death." As the god, ruler, and possessor of this world, clearly he has authority over the kingdom of heaven that is in this world, especially when the One who provided it went away.

So, let us now examine the law of coverings in regard to this truth. After His death, burial, resurrection, and the essential [eight days in heaven](#), Yahshua came back to this earth and was with them right up to Pentecost. During that time the kingdom of heaven was pure, just as it was initially so in the Garden of Eden. And as in the Garden as well, they walked and talked with God. Also, with His presence, He was head over

that kingdom. But, He could not stay; and just as He was turned over to Satan, so His kingdom and its possessors had to be turned over to him as well. Therefore, when He left, His headship was replaced by another: the god, ruler, and possessor of this world and all that is in it—Satan!

When the apostles cast lots for a replacement for Judas just before Pentecost, they stood in the place of the Holy One and the [abomination of desolation](#) took place. Yahshua had told them, “While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.” But, He would leave, and warned that “night [was] coming when no one can work” (John 9:4-5). He left, night came, and Satan thereupon took His place as head and covering—the Belshazzar that would someday die for the church, even as did his Predecessor, the Lamb of God. Then, Yahshua will return and the ruler of this world will be bound, and He will once again take His rightful place.

Thus, while Yahshua was on this earth following His eight days in heaven, He was the head and covering of the church. But when He left, the god of this world became its head and substitutionary covering—Satan. And when He returns, He will restore His headship and His covering. Thus we see the following headship/covering order:

Yahshua —> Satan —> Immanuel

Another clear testimony of the legal responsibility for and over the church which Satan was given, is one that others have noted only in part. In truth, they have failed to grasp what the implication is in drawing their comparison. This is from Isaiah 22:15-23, and is the account of one Shebna who was “over the house” during the reign of Hezekiah. You will see here the clear comparison of Shebna with that of Satan, who has equally been over the house of God. And as you read, you will notice that, like Satan, he is found to be displeasing, and as the type of a substitutionary covering is replaced by another—Eliakim, or “God raises up.”

Thus says the Lord Yahweh of hosts, “Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the house: ‘What right do you have here, and whom do you have here, that you have hewn a tomb for yourself here, you who hew a tomb on the height, you who carve a resting place for yourself in the rock? Behold, Yahweh is about to hurl you headlong, O man. And He is about to grasp you firmly and roll you tightly like a ball, to be cast into a vast country; there you will die and there your splendid chariots will be, you shame of your master's house. I will depose you from your office, and I will pull you down from your station.

‘Then it will come about in that day, that I will summon My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and I will clothe him with your tunic, and tie your sash securely about him. I will entrust him with your authority, and he will become a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Then I will set the key of the house of David on his shoulder; when he opens no one will shut, when he shuts no one will open. I will drive him like a peg in a firm place, and he will become a throne of glory to his father's house.’ ”

Such is Satan. He was placed over the house of God, the church, but will be replaced by Him who has the key of the house of David—Immanuel. But notice the unmistakable and obligating testimony here. If Eliakim represents Immanuel, **there has to be one**

who has possessed that office and authority over the house before Him. And as we have seen, this is none other than Satan Himself, who has been this resident head and substitutionary covering of the church for 2,000 years. Thus we clearly see here that Immanuel would receive a place, an office, that was originally held by Satan. Shebna must be reckoned with in this account.

But also, there is more to this testimony than just Immanuel. We read here:

Then I will set the key of the house of David on his shoulder,
When he opens no one will shut,
When he shuts no one will open.

Where might this passage later be quoted, indicating its fulfillment? In the book of Revelation, chapter 3, verse 7:

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: . . .”

Why is this so significant? Because Philadelphia speaks of the second Remnant, while Smyrna, in 2:8-11, speaks of the first Remnant. ([Read here](#) for more on this.) It is the Smyrna first Remnant that lost the rights to be the fulfilling Elijah and died, and it will be the Philadelphia second Remnant that is that fulfillment, bringing Immanuel to this earth so that the Eliakim can replace the Shebna. Therefore, it is most relevant that the fulfillment of this passage regarding the key of the house of David, actually comes with the establishment of the work to which the passage speaks—the second Remnant. And, it is greatly encouraging for us today that there is the promise that this is a work that is most certain to find fulfillment: “When he opens no one will shut, when he shuts no one will open.”

But let us note here as well that this affords great hope for the fulfilling Elijah, who stands in that office before Immanuel comes. And, there is the hope that this work is predestined by Yahweh God, and will be fulfilled! We will consider this in the next section. But for now, we will look at the first thing that Yahweh used to show me that Satan was the head of Christianity. And again, we have to be brief.

In the latter half of the 1990s, I was fixing breakfast for the family one morning when Yahweh showed me from some recent events that Africa was a type of Christianity. After breakfast, I went to the living room and opened an encyclopedia to Africa to see what evidence there might be regarding this. Before me was a map of that continent. As I was looking at it, I happened to turn it slightly, and when I did my blood turned cold! Right there before me was the image of Satan! You can see the same in the following image as well.



Satan's eye is Lake Victoria, the Limpopo River is his mouth, there is a little horn on his forehead, and you can see that the boot of Italy is crushing his head. Much more can be read about this at *The Signs That Cause Belief*, [page 4](#) and [page 5](#). Thus I realized for the first time that with Africa representing Christianity, and Satan's head in fact engraved upon that continent, that Satan was the head of Christianity ([page 9](#)).

At that point, I knew that anything this dramatic and significant had to be recorded in the Scriptures, and that is exactly what we find. In Zechariah 3:1, we find Satan accusing Joshua the high priest. Yahweh rebuked Satan, took away Joshua's iniquity, and proclaimed this prophetic promise:

“For behold, the **stone** that I have set before Joshua; on one stone are seven eyes. Behold, I will **engrave an engraving on it**,” declares Yahweh of hosts, “and I will remove the iniquity of that **land** in one day” (vs. 9).

That stone is in fact the land of Africa, and the engraving on it is of the one who was accusing the high priest, Joshua: Satan. Africa, which is indeed a cursed land in so many ways, is a type of cursed Christianity, but at the nations level.

The day that I saw this, our family was going through a very real test. My oldest daughter wanted to go see a Christian family we had fellowshipped with in the past, but there was a problem. That family wanted to cut off the head! They would allow my wife and five children to come over; but, they would not allow me to come. This

turned out to be a real struggle with my oldest daughter because she wanted to go, and I feared that it was going to lead to a conflict. My position was that all they wanted to do was to separate our family, and I would not allow them to cut off the head.

When I saw this frightening and sobering image, I asked this daughter to come and sit beside me on the couch. I told her what Yahweh had told me that morning, and then handed her the encyclopedia and asked her what she saw. There was no response until I turned the book in the same way as I had before, and her eyes got very big. She too saw Satan! That, I said, shows whose image is on Christianity. With this solitary event, my daughter never said anything else about going over to see that family.

It is most relevant and significant that this entire matter of Yahweh showing me who the head of Christianity is, took place at the very time when a Christian family was trying to cut the head off of my family. The reality is that what they were trying to do to me, is the very thing that must happen to them as Christians: Satan must be cut off as the head of Christianity!

And remember, most importantly, the head controls the body. In fact, the natural tells us that the body is merely an extension of the head. As with diving or in gymnastics, wherever the head goes, the body goes. Knowing this truth then, to look at Christianity for the last 2,000 years and think that Christ is the head, is impossible to conclude and even an insult to Him! If He is head, then something is dramatically wrong with Him! The divided and entirely corrupted Body of Christ with its worldliness can in no way represent Christ as head. Therefore, it is once again obvious as to who that head has been and is today, and that is the covering angel Satan. In every way, and as we have seen in many ways attested in the Scriptures, he has been head.

THE MESSENGER

This now brings us to what was in fact the original realization and purpose in this writing: seeing and demonstrating once again the path of the office of the messenger.

We have noted the important coverings pattern of:

Yahshua —> Satan —> Immanuel

But, there is more involved in this transfer process than the covering we see here and have been addressing. Let us now examine the same period of time, only relevant to the Elijah ministry. It is the same pattern, but is:

Judas —> Satan —> Elijah

There are numerous places in the writings at Remnant Bride that address this path of what is actually the transfer of the office of the Elijah. At [When Elijah Comes, page 2](#), you can read one helpful account of this truth.

But in what you are reading now, let us return to the verse we began with, 2 Corinthians 12:7:

Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, the angel Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

We have seen that Satan was in fact the angel that was sent to Paul to humble him; and thereby knowing its value, he thus turned three men over to Satan. But knowing this, we also find that the Greek word for “angel” is equally translated “messenger.” In fact, essentially all translate this, “a **messenger** of Satan.”

So, where else do we find in the New Testament this same Greek word translated in the singular form “messenger”? The answer: in the following three verses.

“This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send My **messenger** ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you’ ” (Matt 11:10).

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “Behold, I send My **messenger** ahead of you, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight’ ” (Mark 1:2 & 3).

And may we point out here that [Christianity Mark](#), which is the wilderness period of the church, is the only one of the three that speaks of the wilderness.

“This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send My **messenger** ahead of you, who will prepare Your way before you’ ” (Luke 7:27).

All three of these verses speak in regard to John the Baptist, who came in “the spirit and power of Elijah” (Luke 1:17), but was not the fulfilling Elijah (John 1:21). For more about this testimony of John as a type of Elijah, read this first section of [When Elijah Comes](#). But most importantly here, we see that that which is written in 2 Corinthians 12:7—“there was given me a thorn in the flesh, the angel Satan”—could equally be translated “the messenger Satan.”

Of course in Job, Satan served as a messenger to him, just as he served as a messenger to Paul, to the other three men, and even to the Body of Christ. But, his message is as an afflicter and deceiving angel of light. And as that messenger, he has indeed deceived the masses of the Body of Christ. “And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world” (Revelation 12:9). “The whole world” obviously includes the church that is in it. History undeniably proves this. One cannot dispute that when there are 35,000 denominations and sects, there is great disharmonious error in the church, which is most evident today. One thing for certain, Satan has been very effective in corrupting and deceiving the church.

So, let us now in brief manner state more clearly what this transition of the messenger has been. First we will consider the initiator here, Judas. How was he a messenger? To begin with, what were the words of Yahshua to Judas on the night that He was betrayed? In John 13:21, He had just declared, “Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.” The disciples wondered who it would be, and His answer was demonstrated by dipping a morsel of bread and giving it to Judas. Satan entered into

him, and Yahshua then instructed him, "What you do, do quickly." Judas immediately left to carry out his prescribed mission.

Thus we see that when Yahshua gave Judas this instruction, in truth He sent Him as a messenger. What in effect was Judas about to do? His act would in fact result in the burial of Yahshua into the baptismal waters of death. Just as He had told a reluctant John to baptize Him into a literal water baptism (Matthew 3:14-15), so He likewise told Judas to effect the true baptism that He had to pass through as well. But in truth, Judas was as much a messenger sent by God (with Satan now in him), as Satan was a messenger sent by God to afflict Job. And as addressed in a select [Addendum](#), it was in fact with Judas that the Elijah ministry began. John the Baptist was a type of the Elijah work that is fulfilled by Judas, followed by Satan (again, Satan had entered into Judas), and will culminate with the fulfilling Elijah who prepares the way for Immanuel's coming. In truth, Judas was the "death," Satan was the "burial," and the Elijah is the "resurrection." Furthermore, even as Judas buried Christ into death, so Satan has buried the Body of Christ into death. And one last point, it is most affirming that Judas had the money box, a fitting prelude responsibility for an office that would go to the one who possessed all the kingdoms of this world.

Thus we see that the duty of "the messenger" thus far has been for the purpose of corrupting and afflicting death. But, this has to change. In Malachi 3:1-3 we read of this fulfilling final messenger:

"Behold, I am going to send My **messenger**, and he will clear the way before Me; and the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple. And the **messenger** of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, he is coming," says Yahweh of hosts.

"But who can endure the day of his coming? And who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to Yahweh offerings in righteousness."

This is the fulfilling Elijah. As addressed in [When Elijah Comes](#), this passage is often wrongly translated so that verses 2 and 3 make this purification process refer to "the Lord." But that is not what this speaks of at all. The one being spoken of here is clearly the coming messenger, who is equally **sent** and is coming so as to prepare the way for Immanuel.

So in summary regarding this office of the Elijah, the messenger, first there was the messenger, Judas, who was sent by Yahshua to those who would afflict and crucify Him, thus by Judas's actions baptizing Him into the waters of death. That office then went to Satan, who is specifically identified as the "the messenger Satan." And while Judas baptized Christ into death, so Satan has fulfilled his role in baptizing the Body of Christ into death—the 2,000 swine all being taken into the sea of death!

But, now is the time for the third and final fulfilling messenger to be sent, the Elijah. He is the one who takes man, and in a sense Immanuel, out of death, the latter only in that He comes back to this earth. This is the culminating resurrection, following the death

and burial of the former two works. This is the Elijah who fulfills the promise of Malachi 3:1-3 and prepares a people for Immanuel. This is the Elijah who Yahshua spoke of when He declared after John's death: "Elijah is coming and will restore all things" (Matthew 17:11). And in like message, this is the Elijah of whom Moses and Peter declared, "heaven must receive/take [Yahshua] until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to him you shall give heed to everything he says to you. And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people' " (Acts 3:21-23).

Elijah alone is the one who is always associated with Moses. As noted in [The Promise, page 3](#), he is the one who fulfilled the promise given to Moses when he went up on Mount Sinai that ninth time. And when Elijah was about to ascend into heaven, he traveled to the same place where Moses died, at Nebo opposite Jericho (Deuteronomy 34:1 and 2 Kings 2:4-8). And as well, when Yahshua stood on the mount of transfiguration, the two who appeared together with Him in His transfigured state were none other than Moses and Elijah (Matthew 17:2-3). There is no question that Elijah is the prophet like Moses, and he will restore all things so as to prepare the way for Immanuel. And because of him, Yahweh will not smite the land with a curse (Malachi 4:5-6). Finally, the Elijah work that began with Judas, and has endured for 2,000 years under Satan, will bring the much needed and promised good!

May this work find its fulfillment today!