SESSION SIX / WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011

The Antichrist and the False Prophet

While it has always seemed to me that our Lord could return at any time, current events appear to be escalating out of all human control, more and more focusing my attention on the Rapture of the Church.

Dr. John G. Weldon, who has a number of prophetic articles on the Internet, has listed 14 sample events we are seeing right now directly related to end-time prophecy.

1. The growing hostility of the power to Israel’s far north, Russia.
2. The revival of the ancient Roman empire we know today as the European Union.
3. A major increase in knowledge and the global communications needed for the entire world to see the events in the last days as shown in Revelation.
4. The possibility of a single global economic system and global government headed by an amazingly powerful dictator biblically called the Antichrist.

Dr. David Jeremiah has recently pointed out during his radio and television broadcasts that there is a growing electronic financial net circling the earth and providing the foundation for global economic unity. Never before in world history has there been a financial stability board (created in 2010 by the G-20) seeking the ability to control a global economy. If the Antichrist appeared today, there is virtually nothing additional he would need to assume control of a global economic system.

5. The technology exists for the mark of the beast, cited in the Book of Revelation, without which no one on earth can buy or sell.
6. Preparations (by some in Jerusalem) exist to build the Third Jewish temple, a requirement for certain prophecies to be fulfilled in the end time (but certainly do not have to be fulfilled before the Rapture - DB).
7. A dramatic seven year peace covenant that Israel makes with a world leader (the Antichrist, according to Scripture - first seal) can hardly be considered impossible now, given the endless turmoil in the Middle East that occupies the attention of the world.
8. The increasing persecution of Christians worldwide.
9. Potential signs in the sun and heavens, something some astronomers are developing
theories concerning.

10. Even the War of Armageddon seems possible given (1) the significant and in some
cases dramatic rise of anti-Semitism in the world; (2) the United Nations obvious
hostility toward Israel; (3) Israel’s various failed peace treaties with its Arab neighbors;
(4) the current turmoil in the Middle East; (5) the increasing influence of global Islam
and the increasing Russian alliance with certain Muslim nations against Israel; and (6) the
idea that the world could some day, perhaps relatively soon, be aligned against Israel,
leading to a massive war to destroy it is no longer considered the “impossibility” it once
was prior to the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948.

It is worthy of note that this is the first time since President Truman indicated American
support of the establishment of a Jewish nation in 1948 that an American president
appears not to be pro-actively on the side of Israel.

11. As Revelation teaches, a great army from the East comprising 200 million troops
will march toward Israel. China, now a superpower with the world’s second-largest
economy, could alone marshal a 200-million-man army - plus other Eastern nations could
be involved as well.

12. Global evangelism is predicted prior to the return of Christ. We are fast
approaching this with portions or the entire Bible having been translated into over 2,300
languages and dialects covering over 90% of the world’s population. Cell phones alone
are currently used by some four billion people and could be used to share the Gospel
message with almost the entire world via this medium. The Bible also predicts there
will be 144,000 Jewish evangelists who proclaim the coming of Christ throughout the
world during the Tribulation period, prior to the Second Coming.

13. The reestablishment of Israel in 1948 and the 1967 capture of Old Jerusalem could
possibly signal an ending of the time of the Gentiles.

14. An end-time apostasy in the Christian Church. Note that the apostasy before the
return of Christ mentioned in the Bible doesn’t necessarily have to deal solely with the
Christian church, such as today’s nominal or cultural Christianity, but may refer to
cultures as a whole. For example, there is strident anti-Christian movement in America
today where once there was a general consensus as to the importance and value of a
Christian world view whether or not one was a Christian. Abandoning this culturally
may be a form of apostasy.

These suggestions from Dr. Weldon are definite alarms going off in the Christian mind.
For the Church of Jesus Christ to be asleep at the switch in these days is just unthinkable.

Now let’s enter into a discussion of Antichrist and his henchman, the False Prophet.
Rev. 13:1-18

AntiChrist

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. [2] And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. [3] And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. [4] And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? [5] And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. [6] And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. [7] And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. [8] And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. [9] If any man have an ear, let him hear. [10] He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

The False Prophet

[11] And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. [12] And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. [13] And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, [14] And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. [15] And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. [16] And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in
their foreheads: [17] And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. [18] Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

I can remember when any talk of antiChrist was received a humor, a joke. Not any more. The great “chess game of life” played by God and Satan through the ages is now at the point where all of the pieces have been moved and God is about to declare “CHECK MATE!” At that point:

1 Thes. 4:16-18

... the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: [17] Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. [18] Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Immediately after the Rapture of the church, just described in the above passage, the stage is set for the coming of AntiChrist to this world. If I were you, I would definitely plan not to be here when he arrives. It will not be pleasant! The Bible takes great pains to describe the horror of this man’s administration.

“The Scriptures reveal that this conflict is going to come to its climax when Satan brings his great masterpiece, the man of sin, the lawless one, the Beast, on this world scene as the head of a great confederation of nations. This world is headed for a coming world-wide dictatorship, under whom all nations shall be consolidated into one great world empire that will center in the worship of Satan. This system will be characterized by lawlessness, godlessness, and absolute authoritarianism. It will be the aim of this dictator to exterminate every believer in Jesus Christ and to outlaw God from this universe.”

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Some man - perhaps a world leader, perhaps a true unknown - will suddenly step from the shadows of time to emerge as the strongest personality in all history. Since the days of the apostles, people have attempted to guess his identity - the Greek monster Antiochus Epiphanes, Roman Emperor Nero, one of the popes, Charlemagne who controlled Europe until 814 AD, then Napoleon, and even into our century, Benito Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin, the Ayatollah Khomeini, Arafat, Farrakhan - even poor Prince Charles. But none of these mortals even approached the unearthly status of this newly emerged leader of the world, for he is possessed and controlled by Satan himself. How well the prophet Daniel described him:
Daniel 7:7-8

After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. [8] I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

This fourth beast will be the world system in the end-times - dreadful and terrible and strong exceedingly. And from it will come ten horns, representing leading nations in that day. And from the ten ruling nations of the world will come “another little horn,” WHO WILL BE THE LAST POWERFUL HUMAN RULER ON EARTH - THE ANTICHRIST.

1 John 2:18

Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

He is known as the man of sin:

2 Thes. 2:3

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Apparently, according to Daniel 3:8, there is initial resistance against him from three of the nations whom he destroys, and now, with full unopposed power and authority, AntiChrist sets about to both declare and engage in open warfare against God and everything holy. He is going to reject all known civil law and instead institute his own lawless system. Scripture refers to him as “the lawless one.” He’s going to have absolute control during the Tribulation time and anyone opposing him will face almost certain death. YET HE COMES FIRST OF ALL ON A PEACE PLATFORM (see Revelation 6 - the first seal judgment).

This world leader when he comes to authority in the European federation of nations will look over to the Middle East and see that the Arab-Israeli dispute threatens his promise of peace. So he will therefore make an agreement with Jewish leaders, promising them he will guarantee both their land and safety and that the sacred land of Israel will be their’s. Israel will look upon this man as their saviour, the one who fulfills the Abrahamic covenant fully and will accept his as God and Messiah. But very quickly
AntiChrist breaks his covenant with Israel, moves himself into Jerusalem and sets up a
false, world religious system (that will be headed by the False Prophet, whom we study in
a moment). Revelation 13:11-18 describes this as the abomination of desolation about
which Daniel prophesied.

Daniel 11:36
And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and
magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God
of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is
determined shall be done.

AntiChrist will not only destroy all forms of religion in the Tribulation, but he will set
himself up as the object of worship and adoration - total and complete blasphemy against
God and the Holy Ghost. It will be a time of unbelievable horror. Note how Jesus
described it:

Matthew 24:15-21
"The time will come when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about: the
sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the holy place"—reader, pay
attention! [16] "Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. [17] A person outside the
house must not go inside to pack. [18] A person in the field must not return even to
get a coat. [19] How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for mothers nursing
their babies in those days. [20] And pray that your flight will not be in winter or on
the Sabbath. [21] For that will be a time of greater horror than anything the world
has ever seen or will ever see again.

What Jesus is describing here is the attempted flight out of Israel during the Tribulation
by all observant Jews. Our Lord made it clear in verse 21: It will be a time of horror
greater than anything the world has ever known! Jesus added the clincher in verses
Matthew 24:22-25:
In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, the entire human race will be
destroyed. But it will be shortened for the sake of God’s chosen ones.

Think of it! AntiChrist’s dominion and wicked antics are so vile that every person on
Earth would die unless the Tribulation was shortened somehow. So how will it be
shortened? The second coming of Christ:

Rev. 19:11-16
And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him
was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.
[12] His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had
a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. [13] And he was clothed with a
vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. [14] And the
armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen,
white and clean. [15] And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he
should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth
the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. [16] And he hath on his
vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF
LORDS.

(For the serious student of prophetic scriptures, I would heartily recommend that you
obtain a copy of THINGS TO COME, a 600-page systematic theology by Dr. Dwight D.
Pentecost. It is published by Zondervan and is copyright by the Dunham Publishing
Company.)

The following is an excerpt from that book in which Pentecost gives the characteristics of
the AntiChrist:

1. **AntiChrist will appear on the scene in the “latter times” of Israel’s history.**
   Daniel 8:23
   And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the
   full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.

2. **He will not appear until the Day of the Lord has begun.**
   2 Thes. 2:2-4
   That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by
   word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. [3] Let no man
decieve you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling
away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; [4] Who opposeth
and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as
God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

What is the “falling away?” It could be one of two things: a global apostasy in the
church or the Rapture of the Church. (Or both)

3. **The appearance of AntiChrist is being hindered right now by the Restrainer, who is
the Holy Spirit.**
   2 Thes. 2:6-7
   And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his
time comes.

   [7] For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until
the one who is holding it back steps out of the way.
(It should be noted that the “restraining ministry of the Holy Ghost” will be lifted during the Tribulation. Think what this earth will be like when there is no divine restraint of any kind to stop the iniquity of mankind. You do not want to be here!!)

4. **AntiChrist’s appearance will be preceded by a departure - the leaving of this earth by the saints of God.**
   2 Thes. 2:1
   
   Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him...

5. **AntiChrist will be a Gentile.**
   He rises from the sea (Rev. 13:1 - And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.) The sea depicts Gentile nations. Rev. 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. (The whore - or harlot - is the false religious system in the Tribulation period, headed by the False Prophet, which we will study later.)

6. **AntiChrist will be the head of the last form of Gentile world dominion.**
   Rev. 13:1
   
   And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.
   
   Once again remember that “the sea” means Gentile people in prophecy. The heads and crowns are indicators of AntiChrist’s power among the people.

7. **AntiChrist’s influence will be world-wide.**
   Rev. 13:8
   
   And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

8. **His rise to power comes on a peace platform.**
   Daniel 8:25
   
   And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many; he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

9. **AntiChrist will be extremely intelligent and persuasive.**
   Daniel 7:8
I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Daniel 7:20

And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

Daniel 8:23

And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.

10. He will rule over the nations with absolute authority.

Daniel 11:36

And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

11. He will initially make a 7-year covenant of support and peace with Israel, a covenant he will break after 3 ½ years.

Daniel 9:27

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

(A week in prophetic scripture is 7 years.)

12. AntiChrist’s power comes from Satan himself.

2 Thes. 2:9

[9] Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

13. Sad to say, AntiChrist’s capital will be Jerusalem

Daniel 11:45

And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

THE DOOM OF ANTICHRIST
Throughout Scripture we read details of AntiChrist’s collapse and doom.

**Ezekiel 21:25-27**

And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, [26] Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. [27] I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him.

**Ezekiel 28:7-10**

Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness. [8] They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas. [9] Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, I am God? but thou shalt be a man, and no God, in the hand of him that slayeth thee. [10] Thou shalt die the deaths of the uncircumcised by the hand of strangers: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God.

**Rev. 17:11**

The scarlet beast that was alive and then died is the eighth king. He is like the other seven, and he, too, will go to his doom.

**Rev. 19:20**

And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

THE FALSE PROPHET

Revelation 13:11-18 gives us God’s report on this personage who will head the false religious system, led by AntiChrist. He is also called “the second beast.” What do we know about him?

1. **He will be a Jew, since he arises out of the earth or land (Israel).**

**Rev. 13:11**

Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth. He had two horns like those of a lamb, and he spoke with the voice of a dragon.

2. **He will promote the worship of AntiChrist (the first beast) and make the world’s remaining population worship AntiChrist as God.**
1. Rev. 13:12
   He exercised all the authority of the first beast. And he required all the earth and
   those who belong to this world to worship the first beast, whose death-wound had
   been healed.

3. He will have the power to do signs and wonders - miracles.
   Rev. 13:13-14
   And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on
   the earth in the sight of men, [14] And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the
   means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to
   them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which
   had the wound by a sword, and did live.

4. The False Prophet will have the authority to control Earth's commerce.
   Rev. 13:16-17
   And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive
   a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: [17] And that no man might buy or
   sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

THE TRINITY FROM HELL

We believe in the divine Trinity: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
They are not three Gods, but One only, revealed to us in three different manifestations.

There will be a trinity from Hell following the Rapture: Satan the father, AntiChrist the
son and the False Prophet, the unholy spirit.

These three will rule the Earth for seven years, then will come their demise.

Next week: BABYLON!
Catroux stripped off his clothes and stepped into the shower. The stinging beads of hot water eased away some of his anxiety and he luxuriated in its therapy for nearly a half-hour. When he had towed off and dried his golden hair, he donned pajama bottoms, left word at the hotel front desk for a 5 a.m. wake-up call, and turned off the light. There was a slim crack of light coming from beyond the velvet draperies, and, on a whim, Catroux walked to the window and pulled them apart to overlook the myriad lights of the crown jewels of Manhattan. New York City at night remained one of the greatest views in the world to him, and again he was enchanted by the beauty and sheer power of the city. Even at night it throbbed with might, might that could be unleashed and used for any purpose whatsoever if one could gain the secret of its mastery. The concept caused the European more erotic stimulation than all the ministrations of the call girl who had recently left his suite and he began breathing heavily. "Oh," he moaned to himself, "what this world could be if one powerful man could control everything! If every nation and giant corporation and union and power station and army could be used for one single interest, rather than for the hodgepodge vested self-uses of over 200 separated countries!"

He was so enamored with his visions of possible power that it took a moment for his brain to register the whiff of a terrible odor, that of something long-since dead. Then he heard a brittle chuckle directly behind him. The hair on the back of Catroux's neck stood up and he began to turn slowly, like Scrooge of old reluctantly meeting one of his ghosts. What Catroux saw filled him with more horror than anything Dicken's strange little man could ever have envisioned.

It had not been his imagination. Someone was there! The figure was nearly seven feet tall and was bathed in a strange light, an other-world luminescence. It lit up the figure himself, but nothing else in the room was touched by it. Everything else remained in the darkness. The figure had the face of a leading man motion picture star, handsome and oozing confident charm. His hair fell in glistening folks well below his ears. The garment he wore was like something from an expensive Broadway musical show - seamless, dazzling white and terribly costly. The man's feet were bare, and the figure's arms hung quietly at his sides. He stood fewer than ten feet away. But it was the man's eyes that caused the terror in Catroux. They didn't look like human eyes at all, but rather small cauldrons of liquid fire.

Catroux was unable to speak as he fell against the drapes at his back. His vocal chords had frozen in his throat. He could not have moved had it meant his very life. With all his might he wished the specter would go away, but it didn't - or wouldn't. Instead it took a step forward and opened its mouth to speak. The voice was not human. It was deep as a bottomless cavern.
and yet as piercing as a spear.

"Fear not, Jacque, my son. Fear not!"

The figure made no move to come closer. One hand stretched forward in greeting but Catroux shrunk back away from it. The fiery stare remained and the words continued.

"You have waited for me a long, long time, my son. And I have come. Just as your mother told you long ago I would. I have come for you, Jacque. In the fullness of time I have appeared to you."

"Who – who a-are you?"

Oh, that gaze, that stare! Those eyes that unraveled Jacque’s very soul! That read every thought in his mind! The lips of the creature began to move slowly and the eyes appeared to burn even brighter.

"Who am I, Jacque? I am your father!"

Catroux’s body began to sink toward the floor. Never in his life had he known fear to pitiless, so ruthless and unending as this. He knew the creature was awaiting some response from him, some kind of answer. But he could not speak. He did not dare to form the words that were rising in his heart. Jacque’s eyes bulged from their sockets as the figure took another step toward him and the outstretched hand drew closer and closer.

"You have no need to fear, Jacque! You need never fear me at all. I truly am your father. It was from my loins that your mother Cassandra received the seed that formed you. It was I who have guided you through life, who have sustained you from my unseen vantage point. It was my inestimable fortune - a fortune beyond any other known to the history of man - that has sponsored your meteoric rise among men and which sustains you even now to greater fame and fortune. I have watched over you every day of your life from your premature birth in Bern, Switzerland, until this very moment. And I have come to tell you of my love for you and share with you my plans which will give you rulership over all the world. You will have power, oh, much greater power, than any mortal has ever dreamed of having."

Catroux, choking for air, tried to speak. "I - I don’t believe you. You are not even real. I am having some kind of mental breakdown. You are not really here and you most certainly am not my father. My mother would never have allowed you to touch her!"

"Oh, but he is, Jacque! He is, indeed, your father!" It was the voice of Cassandra, his mother, his mother who had been dead for years. Jacque could not see her, but he had absolutely no question at all that she, too, was in this very room - somewhere.
A faint touch of something soft and warm caressed Catroux’s cheek. “Yes, my dearest son, I am right here beside you. You cannot see me, nor can you touch me in this spirit form; but I will join you soon when you sit on the throne of your father and the two of you rule this entire earth.”

Cassandra’s lilting, soothing voice hit his ears like soft velvet and immediately took the edge off Jacque’s fear. He turned again to stare into the face of the creature directly before him, who now had taken another step toward him. However, now somehow, at this moment the figure did not seem so menacing or evil.

“My mother says what you say is true. I know she is here with us in this room. I accept her word that you are my father. But if you are truly who you say you are - who are you? Tell me your name!”

The creature took a step back and stood to his full height, apparently growing ever larger before Jacque’s startled eyes. “You ask me my name, my son? My own flesh and blood does not know the name of his own father?” There was a thunderous explosion and the bedroom was split by dazzling light. The heavy brass chandelier that hung from the center ceiling crashed to the marble floor. Fragments of wood and plaster ripped through the air like miniature rockets gone out control. The figure had grown until its head now touched the broken plaster of the ceiling. “You dare to ask my name?” it repeated. “I am Lucifer, Star of the Morning! I am the god of this whole earth!”

“No,” Jacque screamed in terror. “You are an illusion, nothing more! I deny you!”

But if the image of the figure was an illusion, the heat coming from it was not. A chair nearby burst into flames and was consumed in an instant, leaving nothing but a smouldering set of springs. Out of the corner of his eye, Catroux saw the fish aquarium near the far wall that had been filled with sparkling water and an assortment of charming cichlids now overflowing with blood and bile.

The voice rolled across the room like thunder from the mountains across the prairie. “I am your father, Jacque! I am your father! And you will repeat that to my face. Look at me, look into my eyes and say that I am your father! I, Lucifer! Now I command you, Jacque - repeat that to me! Now!”

Catroux felt a rolling in his stomach and a horrid sensation in his mouth. It felt like fur caressing the inside of his cheeks. When he opened his lips to respond, a small, dark slippery creature that looked like a rat came out of his mouth, and ran down the front of his shirt to the floor and into a dark corner across the room. Jacque could feel entities inside of him he had never felt before. He tried to scream but he could not.

“Say it!” thunder Lucifer. “Say it, or by hell I will leave you and find another, just as I left the Obermenschen Hitler decades ago. Now say my name and acknowledge that I am your father! I
am not going to ask you again!"

Catroux could hear the voice of his mother imploring him to obey. Again he had no question that she was somewhere near him. If only he could see her! He felt a hand gently touch his shoulder, an unseen hand. "Rise, Jacque. This is your mother. The one who stands before you is my lover, the one who impregnated me with your very life. You have an earthly mother and a supernatural father, just as that earlier pretender to the messiah's throne claimed to have. You have been born of a union of power and greatness and you will not fail as others have done. I am flesh and blood as you are, even though you cannot see me now. But the seed from which you have sprung flowed from him who stands before you now - Lucifer, Earth's true god and lord."

The gorge which had filled Catroux's belly seemed to have dissipated. A sweet sense of security and destiny began to infiltrate his soul. His mother was there somewhere, so all was well. Yes, he could stand and face his father now. Why he was Jacque Catroux, the son of Lucifer!

Still trembling, but now more from excitement than from fear, Jacque stood before Lucifer who had once again revealed himself as the gentle angel of light. He knelt at the naked feet of his father and stooped to actually kiss them. "Yes, Father, I acknowledge you this day, not only as my actual earthly father, you who gave me my physical life, but as my very lord and master. I am here to serve you at your pleasure." With his confession now verbalized, springs of tears broke within the European and fell from his eyes, bathing the naked feet of his father.

Lucifer's hand, now somehow cool as September rain took hold of the sobbing man and gently lifted him. He held the human close and raised his eyes to some target in the heavens that only he could see. His cry was a wail in the night, like a wolf howling at the full moon: "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased! You will hear from him, Galilean! My son will now galvanize such an earthly force that You will never be able to return! I swear to you - You will not come back!"

Taking Jacque by the elbow, Lucifer steered him to the window of the penthouse suite. The draperies mysteriously parted revealing once again the majesties of Manhattan. "My son, this is only a part of the world I give you. You have bowed before me to worship me. You have made your confession. Your reward will be Planet Earth - all of it. I tried one time several thousand years ago to give it to one I thought possibly worthy. He refused me. He rebuked me to my face. He turned his back on me and walked away. But I had my revenge! It was only several years later when His frail, beaten, heaving body was nailed like raw meat to a Roman cross. His pathetic followers buried Him in a tiny borrowed grave just north of the Jerusalem city walls. His bones lie molding there to this very hour!"

It was then that Catroux made a near-fatal mistake, one that could have cost him everything. Lifting his face to his father Lucifer he said, "But, Father, didn't He - and I take it you are
speaking of the Galilean - did He not rise from the dead?"

Lucifer released his hold on the mortal and pushed him aside. His eyes were now intense points of blue fire. There was a pounding noise that engulfed the hotel room that sounded like a million Niagara Falls, like a thousand Phantom jets breaking the sound barrier all at the same time. The room was no intensely black and Jacque could see only those hideous burning eyes and the face of his father, his great mouth agape and his chest heaving in an attempt to get air. From Lucifer’s throat came a wail that could have stopped stars in their courses: “NOOOOO-OOOOOOOOOOHHHHHHHH!”

Across the room, the stone fireplace turned to pulpy dust and collapsed on the hearthstones. The huge plasma TV screen burst into life with the flickering faces of demons hissing and clawing. From somewhere in the darkness, Jacque could hear his mother softly sobbing and imploring Lucifer to have mercy. Then there was a silence, dark and ominous, and from some unknown origin, a gust of ice-cold air swept through the room.

When he was finally able to open his eyes again, Catroux glanced up, hoping that his father had vanished. His heart skipped as he opened his eyelids to behold Lucifer’s face only inches from his own. But now the fire had cooled in his father’s face and his countenance was actually beautiful and alive with light. Catroux wondered, “How can my father change so drastically, so radically, so quickly?”

Lucifer spoke, “My son, you did not know, so I forgive you. But never - never mention the myth of the resurrection of the pretender. He is dead! But you, my beloved son, are very much alive. And this is your hour. I have this night filled you with spirits of centuries past. Catroux shivered as he suddenly remembered the rat escaping from his mouth.) No mortal has ever lived with the power you now possess. Now....rise up, my son!”

With legs that had now grown steady, Catroux stood before his father. Pride began to fill his heart. He would never question again to whom he belonged. His heart burst with gratitude. He felt within himself the power of a million demons from Hell, awaiting his every initiative and command. “Father, I pledge to you my love and devotion. I know without any question whose son I am. Give me any mission and I will obey.”

The father beamed at his earthly son, now filled with his other-world spirit. He placed his hands on the broad shoulders of his progeny. “Now listen to me very carefully, Jacque. The moment you were born in Bern in 1945, another son of mine died. Your birth and his death took place at the same precise instant. His name was Adolf. Adolf Hitler. You have two parts of his body - his pale, blue eyes. Yes, son, each time you look in the mirror you are gazing into the eyes of the German Fuhrer. And - you have his heart. The things that Hitler did, even greater things you will do. Hitler did not succeed because, beginning in 1939, he ceased listening to me and obeying my commands. Pride filled his heart. I took my hand from him. His kingdom began to fall with the British evacuation at Dunkirk and then his insane premature
invasion of Russia. I warned Hitler against the treaty with Japan. I told him to stay away from
that egomaniac Mussolini. But he would not listen. Italy became an albatross to him and
Japan brought the United States into the war a full year before I was ready. Before he blew his
brains out, Hitler claimed the lives of tens of millions of men, women and children through wars,
death camps, pogroms and other persecutions. I was proud of him for awhile for he came close
to his destiny. But ultimately he failed. But you, my son, you will not fail. You will do more
than Hitler ever imagined. My pet name for Adolf was Wolf. Ah, but he was nothing more
than a cub. You, my dear Jacque, you will be a full-grown beast. Yes, a BEAST! And there
will be no one on earth or in the skies to stop you. No one! This is my legacy to you.”

Catroux felt the pride of family and mission. But he had a nagging question that would not
go away. It had to be asked. “Father, will there be no one from the other side - you know, the
followers of the dead Nazarene, who will attempt to stop me?”

Lucifer threw back his head and laughed. “Hardly, Wolf. Every believer and follower of the
Nazarene has vanished from the face of the earth. God, whom I have sworn to destroy through
you, my son, overplayed His hand. He foolishly lifted every force and follower he had from this
arena of life. You know - that thing called the Rapture. So now it all belongs to me – that is,
to us, my son. And from this time on you may do anything you wish. The world will behold
your miracles and declare you the new Messiah! Promise them peace, Wolf! Good will to
men.”

The fire in Lucifer’s eyes grew intensely hotter as he roared at his good joke. “Yes, Jacque,
promise these poor mortals peace. Then I’ll break out all Hell against them!”

THE PUBLISHER TOOK “BEAST” OFF THE MARKET IN 1986; HOWEVER PASTOR BETZER HAS
SECURED ALL COPYRIGHTS ON THE FULL MATERIAL AND PLANS TO RE-ISSUE THE NOVEL AFTER
HE HAS RE-WRITTEN IT.