

April 25, 2008 (7:43am)

Chapter 2 Finding satan's Fingerprints

They say every crime has evidence left behind. You just have to find it. It is the same with satan. There is always evidence when he has been around.

The Bible says so.

*Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, by Goldnaz Esfandiari,
**Iran: President Says Light Surrounded Him During UN
Speech.** Prague, 29 November 2005.*

President Mahmud Ahmadinejad says that when he delivered his speech at the UN General Assembly in September, he felt there was a light around him and that the attention of the world leaders in the audience was unblinkingly focused upon him. . . . Ahmadinejad said that someone present at the UN told him that a light surrounded him while he was delivering his speech to the General Assembly. The Iranian president



added that he also sensed it. "He said when you began with the words 'in the name of God,' I saw that you became surrounded by a light until the end [of the speech]," Ahmadinejad appears to say in the video. "I felt it myself, too. I felt that all of a sudden the atmosphere changed there, and for 27-28 minutes all the leaders did not blink." . . . "I am not exaggerating when I say they did not blink; it's not an exaggeration, because I was looking," he says. "They were astonished as if a hand held them there and made them sit. It had opened their eyes and ears for the message of the Islamic Republic."
(Emphasis added)

Whose hand? Whose message? God's or satan's?

This chapter will give us the Bible's antichrist "identifiers." That is, the specific criteria the Bible gives to recognize the presence of satan; sort of like satan's *fingerprints*. Once we find the identifiers, we will be able to recognize the presence of satan, and the instrument through whom he is working.

What is "Antichrist" in the Bible? In the last quarter of the 1st century AD, the Apostle John used a word no other writer in the New Testament used, "antichrist."

^{NAS} 1 John 2:18 "Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour." (Emphasis supplied)

The word "antichrist" is used by John to describe two aspects of a spirit of deception:

- 1 As a spirit operating within human society to foster a heretical view of Jesus Christ (1 John 2:18b);
2. The incarnation of that spirit in human form in the Last Days (1 John 2:18a).

According to the Apostle John, the first meaning of the term antichrist, i.e., as a spirit fostering a heretical view of Jesus, could take three forms:

1. The denial that Jesus was the “Messiah.”(1 John 2:22).
2. The denial that Jesus was “divine.” (1 John 2:22-23); or,
3. The denial that Jesus was fully human. (2 John 1:7, 1 John 4:2-3).

Other New Testament passages also describe this heretical view of Jesus but do so using a different phrase. The phrase used by other passages is “false prophet.” Here is an example:

^{NAS} Matthew 24:24 *“For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.”*

Notice, Matthew warns of false prophets (plural). The Apostle John’s warning is also of false antichrists (plural, “. . . *many antichrists have arisen.* . .”). Thus, the Bible prophesies that there will be many false prophets, i.e., antichrists, all with the intent to lead the world away from the one, true Christ.

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The Apostle Paul describes this spirit of antichrist, but he also uses a different phrase. In response to a question regarding the timing of the return of Christ, Paul prophesies of a coming apostasy that will take place before Christ’s return. He prophesies of a coming “man of lawlessness,” a “son of destruction” who opposes and exalts himself above God (2 Thess 2:3-4). Yet, even though this “son of

destruction” is a future anti-God, antichrist figure, the “mystery of lawlessness” is *already at work*. This spirit, “*already at work*,” acts as the “spirit of antichrist” in human society in the meantime; that is, until the incarnation of that spirit in human form in the last of the Last Days (2 Thess 2:8-9). Consider:

2 Thessalonians 2:7 *“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.”*

The Bible’s warning of “antichrist” does not end here. It also warns that there will be a *final* false prophet who will appear in the Last Days as the demonic *incarnation of the spirit(s) of antichrist*. This is the second meaning of the term “antichrist” used by the Apostle John (“. . . *antichrist is coming.* . .”), and also, the coming “man of lawlessness” described by the Apostle Paul in 2 Thess 2:3-4, 8-9. The Bible does not literally use the term “Antichrist” to refer to this demonic incarnation, but rather, Bible scholars have interpreted passages referring to this future incarnation, and have labeled him as the “Antichrist.”

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This last false prophet will be a single individual.
Revelation 13:11f describes the “beast from the earth.” This beast is specifically called the “false prophet” in Rev 16:13, 19:20. 20:10. Bible scholar Robert Thomas describes this false prophet in his commentary on Revelation:

“His supporting role is of a religious nature as his title of “false prophet” later in the book indicates (16:13, 19:20, 20:10). . . He is a single individual, not many, and must be so to meet an ultimate fate in the lake of fire. . . . This is a satanic imitation of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. . . . A specific exercise of authority is to bring men to worship the first beast, to practice gross idolatry by worshipping a man as God.”² (Emphasis added)

Conclusion. The Bible warns of spirits of antichrist/false prophet that will manifest itself in three primary heresies of Jesus Christ. Further, the Bible warns of an individual Antichrist who will be the last false prophet, an incarnate demonic spirit.

Is the spirit of “antichrist” heresy found in the Beliefs and Teachings of Islam? If any of the three heretical beliefs of Jesus Christ are found in Islam then we can identify Islam as a spirit of antichrist.

1. The Denial of Jesus as Messiah. The Qur’an refers to Jesus by his proper name, “Isa,” along with the title, “Al-Masih” (the “Messiah”).³ This title is sometimes accompanied by the name “Jesus” and sometimes used by itself. The Qur’anic title “Messiah” means “anointed one,” in the sense of a political-military leader who will restore freedom to the people of Israel.⁴ An example of the Qur’anic use is found in Surah 4:171 (the term “surah” in the Qur’an can be likened to a chapter in a book; hence, Surah 4:171 refers to chapter 4, verse 171):

“O people of the Book, do not be fanatical in your faith, and say nothing but the truth about God. The Messiah, who is Jesus, son of Mary, was only an apostle of God, and a command of His which He sent to Mary, as a mercy from Him.”

At first blush, it seems that Islam has not denied Jesus as Messiah since the Qur’an refers to him as “Al-Masih” (the “Messiah”). However, the correct answer can only be found by determining the meaning of Al-Masih to Islam and then comparing it with the meaning according to the Bible.

To Judaism, “Messiah” is a title referring to an “earthly king and ruler, . . . endowed by God with special gifts and powers.”⁵ The Jewish Messiah is prophesied to be a descendant of David of the tribe of Judah, who will deliver the Jews from foreign oppression. Hence, to Jews, “Messiah” has the general meaning of a political and military leader. The historical Jesus of Nazareth who lived in 1st century Palestine was not a political/military leader. The Jews were under bondage to the Roman Empire in the first century. Jesus did not remove the yoke of Rome, nor did Jesus even attempt to remove this yoke. In fact, Jews are still waiting for their “Messiah” today.

The New Testament records that Jesus redefined the meaning of Messiah from that of a “political and military leader” (the Jewish meaning) to the “savior who delivers humanity from sin” (the Christian view based on Isaiah 53). Jesus did this by dying on the cross as the human substitute for the sins of humanity; and, a person is “saved” from their sins through their faith in Jesus as their savior (Ephesians 2:8-10). The Bible states that Jesus was raised from the grave on the third day, thereby declaring Jesus to be the Son of God, and authenticating Jesus’ own claim to be the Son of God (John 10:36, 11:4, 20:31, Matt 26:63-64).

Passages such as Romans 1:3-4 depict the New Testament view of Jesus as “Messiah/Savior,” and Son of God:

Romans 1:3-4, “concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,⁴ who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,”

The Qur’an uses the Jewish meaning of Messiah, not the New Testament meaning. *Islam does not consider Christ to be the savior of the world who died for the sins of humanity.* In fact, Islam does not

accept that Jesus was even crucified. Consider the following statements taken from a Muslim website (“Isa” is the Arabic translation of Jesus):

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“The Descent of Isa Glad Tidings for Muslims

“Prophet Isa (as) son of Maryam was raised up to heaven when the Jews wanted to crucify him. His ascension to Heaven and his future return to earth are mentioned in the Qur’an:

“That [Christians] say (in boast): ‘We killed the Messiah Isa, son of Maryam, the Messenger of Allah, but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but the resemblance of Isa was put over another man (and they killed that man),. . . For surely, they killed him not, but Allah raised him up unto Himself. . . .’ (Qur’an 4:157-159) (Emphasis added)

“Prophet Isa (as) will return at the end of time, as stated in the Qur’an. . . .

“Prophet Isa (as) will descend at the time when Muslims are experiencing the greatest of hardships. He will come to their help and make the religion of Allah prevail on Earth.”⁶ (Emphasis supplied)”

By the way, did you catch the last line? Read it again. The Muslim prophecy is that Jesus will descend from heaven at a time of world chaos *and make Islam the religion of the entire earth.* We’ll save that for a later discussion. For now, . . .

Islam denies Jesus as the Messiah. The spirit of antichrist has been identified; and, one of satan’s fingerprints has just been uncovered.

2. The Denial of the Divinity of Jesus. Here is what the Bible states:

^{NAS} 1 John 2:22, “. . . *This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.* ²³ *Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; . . .*”

To Christians, Jesus is “divine” because He is the literal Son of God, *conceived by the Holy Spirit of God*. (Luke 1:35). In the opening chapter of Luke’s gospel, the Angel Gabriel visits Mary, the virgin mother of Jesus, to announce the birth of Jesus. The text states,

^{NAS} Luke1:30 *“And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.”³¹ “And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. . . .”³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God. (Emphasis supplied)*

The importance of verse 31 cannot be overlooked. The text states that the child will be *conceived* in the womb of Mary. Luke uses this word four other times and in each use it refers to the *conception of a child* in the womb of its mother (Luke 1:24, 31, 36, 2:21).⁷ Clearly, what the text has in mind is the literal union of sperm and egg, the offspring being the result of the union of the Holy Spirit of God and the human person, Mary.

To deny Jesus’ divinity, then, is to consider Jesus as no different than any other human being. It is to consider him as a good man, good teacher, or a “prophet” of God, but not as the Son of God. To deny Jesus’ deity is to deny the Bible’s claim that Jesus was *conceived by the Holy Spirit of God* (Luke 1:35),

The Qur’an is clear in this regard: it specifically denies that God has conceived a son, thereby denying the divinity of Jesus. It states, *“How can Allah have a son, when he hath no consort?”* (Surah 6:101).

the specific act that confers Jesus’ divinity through the seed of God. It is the deity of Jesus Christ that raises Him above all human beings and renders him an “exact representation of the nature of God” (Hebrews 1:3). Such a denial also includes the denial of the Holy Spirit as the substance of God and His Christ (Romans 8:9, 11). This denial includes the denial of the “Trinity,” the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the “three in One” (John 15:26). Likewise, the denial of the divinity of the Son is a denial of the divinity of the “Father,” for the Bible says that they are

One (John 17:11, 22).

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“How can Allah have a son, when he hath no consort?” (Surah 6:101).

“O people of the Book, do not be fanatical in your faith, and say nothing but the truth about God. The Messiah who is Jesus, son of Mary, was only an apostle of God, and a command of His which He sent to Mary, as a mercy from Him. So believe in God and His apostles, and do not call Him ‘Trinity.’ Abstain from this for your own good; for God is only one God, and far from His glory is it to beget a son.” (Surah 4:171)

The Qur’an explains Jesus’ conception in his mother’s womb as the result of God’s spoken command, “Be” (Surah 3:47). Birth, by the command of God, does not confer literal Sonship nor divinity. The Qur’an

states:

She said: "How can I have a son, O Lord, when no man has touched me?" He said: "That is how God creates what He wills. When He decrees a thing, He says, "Be" and it is." (Surah 3:47)

Here is the text from an Islamic website illustrative of Islam's views of the divinity of Jesus:

"Divinity of Jesus

*"Muslims consider the doctrine of Divinity of Jesus and Trinity as later changes to the teachings of Jesus. The New Testament itself furnishes abundant evidence to show that Jesus was only a human being whom God chose for the reformation of His people, and repeatedly contradicts the Divinity of Jesus. . . . He was undoubtedly called the son of God, but this title has only been employed metaphorically and in fact is used for all the chosen ones of God (Matt 5:9, Exodus 4:22). The literal connotation of 'son of God' as a Divine Being and hence the subsequent development of Trinity Dogma was the result of Hellenistic influences on Christianity as it spread in the Gentile world. The Semitic usage of 'son of God' was misunderstood and forgotten and disputes about the exact status of Jesus erupted, as recorded in the early Church history. . . . Furthermore, Jesus lacked knowledge of the future (Mark 13:32), as only the Divine Being possesses perfect and complete knowledge."⁸
(Emphasis added)*

Islam denies the divinity of Jesus Christ. The spirit of antichrist has been identified. The second of satan's fingerprints has been uncovered.

3. The humanity of Jesus. Here is what the Bible says:

^{NAS} 2 John 1:7 *"For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist."* See also, 1 John 4:2.

This third Biblical evidence of the presence of the antichrist is the denial of Jesus' claim to be fully human, i.e., Jesus only "appeared to be human," but was not, in fact, fully human.⁹ The significance of this claim is that if Jesus was not fully human, then He suffered no pain in his death on the cross. If He suffered no pain then He cannot have taken the consequences of humanity's sin upon Himself in His death (1 John 2:2, Isaiah 53:4-6, 1 Peter 2:24).

Islam does not deny the humanity of Jesus. It considers Christ to be a human being much like Muhammad is considered a human being. To Islam, both are prophets; but since Muhammad comes after Christ, Muhammad is the greater prophet. Muhammad is the "seal" of the prophets. This is a blasphemy against Jesus. It is one of the many blasphemies that Islam has committed. This blasphemy will be covered in a later chapter.

Conclusion. Islam's denies two of the three aspects of the nature of Jesus Christ:

1) Islam denies that Jesus is the Messiah/Savior, and 2) Islam denies that Jesus is the Son of God.

Thus, the spirit of antichrist has been identified in Islam. Satan's fingerprints have been found.

Chapter 2 Endnotes.

1 Available at, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2005/11/184cb9fb-887c-4696-8f54-0799df747a4a.html>, January 31, 2008.

2 Robert L. Thomas, *Revelation 8 - 22, An Exegetical Commentary*, p. 173 - 174.

3 Timothy R. Furnish, *Holiest Wars, Islamic Mahdis, Their Jihads, and Osama bin Laden*, p. 2.

4 Ibid.

5 Emil Schurer, *The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ, Volume II*, p. 519.

6 Available at, <http://www.missionislam.com/comprel/descentisa.htm>, at March 11, 2008.

7 A T Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, p. 12.

8 Available at, <http://www.alislam.org/library/jesus/index.html>, at March 11, 2008.

9 Stephen S. Smalley, *Word Biblical Commentary, Volume 51, 1 John 1,2, 3, Electronic Version*.