

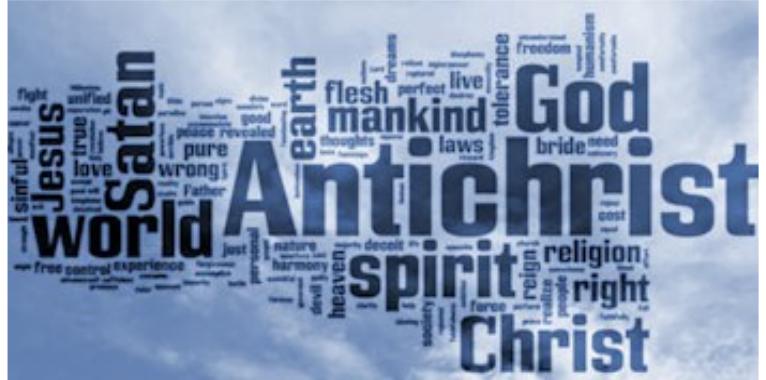
Sowing Seeds of Faith Newsletter

Straight Arrow Ministries

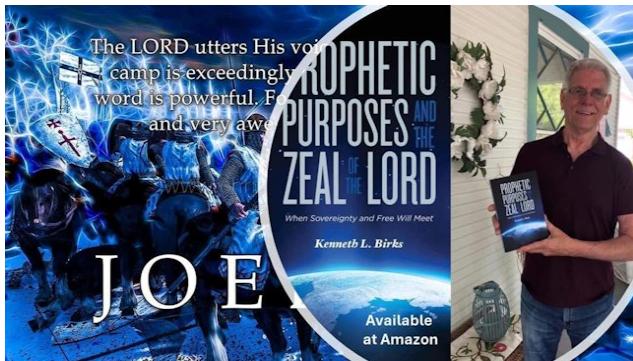
June 2025 — Volume 6, Issue 6

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Featured Product **Prophetic Purposes** and the Zeal of the Lord



From the Introduction

The essence of this book is that God has sovereign purposes on earth that He must fulfill through His sovereignty. With major upheaval happening all around us at an alarming rate, it's vital for followers of Jesus to know how we should respond to our present season. The values of the world are being turned upside down. As good is now called evil, while evil is referred to as good our world is turning into a place of spiritual darkness. With extreme spiritual warfare in the heavenlies and here on earth, God calls us to be wise and understanding in everything we speak and do. If we fail to hear and respond to His trumpeting voice as it sounds the alarm, we will find ourselves falling into the traps and snares Satan sets.

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Beware of the Antichrist Spirit

As followers of Christ we know the antichrist will eventually arrive on the scene. He will come as the son of perdition, opposing and exalting himself above all that is called God. He will sit among the world and God's people, showing himself as God.

Rather than focusing on who the antichrist is or his coming, we should be more concerned with the antichrist spirit, which is already alive *and well among us, just as it was in the early Church.*

1 John 2:18-19 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many anti-christs have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

Jesus warned us that many false teachers and prophets would come to deceive God's people before His second coming. Paul warned us about listening to those who preach a different Jesus or gospel than what he preached. Unfortunately, the truth of the matter is that these false apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors, and evangelists are already amongst us, filling our pulpits with lies and half-truths born out of the anti-christ spirit that is alive and well in today's Church world.

There are many in positions of authority who have been taken captive by the antichrist spirit, who are in error. They unwittingly draw God's people away from solid biblical teaching designed to produce God's purpose and fruit of the Spirit in their lives. It is essential to understand that most of them are unaware they were taken captive by the antichrist spirit.

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Beware of the Antichrist Spirit Continued

Satan deceived them by their self-will and the fear of man rather than the fear of God, which led them into captivity.

When we look at the significant traits that caused Lucifer to fall from his exalted position in the heavens, we discover it was self-will. The attributes in the antichrist spirit and the antichrist are the same ones that caused Satan's expulsion from the third realm of heaven. At one point, Satan was the most beautiful of all the archangels. Unfortunately, he became filled with self-will and pride by wanting to be like God.

The antichrist will be the incarnation of Satan, just as Jesus was the incarnation of God, the Father. Just as Lucifer tried to exalt himself above God, so it is with the man of sin. The prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah expose Satan's true colors in the following passages.

Ezekiel gives reference to Lucifer's exalted position before his fall. He was one of the most influential angelic beings in the universe. He was of great beauty. His name was Lucifer. He held a high position in heaven before he became Satan. He was perfect in every way but abused his position and beauty, which brought destruction upon himself and the angels who followed him. — *Ezekiel 28:13-15*

The character traits found in Lucifer are similar to what Paul mentions to the Thessalonians about the man of sin and perdition, the antichrist. —

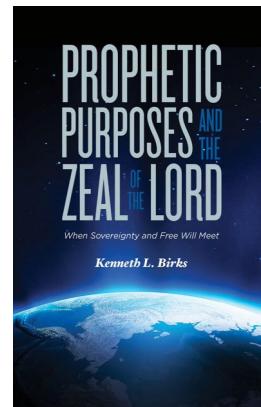
Isaiah 14:13-14 *For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.*

Notice all the "I will's" of Satan. He was inundated with self-will. Lucifer wanted to sit as God and wanted his throne to be in heaven, not on earth. The name "Most High" in the Bible is the word "El Elohim," not only means "Most High," but also means "the possessor of heaven and earth." He attempted a rebellious mutiny, with a third of the angels following him without realizing how mighty God was. His final attempt at his rebellious uprising will be when he transforms himself into the antichrist.

Unfortunately, many present-day church cultures are defrauded by Satan's deceptive tactics. As a result, church cultures exist that do not properly acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The antichrist spirit has its way when we do not embrace the message of the cross and repentance. A gospel that does not include repentance and fully embraces what it means to pick up your cross and follow Jesus is what Paul called "*another gospel*" and warned us to avoid. A false gospel message produces self-willed Christians susceptible to the antichrist spirit. Jesus warned us about how important it is to take up our cross and follow Him wholeheartedly. — *Matthew 10:38*

Caught up in self-will, those who do not fully embrace the cross of Christ are easily persuaded by the antichrist spirit. The problem of self-will is paramount with those in leadership, which is why Paul encouraged Timothy not to ordain elders who were self-willed. The intended purpose of the cross is to destroy our self-will in the same way it did for Jesus when He said, "*Not my will, but Your will be done.*"

More About Ken's Book



Introduction Continued

As the prophet Hosea said, "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.*" Satan is on the rampage with the antichrist spirit, momentum gaining in every strata of our societies. He knows his time is short and desires to wreak as much havoc as possible while preying on the weak and uninformed. In this strategic hour, the Church must be fully equipped and aware of the prophetic season upon us. We must wear the armor of light as we prepare ourselves for all that God desires to do in and through us during this critical season. We must know how to respond to our present seasons.

By His divine power, God has given us exceedingly great and precious promises that we may be partakers of His divine nature through these. With the Father's divine ability working in us, He calls us to be like the sons of Issachar, who understood their times and knew how Israel was to respond. We are encouraged to do the same as Paul wrote to the church in Ephesians.

Ephesians 5:17. *Therefore, do not be unwise but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

God reveals His prophetic purposes to every generation. The Book of Acts records how David served God's purposes for his generation. A quick look through biblical history shows how many patriarchs, judges, kings, prophets, and apostles also served the prophetic purposes for their generations.

While God performs His sovereign purposes, He uses imperfect vessels like you and me. This book explores these questions and much more. We discover that one of the Father's most significant traits—His patience, combined with our obedience—allows us to be involved with Him.

As we enter into the culmination of all that God's Holy prophets have prophesied throughout the ages, there are still many prophetic promises or predestinated events that the Father must fulfill before the return of Jesus Christ, as seen in the passage below.

Acts 3:20-21 *and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹ whom heaven must receive (retain) until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

I realize some of my thoughts and concepts may differ from what some schools of thought would have you believe. I encourage you to weigh them carefully, with an open heart and mind, as you allow the Scriptures to interpret themselves. Our loyalty should be to God's word, not schools of thought.

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Podcast Sermon Feature

Samson, the Foolish Judge

This message is about Samson and how he abused the power given to him by God. It also deals with the compromised culture Samson grew up in, where everyone did what was right in their own eyes. Samson was a product of his culture, just like many are today. We live in a compromised culture where every one pretty much does what is right in their own eyes. Our is a very deceived culture just like Samson's was.

[Click Here to Listen or the graphic above](#)

About Ken Birks



Ken Birks is an ordained Pastor/Teacher in the Body of Christ. He functions as an elder and one of the teaching pastors at The Rock of Roseville in California. He also serves as a wedding and funeral officiant in the Sacramento region. Prior to this, Ken was the Lead Pastor of Golden Valley Christian Center, a non-denominational, church in Roseville for twelve years. Ken has

been married to his wife, Lydia for 45 years. They have two adult children and consider them their highest calling, along with the many teens and children whom they've been foster parents to over the past 40 years plus.

Website Features

Ken's website located at kenbirks.com has lots of features worth exploring. His website receives around 2000 visitors a week featuring Bible Studies, Sermon Outlines, Devotionals, Podcasts, Devotional Poetry, Books, and more.



The Beast from the Sea

by Ken Birks

The beast from the sea comes, the man of sin, scheming.
Horns and crowns on his head, he comes blaspheming.
Like a leopard, feet of a bear, he arrives with vengeance.
A mouth like a lion, he receives power to kill and devour.
With great authority, he's released in Satan's full power.

With hate and deception, he destroys and terminates.
In the complete incarnation of evil, he impersonates.
As the man of sin, he sits as God in the temple.
Opposing, above all called God, he exalts himself.
War breaking out in heaven, he causes all to tremble.

Cast from heaven, he wages war against all Christians.
Fury on those who are to rule the kingdom, he strikes.
As first fruits, they escape as God takes possession.
In rage, he sends a flood to drown and destroy the bride.
Rescued on wings of a great eagle, the Father gives ride.

Power over the remnant left behind, he seeks to destroy.
With strong delusion he comes, in power to trap.
In signs and wonders, he deceives those left with ploys.
With power, he causes all to receive his mark or be killed.
His mark received, multitudes fall away, being deceived.

Righteous ones removed, the wrath of the Lord releases.
Kept from the hour of trial on earth, the bride escapes.
Those receiving his mark, seven angels appear with plagues.
In grievous sores, scorching fire, earthquakes, He releases.
He torments three and a half years, while the bride feasts.

From her refuge, His bride rises to meet Jesus in the air.
Those killed by the beast meet them as she ascends.
Taking vengeance with His saints, Jesus descends.
Bound, the beast no longer blasphemes or snares.
Tormented, he's cast into the fiery lake with the tares.

**For more of Ken's Biblical Devotional Poetry,
please click the link below:**

Ken's Poetry Site

The Antichrist Revealed Bible Study — by Ken Birks

Just as every generation since the beginning of the Church age has thought Christ would return in their time, so it's been with the revelation of the Antichrist. Paul's letter to the Thessalonian church clarifies the issue for us – *2 Thessalonians 2:1-2*.

In his second letter to the Thessalonians, Paul makes it clear that the Antichrist must be revealed before the second coming of Christ. He wrote the letter to set them straight concerning the fact that Christ had not already come, as some were declaring. He then points out things that must take place before He comes.



2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 *Let no one deceive you by any means, for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God, showing himself that he is God.*

The attributes found in the Antichrist are the same ones that caused Satan's expulsion from the third realm of heaven. At one point, Satan was the most beautiful of all the archangels. Unfortunately, he became proud and wanted to be like God.

The Antichrist will be the incarnation of Satan, just as Jesus was the incarnation of God, the Father. Just as Satan tried to exalt himself above God, so it is with the man of sin. In the following passages, the prophet Ezekiel exposes Satan's true colors.

Ezekiel 28:13 *You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.*

Lucifer's features are similar to those Paul mentions in his letter to the Thessalonians about the man of sin, the Antichrist.

Isaiah 14:13-14 *For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴ will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.*

Lucifer wanted to sit as God and have his throne in heaven, not on earth. The name "Most High" in the Bible is the word "El Elohim," which not only means "Most High" but also means "the possessor of heaven and earth." Lucifer attempted a rebellious mutiny with a third of the angels following him without realizing how mighty God was.

When God cast Lucifer out, He threw him out of the third heaven. The Lord Jesus mentioned this when He said, "*I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning.*"

Luke 10:18 *And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."*

What Jesus meant was that He saw Satan fall from the third heaven like lightning. Right now, the devil is still in the heavens. His place today is in the second heaven. He dwells there as much as he resides on earth. He rules from that position of authority. The second place is where we wrestle against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Eventually, Satan will be thrown out of this realm as well, just before the great tribulation.

Revelation 12:7-8 *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.*

Once Lucifer is expelled from all heavenly realms for good, he sets up his throne on earth in the form of the Antichrist to sit amid God's people, proclaiming himself as God in his final attempt to possess heaven and earth.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 *Let no one deceive you by any means, for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God, showing himself that he is God.*

2 Thessalonians 2:9 *The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders.*

Now is the time to set our hearts towards the Lord and His purposes so that we can be found as vessels unto honor. Those in the five foolish virgins category will find it difficult to resist the deceptive powers of the Antichrist spirit that comes in full force during the reign of the Antichrist. It will take a passionate relationship with the Lord, with the oil of His anointing working in and through us to remain faithful in that day and hour with all the distractions the enemy of our faith throws at them.

Download the Complete Bible Study
The Revealing of the Antichrist