## Identity of Fish that Cling to a Monster

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In Ezekiel 29:3, the leader of a powerful nation is described figuratively as a "monster who lies in the midst of his rivers." In the verse that follows, the fish in this monster's rivers are described as sticking to his scales. In order to correctly understand the identity of the fish, it is important to determine who the monster is. However, the phrase "monster in his rivers" can be misleading because the original Hebrew word for "monster" is SHD 8577, which is also used to describe "great whales" (Genesis 1:21), a "serpent" (Exodus 7:9), "dragons" (Ps. 74:13; KJV), and "jackals" (Lamentations 4:3; NKJV).

As the monster in Ezekiel 29:3-4 has scales, he cannot be compared to either a whale or jackal because neither has scales. Therefore, it would be more accurate to compare the monster to either a serpent or dragon. More specifically, this monster has characteristics similar to a serpent or dragon. In the Bible, a serpent or dragon can be used to describe Satan (Rev. 12:9). However, it must be noted that there are many serpents mentioned in scripture (Ex. 7:12; Nu. 21:6-7; Dt. 8:15; 32:24, 33; Ps. 74:13; Jer. 8:17). Therefore, the "monster who lies in the midst of his rivers" is not necessarily describing Satan. Instead, it can be describing another spirit being who has similar goals and objectives to Satan. Because this monster in Ezekiel 29:3 is the leader of a nation, it follows that he either shares power with Satan, or has been granted authority over a specific nation with Satan's approval.

Also, the original Hebrew word that is sometimes translated into the English word "serpent" must be understood in its proper context because it does not automatically imply that someone is evil.

For instance, the spirit being that later became known as Jesus Christ, is described as a serpent who had the responsibility of healing sinners (Isa. 53:5).

Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "**We have sinned**, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, "**Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived (Nu. 21:7-9; cf. Jn. 3:14; 8:28; 12:32, 34; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).** 

The Hebrew word translated into the English phrase "fiery serpent" (SHD 8314) is "saraph", or "seraphim" (plural) which are majestic spirit beings with six wings (Isa. 6:2, 6). The reason Moses made this saraph out of bronze or copper (SHD 5178) was to represent Christ as the bright or "shining one" as he appears in the spirit realm.

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, **the Bright and Morning Star** (Rev. 22:16; emphasis added).

The apostle Peter described Jesus Christ as a "morning star" who brings light to this dark and deceived world.

We also have the prophetic word made more sure, which you do well to heed as **a light that shines in a dark place**, until the day dawns and **the morning star** (Christ) rises in your hearts (2Pet. 1:19; emphasis added; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Christ describes himself as bright, or shining, like brass.

.... These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and his feet like fine brass (Rev. 2:18b; cf. 19:12; emphasis added).

King David compared God's angels to flames of fire.

(God) who makes His angels spirits, His servants **a flame of fire** (Ps. 104:4; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

According the next scripture, Jesus Christ was not the only "morning star" or "bright and shining saraph".

To what were its (the earth's) foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, <sup>7</sup>when the **morning stars** sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (Job 38:6-7; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

It is important to note that "stars" are used to describe angels (Rev. 1:20) and those angels who teach God's law are referred to as "messengers of light" because God's law is compared to light.

For the commandment is a lamp, and the law is light .... (Prov. 6:23a; Ps. 119:105).

Those who pretend to be "religious", and claim to "know God" but disobey His word, are described as having no light, or "dawn".

To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because **there** is **no light in them** (Isa. 8:20; emphasis added).

Satan and the angels who follow him pretend to be "angels of light" (righteous), but continually seek ways to undermine and disobey God.

For such are false apostles (representatives deceitful workers, ordained God), by transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And wonder! For Satan no transforms himself into an angel of light. <sup>15</sup>Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works (2Cor. 11:13-15; emphasis added).

## (GOD) WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS SPIRITS, HIS SERVANTS A FLAME OF

FIRE.

Psalms 104:4; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added

Prior to Lucifer's rebellion, all the morning stars or "seraphim" sang together. However, this harmony came to an end when Lucifer sinned (Eze. 28:16). Following the successful fulfillment of Christ's commission to atone, or cover, the sins of everyone who repents (Ac. 2:38), he was given greater authority than all the other seraphim who were his companions for a long time. Christ has this authority as the firstborn son of Almighty God (Rev. 1:5).

You (Christ) have loved righteousness (Ps. 119:172) and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness **more than your companions** (Heb. 1:9; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

But **to which of the angels** has He (Almighty God) ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool?" (Heb. 1:13; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Thankfully, some of Christ's companions have remained loyal to Almighty God, and continue to assist Christ with his ongoing responsibilities.

Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? (Heb. 1:14).

(Religious leaders) who have received the law **by the direction of angels** and have not keep it (Ac. 7:53; cf. Gal. 3:19; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

One of these loyal angels descended from heaven following Christ's death and burial and acted as one of the witnesses to Christ's resurrection (Mt. 28:5-6).

## WHY DO YOU MAKE MEN LIKE FISH OF THE SEA...?

Habakkuk 1:14a; emphasis added

And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>**His countenance was like lightning**, and his clothing as white as snow (Mt. 28:2-3; emphasis added).

Other angels are also described as "bright" or "fiery" in appearance.

As for the likeness of the living *creatures* (*beings*, SHD 2416), their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of torches. Fire was going back and forth among the living creatures; **the fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning** (Eze. 1:13; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Going back to Ezekiel 29:3, "the monster (serpent; *saraph*; 6-winged angel) in his rivers" is a spirit being and he is referred to as a king

because he has authority over others. These "others" are compared to fish in Ezekiel 29:4. Again, this is figurative language that requires further investigation to determine what these fish represent.

Why do You make men like fish of the sea...? (Hab. 1:14a; emphasis added).

Because people are easily deceived, and will follow the wrong leaders without perceiving the danger, they are compared to fish that can easily be captured in a net (Hab. 1:15). Jesus Christ used this analogy in a positive sense when he spoke with some of his disciples.

Then Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and **I** will make you become fishers of men" (Mk. 1:17; emphasis added).

At this point, it is important to note that angels are also referred to as "men" in scripture (Gen. 18:1-2; 19:1). Therefore, when the word fish is used in Ezekiel 29:4 it can be inclusive of all the angels that were deceived by the rebellious saraph who is referred to as the king of Egypt. Satan himself is compared to a man who will eventually die for the sins he has committed.

Those who see you (Satan in a future judgment) will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: **"Is this the man** who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, <sup>17</sup>who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who would not release his prisoners?" (Isa. 14:16-17; cf. Eze. 28:2-10; 2Thes. 2:3-4; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

So the "saraph", that is described as a "monster dwelling in his rivers", has fish closely attached to his scales. This closeness indicates that all the fish under his control share the same values, which are against God and His laws. Because of this, God will not allow the fish to escape judgment for their sins. Instead, this angelic leader and "all the fish" who follow him will face whatever punishment God deems necessary for their repentance.

But I will put hooks in your jaws, and cause the fish of your rivers to stick to your scales; I will bring you up out of the midst of your rivers, and all the fish in your rivers will stick to your scales. <sup>5</sup>I will leave you in the wilderness, you and all the fish of your rivers; you shall fall on the open field; you shall not be picked up or gathered. I have given you as food to the beasts of the field and to the birds of the heavens (Eze. 29:4-5).

Shortly, we will examine a scripture confirming that this "saraph in the rivers", who is referred to as Pharaoh king of Egypt, will repent of his sins and be reconciled to Jesus Christ who provided the means through which he could be forgiven. First though, it is important to examine another "saraph" or leader in the realm of the fallen angels who is referred to as "Assyria".

Indeed Assyria was a cedar in Lebanon, with fine branches that shaded the forest, and of high stature; and its top was among the thick boughs (Eze. 31:3).

Thus it was beautiful in greatness and in the length of its branches, because its roots reached to abundant waters. <sup>8</sup>The cedars in the garden of God could not rival it; the fir trees were not like its boughs, and the chestnut trees were not like its branches; no tree in the garden of God was like it in beauty (Eze. 31:7-8).

Instead of being referred to a "monster in his rivers", this saraph is referred to as a "tree of high stature" in the garden of God (see studies entitled: *The Garden of God* and *The Tree of Life and River of Living Water*). Therefore, "Assyria" was responsible for those under his authority. He was to serve and assist them in their relationship

with Almighty God. In other words, he was to help them grow and become even more productive spirit beings. Sadly, his position and power went to his head and he became too proud. Eventually his pride lead to various forms of wickedness as the next section of scripture confirms.

Therefore thus says the Lord God: "Because it towered high and set its top among the clouds (see study entitled: *Christ and the Pillar of Cloud*), and **its heart was proud** of its height, <sup>11</sup>I will give it into the hand of a mighty one of the nations; he shall surely deal with it as its wickedness deserves. I have cast it out (Eze. 31:10-11; RSV; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Almighty God determined that both the king of Egypt and Assyria were to be brought down because of their proud and rebellious attitudes. This action is meant to bring them to their senses so they can begin examining themselves more closely, and realize the magnitude of their sins. This corrective action also sends a message to other spirit beings that pride, with its associated self-centered attitude, harms not only the perpetrator but also everyone around them.

On its (Assyria's) ruin will remain all the birds of the heavens, and all the beasts of the field will come to its branches – <sup>14</sup>So that no trees by the waters may ever again exalt themselves for their height, nor set their tops among the thick boughs, that no tree which drinks water may ever be high enough to reach up to them. 'For they have all been delivered to death (Rom. 6:23a), to the depths of the earth, among the children of men who (also) go down to the Pit (SHD 953; grave; cf. Ps. 88:4-5; Isa. 14:19; 38:18; Eze. 31:13-14; Ed. notes in parentheses).

So all sinners, whether human beings or angels, will receive wages for their conduct.

For the wages of sin is death... (Rom. 6:23a).

Even though unrepentant sinners have earned the wage of "everlasting death", they will still have an opportunity in a future resurrection to willingly and sincerely change their attitude.

...but the gift of God is eternal life (through the shed blood of) Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 6:23b; cf. Heb. 9:22; Ed. note in parenthesis).

So the king of Egypt and Assyria, which are titles applied to specific rebellious seraphim, will die like any other sinful individual. They too will be resurrected and given an opportunity to repent of their sins because Almighty God does not want any of His children to remain dead forever.

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward you, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2Pet. 3:9; emphasis added).

But can we foreknow that the seraphim described as the king of Egypt and Assyria will repent in a future resurrection, and be restored in their relationship with Almighty God and His son Jesus Christ? Also, will those who were negatively influenced by these two powerful angelic beings take responsibility for their own sins and repent? Before answering these questions, a connection must first be made between Jesus Christ and one of the names given to him by his Father in heaven.

Listen, O coastlands, to me, and take heed, you peoples from afar! The Lord (Almighty) has called me (Christ) from the womb; from the matrix of my mother He has made mention of my name. <sup>2</sup>And **He has made my mouth like a sharp sword**.... (Isa. 49:1-2a; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

God's word is clear about who has a mouth like a sharp sword and this metaphor applies to only one being.

He (Christ; cf. Rev. 1:13-15) had in his right hand seven stars, **out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword**, and his countenance was like the sun shining in its strength (Rev. 1:16; cf. 2:12; emphasis added).

It is through the fulfillment of Christ's commission that Almighty God will be properly honored, and that the stiff-necked and rebellious nation of Israel will be restored.

And He (Almighty God) said to me (Christ), "You are My servant, O Israel, in whom **I will be glorified** (Isa. 49:3; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

And now the Lord (Almighty) says, Who formed me (Christ) from the womb to be His servant, **to bring Jacob back to Him**... (Isa. 49:5a; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

At this point it must be emphasized that the name Israel is applied to the one who would later become known as Jesus Christ, while the name Jacob was originally applied to the nation that was Christ's inheritance.

When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, when He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the angels of God (LXX). <sup>9</sup>For the Lord's (Christ's) portion is his people; Jacob is the place of his inheritance (Dt. 32:8-9; cf. Ps. 106:40; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Because one of Christ's names is "Israel", the entire nation born through Jacob took that name because Israel became their husband on the day

he "took them by the hand to bring them out of Egypt".

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah (\*two separate nations) — <sup>32</sup>not according to the (marriage) covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord (Jer. 31:31-32; cf. 2Cor. 11:2; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

If **my people who are called by my name** will humble themselves... (2Chr. 7:14a; emphasis added).

It must be emphasized that the one speaking in 2Chr. 7:14 is not Almighty God because Solomon saw "the Lord" that spoke with him, and Christ stated clearly that no human being has seen, or heard the voice of, Almighty God (Jn. 1:18; 5:37). Therefore, "the Lord" here was "the saraph" that would later become known as Jesus Christ. Another reason the nation that came through Jacob had their name changed to Israel was due the fact that "Jacob" means "heel holder/catcher, supplanter, or usurper" and none of these names reflects the actions or character of their leader and husband "Israel". The name Israel means "he will rule as God" (SHD 8280 and 410). This is one of many confirmations that the saraph, who became known as Jesus Christ, was indeed Almighty God's appointed representative. As Almighty God's representative, Christ was given the authority to carry many of his Father's titles.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given (as a sacrifice for sin); and the government **will be** upon his shoulder (following the successful completion of his commission). And his name will

be called Wonderful (Jgs. 13:18; NKJV), Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this (Isa. 9:6-7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

## IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES...

II Chronicles 7:14a; emphasis added

So the spirit being who became Jesus Christ led the nation that was named after him. He was not only tasked with restoring his sinful nation to Almighty God, he was also given responsibility to "shepherd the Gentile nations".

Indeed He (Almighty God) says, "It is too small a thing that you should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be My salvation to the ends of the earth" (Isa. 49:6; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

So "Israel" is one of the names given to the saraph now known as Jesus Christ, while two other seraphim were given the names "Egypt" and "Assyria". It follows that the nations under their respective leadership would be called "Israelites", "Egyptians", and "Assyrians." With this in mind, the following section of scripture confirms that these nations will repent of their sins in a future resurrection. When this occurs, they will all be able to walk in harmony with one another.

And the Lord will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal it; they will return to the Lord (repent), and He will be entreated by them and heal them (forgive them). <sup>23</sup>In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve (Almighty God) with the Assyrians. <sup>24</sup>In that day Israel (Christ) will be one of three with Egypt (formerly a rebellious saraph) and Assyria (formerly a rebellious saraph), even a blessing in the midst of the land (Isa. 19:22-24; Ed. notes in parentheses).

As the apostle Paul exclaimed, "Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" (Rom. 11:33). \*Jacob had twelve sons but only one of them became the father of the Jewish people, and his name was Judah. The other eleven sons of Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, were never "Jews, or Jewish. Therefore, all Jewish people can claim to have come from their father Jacob, or Israel, but the vast majority of Israelites are not "Jewish" because they did not descend from the family of Judah. It was primarily the Jewish nation that was taken into captivity by the Babylonians, while the majority of Israelites were taken captive by the Assyrians over a hundred years earlier. Today the majority of Israelites are lost and scattered among many nations (Lev. 26:22; Dt. 28:64). These Israelites are not easily identified because they do not observe God's law and commandments, which include His Holy Days and weekly Sabbath (Saturday in today's secular calendar).

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