

The Life and Times of Satan

By David Lovelace

Introduction

Ezekiel 28 gives a fascinating description of Satan and a human proxy of Satan. This human proxy is a leader of the city of Tyre. He is referred to in Ezekiel as the Prince of Tyre. Later in chapter 28, the King of Tyre is introduced; this is none other than Satan. This chapter gives us much additional about the origin of Satan and how he rebelled (sinned) against God.

Other portions of scripture describe a human proxy of Satan referred to by Bible students as the antichrist. The antichrist will persecute followers of Jesus and will be the last Gentile world ruler before the second coming of Jesus. In this article we will describe Tyre at the time Ezekiel wrote chapter 28 (between 586 and 570 BC). We will also contrast the human proxies of Satan, the Prince of Tyre and the antichrist.

Introducing Tyre



Tyre was one of the most prosperous cities in existence when Ezekiel wrote his prophecy. It was founded by a sea-faring pagan people called the Phoenicians. Below is a description of Tyre by ChatGPT (4o)

*"In 600 BC, the **city of Tyre** was a powerful and wealthy **Phoenician** city-state located on the eastern Mediterranean coast (modern-day **Lebanon**). It was a major maritime and trading hub, renowned for its seafaring, shipbuilding, and the production of the famous **Tyrian purple dye**, a luxury item made from murex sea snails.*

Geography & Structure

*Tyre consisted of **two parts**:*

The Mainland City – Located on the coast, this area contained much of the population, markets, and industries, including dye workshops and harbors.

The Island City – Just off the coast, this heavily fortified island was the political and religious heart of Tyre, home to its main temple dedicated to **Melqart**, the chief deity. The island was surrounded by massive walls, making it extremely difficult to conquer by land forces. It had two harbors (the **Sidonian Harbour to the north** and the **Egyptian Harbour to the south**) that allowed it to control Mediterranean trade.

Economic Powerhouse

Tyre was one of the wealthiest cities of its time due to:

Trade Networks: Tyrians traded extensively with Egypt, Greece, Mesopotamia, and even beyond the Mediterranean, exchanging goods such as glass, timber (notably **Lebanese cedar**), textiles, and purple dye.

Colonization: Tyre established colonies, the most famous being **Carthage** (founded in 814 BC by Queen Dido), which would later grow into a powerful empire.

Metalworking and Shipbuilding: The city's ships were among the best in the Mediterranean, and their knowledge of navigation was unparalleled.

Political & Cultural Influence

Government: Tyre was ruled by **kings**, but powerful merchant families and priesthoods had significant influence.

Religion: Melqart, often equated with the Greek **Heracles**, was the city's patron god, worshipped in grand temples.

Language & Writing: The Phoenicians of Tyre used an advanced **alphabet**, which influenced Greek and later Latin scripts.

Foreign Relations & Conflicts

Assyrian Influence: Tyre had been under Assyrian control in the previous century but retained a degree of autonomy by paying tribute.

Babylonian Siege (585–573 BC): In 600 BC, Tyre was already facing increasing pressure from **Babylon**, ruled by **Nebuchadnezzar II**. A few years later, Babylon would lay siege to Tyre, which lasted **13 years**.

Egyptian Relations: Tyre had trade and political ties with Egypt but also had to navigate tensions between Babylon and Egypt.

Legacy

Despite constant external pressures, Tyre remained a vital center of trade and culture for centuries. Its influence can be seen in later civilizations, particularly through **Carthage**, which carried on its maritime and economic traditions.”

Introducing Melqart

It was important in ancient times that deities have names. Moses needed God to reveal his name to him in Exodus 3:13-14. The name of the patron god of the city of Tyre was named Melqart. His image is shown above. ChatGPT (4o) describes him as follows.

Melqart: The Chief Deity of Tyre

Melqart was the patron god of the Phoenician city of Tyre, often regarded as the city's divine protector and a key figure in Phoenician religion. His name translates to "King of the City" (from Melq = King and Qart = City), emphasizing his importance in Tyrian state religion.



Attributes & Symbolism

Melqart was associated with:

Kingship & Protection – He was believed to safeguard the city and its rulers.

The Sun & Fertility – He had solar aspects and was linked to renewal, agriculture, and seasonal cycles.

The Sea & Trade – As Tyre was a maritime power, Melqart was also revered as a god of seafaring and commerce.

Death & Resurrection – Some myths suggest that Melqart underwent a cycle of death and rebirth, similar to later mystery cults.

His symbols included:

A bearded figure wearing a high hat or crown.

The kernos, a circular object used in religious rituals.

A lion, representing strength and kingship.

A club and bow, resembling the Greek hero Heracles (with whom Melqart was later identified).

Temple of Melqart in Tyre

The main Temple of Melqart in Tyre was one of the most famous sanctuaries of the ancient world. It was said to have been richly adorned and featured a sacred fire that burned perpetually. According to Herodotus, the temple contained two pillars, one of gold and one of emerald, possibly referencing Phoenician solar worship.

Greek accounts suggest that Alexander the Great later visited and made offerings at the temple during his famous siege of Tyre in 332 BC.

Melqart & Greek Heracles

The Greeks equated Melqart with Heracles (Hercules), likely due to their shared association with strength, heroism, and journeys across the Mediterranean. This identification was particularly strong in Carthage, where Melqart remained a major deity under the name Baal Melqart.

Some legends even suggest that Heracles/Melqart founded the city of Tyre and established its temple, reinforcing his connection to the city's divine and mythological past.

Melqart's Influence Beyond Tyre

Carthage: As a Tyrian colony, Carthage continued to worship Melqart, sometimes merging him with Baal Hammon, the city's chief deity.

Spain: The Phoenician settlers in Gadir (modern Cádiz, Spain) built a temple to Melqart, which later influenced local religious traditions.

Rome & Greece: Melqart's Heracleian connection led to cultural adaptations in Greek and Roman mythology.

Worship & Rituals

Annual Festival: Tyrians celebrated a festival of Melqart's resurrection, reflecting his role as a dying-and-rising god.

Sacrifices & Offerings: Worshipers offered incense, animals, and possibly human sacrifices (especially in Carthage).

Seafarers' God: Tyrian merchants and sailors prayed to Melqart for protection on long voyages.

Legacy

Though Tyre eventually declined, Melqart's legacy lived on, especially through Carthaginian religion and his identification with Heracles in Greek and Roman mythology. His cult sites, like the Temple of Melqart in Cádiz, remained significant even into the Roman era.

Introducing the Prince of Tyre



The book of Ezekiel includes a series of messages given to the prophet. The messages are not strictly in chronological order. In this part of the book, Ezekiel is giving messages from the Lord to the nations surrounding Israel.

1 *"Then this message came to me from the LORD :*

2 *'Son of man, give **the prince of Tyre** this message from the Sovereign LORD : "In your great pride you claim, 'I am a god! I sit on a divine throne in the heart of the sea.' But you are only a man and not a god, though you boast that you are a god."* (Eze 28:1-2)

The prince of Tyre is described as having great pride. This pride leads him to proclaim that he is a god. In the polytheistic ancient world, this claim would not be hyperbole but actually believed by the claimant. The prince is self-deceived concerning his own importance.

3 *You regard yourself **as wiser than Daniel** and think **no secret is hidden from you**.*

The prophet Daniel who had also been carried into Babylonian exile was a contemporary of Ezekiel. The prince of Tyre considers himself to be wiser than one of the smartest men alive at the time. There have been times in history when men have thought that they had figured out all there is to know about certain subjects. For instance at the end of the 19th century, scientists thought that they had figured out all the physical laws with Newtonian mechanics. Only to have Einstein and others come along later and totally upset and revolutionize the study of physics.

4 *With your wisdom and understanding **you have amassed great wealth**— gold and silver for your treasures.*

5 *Yes, **your wisdom has made you very rich**, and **your riches have made you very proud**.*

The prince of Tyre used his great knowledge and wisdom, not for the betterment of his people and nation, but to amass great wealth for himself. This amassing of wealth then went to his head and made him very prideful. We see the corrupting influence of great wealth then at work in his life.

6 *"Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: **Because you think you are as wise as a god**,*

7 ***I will now bring against you a foreign army, the terror of the nations**. They will draw their swords against your marvelous wisdom and defile your splendor!*

8 *They will bring you down to the pit, and you will die in the heart of the sea, pierced with many wounds.*

9 *Will you then boast, 'I am a god!' to those who kill you? To them you will be no god but merely a man!*

10 ***You will die** like an outcast at the hands of foreigners. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!" (Eze 28:1-10 NLT)*

God says something very interesting about the prince of Tyre. God says he will bring destruction upon the prince of Tyre because of something he thinks. In the New Testament, God makes it clear that he will judge people only based on their behavior. On the other hand, the prince of Tyre will die at the hands of the Babylonians because of the corrupting influence of his great wealth making him proud.

Comparing the Prince of Tyre to the Antichrist

The prince of Tyre through his expertise in trade has amassed great wealth. This great wealth has caused him to become inflated with pride. He thinks he is so great that he declares that he is a god. Antichrist also will enter the temple in Jerusalem and declare himself a god.

But the similarities end there. Antichrist will be primarily a military man who conquers three fellow NATO countries in Europe (presumably neighbors). He will form the last Gentile world empire. But the scriptures do not indicate that the antichrist will be motivated by wealth. Instead, he will be motivated by power and will persecute all who oppose him (including the church).

The prince of Tyre is more similar to the second beast in Revelation, the False Prophet. The false prophet will be billionaire tech guy who amasses a fortune due to wisdom and knowledge in business (trade) similar to Elon Musk. But instead of exalting himself, the false prophet will exalt and support the first beast, the antichrist.

Introducing the King of Tyre

A second message was given to Ezekiel by God addressed to the power behind the throne in Tyre, the king of Tyre. It is a funeral song, a reminder of the ultimate fate of Satan.

The Birth of Satan

11 *"Then this further message came to me from the LORD :*

12 *'Son of man, sing this funeral song for the king of Tyre. Give him this message from the Sovereign LORD : "**You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and exquisite in beauty.**"'" (Eze 28:11-12)*

Satan was created perfect (as was Adam). He was created very smart and intelligent. He was also very handsome. From a human standpoint, he had all the gifts to be successful.

13 *"**You were in Eden, the garden of God. Your clothing was adorned with every precious stone — red carnelian, pale-green peridot, white moonstone, blue-green beryl, onyx, green jasper, blue lapis lazuli, turquoise, and emerald — all beautifully crafted for you and set in the finest gold. They were given to you on the day you were created.**"'" (Eze 28:13)*

Adam and Eve did not make clothing until after they had sinned, but Satan was provided beautiful clothing from the day he was created. Adam and Eve also were not created full of wisdom and knowledge but relied on God and the environment to learn and grow in knowledge. Satan also was rich from his beginning, but Adam and Eve needed to rely on God for their every need. Relationships not based on need are easily discarded. Satan did not need God.

In Genesis, Satan's physical form is described as a serpent or snake. **"The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made."** (Gen 3:1a). Notice again the reference to the intelligence of Satan.

14 "I ordained and anointed you as the mighty angelic guardian. You had access to the holy mountain of God and walked among the stones of fire." (Eze 28:14)

All created beings created by God are created for a purpose. God created various types of angels and he created Adam and Eve. Generally, people as offspring of Adam and Eve derive our purpose from the purpose given to Adam and Eve. Christians, in addition, are given additional purpose through Jesus and the gospel.

We now learn why Satan was in the garden of Eden. He was appointed to be an angelic guardian for Adam and Eve. As a guardian he may have been delegated a role to teach knowledge to Adam and Eve. This would explain why Adam and Eve seemed to accept uncritically what Satan said to them.

The Sin of Satan

15 "You were blameless in all you did from the day you were created until the day evil was found in you." (Eze 28:15)

Satan was blameless in his behavior. It is interesting to note that Satan's thoughts are excluded from mention. Sin begins with bad thinking that then leads to bad behavior. Some other scriptures teach that angels may have been created prior to Adam and Eve and even prior to the universe. We do not know the date when evil was found in Satan. Perhaps this event was after Satan tempted Adam and Eve.

It is interesting that the word for devil 'διάβολος' in Greek literally means "slanderer". And this is precisely what Satan did in the garden of Eden in tempting Eve, he slandered God.

4 "'You won't die!' the serpent replied to the woman.

5 'God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.'

6 The woman was convinced." (Gen 3:4-6a)

Satan's strategy here was to make Eve misunderstand God's words and intent. This slander follows Satan's primary strategy of causing people to misunderstand God's word.

19 "The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts." (Matt 13:19)

The Behavior of Satan

16 *"Your rich commerce led you to violence, and you sinned. So I banished you in disgrace from the mountain of God. I expelled you, **O mighty guardian**, from your place among the stones of fire." (Eze 28:16)*

I do not know where the mountain of God was/is located. I also do not know what the "stones of fire" are. Apparently there is some type of economy at the mountain of God. Most theologians believe that pride was Satan's original sin. But pride regards thought, not behavior. This verse says that Satan's pursuit of wealth led to violence. Satan filled with pride was disgraced which explains why he hates God.

17 *"Your heart was filled with pride because of all your beauty. Your wisdom was corrupted by your love of splendor. So I threw you to the ground and exposed you to the curious gaze of kings." (Eze 28:17)*

Satan's love of splendor corrupted his mind. This tells us that Satan used his wealth to exalt himself as typical narcissist behavior. After Satan corrupted Adam and Eve, he is cursed by God, loses his legs, and forced to slither on the ground.

14 *"Then the LORD God said to **the serpent**, "Because you have done this, **you are cursed** more than all animals, domestic and wild. **You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live.***

15 *And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. **He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.**" (Gen 3:14-15)*

This implies that Satan's physical form before the fall was a serpent with legs. I believe that Satan referred to as a dragon in Revelation was an actual dragon. Or perhaps some type of dinosaur.

The Annihilation of Satan

The fate of the human proxy of Satan, the prince of Tyre, was to die by foreigners pierced by many wounds.

8 *"They will bring you down to the pit, and you will die in the heart of the sea, pierced with many wounds." (Eze 28:8)*

10 *You will die like an outcast at the hands of foreigners. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!" (Eze 28:10)*

The fate of the human proxies of Satan in the end-times will be that they are captured by the forces of heaven and thrown alive into the lake of fire.

19 *"Then I saw the beast and the kings of the world and their armies gathered together to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army.*

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 fiery lake of burning sulfur.**" (Rev 19:19-20)*

Satan, on the other hand, will be judged for defiling sanctuaries and dishonest trade (his behavior).

18 *"You defiled your sanctuaries with your many sins and your dishonest trade. So I brought fire out from within you, and it consumed you. I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching.*

19 *All who knew you are appalled at your fate. You have come to a terrible end, and you will exist no more."* (Eze 28:18-19)

The book of Revelation gives a clearer description of Satan's fate. First he is chained in the bottomless pit; one of the seven realms described in scripture. The bottomless pit is a realm reserved for fallen angels and demons.

1 *"Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand.*

2 *He seized the dragon—that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan—and bound him in chains for a thousand years.*

3 *The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished. Afterward he must be released for a little while."* (Rev 20:1-3)

After the thousand years, Satan will then deceive the nations again and cause them to attack Jerusalem. The armies, which may amount to a billion soldiers will be destroyed by fire from above. Satan's fate will be to cast into the lake of fire to be tormented forever.

7 *"When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison.*

8 *He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore.*

9 *And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God's people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them.*

10 *Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."* (Rev 20:7-10)

Ezekiel states that Satan's end is to be consumed by fire and to "exist no more". John says that Satan's end is to be tormented by fire forever. In my humble opinion, the lake of fire represents annihilation. This would be consistent with Ezekiel's account. In my book "Babylon is the USA" I explain this contradiction through the idea of time and the perception of time being relative. A moment of torment can seem like a thousand years.