

The Ultimate Deception!

Satan the devil is described in the Scriptures as the ultimate deceiver. We are specifically instructed to make ourselves aware of his crafty devices, in other words, to know our enemy. Throughout human history, the world really has never been what it seemed. There have always been operators, agents, and manipulators behind the scenes, pulling the strings, consistently working out an evil agenda. As we draw near the end of this age, the Bible states that there will be great delusion upon the earth, that Satan and his henchmen will work lying wonders and miracles. How might the ultimate deception be foisted off on an unsuspecting world? The following is a possible end-time scenario that merits your serious consideration.

by Jim Rector

Satan always attempts to operate in a way that conceals his true objectives. He creates false fronts, hiding the evil intent of his actions behind a facade of apparent good. He publishes disinformation, plants red herrings, and puts those who would search him out on wild goose chases. His world is a labyrinth, a maze, a series of unexpected and bizarre twists, followed by one dead end after another. Roads turn

into paths and then just disappear into the underbrush. At times, it looks like he may be cornered, but then he slips away. Working under cover of darkness, his ways are arcane, mysterious, esoteric, hidden.

He is the author of confusion, frustrating one attempt after another to figure out his strategy. He creates elaborate ruses, thus deflecting attention,

even if for only a moment, away from his sleight-of-hand. His specialty is intrigue, conspiracy, scheming, and skullduggery. Half-truths are his stock and trade. He carefully concocts his lethal portion of truth and error, and poisons every aspect and endeavor of the human realm.

The apostle Peter said of Satan: **“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil**

PROWLs around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (I Pet. 5:8).

In a similar vein, Paul writes: **“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the DEVIL’S SCHEMES. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Eph. 6:10-12).**

Later, in his second letter to Timothy, Paul says: **“The Lord’s servant must not quarrel...Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the TRAP OF THE DEVIL, who has taken them CAPTIVE to do his will” (II Tim. 2:24-26).**

In the book of Revelation, speaking of the latter days, we read: **“The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the WHOLE WORLD ASTRAY” (Rev. 12:9).**

This therefore is the nature of the fallen spirit known as Satan or the Adversary. Paul says that our real enemies are not even on the human level, but rather the spiritual; that there are wicked

rulers in high places. In fact, there is an invisible network of demonic forces within this spiritual hierarchy of evil. They are constantly at work, especially in the upper echelons of power in this world. They are continually promoting Satan’s wicked agenda, seeking always to deceive, entice, and entangle mankind.

One of the real problems facing many true believers is that they do not take their enemy seriously enough. There is an old Sicilian adage that says, *Keep your friends close, but your enemies closer*. This is powerful advice for each of us. Satan the devil and an innumerable company of demons are determined to wreak havoc in this world. They have carefully developed an approach, a system, a pattern of operation in the lives of human beings. Their influence has literally taken the whole world captive. The established governmental, religious, social, and economic orders are all under the control of these spirit powers. The methods that man utilizes are of Satanic origins. The policies, the laws, the judgments, the crucial decisions, are inspired by invisible forces. The history of this world is one of constant deception, opportunism, tyranny, suppression, and control by demonic powers. The wars that have been fought, the alliances that have been formed, the treaties and charters that have been signed, the changes that have been wrought, the direction entire nations have taken, the downfall of one dynasty and the rise of another, the religious enslavement of a whole continent, all these and

countless other aspects of human experience have been perpetrated, for the most part, by these evil rulers of darkness.

The world as we know it today, the world around us that we casually take for granted, is, on a moment-by-moment basis under the direction of Satanic dominion. What we observe in the on-going events of daily news is being rigged to deceive the careless onlooker. Nothing is as it seems—day is night, and black is white.

The average citizen of any given country is a hapless pawn, no matter how cultured, civilized, or advanced he may think he is. Most of what has shaped the lives of people throughout this world is directly or indirectly attributable to Satanic influence. It’s all most human beings ever know! Indeed, were it not for the mercy and grace of Yahweh, the true God of the universe, no one on earth could escape the entrapment of the devil.

Throughout history, Satan and his demonic cohorts have worked, primarily behind the scenes, to influence and control the affairs of human beings. In order to accomplish this grand purpose, they have, from generation to generation, recruited individuals as agents in their service. At the highest levels, these chosen human beings have had close encounters with their demonic spirit guides and rulers. Through these carefully prepared and willing human instruments, the plan of Satan has unfolded upon the world stage. He uses these people to

influence others, to gather additional individuals who can be similarly initiated into the deeper mysteries of the devil.

Various levels of esoteric knowledge and understanding develop. Those at the top have more revealed to them, and they in turn then offer it to their subordinates as they deem it necessary for them to know. Those recruited on lower levels know even less. By retaining the keys to the inner secrets of Satan, control is maintained.

Hundreds and thousands of such groups of Satanic adepts have been formed over the span of time. In many instances, these fraternities have worked together, at other times, independently, but always under the overall direction of demonic spirit powers.

They have been some of the major movers and shakers in the world. They have contained among their membership the most powerful political, financial, military, artistic, and social powers in history. Some of these secret societies have been religious in nature, others esoteric and occultic. They have borne many and varied names and descriptions. In most cases, they have remained hidden, but not always. On some occasions, they have taken a public posture with an outward facade of respectability. Some of the groups have seemed to be merely fraternal orders, but this was simply a superficial cover for their more devious activity.

During the Middle Ages in Europe, many of these clandestine cloisters were formed. They proliferated across the continent and into the British Isles. France, in particular, proved to be a hotbed of such activity. Most of these groups have not survived until the present day, but a few of them have. In fact, a number of these powerful secret societies are extant today. One of them in particular warrants closer scrutiny. It has an ancient pedigree and is shrouded in mystery—the occult, the arcane, the esoteric.

In the year 1079 A.D., a band of Calabrian monks journeyed to the vicinity of the Ardennes Forest in Lorraine. From Mathilde de Toscan, duchess of Lorraine, they received a tract of land at Orval, near Steney, where they established an abbey. One of their number was a man known to later history as Peter the Hermit, someone of note who was directly connected with the First Crusade.

The conclave of monks and their associates did not remain at Orval. At some point in the year 1090 A.D., a small contingent, including several French nobles, left their estates in Europe and headed for the holy land. Jerusalem, at the time, was in the hands of the Turks. The deliverance of the First Crusade was still 9 years away. Once in the holy city, the men established an abbey in the part of Jerusalem known as Mt. Sion, the high hill on the south side of the Temple Mount. This was the site of the ancient city of

David, and it was from this famous location that the new order took its name. The cloister itself was called the *Abbey de Notre Dame du Mont de Sion*, and the confraternity became known as the *Prieure de Sion*, or the *Priory of Sion*.

The leading figure of this chivalric order was someone destined to become one of the most renowned men of valor in history. He was Godfroi de Bouillon, leader of the First Crusade, the liberator of Jerusalem. Around 1095 A.D., Peter the Hermit, who was Godfroi's personal tutor and mentor, began a campaign of evangelistic fervor calling for a holy war against the Turkish infidels. Peter, in fact, became the most outspoken proponent of the First Crusade, rallying both Pope Urban II and the European royalty to his cause. It goes without saying that he was the inspiration behind Godfroi de Bouillon's commitment to this mission. In fact, of all the European nobles who participated in the First Crusade, it was Godfroi alone who demonstrated the most singular devotion, renouncing all his lands and titles, and stating his intention to remain in Jerusalem after the victory had been achieved.

Although hidden from much of the scrutiny of history, the Priory of Sion, under the influence of Peter the Hermit, a man who enjoyed high authority during this era, was the guiding force behind the First Crusade. The Priory provided the holy war's most vocal proponent, as well as its most revered military general. The

power wielded by this small secret order, formed only a mere 9 years before the First Crusade, was potent indeed. Its involvement in this most significant of religious wars was to be only the first of numerous situations in which the Prior of Sion was to play a deciding role over many centuries of time.

As any student of medieval history knows, the holy land fell to the invading Crusaders, Jerusalem capitulating in 1099 A.D. Godfroi de Bouillon was the most gallant of the regal leadership, becoming the hero of the First Crusade. True to his word, he, in fact, did not return to Europe, but remained in Jerusalem at the Abbey of Sion.

Upon the deliverance of the Holy Land, a secret council was held in Jerusalem. Although the purpose of this conclave is not usually reported in general histories of the era, William of Tyre, writing around 1175 A.D., clearly states that the objective of this meeting was to elect a king of Jerusalem, and that one of the leaders was a monk from Calabria (*History of Deeds Done Beyond the Sea*, vol. I, p. 380). It is virtually a certainty that this is a reference to Peter the Hermit himself, and the secret order was the Priory of Sion. It is imperative that we do not dismiss the obvious power and influence wielded by this chivalric fraternity, power indeed to confer a kingship, a throne that history accords an equality with the reigning sovereignties of Europe!

The throne was offered, not surprisingly, to the Priory's most celebrated member, Godfroi de Bouillon, even though a prior claim was held by Raymond, count of Toulouse. Godfroi declined it, however, opting instead for the title of *Defender of the Holy Sepulcher*. Upon his death in 1100 A.D., his younger brother, Baudouin, was made the first King of Jerusalem.

At some undetermined point between 1100-1110 A.D., the Priory of Sion, under the leadership of Andre de Montbard and Hugues de Payen, took steps to found a military arm of the organization in Jerusalem. This group of warriors would become the most famous, and perhaps the most notorious, of all medieval militias. They were known as *La Milice du Christ*. They have come down to us, however, as the Order of the Temple, or the *Knights Templar*.

There is indisputable evidence that the Templars were in existence prior to 1114 A.D., and we know, for a fact, that they were officially chartered by King Baudouin I of Jerusalem in 1118 A.D. By 1120, the count of Anjou, father of Geoffrey Plantagenet, had become a member, and in 1124, the count of Champagne joined. Within a couple of years, Saint Bernard, abbot of Clairvaux, the leading spokesman for Christianity of his era, warmly endorsed the Templars, and became one of their chief supporters throughout Europe.

The ostensible purpose of the Knights Templar is very curious indeed. In spite of there being only 9 original members of this order, according to William of Tyre, "**as far as their strength permitted, they should keep the roads and highways safe...with especial regard for the protection of pilgrims**" (*Ibid.*, p. 525ff). This objective, though most laudable, could hardly have been achieved by such a small band. In fact, there is no substantial evidence that the Knights Templar ever truly kept the highways into and out of the Holy Land safe. There is, however, much to suggest that the Order of the Temple was deeply involved in numerous other situations and circumstances that would ultimately come to affect the whole of western society.

It turns out that the *Poor Knights of Christ*, as the Templars were sometimes known, were hardly poor at all. They became, in fact, the richest order in all of Europe. As the association developed over the years, more and more members were initiated into their service. It began to be reported that their meetings involved rites and rituals, arcane knowledge, secret information, symbols and signs, occultic connections. It wasn't long before they became shrouded in mystery.

They were feared throughout Christendom by anyone who might find themselves opposed to the order. Within 50-75 years, the Knights Templar became the most elite fighting unit in the West.

They fought valiantly in the Crusades, and enforced both royal and Papal commands throughout Europe and the Middle East. A separate sister order was formed in the northern Germanic area of Europe. They were known as the *Teutonic Knights*, and were a formidable force in their own right.

Within a hundred years of their founding, the Knights Templar had gained such leverage that they literally became the moneychangers or central bankers of their era. It is suggested that the practice of writing checks, so common in today's world, actually was conceived and utilized by the Templars in their financial transactions.

Soon, many stories began to circulate with respect to this famous chivalric order. The source of their great wealth became suspect. Rumors abounded. The first inkling of a possible answer came when it was realized that the Templars, while stationed in Jerusalem, had been given an entire wing of the imperial palace as their headquarters. This led to the discovery that the members had engaged in extensive excavations in the city, and especially under the Temple Mount. The Templar presence in Jerusalem after the First Crusade is a particularly critical point in history. Not a lot is known, and much of what transpired has been purposely confused and/or hidden from public scrutiny, but there is evidence that the Knights Templar may have come into possession of

much of the Second Temple riches.

From the documents available, it appears that some of this fortune found its way into their hands through discovery. The majority of it, however, may have come to the Templars in another fashion.

Many historians of the Middle Ages believe the Visigoths, who had sacked Rome in the late 400's A.D., may well have looted the Vatican treasury, which contained much of the booty taken by the Roman forces under Titus who plundered Jerusalem in the Romano/Jewish War of 66-70 A.D. If this is so, then the Visigoth riches were probably stored somewhere in the Languedoc of southeastern France, the seat of the Visigoth kingdom.

The Visigoths then married into the Cicambrians, the precursors of the Franks. By the time of the restoration of the Roman empire under Justinian, the Cicambrian/Visigoth line had produced the Merovingian dynasty, named after their first king Merovee. The most renowned of the Merovingian monarchs was Clovis, with whom the Papacy made a pact in perpetuity.

The Merovingian bloodline was somewhat mysterious. Certain claims were made with respect to it being somehow a holy lineage. In fact, it came to be known that descent through the Cicambrians went back to the first century, and perhaps to the origins of Christianity itself.

The Merovingian kings were considered to be rulers by divine right. They were viewed not just as monarchs, but as priest/kings. They refused to cut their hair, claiming that it was a source of their power, a possible throw-back to the ancient Nazorites of Israel. They were said to have the power to heal by the laying on of hands. Although they were at first supported by the Roman Catholic Church, the rulers themselves were often anti-clerical, and, at times, were even considered heretical.

Needless to say, the Merovingian dynasty was most unusual in European history. The culture of their realm was equaled only by the Byzantine empire. Under the rule, much of the ancient mystery religion was given a rebirth, anticipating the future age of the Renaissance.

In the end, the Papacy double-crossed the Merovingian monarchy, going along with a plot by Pepin the Fat, mayor of the palace, to murder King Dagobert II. This was accomplished in 679 A.D., and it opened the way for the usurpation of the throne and paved the way for the Carolingian dynasty to take power. The first of the Carolingian monarchs was Pepin III, although the name itself is taken from the great hero Charles Martel. The dynasty, however, is most closely associated with its most famous ruler, Charles the Great, or, as he is better known to history, Charlemagne.

The line of Dagobert II, however, did not end with the death of the king. The Merovingian lineage was perpetuated through his son, Sigisbert IV, count of Razes. Although he never assumed the throne, he did survive, moving into the area of Rennes la Chateau in southern France. From this line was descended Godfroi de Bouillon, the hero of the First Crusade, Defender of the Holy Sepulcher, and, most significant, founder of the Priory of Zion.

The Merovingian dynasty was reputed to have come into possession of the extravagant Visigoth treasure plundered from the sacking of Rome. The Priory of Sion, under the auspices of Godfroi de Bouillon, who was, in reality, the rightful heir to the Frankish throne, and could have been crowned King of Jerusalem had he chosen to do so, took charge of the treasure, using the money to finance the many campaigns of the Knights Templar, as well as their own political intrigue.

The Priory has maintained that they are the rightful caretakers not only of the ancient treasure of Jerusalem, but also of the Merovingian bloodline. Godfroi, then his brother, Baudouin I, were both of royal lineage, as well as founding members of the Priory of Zion. Baudouin was involved in the formation of the Knights Templar, as the military arm of the Priory. A number of the succeeding Grand Masters of the Priory of Sion were related to the same bloodline. This Merovingian bloodline held great significance

for the Priory, because they believed that it represented the physical lineage of Jesus Christ, and therefore it was not just royal blood, but *holy blood!*

While the military arm of the Priory of Sion, the Knights Templar, continued to enjoy success through the 12th and 13th centuries, by the turn of the 14th, the patience of many had worn thin. The rulers of the various European domains, along with the Papacy in Rome had watched sometimes in dismay as the Templars achieved overwhelming influence and power in the affairs of state throughout the continent. They undertook major building projects, constructing libraries, temples, castles, and other major buildings. They either purchased, stole, or had donated to them vast real estate holdings.

By 1306, Philippe IV of France was determined to rid his realm of the Templars. In a conspiracy with the Papacy, the Templars in France were arrested and imprisoned all on one day, charged with a variety of crimes, and officially disbanded. It is apparent, however, that many of them escaped, particularly to England and Scotland, where they preserved their order for several hundred more years. It is said that a contingent of Templars fought at the side of Robert de Bruce at the decisive battle of Bannockburn, turning the tide in favor of the war for Scottish independence from England. It is also likely that the Knights Templar infiltrated the Masonic lodges of England and

Scotland, thus further hiding their real identities. Eventually Freemasonry developed a connection with the Templars, even naming one of the significant degrees of the order after them.

In all of this history, the Priory of Sion remained unscathed. They had separated themselves from the Templars around 1185 A.D., although this may have been merely a diversionary move on their part to escape arrest themselves. It is quite likely that they continued to be associated, perhaps clandestinely, with the order of the Temple for the entire duration.

The Priory continued to maintain sweeping power and influence in European political affairs. Operating behind the scenes, they were almost totally responsible for toppling the Valois dynasty from the throne of France, and precipitating the French Revolution. During the Second World War, they were supportive of the Free French forces and worked in the French underground to secure the return of Charles De Gaulle to the presidency.

The significance of the Priory of Sion simply cannot be underestimated, not only in the past, but presently as well. They are alive and active today, and have an avowed purpose of restoring to the throne of a resurrected Holy Roman Empire a lineal descendent of the old Merovingian bloodline. They are among the strongest supporters of a United States of Europe.

My point in discussing, however briefly, some of the interesting historical aspects of this ancient order is to focus on the group's efforts to restore the Merovingian lineage to power in Europe. This is a most intriguing objective, particularly because the Priory is imbued with the notion that the Merovingian bloodline is descended from the supposed marriage of Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene. The claim is that the Merovingians are the lineal blood kin of the Messiah, and have the divine right of rulership. That the throne was usurped by the Carolingians only pours fuel on the fire.

Godfroi de Bouillon was a lineal descendent of Dagobert II, the assassinated Merovingian king. He formed the Priory of Sion, and the Priory then offered him the throne of Jerusalem in 1099 A.D. Once the Turks eventually recaptured the Holy Land, that royal throne was unoccupied, and the efforts of the Priory turned to gaining as much control and influence as possible in European affairs. Since the time of the dissolution of the Knights Templar upon the brutal murder of its last Grand Master, Jacques de Molay, the Priory has been obsessed with reinstating Merovingian rulership on the continent.

To this very day, this is their avowed purpose. The question remains, is it possible, however remote, that at some point, under the right circumstances, that there could arise in Europe a push for the restoration

of the Merovingian hegemony? Could events unfold so that one claiming direct descent from Jesus Christ might be appointed king of a United States of Europe, even if he were a titular leader only? If such a thing were to transpire, and remember that this is the precise goal of the Priory of Sion and has been for centuries, what kind of impact might such a thing have on the unsuspecting peoples of the entire world? Who could effectively withstand such a claim on the throne?

What we all have to realize with respect to this issue is that certain elements of the Roman Catholic Church are well aware of the efforts of the Priory, and are supportive of them. There are key leaders within the Vatican and elsewhere who subscribe to the heresy that Jesus Christ was merely a human being, who married, had children, and either died without being resurrected, or indeed was never crucified at all. They, of course, have remained silent in their contention, because to openly admit it would undermine the Church's authority in ecclesiastical matters. She would lose her very reason for being.

The notion that a lineal descendent of the Merovingian dynasty, and a claimant to the holy blood of Christ is not a far-fetched idea. It is seriously believed by very serious people, and plans have been underway for a long time to see this objective successfully achieved.

Who could such a person

be? That would be hard to say at the moment. Suffice it to say that the Hapsburg royal line is a qualifying lineage in this regard. At one time, Dr. Otto von Hapsburg was the titular king of Jerusalem, a title that goes back to the time of the First Crusade and Godfroi de Bouillon.

The activity of the Priory of Sion is something that needs to be carefully considered and scrutinized. The rise of a leader in Europe who, because of his lineal claims, might be a unifying, rallying force, simply cannot be discounted.

The Priory has always worked hand-in-hand with numerous other secret societies, almost all of them having vested interests in seeing Europe return to a monarchical system of government, even if only in a titular sense. A leader of true ancient royal blood, especially that of Merovingian descent, whose right to rule is still in effect, despite the usurpation of the Carolingian dynasty, would constitute a powerful force with which to deal. To then establish a claim that the royal blood was also Holy Blood would be utterly revolutionary and could have a powerful cementing effect upon plans to unify Europe.

In a day and time when seemingly nothing is impossible or beyond the realm of achievement, perhaps the ultimate deception of Satan would be to empower just such a man to fill the auspicious position of king of the Holy Roman Empire. We cannot afford

to discount the effect of Europe and England on America and on the course of events, both historically, currently, and in the near future. It is a fact that there is a definitive Anglo/American establishment that has been in effect for well over a hundred years. The reigning power behind this arrangement has come from such originally non-English sources as the Rothschild/Schiff/Oppenheimer/ Warburg banking cartel.

Please never forget that the world is not what it seems, that it has been and currently is controlled by influences and powers that are invisible—evil spirits in high places, and the human agents of those rulers, who, like their demonic counterparts, operate in the darkness of anonymity and under cover of a ruse. The nature of Satan is deception and conspiracy, and these are the guiding forces behind all the major political, social, and religious movements and changes in the world.

The Scriptures reveal that a great delusion will come upon this world at the time of the end. We read Paul's warning in II Thessalonians to this effect:

“Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to Him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let

anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God...The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the WORK OF SATAN displayed in all kinds of COUNTERFEIT MIRACLES, SIGNS AND WONDERS, AND IN EVERY SORT OF EVIL THAT DECEIVES THOSE WHO ARE PERISHING. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a POWERFUL DELUSION so that they will BELIEVE THE LIE, and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth, but have delighted in wickedness” (II Thess. 2).

Claiming lineal descent from Jesus Christ might well constitute setting oneself up as God or a god. Since the Merovingian lineage has the titular right to the throne of Jerusalem, there is a valid basis for a connection with the Temple.

The last days will be a time when nothing will be as it seems. Counterfeit righteousness, counterfeit religion, counterfeit spiritual leadership, will all abound. People will be utterly deceived, so much so that they will believe a lie—something ominous that is

going to be perpetrated upon this world.

It is imperative that the people of God today begin to wake up and realize who their enemy really is and how he operates in this human realm. Understanding the nature of his approach, the stealth he employs, the ruse he creates, the cover story that is put out, the disinformation that is leaked, the propaganda that is disseminated, should all stand us in good stead in our resolve and responsibility to resist him to the face!

Do not allow yourselves to take anything for granted. Do not put your trust in men or organizations or philosophies or agendas. Keep your friends close, but your enemy closer. Remember that our great battle is not against flesh and blood. Do not underestimate the cunning of Satan and the demonic forces under his sway. Do not be shortsighted in your appreciation of their tactics and the extremes to which they will go to achieve their ends. Anticipate that they will do anything to destroy you and the truth. And, above all, let us resolve to keep our eyes and ears open, and lean upon wholly upon our God!

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