



The Legend of Armilus

By Rabbi Ariel Bar Tzadok

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PLEASE NOTE that due to the nature of this material many Christians, especially Catholics might be offended by the information contained within this essay. It is certainly not the intention of the author to offend or insult anyone or any organization. Nonetheless, the material itself might be considered rather volatile by some. **PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THIS IS AN ACADEMIC REVIEW OF RELIGIOUS LITERATURE AND SHOULD BE VIEWED AS SUCH.** Any and all relationships to present day realities are conjecture and can be subject to change.

One of the most prominent and pivotal characters portrayed in Jewish eschatology (end-times studies) is also the least well known. Although prominently portrayed in Christian circles, Jewish awareness of the end-times evil king who is destined to cause more suffering for the Jewish people than any previous ruler in history is almost nil. In Midrash Milkhamot HaMashiah, the Hebrew text actually identifies this evil villain as “the one whom the Gentiles call the anti-Christ.” In Torah literature he is called Armilus.

The identity, origins and role of Armilus have been documented in Torah literature since the days of the Second Temple. It is no wonder that the most evil of kings is named after the founder of the city of Rome, Romulus, for it was the Romans who destroyed Jerusalem and carried out what was to date then the worst holocaust against the Jews.

Roman culture grew and became oppressively anti-Semitic. Relations between Jews and other citizens of the Roman Empire only grew progressively worse with the spread of Christianity, which of course blamed the Jews for the death of what the Christians considered “G-d incarnate.”

Pagan Europe, both past and present, have never been able to grasp the sheer nonsense of their belief that the Creator of the entire universe would possibly be born in the flesh as a mere mortal human. This concept, however, was of course, not new in Europe. Gods becoming incarnate as humans was well in line with Roman and previous Greek mythologies, which portrayed the likes of humanized gods such as Zeus, Apollo and the like.

Nonetheless the concept of a Supreme G-d incarnate in human flesh, for the Jewish people was totally incomprehensible. After all, G-d in the Ten Commandments first and foremost forbade such graven images, meaning to portray the Creator within the image of any of His creations. Jews have never created an image of the G-d of Israel, Creator of the Universe. Such an application was just too grandiose an absurdity for the Biblical Jewish mind.



This of course did not stop the Pagan European/Roman from doing just what he had always done, creating his gods in his own image. Therefore, as Christianity swept through the Pagan Roman Empire, eventually rising to the position of dominance that would influence and direct European affairs until the coming of the true Mashiah, the Jewish communities falling under European influence would become subject to even greater levels of hostility and hatred.

With this understanding of the nature of Europe and Rome its founder, we can proceed to understand who is to be this Armilus and why his relationship to Israel is to be so harsh.

Throughout Biblical and later Torah literature Rome/Europe is always referred to as Edom. Edom is one of the Biblical names given to Jacob's twin brother and sworn enemy Esau. Therefore, all references to Edom, Biblical and otherwise must always be understood as a reference first to Rome and then to Christianity in general, which inherited the role of Rome in the world.

Roman Catholicism has stood at the pinnacle of world-wide Christianity for nearly two thousand years. In spite of it not being the only Church, it is nevertheless the greatest, wealthiest and most powerful Church. As such it has carried out the mission of its Edomite ancestor Esau and has mercilessly persecuted Jacob (the Jewish people) in the most cruel and unyielding of ways. While some wish to embrace the opinion that since World War Two the anti-Semitism of the Catholic Church has waned and that today Jews and Catholics enjoy unprecedented good relations, others however, are most weary of this.

Most Jews in positions of knowing look today upon the Catholic Church with the wisdom of King Solomon who said, "there is nothing new under the sun." In other words, any and all apparent gestures of good will from the Catholic Church towards the Jewish people are viewed with the greatest of suspicion as having sinister ulterior motives. Those espousing this view point to the terrible relationship between the Vatican and the State of Israel as ample proof of the Church's real intent and outlook on the Jewish people. Those espousing this view believe that the Church is as much the antagonist of Israel today as it has always been. In light of this, the coming integration of secular Europe under the religious/secular leadership of the Vatican is considered and feared to be an all too real possibility.

Armilus must be understood within the context assigned to him throughout Torah literature. He is said to be the head of Edom, the King of Rome (as the name Armilus/Romulus implies), and the ultimate enemy of the Jewish people. Armilus thus is taught to both sit as head of the Catholic Church and as head of the nations of United



Europe, which today can be a reference to the European Union. As such Armilus will represent that world body (the Church) which claims to represent the true messiah of Israel. Armilus is thus said to be the anti-messiah, or as the Christians refer to him, the “anti-Christ.”

What makes the Christian term “anti-Christ” so ironic is that the Armilus “anti-Christ” is to be the one who is to confront G-d’s true Mashiah. The Christians who believe their Christ is messiah are destined to be led and ruled over by one who heads the Church as their Christ, but who in reality will be their own anti-Christ. During his political reign none of this is to be apparent, at least until the true Mashiah of Israel comes and destroys both Church and Christ (who is the Armilus, anti-Christ). How ironic that the one whom the Christians believe will lead them to world dominance will be none other than the archetype antagonist of both G-d and Israel. To say it bluntly, the coming Christ will be the anti-Christ. How ironic and unfortunate this will be for sincere, moral and otherwise good Christians around the world.

The identity of Armilus, anti-Christ, with Christ himself must be explained. For the Christians are waiting for what they believe will be a second coming of Christ and indeed they will have this. Christ will come again. Yeshu will indeed return, and he will continue his mission as before. Yet, now that I have introduced this concept, let us review the matter of Yeshu, who he really was and is, and how it is that he is to return to lead his Church in the final and ultimate battle against his brothers, the Jews.

In Kabbalistic literature, it is explained that the soul of Yeshu, whom the Christians embrace as their messiah had a number of previous incarnations prior to his famous life in Second Temple times. Yeshu is revealed to be the reincarnations of both Esau, Jacob’s brother as well as Kayin, Abel’s brother.

Both Esau and Kayin were men of violence, and indeed so was Yeshu. Yeshu’s violent nature comes through loud and clear in the Christian Bible and is openly acknowledged by many honest Christian scholars. Yet regardless of what is clear truth average layman Christians with the Catholic Church at their head consistently reinterpret Yeshu’s violent acts and speech, and “white-wash” them to appear most benign and non-violent. Indeed, the Church has always portrayed Christ has being the ultimate pacifist who “turns the other cheek.” This fantastical reinvention of Yeshu is so very far from the historical truth.

The Christian Bible documents how one of Yeshu’s closest students, Simon the Zealot (one of the twelve disciples) was a member of a political party which in those days were known as terrorists. Indeed, Yeshu’s right hand man Simon Iscariot was a member of a group of assassins/murderers. The name Iscariot is the Greek form of the Aramaic Sicarii who were known political terrorists and assassins. Yeshu himself said (Matt.



10:34; Luke 12:51) that he came not to bring peace, but a sword and no apologetic attempts can honestly counter the violent intent in this clear message. Yeshu actually ordered all his disciples to purchase and carry swords (Luke 22:36). Indeed, Yeshu's disciples were quick and expert in using their swords as the story of Peter in Gethsemane proves.

It is documented clearly in Torah literature that the reason why our holy Rabbis rejected Yeshu so completely was not because of any religious perversions he taught or any messianic illusions of grandeur that he held, rather he was rejected so out rightly because he was a man of incredible violence, anger and hatred.

Yeshu exemplified the worst of what a human being was supposed to be. Our holy Rabbis witnessing this in Yeshu's personality and behavior clearly saw within him the incarnate soul of the ancient enemy Kayin/Esau. For no Jew could or would ever act with such violence and enmity as did Yeshu. So regardless of his blood-line (which was not of Davidic descent, but apparently Jewish from his mother), Yeshu's soul and behavior revealed him to be Edom.

Yeshu's followers continued in their violent path ultimately provoking the Roman Civil War and leading to the destruction of Jerusalem and the death of over one million Jews. These facts are not very well known by most Rabbis. Indeed, only very few scholars are aware of the full history of these troubling times. Nonetheless, these scholars do write books with full documentation of all the historical material. Mind you, the majority of these scholars who write these books are Christian (Protestant). I recommend to my readers the works of a Lutheran scholar, S.G.F. Brandon, specifically his book, "Jesus and the Zealots" (Charles Scribner's Sons; First Edition edition (1967) ISBN: 0684310104.

The Church throughout history has indeed remained faithful to the true intent and message of their founder Yeshu. As Yeshu was a man of violence, so has the Church followed in his footsteps. There has not been a more violent body in the history of mankind responsible for more death and suffering than the Catholic Church. This statement is an absolute fact, and can be substantiated with thousands of records of documentation. I do not believe that even the Church would deny its own bloody historical record. Any insight into the nature of Armilus must be understood within the context of where he has come from and who indeed he has been in the past.

According to ancient Midrashic sources, there is said to be a secret meeting place under the city of Rome. In this place is said to be a life size statue of a beautiful young woman. It is said that "priests" come and spill their seed into this statue. The statue is said to become impregnated with this seed and to bring forth a child. This child is Armilus.



Now, whether this story is metaphor or if there really is such a statue or such a ritual spilling of seed is irrelevant. We must understand this story of the birth of Armilus within the context of what it is trying to teach us.

The city of the statue is obviously Rome; the association of a statue of a woman to this place is a not-to-subtle reference to the Madonna, the so-called virgin Mother Mary. The child who comes forth from the statue sired by the priests, who in this case would be interpreted as Catholic, would be none other than Yeshu himself. What the ancient prophecy is apparently telling us is the true secret identity of Armilus. Armilus is none other than Yeshu himself reincarnated.

Judging from this Midrash, the Christians will have their long awaited second coming, only their Christ and anti-Christ will actually be one and the same person. Now here is the greatest stroke of historical irony, Yeshu the Christian messiah will reincarnate to lead a modern day religious/secular new European empire under the banner of what will become a re-organized Church. Yeshu / Esau will sit upon his throne and as in the past lust to usurp the position of his brother Jacob.

Thus, Armilus will attack Israel and Jerusalem. The Mashiah of Israel (Ben Yosef) will rise up to face him. A great battle (Gog & Magog / Armageddon, Part 1) will occur. Ben Yosef is destined to fall and Armilus is destined to wreck havoc on all those Jews who did not accept him as their messiah. Much is to happen during this period of great travail. Yet, in the end, Armilus will meet his fate at the hands of the true Mashiah HaShem (Ben David).

The details of the various messianic scenarios are enough to fill multiple volumes and is far beyond the scope of this present essay. Interested readers should consult the book, "When Moshiach Comes: Halachic & Aggadic Perspectives" by Rabbi Yehuda Chayoun (Targum Press 1994) ISBN: 1568710658.

Messianic prophecies and scenarios are at best unclear things. No one knows precise details or times or exactly what is to happen and how. Indeed, everything discussed above about the nature and identity of Armilus is only based upon a perusal and understanding of the available material. As to what will materialize and times marches by, one's guess is as good as another's.

I believe that it is important at this time to bring to the public forum knowledge and insight into the legend of Armilus simply because of the alarming rate of growth of anti-Semitism spreading rampant across Europe these days. If this modern day epidemic of hatred is not checked and soon, it could be that modern Europe will create for itself the place to be ripe for the fulfillment of the Armilus prophecies, with all the devastation and destruction that they foretell for both Jew and Gentile.

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It is my purpose and hope that by bringing to the public this material; it might become a point of warning and realization that we do not have to choose the old paths of violence. There is another way, for those who wish to embrace sincere peace and tolerance; and who are willing to investigate the truth of things, starting with the Christian and Jewish reference works mentioned in this essay. Both books referenced above are presently listed on Amazon.com and can be ordered with relative ease.

Indeed, this embrace of has already begun jointly by many Jews and sincere Christians alike. Let us pray that many more may come and join the common cause.