



Artist/ Band: At War With Self
 Title: Acts Of God
 Label: Sluggo's Goon Music
 Year of Release: 2007
[Artist/ Band Link](#) (click for details/ ordering)



The Review:

In 2005, Glenn Snelwar started a project called At War With Self with Fates Warning drummer Mark Zonder and bassist Michael Manring. The result of this power trio was the album "Torn Between Dimensions" which was released on the Laser's Edge Free Electric Sound label.

Unfortunately the 'trio' didn't carry on but the name did and Glenn Snelwar proceeded with a new line-up for Acts of God. Joining Glenn is long time friend Damon Trotta. Damon appears on almost every track, and plays bass guitar, synths, didgeridoo and also sings on a couple tracks. You can say this version of the band is a "Duo Plus" The rest of the musicians include a vocalist called Mark Sunshine, Steve Decker & Manfred Dikkers on drums, James VonBuelow on guitars and David Archer on synths.



The music to me is not better than the debut, it's more expansive especially with the addition of a vocalist. I also think Glenn's musical visions are set loose on this CD more so than the debut. Plus there seems to be more musical dynamics going on. For instance the first track, 'Intro', which starts off with a soothing acoustic guitars then builds to something quite intense. . The music has a very dark atmospheric, almost gothic vibe to it. It reminds me of two bands, OSI and Paatos (instrumentation) but has an identity that I haven't heard before. Another thing I heard was a slight Peter Gabriel resemblance in a song called 'End In Blue'. Dare I say it could be a darker side of

Peter's world music endeavors.

This is a very dark, disturbing CD and I like it. The reason I like it is it's a metal album that thinks way way outside of the box. With titles like '911' and 'Choke Loud' you'll understand this is not a happy album but it's not an angry one either.

I think fans of the debut will like this especially if they enjoy Glenn's creativity and see he can do a great album without Mark Zonder & Michael Manring. I know those names carry a lot of weight in the progressive realm so some may approach this with caution. To those, I'd say throw away your inhibitions, take a chance on "Acts of God". Yes it's a challenging listen and may take a few times for it to gel but once it does you'll go WOW.

In closing, I do like the direction Glenn is going with At War With Self and I hope there's many more albums under his belt. At War With Self is a very important band to the new progressive regime and you owe it to yourself to pick up a copy of "Acts of God" today!

Reviewed by Ron Fuchs on May 17th, 2007

Tracks:

1. Acts of God
2. 911
3. Threads
4. Ursa Minor
5. End in Blue
6. Martyr
7. No Place
8. Choke Loud
9. Refugee

Reviewed Discography

Here are other reviews by this artist at ProgNaut.com.

- ["Torn Between Dimensions"](#) 2005
- ["Acts of God"](#) 2007



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