

RECORD



REVIEW



ACHERON - THE FINAL CONFLICT: LAST DAYS OF GOD



Hailing from Columbus, Ohio, Acheron is not a band that is inexperienced when it comes to death metal. Members, both previous and current, have been involved with bands ranging from Incantation to Death. *The Final Conflict* is their seventh album since forming in 1988, and comes after a 6 year hiatus. Considering the quality of previous Acheron albums, as well as the undeniable skill of the musicians, can *The Final Conflict* possibly live up to expectations? In short, yes.

As is well documented, Acheron is an antitheistic band, and the new album is no exception. *The Final Conflict* is a concept album revolving around the utter destruction of the world's three major religions. It is undoubtedly an epic idea, and adds to the grand and ambitious nature of the album. However, the rhyming of the lyrics occasionally sounds forced, mostly in small sections of 'I Am Heathen.' Still, this is one of the few weak points, and certainly does not detract from the overall impact and force of the theme.

None of this would matter if the music was awful, and that is far from the case. The album begins with an air raid siren, and essentially doesn't stop for 50 minutes. *The Final Conflict* is unabashedly good, old fashioned death metal. Acheron doesn't reinvent the wheel, but

they are superb musicians and skillfully arrange the compositions. The riffs are headbangable, the drumming is interesting without resorting to unnecessary fills, and Vincent's vocals are forceful, raw, and, best of all completely comprehensible.

After kicking your teeth out with the ferocious opener 'The Apocalypse,' Acheron takes the listener on a tour of fist-pumping choruses, blazing solos, and evil, sinister riffs. 'Godless (We are Gods!)' features a tremendously heavy and technical bridge with several epic, sweeping solos. The frantic pace continues through 'Power and Might,' another highlight containing a fantastic growl-a-long chorus, which one can easily imagine becoming a crowd favorite. If you aren't at least bobbing your head by the intro of 'A New Age,' you shouldn't be listening to death metal.

The Final Conflict is definitely a death metal highlight of 2009. While it doesn't bring anything new to the table, it takes an old concept and does it extremely well. The album is simply a blast to listen to. **8.5/10**

- Adam