

Judas Priest – Angel Of Retrubution (2005)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Judas Rising* 2. *Deal With The Devil* 3. *Revolution* 4. *Worth Fighting For* 5. *Demonizer*
6. *Wheels Of Fire* 7. *Angel* 8. *Hellrider* 9. *Eulogy* 10. *Loch Ness* Bass Guitar – Ian Hill
Drums – Scott Travis Guitar – Glenn Tipton, K. K. Downing Producer – Judas Priest, Roy Z
Vocals – Rob Halford

Described by the newly reunited band as "the second (and final) part of 1976's pseudo-conceptual Sad Wings of Destiny," 2005's *Angel of Retribution* is a halfhearted attempt at recapturing the band's pre-Turbo heydays. The only thing that these two records have in common, though, is the winged avatar that graces their respective covers -- *Retribution*'s angel is adorned with gun metal instead of flesh. Judas Priest's 16th studio album will be a frustrating one for fans, as the leadoff track, "Judas Rising," promises great things -- the swirling guitar intro that slowly reveals a mammoth, multi-tracked Rob Halford scream is positively goosebump-inducing -- but what follows is textbook heavy metal played with precision by a group that doesn't have the slightest interest in challenging anybody, least of all itself. Priest have never been poets, but their lyrics were always far removed from the Dungeons & Dragons musings of similar artists like Dio or Manowar, so when these New Wave of British Heavy Metal pioneers offer up a 12-minute epic about the Loch Ness monster ("Lochness"), complete with the chorus "Lochness protects monstrosity/Lochness confess to me," it all feels a little too Spinal Tap. This is a shame because Halford is still a force of nature and Glenn Tipton and K.K. Downing are still the most underrated dual-guitar attack in the genre. These are not "bad" songs, however, especially for a band in its 28th year, so never mind that "Revolution" is essentially a rewrite of Jane's Addiction's "Mountain Song" or that "Eulogy," a ballad that makes references to numerous songs from the group's past, ends up sounding like it's directed at the band itself rather than the listener. *Angel of Retribution* does indeed rock just hard enough to please longtime fans and convert a few new ones along the way. "Here they come, these Gods of steel/Megatron/devouring what's concealed." ---James Christopher Monger, AllMusic Review

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