

The King Is Coming - 5

Who is the Antichrist?

Introduction: In the last lesson, we took a look at what the Lord Jesus Christ called the Great Tribulation. (**Matthew 24:21-22**) In that lesson, we answered the question, “What will happen during the Great Tribulation?”

The nation of Israel **will** call upon the name of the Lord.

The Word of God also tells us that the Tribulation is a time when God pours out His judgment upon this earth.

In the end, the Lord Jesus Christ will come again. He will defeat the enemy at the battle of Armageddon, and He will rule and reign for 1000 years.

To give you a brief overview of these events (this list was taken from *Till He Come* by Dwight Pentecost concerning “the Day of the Lord”), notice the list below:

1. A Federation of States (A kingdom) **Daniel 2 and 7** will rise. (**Daniel 2:42-43**. See also **Daniel 7**.)

The dream as Daniel interprets it, represents a succession of kingdoms. In **verses 42 and 43**, the Bible describes two kingdoms which have yet to exist.

Notice what the Word of God says,

“⁴² And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. ⁴³ And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.”

Verse 44 of chapter 2 then describes the kingdom the God of heaven sets up.

Daniel 2:44 *“44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”*

2. The rise of a political ruler (the Antichrist) will rule this empire and make a covenant with Israel. (**Daniel 9:27; Revelation 13:1-10**)

Daniel 9:27 *“27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”*

3. The formation of a false religious system under the false prophet. (**Revelation 13:11-18**)

Revelation 13:15 *“And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that **as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.**”*

4. The pouring out of God’s judgment under the seals. (**Revelation 6**)

5. The separation of 144,000 witnesses. (**Revelation 7**).

Revelation 7:3-4 *“3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. 4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and **there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.**”*

6. The trumpet judgments. (**Revelation 8-11**)

7. The rise of God’s witnesses. (**Revelation 11**)

8. The persecution of Israel. (**Revelation 12**)

9. The pouring out of the bowl judgments. (**Revelation 16**)

10. The overthrow of the false professing “church.” (**Revelation 17-18**)

Dr. Chappell had this to say concerning the false “church” in the chapter entitled “The False Church or the True Savior?”

“The worldwide following of this false church will be drawn by her compromise. She will be willing to ride the government, aligning herself with the ten main political powers then in place...As a side note, the currency of the European Union, the euro, holds a unique prophetic intrigue in one of its coins. The 2-euro coin that is minted in Greece has a symbol of a woman riding a beast. While the symbol on the coin does not carry the weight of prophecy, it does illustrate this prophetic truth.

11. The events and campaign of Armageddon (**Ezekiel 38-39; Revelation 16:16; 19:17-21**) will include the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This leads us to this question, “Who is the Antichrist?” Let us look at two different verses as we consider this subject:

II Thessalonians 2:3-4 *“3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and **that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition**; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”*

I John 2:18 *“Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that **antichrist shall come**, even now are there **many antichrists**; whereby we know that it is the last time.”*

“The word *Anti* means against. There is coming one who is against Christ.” “The Antichrist will be a man of great power and authority and will be the personal agent of Satan himself. The Antichrist will be revealed in all his wonder-working power after the rapture of the saints...” (Dr. Lee Roberson)

Daniel 8:23-25 *“And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.”*

His Names

The Beast (**Daniel 7:11, Revelation 13:1**)

Man of Sin (**II Thessalonians 2:3**)

Son of Perdition (**II Thessalonians 2:3**)

That Wicked (**II Thessalonians 2:8**)

Antichrist (**I John 2:18**)

Little horn (**Daniel 7:8**)

Abomination of desolation (**Matthew 24:15**)

He is also referred to as:

“...the prince that shall come...” **Daniel 9:26** *“26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of **the prince that shall come** shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.”*

Daniel 11:36 says this man will do “...according to his will...” Of course, we would understand after the will of Satan.

Daniel 11:36 *“36 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself **above every god**, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.”*

He is certainly a Beast that will rise from the populaces of this world according to **Revelation 13**. So, what will this ruler be like? Will the people enjoy his reign?

His Character And His Work

“It is evident from the Scriptures that he will possess [great] power. For a picture of this, we have only to think of the power of demon-possessed men of history, such as Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander, Caesar, Napoleon, Nero, Rasputin, and the power of recent dictators, Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin.” (Dr. Lee Roberson) Think about what will happen with a man driven by Satan and the absence of God’s people.

He will abolish personal liberty.

He will do away with freedom of speech.

He will do away with the right to assemble.

He will reject the authority of God.

He will persecute the Jews.

He will make war and overcome the saints.

According to the Bible, this man will tread all religion beneath his feet, proclaiming Himself to be God.

The Bible says in **II Thessalonians 2:4**, “*4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*”

Though this man will truly be a deceiver and propose peace... He will be a man of war. **Revelation 13:7** “*7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*”

During the tribulation, the Antichrist will be the popular man in power. The Bible tells us in **Revelation 13:8**, “*8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*”

Those who reject the Lord Jesus Christ will worship this Man of Perdition. Let us read for a minute **Revelation Chapter 13** together. Notice with me a few items concerning this beast:

1. The Dragon (Satan) will give the Antichrist his power, his seat, and great authority. **v1-2**
2. This Beast will be worshipped, and consequently, people will worship the dragon. **vs. 3**
3. This Beast will have an unusual ability to speak great swelling words and will speak blasphemies. **vs. 5**
4. This Beast will be untouchable during the tribulation period. **vs. 3,5**
5. This Beast will speak specifically against God and all who are His. **vs. 6**
6. This Beast will make war against all the Saints and overcome them. **vs. 7**

7. This Beast will rule over all. **vs. 7**

8. This Beast will be worshipped by all who are not saved. **vs. 8**

The Dragon that is mentioned in **verses 2,4** is none other than Satan Himself.

“All of the sin and sorrow we see today is because of him.” (Dr. Lee Robertson)

I want us to be reminded of several statements listed in the book *The King Is Coming*:

The Devil is God’s enemy.

The Devil is every Christian’s enemy.

(And all of mankind, whether they realize it or not.)

The Devil is the enemy of all righteousness.

The Devil is the author of sin, suffering, and death.

Though Satan does have great power and will during this period of time seem “to have his day,” the Word of God tells us that the Christian has victory over the Devil because of Christ.

James 4:7 *“7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

John, in his epistles, tells us that there are many Antichrists already among us. And we understand that the spirit of the Antichrist is already at work. In light of all of this, let us do exactly what the Bible tells us and submit ourselves to God. I would like to close with a few words from **Dr. Lee Robertson**:

“John says there are many antichrists, and all of these are pointing to the Antichrist who is coming.” “You are either serving Christ or Satan. You are either on the road to heaven or hell. If you have never accepted Christ, I pray that you might see that your life even now is counting on the side of the Evil One who opposes our Christ and who is known as the Man of Sin, a vile person, the son of perdition. This is the time to put yourself on the side of Christ.”