

Revelation
A Wednesday Night Bible Study

Lesson #28

2/7/2007

The Judgment of God, The Great Tribulation, The Great Day of God's Wrath

Chapter Thirteen

The Anti-Christ

In Chapter Twelve, of the **Seven Key Personalities** we are to meet, five of them have been presented to us: (1) **The Woman, Israel**; (2) **The Red Dragon, Satan**; (3) **The Child of the Woman, Christ**; (4) **Michael, the Archangel**; (5) **The Remnant of Israel, the 144,000 witnesses who had been sealed by God for His purpose and protection.**

**THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH KEY PERSONALITIES,
— THE TWO “BEASTS”**

Now, in Chapter Thirteen, we will meet **the other two Key Personalities to complete the Seven Key Personalities.** Both of these are called **“beasts”** by our Lord because they are truly **“beasts”** in their characters and nature. In the original language they are called **“wild beasts,”** because that's what they are.

There are different views among Bible scholars as to the identity of these two. Some see the first **“beast”** as a person while others see him as the final form of the Roman Empire. Dr. J. Vernon McGee points out that the throne of the **“beast”** is mentioned in 16:10 and that there could not be a throne unless there was a kingdom, so both views may be actually the same and that the **“beast”** and his kingdom are inseparable.

Some see the second **“beast”** as **“the man of sin,”** while others see him as a prophet for the first **“beast,”** kind of like John-the-Baptist was to Jesus. Others see the first **“beast”** as the Anti-Christ and the second as just a supporting figure.

We need to pause for a moment to discuss the meaning of the expression **“Anti-Christ.”** The prefix *anti* can mean either *against* or *in the place of*.

It is used both ways in the Scripture. In the little book of First John, the writer, John, uses **“Anti-Christ”** in the sense of against in several places. In 2:18 he writes **“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.”** In 2:22 he wrote **“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.”** We also should look at one other reference in the same book, 4:1 and 3 where John wrote: **“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world, And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”**

In each of these it is obvious that John was using **“Anti-Christ”** in the sense of being *against* Christ. In spite of the fact that John is the only New Testament writer to use **“Anti-Christ”** with this meaning some have erroneously applied this meaning to all of the places it is used.

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THE COMPOSITE ANTI-CHRIST

The **first “beast”** and the **second “beast”** are both **“Anti-Christ”** and together **form a type of composite Anti-Christ**. Neither would be much without the other since they are so tightly bound together. We shall see in 13:1 a **“beast coming up out of the sea”** and will come to understand that he is the **political “Anti-Christ.”** Then in verse eleven another **“beast coming up out of the earth.”** We will come to see this “beast” as the **religious “Anti-Christ”** or false prophet.

Take note of what is happening. Satan was presented and described in Chapter Twelve. In Chapter Thirteen, the two **“beasts,”** persons who allow Satan to fill, empower and use, will join Satan in forming a type of trinity. Seemingly, it is an intentional effort by Satan to replicate the divine Trinity of God The Father, God The Son, and God The Holy Spirit and has sometimes been called **“The Unholy Trinity.”**

Before we examine what God has told us about **“Anti-Christ”** in Chapter Thirteen it would be helpful for us to seek out and analyze what God said elsewhere in the Scriptures prior to the Book of Revelation about **“Anti-Christ.”**

In Isaiah 11:4 he was the **“wicked one”** that the Lord would slay with **“the breath of his lips.”** In Daniel he was **“the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them”** (7:21), and **“the little horn”** (8:9), and a **“king of fierce countenance ... who magnifies himself”** (8:23,25), and **“the prince who shall come”** (9:26).

In 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 Paul identified him as **“that man of sin, the son of perdition 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, showing himself that he is God.”**

In the book of Revelation we first saw **“Anti-Christ”** as **the rider on the “white horse”** offering a false peace to mankind (6:2). There his appearance was so deceiving that even today many good Bible students mistake him for the Messiah. The use of deception is very important to Satan and **“Anti-Christ.”** Jesus warned believers about this in Matthew 24:24 and then Paul referred to it in both 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 and 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10. Without the use of deception, neither Satan nor **“Anti-Christ”** could succeed.

From what we have seen in the references already given, we know that God had been giving information about **“Anti-Christ”** for many years in a number of places in His Word. Analyzing some of these statements will assist us in understanding what we will study in Chapter Thirteen.

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1. Characteristics of Anti-Christ

Daniel 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them **another little horn**, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, **in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.**

Daniel 7:20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; **even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.**

Daniel 7:21 I beheld, and **the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;**

Daniel 7:25 And **he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.**

2. Characteristics of Anti-Christ exhibited by type of Anti-Christ Antiochus Epiphanes (175 - 164 BC)

Daniel 8:23 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.**

Daniel 8:24 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.**

Daniel 8:25 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.

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3. Characteristics of Anti-Christ related to covenant with Israel

Daniel 9:26 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 9:27 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.

4. Personal characteristics and actions of Anti-Christ

Daniel 11:21 And **in his estate shall stand up a vile person,** to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: **but he shall come in peaceably,** **and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.**

Daniel 11:36 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.**

Daniel 11:37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, **nor the desire of women,** nor regard any god: **for he shall magnify himself** above all.

Daniel 11:38 But **in his estate shall he honour the God of forces:** and a **god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour** with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.

Daniel 11:39 **Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god,** whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.

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5. Anti-Christ's military might in defense of Israel

Daniel 11:40 And **at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him** like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.

Daniel 11:41 **He shall enter also into the glorious land**, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.

Daniel 11:42 He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

Daniel 11:43 But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.

Daniel 11:44 But **tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him:** therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.

Daniel 11:45 And **he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace** between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; **yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.**

6. Jesus' reference to Anti-Christ

Matthew 24:15 When ye therefore shall see **the abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

7. Paul's reference to Anti-Christ

2 Thessalonians 2:3 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;**

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2 Thessalonians 2:4 **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.**

2 Thessalonians 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

2 Thessalonians 2:6 And **now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.**

2 Thessalonians 2:7 For **the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let,** until he be taken out of the way.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And **then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:**

2 Thessalonians 2:9 **Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan** with all power and signs and lying wonders,

2 Thessalonians 2:10 And **with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because** they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2 Thessalonians 2:11 And **for this cause God shall send them strong delusion,** that they should believe a lie:

2 Thessalonians 2:12 **That they all might be damned** who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.