

DOCTRINE OF THE ANTICHRIST

1. Definition:
 - a. The term, “*the Antichrist*,” is found only four times in the Bible. (1 Jn. 2:18, 22; 1 Jn. 4:3; 2 Jn. 7)
 - b. He is the leader of the **western kingdom** which gathers all the nations of the world together to come against Israel and “*the saints of the Highest One*,” (Dan. 7:21-23; 9:26, 27; 11:36; Zech. 14:2) during a **future time** known as the “*Great Tribulation*” (Matt. 24:21-24; Rev. 2:22; 7:14) in a war known as the “Battle of Armageddon”. (Dan. 7:21; Rev. 13:7; 16:16; 19:19)

2. Vocabulary:
 - a. ἀντίχριστος - antichristos (Greek noun) - antichrist, one in opposition to Christ, The Antichrist (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7; (plural – 1 John 2:18)
 - b. θηρίον - therion (Gk. n.) - beast, animal like beings (Rev. 11:7; 13:1ff; 20:4, 10)
 - c. כְּיָוָה - cheyva’ (emphatic form – כְּיָוֶתְהָא - cheyvetha’) (Aramaic noun) - an animal, a beast (Daniel 4:12; 7:3, 7, 11, 12, 17)

3. He is identified by eleven distinctive titles:
 - a. The Antichrist (1 Jn. 2:18, 22; 4:3)
 - b. The Beast out of the Sea (Rev. 13:1; Dan. 7:3, 7)
 - c. The Beast out of the abyss (Rev. 11:7; 17:8)
 - d. The Little Horn (Dan. 7:8, 20, 21)
 - e. The Prince who is to come (Dan. 9:26)
 - f. The Abomination of Desolation (Dan. 9:27; cf. Dan. 11:31; 12:11; Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14)
 - g. The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:3)
 - h. The Man of Destruction (2 Thess. 2:3)
 - i. The King of the West (Dan. 8:5; cf. Dan. 11:40-45)
 - j. The King of Fierce Countenance (Dan. 8:23)
 - k. The Willful King (Dan. 11:36)

4. His origin (Rev. 17:8-11):
 - a. He is possibly a **resuscitated unbeliever** from the “abyss” (Sheol/Hades).
NOTE: The Greek word ἄβυσσος - abussos - the abode of the dead, (Rom. 10:7); the abode of the demons (Lk. 8:31 cf. Jude 6; Eph. 4:8-10)
 - (1.) “*...the beast that comes up out of the abyss...*” (Rev 11:7).
 - (2.) “*The beast ...is about to come up out of the abyss and to go to destruction.*” (Rev. 17:8)
 - b. He is possibly a **king of the pre-Roman past** or one resembling such a ruler.
 - (1.) In Rev. 17:8 “*The beast that you saw...*” (cf. Rev. 13:1 with Rev. 17:8, Where the angel tells John the mystery of the beast with seven heads and ten horns).

- (a.) “...was...” (imperfect tense of the Greek verb. εἰμί - eimi - ‘kept on being,’ that is, ruling in the past)
 - (b.) “...and is not...” (pre-Roman)
 - (c.) “...and is about to come up out of the abyss..., when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.” (future tense, middle, indicative of the Greek verb ἔρχομαι - erchomai - ‘will come, will appear, or will come before the public’, that is, ruling in the future)
- (2.) In Rev. 17:9, 10: “*The seven heads...are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.*”
 - (3.) In Rev. 17:11: “*And the beast which was and is not...is (one) of the seven, And he goes to destruction.*”
- c. He pre-dates John’s day, is a king among the seven, comes up from the abyss, and has a political future with the “*ten horns*” (Dan. 7:7; with Dan. 7:20, “*ten kings*” Dan. 7:24; also Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).
5. His identity (Rev. 17:7) “*mystery of ...the beast*”
- a. He is associated with the **seven heads** as a king.
 - b. These **seven kings**, often thought to be **seven Roman rulers** including and beginning with Octavian (Augustus) Caesar and possibly including the leader of the future Revived Roman Empire, may just as likely be the **seven empires** that dominated Israel: 1. Egypt, 2. Assyria, 3. Babylon, 4. Medo-Persia, 5. Greece, 6. Rome, and 7. The Revived Roman Empire, aka - the European Union (E.U.).
 - c. Following the later scenario, Antichrist must have been associated with one of the first five empires since he pre-dated John’s own time, the Roman Empire. (Rev. 17:8, “...was and is not...” and Rev. 17:10, “...they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, (Rome), the other has not yet come;...”
 - d. The most famous and best qualified king of the ancient world and of these five is **Alexander the Great**, possibly, **head number five**:
 - (1.) The Pharaoh of Egypt in Exodus does not qualify because of his race.
 - (2.) The Assyrian monarchs are not generally well-known and again racially would not qualify.
 - (3.) The most famous Babylonian and Medo-Persian kings were believers.
6. Alexander the Great, resuscitated from the dead, could he be the Antichrist?
- a. He is one of the **most famous** kings of the ancient world, and the one most often written about.
 - b. His **military feats** were unmatched, and he became a prototype to subsequent leaders.
 - c. He was **racially a European**.
 - d. He is well known and **could easily prove his identity** to the scholarly world.

- e. His rise and fall was an early **subject of Old Testament prophecy**. (Dan. 8:5ff)
 - f. He was a strong **internationalist**.
 - g. He suffered a **fatal wound** cutting short his life at age 32. (Rev. 13:3, 12, 14)
 - h. He believed himself to be the son of Zeus and was **convinced of his divine birth**. (Dan. 8:8), *“Then the male goat magnified himself exceedingly. But as soon as he was mighty, the large horn was broken.”*
 - i. His **reign was a short 13 years**. (336-323 BC)
 - j. His reappearance would **satisfy the Biblical data** in Rev. 13:1ff and Rev. 17:7-18.
 - k. One of his successors, a Greek by the name of **Antiochus Epiphanes IV**, is singled out by the Holy Spirit as **a type of the Antichrist**. (Dan. 8:23-26)
 - l. He also justifies the *“strong delusion”* designation of 2 Thess. 2:11.
 - m. Other data paralleling Alexander and the Antichrist:
 - (1.) Both **claimed to be God**. (2 Thess. 2:4; Dan. 7:20, 25; 11:36)
 - (2.) Both enjoyed **military success**. (Dan. 7:21; 8:5-7; 9:26; Rev. 13:4)
 - (3.) Both are possibly **homosexuals**. (Dan. 11:37)
 - (4.) Both are **geniuses** capable of motivating people by **great oratory**. (Dan. 7:8, 11, 25; Rev. 13:5, 6)
 - (5.) Both die at the hand of the Lord. (Dan. 8:8; 9:27d; 2 Thess. 2:8; Rev. 19:15, 20)
7. The time of his reappearance:
- a. He will reappear after the rapture of the church. (2 Thess. 2:3-8; see vs #7b, 8a), *“...what (the Church) restrains him now”* and *“He (the Holy Spirit) who now restrains will do so until He (the Holy Spirit) is taken out of the way, and then the lawless one will be revealed...”* (2 Thess. 2:6, 7)
 - b. He will be on the earth for **the entire seven years** of the *“tribulation.”* (2 Thess. 2:7, 8; Rev. 13:5; Rev. 17:12)
8. His relationship to the “ten horns” or “toes” (Dan. 7:7; 2:42, 43):
- a. The **ten horns** with **ten diadems** are **ten kings** (ten nations, or more probably, ten regions) representing those nations which have come out of the old Roman Empire during the *“fig tree”* generation. (Rev. 17:12; with Matt. 24:32-34)
 - b. The *“...ten kings, who have not received a kingdom,... receive authority as kings with (μετὰ - meta – Gk. prep. - together with) the beast for one hour .”* (Rev. 17:12)
 - c. Politically, economically, militarily, and religiously he uses them as his political base to conquer the world. (Rev. 13:7; Rev. 17:13-18)
 - d. The **ten kings**, under the control of **the beast**, Antichrist, and with divine direction, attack and destroy any vestige of ecumenical religion that still remains, possibly European Catholicism. (Rev. 17:16)
 - e. **Three of the kings revolt**, but the beast defeats them, leaving seven. (Dan. 7:8, 20)
 - f. This is **another possible explanation** for the phrase in Rev. 17:11, *“And the beast...is himself also an eight,...”*

- g. He leads the forces of Europe into Armageddon as the **King of the west**. (Dan. 11:40-45; with Dan. 8:5)
9. His relationship to Israel:
- He begins his campaign as pro-Semitic. (Dan. 9:27a)
 - He signs a **seven year peace treaty** with Israel guaranteeing military protection from her enemies. (Dan. 9:27a; Isa. 28:14-22)
 - He **murders** the **“two witnesses”** at the midpoint of the seven year tribulation. (Rev. 11:3, 7)
 - He begins persecuting and pursuing Israel and believing Jews into their hiding places, but he is thwarted. (Rev. 12:13-16)
 - He apparently cannot touch the 144,000 **sealed** Jewish evangelists, who preach the gospel of the kingdom during the **entire seven years** of the tribulation. (Rev. 7:3-8; 14:1-5)
 - Near the end of the tribulation, under the pretense of delivering Israel from invading armies, he lays siege to Jerusalem and attempts to destroy believing Jews in Jerusalem. (Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:25; Zech. 14:2; Rev. 11:7; 13:7; 12:17)
10. His relationship to the “false prophet” (Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10):
- He will employ this **Hebrew unbeliever**, possibly from the tribe of Dan (Gen. 49:16, 17; cf. Judges 18:30; Deut. 33:22), also called the **“beast coming up out of the earth,”** to establish a new religion which worships him (Antichrist aka. the **“first beast”**). (Rev. 13:11, 12)
 - He gives authority to this **“false prophet”** (Rev. 13:10, 12; cf. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10), who performs great signs and **“false wonders”** (2 Thess. 2:9) and causes those who dwell on the earth to **make an image** of the **“first beast”** and to **worship his image** or be killed. (Rev. 13:13-15)
 - He wages a **genocide campaign** against believers who reject his number and worship. (Rev. 13:15-18)
11. His enemies (Daniel 11:40-45):
- King of the south (Egypt and the pan-Arabic nations)
 - King of the north (Russia)
 - King of the East (China and the orient)
 - Believing Jews and Gentile believers (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:7; 19:19)
 - The Lord (Zech. 14:1-5)
12. His demise:
- Principle: As you sow, so you shall reap.** (Gal. 6:7; cf. Rev. 13:10)
 - It is part of the divine decrees, **“...one that is decreed...”** (Dan. 9:27; 11:36, 45)
 - It is by the Lord Jesus Christ personally at the **second advent**. (2 Thess. 2:8; Rev. 19:20)