

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 - 1John 2:18)
- b. θηρίον - therion (Gk. n.) - beast, animal like beings (Rev. 11:7; 13:1ff; 20:4, 10)
- c. ܚܝܘܘܬܐ - cheyva' (emphatic form – ܚܝܘܘܬܐ - 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 (Agustus) 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 **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), *“...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...”*
- 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 (μετ᾽ - meta - Greek 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:

- a. He begins his campaign as pro-Semitic. (Dan. 9:27a)
- b. He signs a **seven year peace treaty** with Israel guaranteeing military protection from her enemies. (Dan. 9:27a; Isa. 28:14-22)
- c. He **murders** the “*two witnesses*” at the midpoint of the seven year tribulation. (Rev. 11:3, 7)
- d. He begins persecuting and pursuing Israel and believing Jews into their hiding places, but he is thwarted. (Rev. 12:13-16)
- e. 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)
- f. 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):

- a. 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)
- b. 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)
- c. He wages a **genocide campaign** against believers who reject his number and worship. (Rev. 13:15-18)

11. His enemies (Daniel 11:40-45):

- a. King of the south (Egypt and the pan-Arabic nations)
- b. King of the north (Russia)
- c. King of the East (China and the orient)
- d. Believing Jews and Gentile believers (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:7; 19:19)
- e. The Lord (Zech. 14:1-5)

12. His demise:

- a. **Principle: As you sow, so you shall reap.** (Gal. 6:7; cf. Rev. 13:10)
- b. It is part of the divine decrees, “*...one that is decreed...*” (Dan. 9:27; 11:36, 45)
- c. It is by the Lord Jesus Christ personally at the **second advent**. (2 Thess. 2:8; Rev. 19:20)