

A Sneak Peek at the Antichrist

Rev 13

Introduction:

1. The term “Antichrist” appears 4x in the Bible ←
2. “Anti” means “against” or “instead of”
3. There are other titles for this man of sin...
 - a. “man of sin... son of perdition” – 2Thess 2:3
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;
 - b. “That wicked [-one]” – 2Thess 2:8
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:
 - c. “The lie” – 2Thess 2:11
11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:
 - d. “The little horn” – Dan 8:9, 13
 - e. “The beast” – Rev 13
4. Many in the early churches believed that Nero was the Antichrist and that he would die and rise again
5. In the 11th century, the Waldenses, Hussites and Wycliffites believed that the Roman Catholic Church was the Antichrist
6. In WWI, Kaiser Wilhelm was thought to be the Antichrist

I. Daniel's Amazing Prophecy – Dan 9:24-27

A. The Mathematics of the Prophecy – vs 24-26 ←

- Three periods are seen here
 1. 7 weeks of years
 - a) *This is the starting point of the prophecy*
 - b) *From the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem unto the Messiah*
 - c) *In 445 BC Artaxerxes gave Nehemiah permission to build the wall of the city – Neh 2*
 - d) *From the time of the decree to the end of the OT canon covers 49 years*
 2. 62 weeks of years – $62 \times 7 = 434$ yrs
 - a) *434 years after the end of the OT canon the Messiah would be cut off*
 - b) *Sir Robert Anderson has calculated the time to end when the Lord presented Himself to Israel at the time of the triumphal entry.*
 3. 1 week of years
 - a) *Here is the 7 yr period of the tribulation*
 - b) *The church age has come between the death of Christ and the Tribulation Period*

B. The Message of the Prophecy – vs 24

1. “To finish the transgression”
 - a) *This was a national transgression since the prophecy had to do with Daniel's people*
 - b) *“The transgression” is Israel's final rejection of the Messiah*
 - c) *When Jesus returns to earth the Jews will accept Him as Messiah and finish the transgression*
2. “To make an end of sins”
 - a) *When Messiah comes to earth to reign for 1000 yrs, He will restrain sin*
 - b) *Like a criminal is restrained when locked in prison*
 - c) *God will put a new spirit in His people and they will have faith in their Messiah and no longer reject Him*

3. "To make reconciliation for iniquity"
 - a) *When the Lord returns, Israel will accept Him and their sin will be atoned for or covered*
 - b) *Daniel confessed the sin of his people in 9:5*
4. "To bring in everlasting righteousness"
 - a) *When the Lord returns and established His kingdom, then there will be 1000 yrs of righteousness*
 - b) *Righteousness will not just be available to Israel but she will possess it through him*
5. "To seal up the vision and prophecy"
 - a) *When Israel accepts their Messiah and has been forgiven and cleansed from her sin all God's promises to Israel will have been fulfilled*
 - b) *Faith will give way to sight*
 - c) *God's promises to Israel will have become reality*
6. "To anoint the most holy"
 - a) *Is this the Holy One – a person?*
 - b) *Is this the holy of holies – a place?*

C. The Man of Sin in the Prophecy – vs 27

27 And he [the prince that shall come – vs 26] 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.

1. Antichrist appears at the commencement of the 70th week
2. The Jews will be in their land and the Beast will be promising them political and religious protection
 - a) *He will permit them to rebuild the temple*
 - b) *Offerings and sacrifices will be offered to God*
3. When all appears to be going well, then suddenly the man of sin will decree that all Jewish worship must cease
 - a) *This he will do in the "midst of the week"*
 - b) *This is when the "Great Tribulation" starts*
 - c) *This will be a time of unprecedented anti-Semitism*

II. The Wonder of the Beast – vs 1-2

A. He Will Rise Out of the Sea

1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea...

1. Rev 17:15 says that the waters are people
15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.
2. Remember that terrible things will be taking place
 - a) *World violence*
 - b) *Terrorist activities*
 - c) *Conflict*
 - d) *Wars and rumors of wars*
3. Natural catastrophes will abound
 - a) *Famines Earthquakes Diseases Pestilence*
4. People will be clamoring for a leader to offer them hope and help them
 - a) *People will be convinced that global terrorism and international conflict cannot be controlled by the US alone*
 - b) *The world problems will require that nations join together to solve the problems*

B. He Will Be An Actual Individual – vs 18

18 ... for it is the number of a man ...

1. The Antichrist is a man, not an institution or religious system
 - a) *Some say that Antichrist is the RCC*
 - b) *Some say that Antichrist is EEC*
2. An institution or system couldn't sit in the temple
2Th 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.
3. Pronouns “he” and “him” are used in reference to the Antichrist
4. He is eventually cast into the lake of fire and you don't cast a system into the lake of fire

C. Will He Be A Jew? A Homosexual? – Dan 11:37

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.

1. Jesus predicted his coming – Jn 5:43
43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.
2. Will he be a Jew and reject that worship? – vs 37
 - a) *Perhaps he will be an atheist and reject all religions*
 - b) *He will reject Judaism particularly and especially the hope that the Messiah will return and deliver Israel*
 - c) *Except the one he sets up when he declares he is God*
3. “nor the desire of women”
 - a) *Will he be a homosexual? – vs 37*
 - b) *This might refer to Hag 2:7 where “desire of women” is a title of the Messiah. All the women of Israel wanted to give birth to the promised Messiah*
 - c) *The fact that he has no regard for the one desired by women suggests that he repudiates the Messianic hope*

D. He Will Receive Power from the Dragon – Rev 13:1

1. The Antichrist will have power
 - a) *The heads speak of wisdom*
 - b) *The horns speak of confederated power – Here are the ten nations that He will lead (EEC)*
 - c) *The crowns speak of ruling authority*
2. The Antichrist will have enormous ability
 - a) *He will have unusual genius*
 - b) *He will be able to think, plan, act and respond quicker and more efficiently than anyone before him*
 - c) *Imagine a leader who has the best qualities of all the great leaders of the past*
 - (1) The strength of Caesar
 - (2) The military genius of Alexander the Great
 - (3) The mesmerizing oratory of Hitler
 - (4) The warmth of Ronald Reagan

- (5) The ruthless determination of Genghis Khan
3. No one will be able to withstand him
 - a) *He will have the swiftness of the leopard*
 - b) *He will possess the overpowering tyranny of the bear*
 - c) *His will be the ferocity of the lion*

III. The Wound of the Beast – vs 3

A. He Was Mortally Wounded – vs 3, 12, 14

1. Remember that the Antichrist is a counterfeit Christ
 - a) *Jesus was the Lamb and the Antichrist is the beast*
 - b) *Christ is the truth – Antichrist is the lie*
 - c) *Christ rose from obscurity to power and the Antichrist rises from obscurity to power*
 - d) *Christ returns on a white horse and Antichrist comes on a white horse*
 - e) *Christ is the 2nd member of the trinity and Antichrist is the 2nd member of the unholy trinity*
2. 3x we are told that the beast was wounded and died and the beast was restored to life
 - a) *As Christ was killed and rose again, the Antichrist counterfeits this miracle*
 - b) *Some see here the Roman Empire which died many years ago and is brought back to life in the end times*
3. Perhaps this is an assassination attempt

B. Some Say This is the Political Death of the Roman Empire

C. The Power of the Antichrist

1. He will possess more power than any other human being
2. He receives his power from the devil – 2Thess 2:9

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 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.

IV. The Wondering After the Beast – vs 3

3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

- The world, which has been denying the resurrection of Christ for centuries will readily accept the Antichrist and believe that he rose from the dead
- Having denied the Truth, they will go after the one who is “the lie”

A. The Genius of the Antichrist

1. Intellectual Genius – Dan 8:23

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.

2. Oratorical Genius – Dan 11:21

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.

3. Governmental Genius – Dan 7, 8

a) *He rises from obscurity to power*

b) *All kings will give their power to him*

4. Commercial Genius – Rev 13:17

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

5. Military Genius – Rev 6:2

2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

6. Religious Genius – 2Thess 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.

7. Financial Genius – Dan 11:43

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.

B. The Activities of the Beast

1. He will sit in the temple pretending to be God

2Th 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.

1. *He will sit in the temple declaring that he is God*

a) *This is the abomination of desolation – Matt 24:15*

b) *Satan has always wanted to be worshipped as God ever since he rebelled as Lucifer and tried to capture God's throne*

2. He will cause industry to prosper – Dan 8:24-25

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. **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.

3. At first he will support and receive the patronage of the RCC – Rev 17:2-6

4. He and his ten kings will then turn against the “Mother of Harlots” and destroy her – Rev 17:16-17

16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

5. He will persecute the Jews – Rev 11:7; 13:7
7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.
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.
6. He will lead his army against Jerusalem
Re 16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.
Re 19:21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which *sword* proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

V. The Worship of the Beast – vs 4, 12, 15

A. The Beast Accepts Worship – vs 4

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, *Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

B. The False Prophet Points People to the Antichrist

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

1. The false prophet points people toward the Antichrist
2. Like the Holy Spirit points people toward Jesus

VI. The Warfare of the Beast – vs 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.

A. Antichrist will Make War with the Saints

1. There will be believers in the Trib Period
2. They will not worship the Antichrist

B. Makes a Covenant with the Jews, but Breaks It in the Middle of the Trib Period

VII. The Mark of the Beast – vs 16-18

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: **17** And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. **18** Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* Six hundred threescore *and* six.

1. The Antichrist will create a one-world economy which he will control
2. One will have to have the mark of the beast in order to buy and sell
3. A person will have to pledge his loyalty to and worship the Antichrist
4. Perhaps the mark of the beast will be a smart chip inserted under the skin of one's hand or forehead
 - a) *Unlike a credit card, there would be no need to prove one's identity*
 - b) *Unlike a credit card, the chip could not be lost or stolen*
5. Grocery store scanners could be modified to scan the chip
6. The chip would serve as a world ID card
7. 666 is the number of his name, but it does not mean that his name will have 666 letters
 - a) *The speculation and guesses are many*
 - b) *Everyone tries to make their own arch-enemy the antichrist*
 - c) *The less that Scripture has to say on any given topic the more theories you'll find on that subject. That is what we see here*
8. Some make 666 point to the papacy or RCC