

Doctrine of the Antichrist

1. Let me begin by providing you with what Wycliffe has written about the Antichrist in his Commentary: "Of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth, etc. All interpreters-Jewish, Christian, unbelievers-agree that this is the Antichrist ... twelve facts about the Antichrist:

“(1) He will not create a tenfold confederacy; he will absorb one (Dan 7:24).

Dan 7:24 The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.

“(2) He will be just another king - "another ... horn" (Dan 7:8), and he will be mortal (Rev 13:2; 2Th 2:9). It will be the Satanic power behind him that will make him significant. He will according to Rev 13:2 combine the characteristics of the three earlier empires into an awful but powerful creation of satanic mayhem and mischief.

Dan 7:8 "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a **little one**, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

Rev 13:2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

2Th 2:9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,

“(3) He will be obscure at first-"little" (Dan 7:8).

“(4) His march to power will begin with his conquest of three kingdoms (Dan 7:8; compared with Dan 7:24).

Dan 7:24 The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.

“(5) Yet something about him will be special (diverse from the first [ten], Dan 7:24). (Also see Rev 13:15; 2Th 2:4) Many extraordinary events will be connected with him. (Rev 13:16-17; 2Th 2:9-10)

Rev 13:15 He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

2Th 2:4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Rev 13:16 He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead,
Rev 13:17 so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.

2Th 2:9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,
2Th 2:10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

“(6) He will be very intelligent-"eyes of a man" (Dan 7:8).

“(7) He will be an orator of ability (Dan 7:8).

Dan 7:8 "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the **eyes of a man** and a mouth that **spoke boastfully**.

“(8) His appearance will be striking (Dan 7:20).

Dan 7:20 I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell-- the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

“(9) He will be a blasphemer (Dan 7:25; compared with Rev 13:5-6).

Dan 7:25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

Rev 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.

Rev 13:6 He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

“(10) He will seek to make his accession a new epoch (Dan 7:25, change times).

“(11) He will seek to destroy Israel (Dan 7:25a; compared with Dan 9:26-27).

Dan 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High ...

Dan 9:26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

Dan 9:27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

"(12) His time will be short (Dan 7:25), a time, (two) times, and the dividing (half) of time (compare Rev 11:2; 13:5; Dan 12:7).

Rev 11:2 But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.

Rev 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.

Dan 12:7 The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, "It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed."

2. Two dreadful rulers enter the scene in chapter 13; one coming up out of the sea, and the other coming up out of the earth.

3. Swete has written: "The sea here is undoubtedly "a symbol of the agitated surface of unregenerate humanity, and especially of the seething cauldron of national and social life out of which the great historical movements of the world arise."

4. The sea as we have earlier seen has a consistent metaphoric meaning, i.e., Gentiles or nations, so we can assume the Antichrist will be a Gentile and the False Prophet a Jew.

5. The first beast, whose horns and crowns of royalty represent power, is himself energized by Satan. We are not privy to the game plan of the Antichrist, when he appears. It is possible he will proclaim himself to be God or perhaps he will purport to be the Christ.

6. It is almost unbelievable that the whole earth will worship the beast, the Antichrist.

7. There will be much religion on earth, but it will be godless and blasphemous.

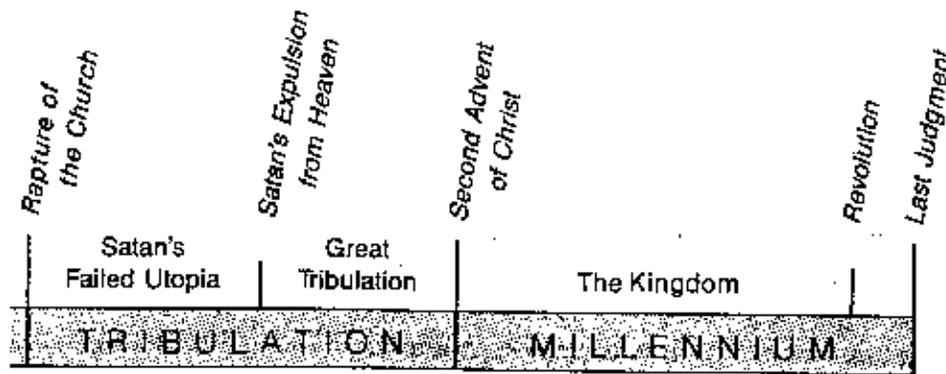
8. The question is how can he rise so rapidly to power? To answer that, men have for years conjectured; their imaginations have in fact run wild.

9. The first seal "the man on the white horse" must come rapidly to power and to do that it would seem there must be some huge problem that he alone can solve.

Rev 6:1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

Rev 6:2 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.

10. The peace and safety temporarily accomplished in the first half of Daniel's 70th week will likely be suddenly shattered -- it is most likely the Antichrist will relish and solve solve some major global disturbance.



11. Although the employment of peace as a part of his plan will certainly reassure the masses; the peace will prove to be short-lived.

12. A biographical sketch of this man appears in chapter thirteen.

13. The Antichrist will be a supreme humanist, believing passionately that man can solve his own dilemmas.

13.1 He will not accept the Bible's evaluation that man is on the verge of chaos because of sin.

13.2 In fact, He will no doubt react violently to groups and individuals who analyze man's problem as sin.

13.3 He will feel that he is doing a good thing by bringing repressive measures against believers, whom he will consider "non-progressives."

14. This Antichrist will be against every solution the Bible presents for the world's problems and as Satan's indwelt agent he will turn the whole world against God's protocol.

15. Is the Antichrist near? Who knows for sure? All we can declare with certainty is that the stage is set and the time is right in the sense that there are no signs yet to occur.

16. Let's take a look at chapter thirteen verses one and two:

KJV

Rev 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Rev 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

NIV

Rev 13:1 And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

Rev 13:2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

1. The Antichrist is called a "beast" because that's what he is in the sight of God; a ruthless, unfeeling dictator.

2. His true, ruthless nature is exposed in the latter part of the Tribulation period, even though at the beginning he appears to be a sweet, caring and benevolent leader.

3. Why does the first beast emerge from the sea? John explains the figure in Rev 17:15. "The waters which you saw ... are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues."

4. In Biblical usage the ocean pictures the restless strivings of the nations of the world. As Isaiah put it, "The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt." (Isa 57:20)

5. It is from the chaos of the nations that the Antichrist will rise.

5.1 As brilliant as he is, notice where the Antichrist gets his power: "The dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority." (Rev 13:2)

5.2 During the last half of the Tribulation, God will allow Satan to give the Antichrist tremendous supernatural ability.

5.3 So great will be the Antichrist's influence over people that every "tribe and people and tongue and nation" will yield to his sway.

5.4 For the first time in the history of the world Satan will get what he's been after all these years: worldwide worship by earth's people!

6. What do the ten horns with crowns represent?

7. In the Bible horns almost always represent political power just as the sea represents Gentiles or nations.

8. In this case the beast's ten horns picture ten nations that will form a confederacy which the beast will rule during the Tribulation.

9. Of the ten nations that confederate, seven will acquiesce willingly, but three will seemingly have to be brought into the union unwillingly. The name or names of these nations we do not know.

9.1 This will be accomplished by the Roman leader, who thereafter becomes a maniacal and tyrannical dictator.

10. Daniel also said that this confederacy would be the greatest Gentile power to ever gain control of the whole world, and that it would acquire worldwide control through its economic and military strength, and of course, the expertise of its expert leader.

11. Once a European confederacy includes the ten nations of God's choosing, the group will begin to look for a leader powerful enough to make this new confederation the nucleus of one-world government.

12. The Antichrist of Revelation 13 is going to be that leader.

13. Dr. Saul Mendlovitz, professor of international law at Rutgers University has written, "It is no longer a question of whether or not there will one day be a world government."

13.1 Dr. Mendlovitz went on to write that there was a strong possibility of a complete and violent breakdown of world civilization soon to come, and that the most likely kind of government to evolve would be an oligarchical and repressive world government run by technocratic elites.

13.2 A "technocratic elite" is an accurate description of this predicted world leader referred to by the Apostle John as the beast.

14. He will be a political genius, a political giant of unprecedented proportions.

14.1 By reconstructing a world government out of the ruins of the ancient Roman Empire, the Antichrist will have accomplished what no one else has been able to do since A.D. 476, the year the Roman Empire officially died.

15. Charlemagne tried to put it together but failed. Napoleon did his best, but met his Waterloo!

15.1 Bismarck dreamed of making Germany the capital of a Revived Roman Empire.

16. Then Hitler came along. He envisioned the Mediterranean Sea as a German lake and the whole world as his empire. He saw himself as the Caesar of the "Third Reich."

17. His efforts resulted in the downfall of his own nation. Fruitless were the efforts of these men to reconstruct that which only God will permit and only in God's timing. There must first be the Rapture of the Church.

18. Quoting John Walvoord "As earlier noted in the first ten verses of chapter thirteen, a character of central importance to the events of the great tribulation is effectively reintroduced. This passage is first of all a revelation of the Revived Roman Empire in its period of world-wide dominion but more especially this paragraph directs attention to the evil character who exercises Satanic power as the world dictator."

19. Let me summarize our study of Rev 13:1-2:

19.1 The identity of the beast is quite clear, he is the leader of the Revived Roman Empire. He is the same leader mentioned symbolically in Dan 7:7-8; Rev 12:3 and Rev 17:3-7.

Dan 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

Dan 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.

Rev 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 17:7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

19.2. The stage of the empire depicted by the beast is the period after the emergence of the little horn, the future world ruler displacing three of the horns. (Dan 7:8)

Dan 7:8 "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

19.3 The description fits the time of the empire during the Tribulation. The fact that the beast rises out of the sea is taken by many to indicate that he comes from the great mass of humanity, namely the Gentile peoples of the world.

19.4 Others take it as a reference to the Mediterranean, namely, that the beast will arise from the Mediterranean area. Probably both are true in that the beast is a Gentile and does come from the Mediterranean scene.

19.5 The monstrosity of seven heads and ten horns probably refers to the remnants of the confederacy which formed the original empire, namely, the ten nations of which three were overthrown by the little horn of Dan 7:8.

19.6 The ten crowns, therefore, refer to the diadems as symbols of governmental authority. The fact that they have the names of blasphemy ("names" is properly plural) indicates their blasphemous opposition to God and to Christ.

19.7 Some consider the seven heads as successive phases of governmental and political history during this period. Others believe that they are simultaneous kings who are sub-rulers under the beast.

19.8 The successive idea seems to be born-out by Rev 17:10-12 where the heads are indicated to be successive rulers. The difficulty can be resolved by regarding the heads as successive, referring to kings or emperors, and the horns as kings who will reign independently at first but will later receive their power from the beast (Rev 17:12).

Rev 17:10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

Rev 17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

Rev 17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

20. Most agree the explanation of Rev 17:10 is as follows:

- Five are fallen: these are Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Medo-Persia and Greece,
- One is: Rome at the time of John's writing.
- The other not yet come: the Revived Roman Empire which will exist for a short time and then the Antichrist will arise from one of the weaker nations to take over first two and then become the leader of all ten.

21. Walvoord writes of Rev 17:10-12: "The final form of world government, symbolized by the eighth beast itself, is the world empire of the great tribulation time. The revived Roman Empire which will be in sway immediately after the rapture of the church is apparently indicated by the seventh head, while the beast described in verse 11 as the eighth, is the world empire, which is destroyed by Jesus Christ at His second coming. In summation, what is described in verses 8 through 11 is the final form of the Gentile world ..."

22. John may be seeing the beast in both its historic and prophetic characters.

22.1 The beast is further described as being comparable to a leopard with the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion, and as receiving his power from the dragon, that is, from Satan.

22.2 The selection of these three animals is related to the similar revelation given in Daniel 7, where the successive world empires are the lion, referring to Babylon, the bear, referring to Medo-Persia, and the leopard, referring to the Alexandrian Empire.

Dan 7:3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

Dan 7:4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

Dan 7:5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

Dan 7:6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

Dan 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

22.3 The fourth empire gathers all these elements and characteristics together and is far more dreadful in its power and blasphemy than the preceding empires.

22.4 The three beasts selected are typical of the Revived Roman Empire of the Tribulation: the majesty and power of the lion, the strength and tenacity of a bear, and the swiftness of the leopard. Also these figures as we earlier noted represent Gentile power which will end with the coming of Christ, when literally the age of the Gentile ceases and the Messiah King comes to establish Himself as King of the Jews.

22.5 In addition to these natural symbols of strength is the added factor of Satanic power coming from the dragon--old Satan himself.

23. The Revived Roman Empire will combine the distinguishing features of the three prominent world empires of the past. For example, the ancient Greek Empire struck its foes like a leopard. In no time at all one foe after another caved in to the brilliant attacks of Alexander the Great.

24. The entire mighty empire of the Medo-Persians fell to Alexander in a matter of two and one-half years! But the coming Antichrist will out-perform Alexander the Great.

25. In a very short time, he will take over the ten nation European confederacy and eventually subjugate the whole world to himself.

26. During its prime the Medo-Persian Empire was like a powerful, deliberate bear. The raw power of its ponderous army was unstoppable. Whatever nations the Medo-Persians attacked, they conquered.

27. That's the way it will be with the Antichrist. During the first part of the Tribulation his Satanic backing will assure him eventual domination of the whole world population without a fight.

28. The Babylonian Empire was famous for its regal splendor. Most of the ancient wonders of the world were conceived and constructed by the monarchs of this era.

29. Like the lion, the king of beasts, the Antichrist will out do even the ancient Babylonian Empire with his bag of royal tricks!

30. Before leaving verses one and two let's take a look at an expanded translation:

Rev 13:1 And the devil looked out on the swirling mass of humanity; he viewed the confusion of the gentile world as opportunity. And I saw the Antichrist arise out from the confusion of the nations. There was a ten nation federation ruling Europe and from one of these small nations the beast rose to power of not only his small nation but soon he took over two other nations and then finally he became ruler over all ten; each of the ten leaders served as blasphemous leaders in open opposition to God.

Rev 13:2 John said the Antichrist resembled a leopard, with feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority; all these symbols represent the four major powers of time past: the leopard, Alexander, the bear, the Medo-Persians and the lion, Babylon and soon to come the Revived Roman Empire.

31. Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 13:3.

KJV

Rev 13:3 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.

NIV

Rev 13:3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.

1. The Antichrist will in the middle of the Tribulation be the subject of a super miracle.

2. In verse 3 John says that he saw one of the Beast's heads as if it had been killed.

2.1 When this mortal head wound is somehow miraculously healed by Satan, the whole world will follow after the Beast in a new way; he will be worshiped. Surely he must claim to be God. His claims are facilitated and abetted by the work of the False Prophet, later to be described in the latter half of this chapter 13.

3. Once the Antichrist has the allegiance of the people however, his facade of peace and prosperity evaporates.

4. For the last three and one-half years the Antichrist will blaspheme God and His worshipers, ultimately killing a great many of the Tribulation saints because these loyal believers are the only resistance to his ungodly claims.

5. John further observes that the deadly wound is healed and that the entire earth marvels the Beast's miraculous recovery.

6. The obvious view of the deadly head wound being healed indicates a resuscitation of the Antichrist himself and many hold to this position.

7. There are those who believe the wounding is a reference to the Roman Empire which indeed did "die" only to be revived in the Tribulation period.

8. There are others who contend the head suffering the mortal wound is one of the weaker nations from which the Antichrist arises; either the one from which he comes or one of the two he conquers.

9. Walvoord has written "... it is doubtful that Satan has the power to restore to life one who has died, even though his power is great. Far more probable is the explanation that this is the revived Roman Empire ..."

10. As noted on more than one occasion I believe the Antichrist gains credence in the middle of the Tribulation for his self-proclaimed deity when people see him revived from death.

10.1 In response to Walvoord's position one could postulate that the resuscitation could simple be some form shamanism commonly practiced today or like as a "fakir" in India might do today.

11. The position that the Antichrist received a fatal head wound from which he is resuscitated is supported by such expositors as Jerry Jenkins, Tim LaHaye and Hal Lindsey.

12. The following verse four tends to support a personal "real life" resuscitation.

Rev 13:4 Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"

13. Before moving forward let's take a look at an expanded translation of verse three:

Rev 13:3 The Antichrist sustained a fatal wound, but was miraculously resuscitated. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast as their political and spiritual leader.

14. Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 13:4:

KJV

Rev 13:4 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?

NIV

Rev 13:4 Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"

1. The final form of apostasy is not simply the worship of some pagan deity but the worship of Satan himself who in his whole program seeks to be like God.

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

2. The Antichrist is Satan's substitute for Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, or perhaps God Himself, and to him the world flecks. This is indicated by the questions "who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?"

3. This takes place apparently at the beginning of the Great Tribulation when the head of the Revived Roman Empire, described here as the beast, is able to quickly assume authority over the entire world.

4 The source of this authority is undoubtedly power given to him by Satan himself which is aided by a world situation in which there is no serious contender for his office.

5. We are now ready for an expanded translation of verse four:

Expanded Translation:

Rev 13:4 Most of the world worshiped Satan because he indwelted the Antichrist and gave authority and power to him; this certainly included military power; those who worshiped the new world leader were absolutely devoted and impressed; they asked, "Who is like the Antichrist? Who can make war against him?"

6. Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 13:5 and 6.

Rev 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Rev 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

NIV

Rev 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.

Rev 13:6 He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

Principles:

1. The evil character of the world ruler of that day is shown in his boasting and blasphemy.

2. A similar description of the same character is given in Dan 7:8, 11, and 25.

Dan 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.

Dan 7:11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

Dan 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.

3. His authority continues for forty-two months, again the familiar three and one-half years of the Great Tribulation.

4. The person who heads the Revived Roman Empire enters into a covenant with the Jewish people right after the translation of the Church, therefore, this 42 months would be a reference to the last three and one-half years.

Dan 9:27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

5. This because of verse six and the statement "he opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven."

6. Particularly telling is that portion of the verse which describes his "slandering of the dwelling place, i.e., the rebuilt *temple*."

6.1 Keep in mind, when the Tribulation begins there is no Temple; its rebuilding would seem to be part of the religious covenant with Israel.

7. It would also follow that his rule over all nations will not begin until the time of the Great Tribulation—the last three and one-half years. This too is problematic.

8. The Great Tribulation will last for 42 months until the Second Coming of Christ when the Antichrist's reign is terminated.

9. The Arabs are somehow placated, an evidence of the sagacity of the indwelt Antichrist. In the first half of the Tribulation both the Antichrist and the False Prophet support the worship practices of Israel. It is in the middle of the Tribulation when the Antichrist abrogates the treaty with Israel.

10. It is also in the middle of the Tribulation when the Antichrist murders the head of the nominal Christian church headquartered in Rome. This church is declared an enemy of the state and services are cancelled for the duration.

11. It is evident that blasphemy is not an incidental feature of the Antichrist's kingdom but one of its main features. He is described in verse six as blaspheming against God, against the name of God, and against the Third Heaven and those who dwell in heaven.

12. As Satan's mouthpiece uttering repeated irreverences against God.

Dan 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 marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

Dan 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.

12.1 Wycliffe writes of the identification of the Dan 11:36 king.

"This king is the same as the "son of perdition" (2Th 2:3-4), who is to appear before Christ's second advent (2Th 2:1-2; compared with Dan 7:11 and 25). His career will be short, lasting only until the indignation of God is vented upon mankind in the end time."

2Th 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;
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.

2Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,
2Th 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Dan 7:11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

Dan 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.

13. Let's see how verses five and six look by way of expanded translation:

Expanded Translation:

Rev 13:5 The Antichrist was given great wisdom to blaspheme God and His Word; he exercised his authority during the last forty-two months of the Tribulation.

Rev 13:6 Both the Antichrist and the False Prophet took great pleasure in blaspheming God, slandering His name and the Third Heaven and those who live there.

14. Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 13:7.

KJV

Rev 13:7 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.

NIV

Rev 13:7 He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.

Principles:

1. As is anticipated in Dan 7:23, where the beast devours "the whole earth," the worldwide extent of his power would certainly seem to be indicated.

Dan 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

2. The expression "it was given to him" refers to the Satanic origin of his power.

2.1 Acting as Satan's tool, the beast is able to wage war against the saints throughout the entire globe and to overcome many. However, there are believers who see through his worldwide plot. Many of them are martyred. Dan 7:25; 9:27; 12:10 and Rev 7:9-14.

Dan 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.

Dan 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.

Dan 12:10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

Rev 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Rev 7:10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Rev 7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

Rev 7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Rev 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

Rev 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

3. It is in the will of God for many believers (both Jews and Gentiles) to perish as martyrs. Many, however, survive; the pogroms of the Antichrist.

4. The ultimate in worldwide authority is indicated in verse seven, in that he was "given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation."

4.1 Recall "power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."

5. The dream of countless rulers in the past of conquering the entire world is here finally achieved by this last Gentile ruler.

6. The universal authority of the beast over the entire earth is stated specifically in the latter part of verse seven and power was given him over all kindred, and tongues, and nations."

6.1 The word peoples should be inserted after the word kindred as in the best texts, making the verse read "power was given him over all kindreds, peoples, and tongues, and nations."

7. Additionally, since the nouns are properly singular, the clause is better rendered "and authority was given to him over every tribe and people and tongue and nation."

8. Such authority as we have seen was anticipated by Daniel (Dan. 7:23) where it is stated that the fourth beast "shall devour the whole earth, and tread it down, and break it in pieces"; additionally, its uniqueness was anticipated by Daniel in the phrase "which shall be diverse from all kingdoms."

Dan 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

9. The dream of world conquest achieved in part by the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian, and Roman empires is now for the first time realized completely.

9.1 It is the Satanic counterfeit of Christ's millennial reign and is permitted by God in a final display of the evil of Satan and mankind's willing wickedness.

10. The time of this universal sway as earlier noted is clearly indicated in Rev 13:5; it is forty-two months in duration, namely the last three and one-half years preceding the return of Christ.

Rev 13:5 The Antichrist was given great wisdom to blaspheme God and His Word; he exercised his authority for forty-two months.

11. In verse 8 John speaks of a book called "the book of life."

11.1 In this book are written the names of every person who ever lived on the face of the earth.

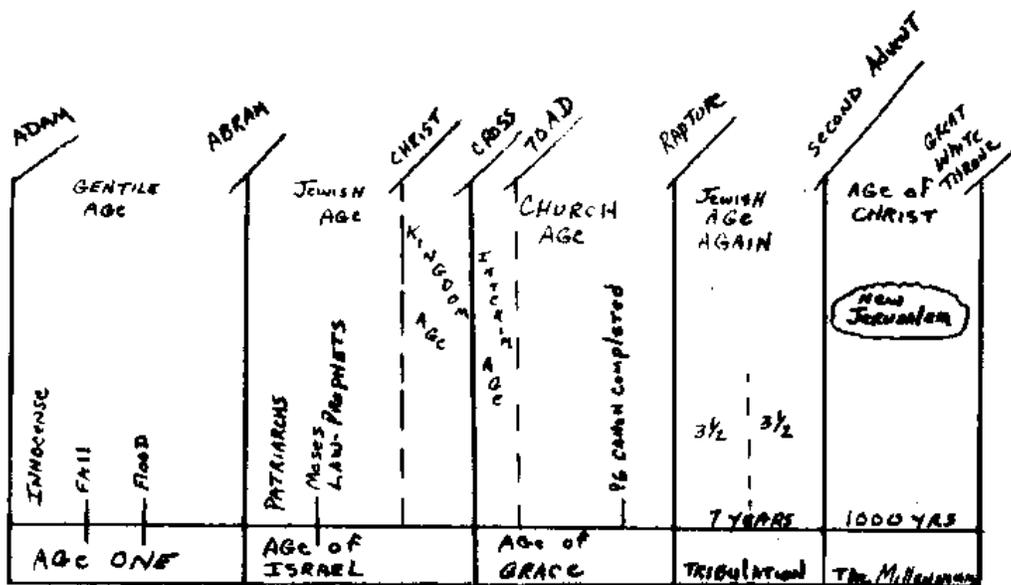
Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

12. When a person rejects Jesus Christ as Savior, and God knows that he will never change his mind, that man's name is blotted out of the Book of Life.

13. Those whose names are no longer in God's book will be the ones who will worship the Antichrist in the Tribulation.

13.1 Be aware all peoples have been placed in their proper dispensation; and this is done only after the omniscience of God has seen and the sovereignty of God has declared.

13.2 It follows therefore that the Tribulation is populated with some of God's finest just as was the case during the first and second centuries when Christians were martyred in large numbers.



13.3 Many early Christians paid with their lives for the faith. *Foxes Book of Martyrs* describes the fate of the early leaders.

Stephen

Stephen suffered ... death was occasioned by the faithful manner in which he preached the Gospel ... they cast him out of the city and stoned him to death. The time when he suffered is generally supposed to have been at the Passover ...

Luke

We are ... told by St. Luke, that "there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem;" and that "they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles." About two thousand Christians ... suffered martyrdom during the "persecution that arose about Stephen."

James the Great

The next martyr we meet ... according to St. Luke, in ... Acts, was James the son of Zebedee, the elder brother of John ... It was not until ten years after the death of Stephen that the second martyrdom took place; for no sooner had Herod Agrippa been appointed governor of Judea ... he raised a sharp persecution against the Christians ...

Phillip

Was born at Bethsaida, in Galilee and was first called by the name of "disciple." He labored diligently in Upper Asia, and suffered martyrdom at Heliopolis, in Phrygia. He was scourged, thrown into prison, and afterwards crucified, A.D. 54.

Matthew

Whose occupation was that of a toll-gatherer, was born at Nazareth. He wrote his gospel in Hebrew, which was afterwards translated into Greek by James the Less. The scene of his labors was Parthia, and Ethiopia, in which latter country he suffered martyrdom, being slain with a halberd in the city of Nadabah, A. D. 60.

James the Less

Is supposed by some to have been the brother of our Lord, by a former wife of Joseph. This is very doubtful, and accords too much with the Catholic superstition, that Mary never had any other children except our Savior... At the age of ninety-four he was beaten and stoned by the Jews; and finally had his brains dashed out with a ... club.

Matthias

Of whom less is known than of most of the other disciples, was elected to fill the vacant place of Judas. He was stoned at Jerusalem and then beheaded.

Andrew

Was the brother of Peter. He preached the gospel to many Asiatic nations; but on his arrival at Edessa (the former capital of Macedonia [Greece]) he was taken and crucified on a cross, the two ends of which were fixed transversely in the ground. Hence the derivation of the term, St. Andrew's Cross.

Mark

Was born of Jewish parents of the tribe of Levi. He is supposed to have been converted to Christianity by Peter, whom he served as an amanuensis, and under whose inspection he wrote his Gospel in the Greek language. Mark was dragged to pieces by the people of Alexandria, at the great solemnity of Serapis their idol, ending his life under their merciless hands.

Peter

Among many other saints, the ... apostle Peter was condemned to death, and crucified ... at Rome ... Nero sought the matter against Peter ... Jerome said that he was crucified, his head being down and his feet upward himself so requiring, because he was (he said) unworthy to be crucified after the same form and manner as the Lord was.

Paul

Paul, the apostle, who before was called Saul, after his great travail and unspeakable labors in promoting the Gospel of Christ, suffered also in this first persecution under Nero... soldiers came and led him out of the city to the place of execution, where he, after his prayers ... gave his neck to the sword.

Jude

The brother of James, was commonly called Thaddaeus. He was crucified at Edessa, A.D. 72.

Bartholomew

Preached in several countries, and having translated the Gospel of Matthew into the language of India, he propagated it in that country. He was at length cruelly beaten and then crucified by the impatient idolaters.

Thomas

Called Didymus, preached the Gospel in Parthia and India, where exciting the rage of the pagan priests, he was martyred by being thrust through with a spear.

14. Satan will be so furious with those whose names are still in the Book of Life that he will stimulate the Antichrist to wage a war of attrition against them.

15. By one means or another, all over the world, believers will have to suffer or die for their faith. Many will not resist, but will submit willingly to death, just like the thousands of martyrs before them.

Rev 13:10 If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

16. Before we move to verse eight, let's see how Rev 13:7 looks by way of expanded translation.

Expanded Translation

Rev 13:7 The Antichrist in the last half of the Tribulation was given by Satan the power to make war against the believers of the Tribulation and to conquer them; all of this of course is done under the permissive will of God. And he was given authority over all the peoples of the world.

17. Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 13:8.

KJV

Rev 13:8 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.

NIV

Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

Principles:

1. Just as it would seem "the entire world" is under the political domination of the beast.

2. Walter Scott defines the term as meaning that "all save the elect are in view."

"These who thus worship the beast are described as not having their names written in the book of life, a book frequently mentioned in the Revelation and elsewhere", for example: (Rev 3:5; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; 22:19) also compare (Luk 10:20 and Phi 4:3).

Rev 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Rev 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder (Thaumazo - marvel), whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Rev 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Luk 10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Phi 4:3 And I entreat thee also, true yoke fellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

3. Explanation of those who overcome can be found in 1Jo 5:5.

1Jo 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

4. Those worshiping the beast are the unsaved of both Jews and Gentiles in contrast to saved Jews and Gentiles whose names are written in the book of life.

5. A further description of the book of life is given as belonging to the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

6. The translation here follows the order of the Greek.

6.1 Most expositors have taken the expression "whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" to refer to those whose names have been redacted.

7. Grace oriented Christians take the position that all peoples are originally recorded in the Book of Life and only after they refuse to believe is their name stricken.

7.1 This time of redaction in most cases I suspect is at their death although I am also certain some are left around even after all has been done that can be done to get them to believe, just to be used in God's plan.

8. Hal Lindsey has written "In verse 8 John speaks of a book called "the Book of Life of the Lamb." In this book are written the names of every person who ever lived on the face of the earth. When a person rejects Jesus Christ as Savior, and God knows that he will never change his mind, that man's name is blotted out of the Book of Life. Those whose names are no longer in God's book will be the ones who will worship the Antichrist."

9. Though somewhat involved, the ultimate meaning of Rev 13:8 is simply that all who are not saved will worship the beast and that those who are saved will not worship him.

Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

10. Now let's see how Rev 13:8 looks by way of an expanded translation.

Expanded Translation

Rev 13:8 The nations of the world and all the unbelieving citizens therein could be seen worshipping the Antichrist as God--that is to say all those whose names had not been redacted from the book of life belonging to the Lamb; the Lamb being the Lord Jesus Christ Who was slain in eternity past before time was.

Now let's see what we can glean from Rev 13:9 and 10.

KJV

Rev 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

Rev 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

NIV

Rev 13:9 He who has an ear, let him hear.

Rev 13:10 If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

Principles:

1. Here is the command for the patience and the faith of the saints.

1.1 It is clear from verse eight that the universal worship of the beast will achieve at long last the characteristics of a world religion in that it will be ecumenical and thus inclusive of "all faiths."

2. The desire to have all Christian churches unite, or to even go one step further and unite all religions of the world, has for years been advanced as a desired goal.

2.1 Because of the indwelling and restraining ministry of God the Holy Spirit this effort though repeatedly attempted will not be achieved prior to the end of the church age.

2.2 There is today as you can read in any newspaper, certainly to include the Austin American Statesmen, an impetus to "be inclusive." All faiths day" in this city is a big deal.

2.2.1 A large front page color picture was published this month in our paper showing church leaders from the Hindu, Bahai, Islam, Buddhist, Catholic, Methodist and Baptist faiths attending a prayer session.

2.3 There are those pushing for one world, one faith, tolerance and diversity where all faiths love and embrace one another as those ultimately going to the same place in the hereafter.

2.4 This is Satans "malarkey" right out of the pit of hell.

3. However, in the Tribulation, a world religion will be advanced which will have as its focal point the worship of a man chosen and empowered by Satan himself.

4. In that day, believers in Christ will be separated from this world religion and will be the objects of its fearful persecution.

5. From a biblical point of view, the concept of a world religion prior to the second coming of Christ will be far removed from a true recognition of God.

6. The invitation "If any man have an ear, let him hear" emphasizes the importance of metabolizing the doctrine covered in the Rev 13:1-10.

7. We will see more about the demise of the Antichrist later in Revelation chapters 14 through 20 but now I want to close our study by providing six summary points.

- The Antichrist will be a supreme humanist, believing passionately that man can solve his own dilemmas.
- He will not accept the Bible's evaluation that man is on the verge of chaos because of sin.
- In fact, He will no doubt react violently to groups and individuals who analyze man's problem as sin.
- He will feel that he is doing a good thing by bringing repressive measures against believers, whom he will consider "non-progressives."
- This Antichrist will be against every solution the Bible presents for the world's problems and because He will be persuasive and will turn the whole world against believers and convince many that he has the answers to the human dilemma.
- Is the Antichrist near? Who knows for sure? All we can declare with certainty is that the stage is set and the time is right in the sense that there are no signs yet to occur.

