

# The Antichrist

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**Everything you have read in popular prophecy books about The Antichrist is wrong. Most of it is written for sensation and book sales. None of it is written for you to understand the enemy and how to defeat and trample him under foot. All the speculations on who the Antichrist is have been wrong. There has been no proper historical research presented to believers. There has been no proper presentation of when this “man of sin” was to appear. Let’s go through some scripture and history and see if you don’t agree with me...the Church of Jesus is victorious, the enemy has been judged and defeated, the Kingdom of God will fill the earth and not some supposed future world satanic ruler.**

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Throughout the ages Christian writers and preachers have loved to speculate on the identity of the Antichrist. It makes for gripping preaching and sells millions of books. If you look through the history of this topic it seems that every period in history over the last 2000 years has had a great candidate for the Antichrist. For the 1930’s preachers it was Mussolini and then Hitler, and in more recent times we have had Kissinger, Gorbachev (mark on his forehead!), Pres. Ronald Wilson Reagan (666!), Saddam Hussein (builder of the new Babylon) and so on.

Apart from the speculation on his identity the more recent popular prophecy books from America all agree on the fundamentals of the Antichrist scenario which goes something like this:

*There is a one world government coming which will be headed by the Antichrist. He will cause everyone to have some sort of biochip to be implanted in their wrist or forehead (the mark of the Beast) so you can’t buy or sell without it; the European Union is the prophesied revived Roman Empire and the Antichrist will be the ruler of this EU confederation (supposed to be a 10 nation confederation); the Antichrist will make a 7 year covenant with the Jews who will rebuild their temple in Jerusalem and then after three and a half years the Antichrist will break this covenant and enter the temple and proclaim himself to be God. This precipitates the war of Armageddon when the Antichrist gathers the armies of Russia and the Arab coalition against Israel. All of this is preceded by the Rapture when the Evangelical Christians are taken out of the world along with all innocent young children who have not reached the age of accountability. That would mean about, say, 300-500 million evangelicals and 2 billion children simply disappearing!*

Church please understand, the Bible is the inspired Word of God....our interpretation of scripture is not necessarily God inspired! And that includes my interpretation. But all

across the world and especially in the Third World where the Gospel is spreading like wildfire the Church is rejecting this defeatist vision of the future that the American Church has been propagating for the last century. And as history is unfolding in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century this whole “end time” scenario so beloved of the American Church is becoming more bizarre with time. The fact of the matter is that it is neither scriptural nor in any way applicable to the world we are living in.

Before expounding the scripture to you on this important topic just ask your self some really practical questions:

- How can you think that Antichrist can head up the European Union and be a world power? The EU is a crumbling set of fractious nations that are falling apart economically and militarily, they are no world force to be reckoned with!
- The Antichrist according to them is supposed to head up a 10 nation confederacy but the EU is 27 nations and expanding.
- Do you really think that China, America, Japan and Russia are going to follow the dictates of a European ruler?
- Do you really think that some EU ruler can dictate to China that unless all their people have a chip in their hand they may not use the yuan to do business? The same for Russia and the ruble and America and the dollar!
- If you really want a revived Roman empire for Antichrist to rule would not America be a better fit with its Senators, Capitol Hill (the Roman Capitoline), American gladiators on TV, Nascar races going around in circles like the old chariot races etc etc.?

The flaws, inconsistencies and improbabilities of the Dispensationalist Antichrist scenario are just too great to be taken seriously anymore. Maybe during the 1980’s they had some plausibility to them but certainly not in the <sup>1</sup>

21st Century. But the great mistake the Dispensationalists make is not just trying to fit current history to wrong prophecy but it goes right to the core of their belief which distorts their prophetic interpretation and it is this:

The belief that after 2000 years of Church history that it is the devil who is triumphant not Christ; that it is Satan's kingdom under the Antichrist that spreads to fill the earth and not God's Kingdom that spreads to fill the earth; that the Church needs to be rescued out of the earth, defeated in its efforts to disciple the nations; that 144,000 Jews will do the job in three and half years without the Holy Spirit what the Church could not do with the Holy Spirit in 2000 years; that the only way to defeat Satan is Jesus personally attacking Satan; that after a thousand years of rule on the earth where Jesus is personally and visibly present for all to know Him and see Him, the vast population of earth rebels in disgust at His rulership when Satan is released at the end of the thousand years. I don't believe this!

The core of their belief is the defeat and impotence of the Church of Jesus Christ over time leading to its removal from the earth and the eventual success and spread of Satan's dominion over the earth culminating in the Antichrist's one world government from Europe. That is why not one of their predictions have turned out correct (Armageddon did not happen in the 1980's, nor did the Rapture), not one of them predicted the fall of Communism, not one predicted the massive spread of the Church worldwide with more than 500 million Charismatic evangelicals and growing like wildfire, not one of them understand America's prophetic coming demise (the message of 9/11), and not one of them are writing anything practical about devising strategies to disciple the nations. Why? Because they are looking for signs of the victory of the Antichrist over the earth, so why disciple the nations when Satan will win in any case? Lets demolish this false teaching from false prophets who have infiltrated the Church...

### **What does the Bible actually say?**

I am not going to give you an exhaustive teaching on the subject as this is not the right place (I will deal with it more comprehensively in my book "The Radical Gospel of the Kingdom"). I am however going to give you enough facts from both scripture and history to make you interested enough to research this topic further and to totally discredit what you have been reading in prophecy books about the Antichrist.

Let's look at what John, Paul, Revelations and Daniel have to say about the Antichrist and see if it sounds anything like what you have been reading or hearing.

### **John says... "Many Antichrists"**

There is only one writer in the Bible who mentions the word "antichrist" and that is John in his epistles of First and Second John where it is mentioned 5 times but not once in his writing of Revelations! And what he says about "antichrist" is totally different to prophecy writers today.

John says in 1 John 18-22 that there are "**many anti-christs**", they come out of the Church and that is how he knows it is the end times. So John contradicts modern prophecy writers three times: (1) There are many anti-christs, not one. (2) They come out of the Church not out of the EU; and (3) that is how he knows that he was living in the end times which means we are not living in the "end times". (John was living in the "end times" of the old dispensation which culminated with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD, we are now living in the Kingdom Age). See also 1John 4:1-3 and 2 John 1-11.

### **Revelations and Antichrist**

The Apostle John introduced the word "antichrists" to us in his epistles but he was also the writer of Revelations and if he was wanting to introduce us to "The Antichrist" in Revelations surely he would have used the word. But he doesn't. So what does he say? John writes of "beasts" in Revelations, but is this "The Antichrist" of the end times?

John starts right in the first verses of Revelation 1 to tell the Churches he was writing to that the visions he saw were things which were to "shortly come to pass" (vrs 1) and that "the time is at hand" (vrs 3). So this was not necessarily prophecies for 2000 years in the future but they were to shortly take place in their time. Further more he says in verse 9 to the Churches that "I John am your brother and companion in tribulation..." so he is writing to a Church in tribulation and warning them of even more tribulation ahead. Nothing here of course about a 7 year Tribulation still 2000 years in the future. In fact in Rev. 3:10 he warns of "the hour of trial which is about to come upon the whole world". Again, nothing about a great trial upon the world in 2000 years time.

### **The Beast and 666**

John describes for us in chapters 13 and 17 a great and terrible beast. He says in chapter 13 this beast is signified by the number 666. This of course has led to modern writers to look for some silly 666 barcode to be stamped on our foreheads. But if we take John at his word that he was writing of things which were shortly to come to pass then we can easily see in the historical records who the beast was and the meaning of the 666.

Rev. 13 & 17 speak of a great seven headed Beast that arises out of the sea. John wanted to know the meaning of the beast. The angel showing him these visions gave him the explanation, "Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. And there are seven kings, five are fallen, one is and the other is not yet come; and when he comes he must continue a short space." (17:9-10). All commentators agree that the seven hilled city that the woman sits on is Rome famous for its 7 hills. Thus the Beast is Rome and he is describing the five fallen Roman Emperors starting with Julius Caesar, the first Roman Emperor and then Augustus, Tiberius, Caius and Claudius. The sixth which was still alive when John was writing was Nero and the seventh was Galba who only ruled a few months.

## 666 : The Number of a Man

Rev. 13: 18 tells us that the number of the Beast is the number of “a man”. Here of course the prophecy writers desperately try to find some EU world leader connected in modern times to 666. But it does not work because that man has already appeared in history. It was the sixth king of the 7 headed beast of Rome ruling at the time John was writing. Nero! This is proven by the number of his name. In Hebrew as well as Latin the numbers were not the symbols we use today but letters of the alphabet. Nero Caesar’s name in Hebrew letters “Nrwn Qsr” added up to 666. And to further support this interpretation certain old manuscripts of Revelations has the number 616. This is the numerical equivalent of Nero Caesar when transliterated into Latin.

The identification of Nero as the 666 Beast is further supported when Rev. 13 says that this beast made war against the saints for 42 months (Rev. 13: 5-7). Nero was by all accounts of ancient historians a psychopathic cruel tyrant. He started the great persecutions against the Christians in November 64 AD blaming the Christians for the burning of Rome. He tortured them, burned them, and sent them into the circus games to be eaten by lions for the entertainment of Rome. The persecutions stopped 42 months later upon his death by suicide in 68 AD when Rome became overwhelmed by civil war.

The Roman civil war of 68-69 AD was a further fulfillment of the prophecy of Rev. 13 that one of the heads of the Beast would be slain (Nero) and as Rome entered a dangerous period of civil war with one general fighting another many thought it time to break away from Rome including the Jewish rebels who declared an independent Jewish state but Vespasian came out the victor in the civil wars, crushed the Jewish revolt, destroyed Jerusalem, “and all the world wondered after the beast whose wound was healed” (Roman Imperial rule restored) and “all the world wondered who can make war against the Beast”.

### Paul and the Antichrist (The Man of Sin)

Paul writing in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 gives us two more insights into “the Antichrist”. Both insights contradict modern day prophecy writers. Paul says...

*“Now we beseech you brethren by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and by our gathering unto him that you not soon shaken in mind or be troubled, neither by spirit nor by word nor by letter as from us that the day of Christ is at hand. 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;”*

Paul warns you not to be deceived by people claiming that the day of our gathering unto the Lord (the Rapture of the saints and the resurrection of the dead) is at hand. He had the same problem then as we have today. Scare the believers that the end is upon us and then get them to hand over their money! Paul makes it plain; first the “antichrist” man of sin appears, then a great falling away and only after that our gathering unto Him (Rapture and Resurrection) at the coming of the Lord. (the Second Coming).

This scripture directly contradicts all the prophecy teachings coming out of the American church that first is the Rapture and then comes the appearance of the Antichrist and the great falling away (supposedly the 7 year Tribulation). This is error and Paul warns you not to be deceived!

### He Who Now Lets

But there is a further clue in later verses that will allow us to identify who this “man of sin” was and when he made his appearance on the world stage and when “the great falling away” took place. Paul goes on to say (4-8)...

*“...the son of perdition who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God showing himself that he is God. Remember you not that when I was yet with you I told you these things? And now you know what withholds that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity does already work; only he who lets will let until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth and the brightness of his coming.”*

So here Paul gives us some more clues in identifying the Antichrist; there is something restraining the appearance of this wicked one but that restraining power will be taken out of the way. But Paul was careful not to put in print in his letter who that restraining power was but reminded the church that he told them who this was when he was with them. Can we figure out from scripture and history who Paul was referring to? Yes we can but to do that we must read the same scriptures that Paul was reading and that he used to explain to the Thessalonians the prophetic future. That scripture is found in Daniel who referred to it as “the little horn”.

### The Little Horn Persecutes the Saints

You need to read Daniel 7 where Daniel has a vision of four great beast empires. Paul knew from history which these four great beast empires signified. The lion with wings signified Babylon; this was followed by a bear which signified the Medo-Persian empire; and this was followed by a leopard with four wings which signified Alexander the Great with his empire splitting in four among his four generals after his death. But then Daniel saw a fourth great beast different from the others exceedingly strong with iron teeth and ten horns. This represented Rome the fourth great world empire which was in control at the time that Paul wrote to the Thessalonians. But Daniel noted a little horn coming out of the fourth beast that did amazing things and Daniel wanted to know what was the meaning of this. The angel told him...

*“Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon the earth (Rome)...”* But among these ten horns the came up a little horn (7:8) speaking great things and after this fourth beast was slain the little horn made war against the saints and prevailed against them (7:21) for 1260 years (7:25) until the saints rose up and took the Kingdom!

So Paul knew this scripture and knew that Rome was the fourth beast under who they were living. But he also knew that this fourth beast would be destroyed and taken out of the way so that the “little horn” speaking great things against the saints of God could rise up and persecute them for 1260 years. Daniel describes this period as “time, times and half a time”. A “time” in prophecy is a year of 360 days so we have 1260 days described here when Antichrist would rule (see also Rev. 11:3 and 12:6,14) and then the saints would rise up after this persecution and possess the Kingdom and establish it on the earth. But we know from Daniel 9 which predicted the coming of the messiah in 490 days that these “days” are meant as years. So logically we should see a period in history after Rome fell that another empire would rise up out of the fallen Roman empire and rule for a 1260 years.

### The 1260 Year Rule of Antichrist

The Roman Empire fell in 476AD as Daniel predicted and after this date we should expect the rise of Antichrist in a form of a revived Roman empire “sitting in the temple of God as God” speaking great things and persecuting the saints of God. Did this happen? Of a certainty it did!

The Emperor Justinian of Constantinople wanted to unite the whole Christian church in the world under one leader. So in 538 AD he decreed that the Bishop of Rome would from henceforth be “the Head of all the Holy Churches” and conferred on him the old Roman priestly title of “Pontifex Maximus”, the title that Julius Caesar had held in his time. The Bishop of Rome was from then known as the Pontiff or Pope. If our interpretation of scripture is true then we should expect something significant happened to the Papacy 1260 years after this date to destroy its power. What happened in 1798 to the Papacy? Well in 1798 Napoleon sent his army to Rome to destroy the Vatican state and the papacy. General Berthier marched in, took the Pope captive, abolished the Vatican state and destroyed Vatican power. Why?

Because for 1260 years the world had had enough of the butchery, the tortures, the intrigues, the thievery and debauchery of a false church claiming to be the voice of God on earth and the Vicar of Christ. “Vicar” stands for the Latin “vicarius dei” which is the Latin title of the pope meaning “in the place of God”. The Greek equivalent for “vicarius” would be “anti” as in Anti-Christ or “in the place of Christ”. **Which makes the official title of the Pope “Antichrist”**. Can it be more plainer?

Daniel 7:20,25 says that this little horn would speak great things and great words against the most high. Has the Papacy spoke arrogant words pronouncing its power and privileges? How about this proclamation “Unum Sanctum” of Boniface the 8th, “All the faithful of Christ by necessity of salvation are subject to the Roman pontiff who judges all men. Therefore we declare...to be subject to the Roman pontiff is to every human creature altogether necessary for salvation”. The Pope claims for himself infallibility! He claims the right and authority to be able to dispense salvation or withhold salvation to anyone. Which king on earth ever spoke such arrogant nonsense? Much more can be written of similar pronouncements.

### Antichrist Persecution of the Saints

The gross immorality of the Roman false church is well known throughout history right to modern times with their ongoing pedophile scandals. But also well known through history has been their killing and torture of the saints of God. Through the centuries millions have died at the hands of the Inquisition. Godly men and women were burnt at the stake for the sin of translating or reading the Bible in their own language. Salvation was offered for sale through special indulgences. Instead of prayer being made to our heavenly Father as Jesus taught, all prayer was directed to so called “saints”. Roman pagan practices were introduced into the church like offering “mass” to the Sun God and Vestal Virgins transformed to nuns or celebration of the birth of the Sun God on 25th Dec. to the supposed birth of our Lord. The church of Jesus Christ was infiltrated by the Antichrist (the Papacy) and transformed into a Roman pagan cult worshipping false gods, killing and torturing the true believers, hiding the Bible from the people, perverting salvation into a commodity to be bought. The Reformation leaders such as Luther and Calvin knew who the Antichrist was. It is just a tragedy that our modern day prophecy preachers have forgotten the heritage and struggle of the church through history to fight this Antichrist power and defeat it.

### The Jesuit Futurist Antichrist

The Jesuits were raised up by the Catholic church to fight the onslaught of the Reformation that brought free salvation to all and that exposed the Papacy for the Antichrist “Revived Roman Empire” that it was. They understood the devastating argument of the Reformation preachers that exposed the Papacy as the Antichrist prophesied by both Paul as that “man of sin” that was to sit in the temple of God (the Church), that John predicted would come from among the church, that Daniel prophesied would come out of the fallen Roman Empire. So they counterattacked with their Jesuit false teachers. The Jesuit teacher Francisco Ribera (1537-1591) countered this devastating attack with a 500 page commentary on Revelations. The first chapters of Revelation he assigned to the first century church but the rest of Revelations he assigned to a future period of three and half years at the end of time. During this time he taught that the Jewish temple would be rebuilt and the Antichrist would then appear. This was the origin of the “futurist” school of prophecy. For hundreds of years the church rejected this propaganda until in recent times the Dispensationalists started believing this Catholic false teaching.

The true facts of scripture are plain for those who study both scripture and history. The Revived Roman Empire is not the European Union but Roman Catholicism (aka the Holy Roman Empire). The Antichrist has already ruled for 1260 years sitting in the temple of God (the Church) making war on the saints. There is no European Union leader coming to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem, there is no Antichrist coming to take over the world. We are now in the Kingdom Age and the church is growing because the gates of hell will not prevail against it and it will grow and grow till it fills the earth with God’s glory.