

## Chapter 13: The Antichrist, the False Prophet, and the Mark

In order to better understand this chapter, we have to go back to the Prophet Daniel and his revelation or dream about this. Daniel chapters 7 and 8 reveal that this antichrist John sees (or Beast) has indeed already come. What do we mean? 1 John 4:2-3 read this way, “This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.” (almost verbatim from the Greek) The key word here is the word “already”. The Greek word used here is the word “occurrences”, meaning “is now occurring in the world.”

Last week I reviewed our top Antichrist already comers. These are men that have already passed through history but bear a remarkable resemblance to the person described in both Daniel’s and John’s account:

- 1) Antiochus Epiphanes IV
- 2) Nero
- 3) Hitler

When we read this, we need to keep in mind our “prophetic puzzle”. Some pieces are in, some are out, some are moving in and out, but we don’t have everything set yet. I believe many antichrists have come and the man mentioned in the Bible is still out there yet to be revealed.

2 Thessalonians gives us further insight into what will precede the unveiling of the “man of sin”. Paul reveals in chapter 2 verse 3, “that day shall not come until the rebellion occurs”, (NIV) or “except there come a falling away first...” (KJV) Jesus alluded to this in Matthew 24:10 when he said, “At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other.” At first glance, this reads incredibly negative....BUT there is a massive translation discrepancy!

In the original 1611 KJV the phrase “falling away” (2 Thess. 2:3) is translated “the departing”. In fact, the word used is “\_\_\_\_\_” and is used 15 times. Eleven of the 15 times it is translated “depart, departure, departing.” Eight of those 11 times it is used in reference to someone’s departure from one place to another. Five pre-1611 texts translate the Bible like this, “Let no man deceive you by any means, for that day shall not come except there come a departing first, and that man of sin be disclosed...” (Tyndale Bible 1534, 2 Thess. 2:3) The phrase would read “the/a departing” using definitive articles pointing to a specific departure the reader would already know of. What departure is Paul referring to that his readers would already know of? 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

There are only schools of thought on the meaning: that this departing is the Rapture of the Church or is a great rebellion and departure from God. We are already living in the latter, but we haven’t reached in zenith. Then the Antichrist will be revealed. I pray that the next prophetic event is the Rapture!

There are 12 major prophetic parallels between Daniel’s and John’s visions and Thessalonians 2.

- He comes conquering (Dan. 7:8, 20-24, Rev. 6:1,2)
- He will speak blasphemy against God (Dan. 7:8, Rev. 13:5)
- He will prevail against the saints for a time (Dan. 7:21, Rev. 13:7)
- He will have 10 horns or kings under his control (Dan. 7:20, Rev. 13:1, 17:12)
- He will arise from the 10 (Dan. 7:7-8, Rev. 13:1-7)
- He will rule the 10 until the Lord’s return (Dan. 2:44-45, Rev. 17:12-14)
- He will rule 42 months (Dan. 12:7, Rev. 12:14)
- He will be a fierce leader (Dan. 7:8, 8:23, Rev. 13:4)
- He will deceive many with signs and wonders (Dan. 7:8, 8:25, Rev. 13:13)
- He will change the times and laws (Dan. 7:11, 21-27, Rev. 13:1-7)
- He will be destroyed at the return of the Lord (Dan. 2:44-45, Rev. 19:11-21)
- He will be cast in to the lake of fire (Dan. 7:9-11, Rev. 19:11-21)

What John saw: (vs. 1-10)

The symbolism is very similar to what Daniel sees in his book in chapters 7 & 8.

The First Beast:

- A Beast rising out of the sea- this would be the \_\_\_\_\_  
(referring likely to a region)
- He has 10 horns and 10 crowns on his horns (like the Dragon)-this is a ten leader/nation alliance given the power to rule along side, hence the crowns
- He has 7 heads and on them a blasphemous name (like the Dragon)-these are the 7 kingdoms mentioned last week.
- This Beast gets his \_\_\_\_\_ from the Dragon.
- This Beast will have a “head wound” and will miraculously be healed. The most traditional thought here is that the Antichrist will suffer a mortal head wound and be resurrected from the dead proving to the world his power and mimicking the real Christ in every way. HOWEVER the “heads” refer to kingdoms! John is revealing that one of the 7 kingdoms or empires of prophecy has been wounded to death, meaning it no longer exists but it will be healed or resurrected. Only BABYLON is mentioned by name and is rebuilt in chapters 16, 17 & 18.
- 2 things must be rebuilt by the time we get to this point:
  - 1) The Temple must be rebuilt
  - 2) Babylon must be rebuilt ( Saddam Hussein was already doing it)
- The Beast is given authority for 42 months (the last half of the tribulation)
- He is given success in conquering the Saints, and ruling over every tribe, people, language and nation.
- All the world will worship him, those whose names that have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life.

### The Second Beast: (vs 11-18)

- this Beast rising not of the sea, but out of the earth.
- He has 2 horns like a lamb, but spoke like a Dragon- scholars believe that these horns represent religious authority or one man having spiritual authority over 2 religions. There is a predominant thought that this will be a leader who is able to unify the Catholic Church or an apostate form of it and the nation of Islam.
- He will exercise the authority from the first Beast and will make the earth worship the first Beast.
- He will perform counterfeit miracles, even calling down fire from heaven.
- He will deceive many because of the miracles.
- He will set up an image in honor of the first Beast and will give it the power to speak and kill all who will not worship the image.
- He will force everyone to receive a mark on their right hand or forehead in order to buy and sell goods. (This is the “Mark of the Beast”)

As we close this chapter, I want you to know this is real, it its happening now in our lifetime regardless of what many believe or think. Don't lose hope! Jesus is King and very soon He is coming! Praise the Lord!