

666

Antichrist and the Many Faces of Evil – Part IX

Revelation 13:16-18

Introduction

John the apostle has been describing for us the faces of evil behind the coming evil system of the one-world government, one-world economy, and one-world religion.

In Revelation chapter 12, we are given the truth about the red dragon – another title for Satan – whose thirst for blood and killing takes center stage. There is no more masquerading as an angel of light for him. He is exposed as a killer and a hater of the Jews. In fact, as chapter 12 ends, Satan has been rebuffed in his attempt to annihilate the Jewish people and he has gone off in a fury to kill any remaining believer in the God of Abraham that he can find.

In Revelation chapter 13, we are introduced to two men who will be enabled and empowered by the dragon to carry out his ultimate mission that transcends the killing of Jews and Christians. He wants the worship of the entire world and two men will do his bidding and see it come to pass.

The first of these men, revealed to us in the 13th chapter of Revelation, is the antichrist. This man rises in power among European nations surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. The prophecy of Daniel the prophet finally comes to pass as the revived Roman Empire forms a coalition with the antichrist as president, prime minister, and potentate rolled together into one world dictator.

Then we are introduced to the second man in this demonically inspired duo – the false prophet. With delegated power, ultimately from God, he mesmerizes the world with his miracle working, signs and wonders. And the message he preaches

over and over again is eventually believed by the world – the antichrist is God in the flesh.

Now, when will these events take place?

This will occur during the period of time known as the Tribulation – the seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy. It is a seven-year period of time which follows the rapture of the church by Jesus Christ.

When will the rapture happen? You are going to have to watch some other preacher on TV who knows, because I do not. In fact, we are not told. However, we are told that it could happen at any moment and it will come as fast as the blinking of an eye – unexpectedly and imminently (I Corinthians 15:52).

The apostles were waiting for the rapture. God could have taken the young church in the first century.

- Paul thought he would still be alive (I Thessalonians 4:17).
- Peter thought the creation of the new heavens and new earth was just around the corner (II Peter 3:13).
- The apostle John thought he was living in the last hour (I John 2:18).

In every generation of Christians, there has been the anticipation of the rapture of the church. The Christians who do not believe in the rapture are going to be really happy when they find out it is true.

Paul wrote a letter to the Thessalonians, the same body of believers to whom he revealed the details of the rapture, and commended them for being committed to Christ, so much so that they . . .

*. . . turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,
and to wait for His Son from heaven . . .
(I Thessalonians 1:9-10)*

This was the topic of their conversations – “Maybe it will occur today!” This was the burning hope in their hearts – “Jesus is coming for us . . . we’re waiting for Him to come.”

John even ends his Revelation by writing what?
. . . Come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20)

It is so moving to see John get to the end of all that God reveals. These are revelations about the coming wrath, the coming antichrist, the coming Armageddon, the coming kingdom, the final judgments, and then, the creation of a new heaven and a new earth and all that awaits the believer as he is given a tour of his future home. It is no wonder that John ends the book of his revelation by saying – and I think he is shouting,

. . . Come, Lord Jesus.

It is no wonder that he is saying, “Come,” or “C’mon!” as we say it in North Carolina, “C’mon! Let’s get going to the next stage.”

My friends, I cannot help but believe we are nearing that day.

I will tell this personal note that while studying the texts of Revelation chapters 12 and 13, I have been inundated with illustration after illustration of how the table is being set for the coming Tribulation and all that follows. The conditions are as ripe as ever for the upward call of Christ and the unveiling of a one-world government and one-world religion in our generation. The Tribulation scene is nearly prepared, in my view.

If you are here without a reservation for the coming glories of heaven, paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ for all who turn to Him alone for salvation, my message to you is to run to the cross of Christ. Run! Do not delay. The time seems perfectly arranged; His appearance must be near.

Do you remember Mikhail Gorbachev, the president of the former Soviet Union? At a news conference in Madrid, Spain, he said, “The victims of the September 11 attack on the United States will not have died in vain if world leaders use the crisis to create a new world order. If we act as we did after

September 11, uniting efforts of fighting against terrorism, if we maintain the coalition, we will not only prevent a new cold war, but we could get a new world order that is desirable for all of us.”¹

The world is clamoring for a world leader – a peace giver. They want a united coalition, a new world order, a global world system like never before.

Because of this, I have, with this series of studies, been led to not only warn the unbeliever to come to faith in Christ alone, but also to sound a warning to the church.

John the apostle wrote that the spirit of the antichrist is ever present. I and II John are filled with warnings about antichrists – those who deny the deity of Christ; those who denigrate the gospel of God. These are deceivers and liars, he wrote in I John 2:22 and II John 1:7.

Think about this – in order for the Hindu to abandon his 300,000 gods; in order for the Buddhist to stop praying for the arrival of the fifth Buddha; in order for the Muslim to set aside Mohammed; in order for the world to effectively abandon their gods, their traditions, their religions, and their prophets, things have to be so convoluted, so confusing, and so desperate spiritually that anyone with any real demonstration of spiritual power would be followed without reservation.

Is this happening now or what? Is the world ready for a one-world religious answer or what?!

And if we are indeed the last generation in the church prior to the rapture, living in the last days prior to the coming deceiver, would we not assume that the enemy of the church would unleash a fresh onslaught of diversions and distractions upon the church?

In order for people to be set up for deception, they must be ignorant of the Bible, right? They must not believe in the authority of scripture, right? They must be led to doubt the uniqueness of Jesus Christ alone to save.

That is a description of our generation – inside the church and outside as well. If there was ever a time when the church needed to get the gospel right, it is now. As far as I can tell, the church in our generation is beginning to unravel the basic beliefs of the gospel that have been accepted, for the most part, for the last five hundred years since the Reformation. As far as I can tell, the enemy is attacking the foundations of doctrine like never before – and not from without, but, as Paul warned the Ephesian elders, by false teachers within the church.

Ladies and gentlemen, Satan most often does not attack a church, he joins it. And he quietly distorts the truth; he twists the gospel ever so slightly so that unless we are thinking critically, we accept it. And then, the gospel is diluted and, in many cases, the testimony of the local church is destroyed through eventual denial of the gospel.

Is this ever happening today!

One pseudo-church leader, who has effectively distorted the gospel and has quite a following, wrote, "I can't find one place in the teachings of Jesus, or the Bible for that matter, where we are to identify ourselves first and foremost as sinners. Now this doesn't mean we don't sin; that's obvious. The greatest truth of the story of Adam and Eve isn't that it happened, but that it happens."ⁱⁱ

Oh? The greatest truth of the story of Adam and Eve is that they sinned and that we do too? I do not think so.

The greatest truth about the sin of Adam and Eve is that God atoned for their sin and forgave them.

This clever teaching is merely a distortion of the gospel.

Ladies and gentlemen, the greatest truth about the fall of man is that God moved to redeem man.

I evaluated this statement by Rob Bell in the light of Paul's own testimony. Let me read again the words of the author Bell, "I can't find one place in the teachings of . . . the Bible for that matter, where we are to identify ourselves first and foremost as sinners."

Listen to Paul, who writes,

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance . . .

In other words, we should all feel and talk the same way. How?

. . . that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. (I Timothy 1:15)

It sounds to me like Paul was identifying himself first and foremost as a sinner.

In fact, Paul wrote it this way,

. . . God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

The greatest truth about sin is not that it happened or that it happens to me, the greatest truth about sin is that . . .

. . . [Jesus Christ] bore our sins in His [own] body on the cross . . . (I Peter 2:24)

A colleague of Bell, by the name of Brian McLaren, distorted the gospel even further when he wrote, "In the Bible, [the word] save means 'rescue' or 'heal'. It emphatically does not mean 'save from hell' or 'give eternal life after death,' as many preachers seem to imply in sermon after sermon . . . save means 'get out of trouble'. The trouble could be sickness, war, poverty, imprisonment or any kind of danger . . ."ⁱⁱⁱ

This is not the gospel. In fact, if "to be saved" means that we get out of sickness or poverty, then why do even Christians get the flu and run out of money? If "getting saved" means we never get imprisoned, then the apostle Paul is in double trouble because he spent most of his Christian life impoverished and the last years of his life imprisoned.

How tragic is this twisting of the truth?

This is just the beginning of the apostasy evident in our church today. I could go on and on. In fact, I am going to go on for a little longer.

The fact that the false priest will come along in Revelation 13 and basically convince the world to worship the antichrist in less than four years after the church is raptured could mean that the church has, as a mainline institution, abandoned the truth of the gospel. And an illiterate world, biblically, is a "sitting duck" for the deceiver.

Where was the church?

As A. W. Tozer said, "Limping from one gimmick to another like so many drunks in a fog."

The average evangelical church has been courting the seeker for the last thirty years. The church has not caught him, by the way. In an effort to make the church more comfortable for the unbeliever, the church has effectively stopped believing anything uncomfortable, much less communicating it.

Is it any wonder that our own culture is now more entrenched in eastern religions and cults than ever before?

At the same time, the number of churches in America that are now closing their doors is from three to five churches every single day.

In America now, a mosque is completed every thirty days. There are now more Muslims in America

than Episcopalians – not that the Episcopalians, or any other denomination, have the answer.

My contention is that institutionally, the organized church may very well have abandoned the gospel and the world will be ripe for the coming, final deceiver.

How could this happen? This timeline in Revelation has really intrigued me.

How do we go from the church on earth, then raptured, and in less than four years, we have the world in Revelation 13 bowing before an image of the antichrist, claiming he is God incarnate. How does the world fall for a talking image and a signs-and-wonders false prophet?

The apostle Paul told us how this happens. Note his words.

For the time will come when they [his culture] will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears [massaged], they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,

and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

(II Timothy 4:3-4)

In other words, there will be great confusion in the latter days and people will turn away from the truth of sound doctrine and fall head over heels in love with the latest myth; the latest fad; the latest god.

So, preceding the deception of the false prophet, there is a confused world and a confused, wandering religious system.

Even religious leaders will be morally neutral and spiritually confused.

One of my staff pastors sent the following email to me this week. As you know, the African branch of the Anglican Church is more solid biblically than its American counterpart. The litmus test, as we have watched it unfold in the news, is the ordination of practicing homosexuals. One interesting exchange occurred at a conference between John Shelby Spong, an Episcopalian Bishop in America, and some African Bishops within the denomination. Now, in this particular conference, Bishop Spong was trying to convince the African leaders to give up their views and accept homosexual leaders in the church. They, on the other hand, were holding fast and refusing to budge, based on scripture. Finally, in a moment of frustration, Spong lashed out with, “The reason the African Bishops believe the Bible so literally is because they have been so recently converted from

paganism.” To which the Bishop from Uganda responded, “The reason Bishop Spong does not believe the Bible is because he has so recently been converted to paganism.”^{iv}

Moral confusion abounds, not just in the world, but in the church.

So if this has paralyzed the church, what is the world to then do for a moral anchor? If the church is no longer salt and light, where will the world turn for moral and doctrinal truth?

I read in one journal this past month, another illustration of moral confusion and a lack of being able to respond with moral character. E-Harmony responded to a discrimination lawsuit that was filed a couple of years ago – and this has just become news. The article tells that the online dating service eHarmony has responded to this lawsuit by agreeing to launch a new site for same-sex singles to be called Compatible Partners. It is scheduled to launch in March. According to chairman and founder, former evangelical psychologist Neil Warren, and Antone Johnson, the company’s vice president of legal affairs, eHarmony will now, “welcome all single individuals who are genuinely seeking long-term relationships.”^v

If there was ever a day when the world is primed for someone to deceive it into believing a lie; if there was ever a generation that was ready to embrace global control, global unity, a global religion, a new world order, and a new world religion it is our generation today.

With this in mind, let us discover the final act of enslavement in which the world is finally captured and conquered by the antichrist.

Thus far in our study, the false preacher has performed signs and wonders, even miracles of calling fire from heaven – Revelation chapter 13, verses 12-13.

The next few verses reveal this man setting up a statue of the antichrist. This is more than likely done inside the Holy of Holies of the Tribulation Temple, thus desecrating it from any further Jewish practices. And the Jews scatter for their lives. However, the world at large now flocks to Jerusalem to worship at the feet of this breathing, talking image – the greater than life statue of their great savior, the antichrist.

Now, the world is primed and ready for the next step of global deception. Let me break it down into three aspects.

Global, Physical Surrender to the Antichrist

The first aspect of global deception is the global, physical surrender to the antichrist. Let us look at Revelation 13:16 to see what the false prophet or priest now does.

And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead,

You may have heard of the mark of the beast. This is the origin of the terminology.

Notice the global sweep of this decree.

. . . the small and the great . . .

This is every social category – from the untouchables in India to the royal family in England.

. . . and the rich and the poor . . .

This is every economic category on the planet – from the poorest person to the billionaire on Wall Street, or I should say, the person who used to be a billionaire on Wall Street.

The antichrist does not care if a person is rich or poor, well bred or disowned – he wants their worship.

John adds,

. . . and the free men and the slaves . . .

This is every cultural category.

Basically, John uses these three phrases as an expression of universality.^{vi}

This is everyone! Every human being on the planet will receive a mark on their body.

You may have noticed that this mark was either on the right hand or the forehead.

In the Bible, which the antichrist is mimicking, the right hand is the symbol of strength and the forehead is the most conspicuous part of the body.^{vii}

In Revelation 7, we read about God marking His special evangelists – the 144,000 from the tribes of Israel – with a mark on their forehead.

So in this, the copycat is at it again. In the same way that God's servants are marked, the antichrist will mark his servants.

The word that is translated “mark” is “charagma” (χαράγμα), and John's audience would have immediately picked up on its significance. In the Roman Empire:

- slaves were sometimes branded by their owners to show that the slave was the property of a particular estate;
- soldiers would often brand themselves with the name of their general, revealing their undying loyalty to his cause;
- on every commercial contract or document, the documents were stamped with the name and date of the emperor, which declared that the commercial activity upheld the name and authority of the emperor.^{viii}

John's readers got the significance of this immediately. The antichrist is placing his mark on his servants – they belong to his estate. These servants are also loyally devoted to his cause and they do nothing without a desire to honor the name of their emperor.

Lest some think that this future mark of the beast is a chip placed under the skin, notice the Bible uses terminology that informs us that it will be on or upon the right hand or forehead. This is clearly intended to be a visible mark that would be obvious to everyone.

Now, lest some think that everyone on the planet is forced to do this – the Greek language presents a different picture. Look at these words again in verse 16,

And he causes all . . . to be given a mark . . .

This sounds like these people have a gun at their head and are told, “Take the mark, or else.”

The actual picture behind these words is that of masses of people putting the mark on themselves or eagerly pressing forward to receive it at the place of worship.^{ix}

This will be an exciting day for the world. The people are thrilled. They will bear the mark of their emperor like a soldier wears his medals or an athlete wears his team jersey or a patriot carries his country's flag. They are going to want the rest of the world to know of their allegiance; their total physical surrender to their savior.

What the people do not realize is that they have been deceived. The dragon, through the antichrist and his ministry of propaganda, has done nothing less than turn the world into a global concentration camp and all the inmates are now numbered.^x

And in less than thirty-six months, most of these people will be dead.

Now obviously, this is Satan's ploy to flush out the remaining genuine believers who will never take this mark of allegiance. This leads me to the second aspect of this mark of the beast. It not only involves global, physical surrender to the antichrist, but a second aspect as well.

Global, Economic Stranglehold by the Antichrist

The second aspect of the mark of the beast is the global, economic stranglehold by the antichrist. It is either surrender or starve. Look at verse 17.

and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.

We will talk about the number of his name in a moment, but for now, notice the way the antichrist will shut down any financial activity by those who are not proud citizens of the new world order. If someone is not a loyal patriot of the new world order, they have no right to benefit from the brave new world – they do not belong. Whether someone tries to buy food or buy a house, purchase medicine or fill up their car with gasoline, they are stuck. And they have nowhere to hide.

Now just how can the antichrist pull this off?

I agree with one author who wrote, "In times past, the idea of a mark that would individually identify everyone in the world for governmental control seemed a far-fetched fantasy possible only in science fiction. No one today, however, questions the possibility of such an identification process."^{xi}

It is possible that everyone who receives the mark will be given the latest technology that might have already been in the market for some time. Several authors I researched pointed out the latest in personal identification systems and one caught my eye.

One journal was talking about the first human tests of a small microchip, the size of a grain of rice, implanted underneath the skin. *Business Week Online* referred to the development of Digital Angel technology which represents the first-ever combination of advanced sensors and web-enabled wireless telecommunications linked to Global Positioning Systems. Are you still with me? By utilizing advanced sensor capabilities, Digital Angel is able to monitor ambient temperature and physical movement. For those who have the chip, Digital

Angel now has the ability for real-time monitoring of patients. It will integrate biosensors, envirosensors, wireless communications, and GPS technology to read heart rate, temperature, blood pressure – and mine is rising just at the thought of it – pulse, and blood chemistry. Because this technology is networked by the Internet and GPS, a person's information can be sent instantly to their doctor from wherever they are on the planet.^{xii}

Now, these chips are not the mark of the beast. They might be technology used by him one day to track the human race, but we get to use it for all the best reasons.

I love using my GPS. I do not want it implanted in me, but I am enjoying the technology advancement.

The mark of the beast is not a social security number, a driver's license number, a national ID number, or any other number a person might get in the future. The mark of the beast is his number – it is a number that represents his name.

A person cannot be fooled into accepting some chip or some number and without knowing it, they have signed on with the antichrist.

Remember, we will be watching this from the banister of heaven – if we are watching it at all.

One more comment about this tracking system that the antichrist just might use one day in the not too distant future.

One article pointed out a particular company that is producing radio frequency identification (RFID) tags that are now going on or in almost everything made.

This company is developing these tags for grocery carts that automatically read the item a person places into their cart, and keep a running total of their groceries. When they get to the front of the store, they scan their credit card – and perhaps one day they will be able to scan their card across their cart and just walk out to their car – and the amount of money is wirelessly withdrawn from their bank account.

Imagine how easy this will make shopping. You put a gallon of milk into the cart and it totals it; you put a bag of little chocolate-covered doughnuts into your cart and it blows a horn until you take them out. This is my nightmare.

Notice this – the RFID system is pressing to be standardized all over the world so that one tag can be read by every scanner on earth. RFID is also moving toward a standardized bar code and believe they have

found it in the European Article Numbering code. One author said, “How interesting to students of Bible prophecy that these groups have selected the code used by the group of European nations that will one day produce the antichrist.”^{xiii}

What will all this technology do one day? In the new world order, it will enable one man to virtually control commerce. Only those loyal to him, John writes in verse 17,

... will be able to buy or to sell . . .

Now remember, the latest gadget is not the mark of the beast – even an identification chip in an arm or hand. The truth is that the Christian can benefit from every technological advancement without fear of the antichrist because he will not even be revealed to the world until the church has been taken away.

However, even for the believers living through the Tribulation who came to faith in Christ after the rapture – they need not fear being tricked by some implanted chip. They will make a very clear decision to either accept the number or name of the antichrist and worship him with their total being or they will refuse.

If these believers refuse, they will face the prospects of starvation – or martyrdom.

So there is global, physical surrender to the antichrist. There is a global, economic stranglehold by the antichrist. And there is a third aspect.

Global, Spiritual Supremacy of the Antichrist

The third aspect of the mark of the beast is the global, spiritual supremacy of the antichrist. Look at John’s words in verse 18.

Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty six.

Six hundred and sixty six – 666 – just the sound of this makes us think of the devil. “666” – it even hisses like a serpent, does it not?

In the Bible, numbers can be both figurative and literal at the same time. The number 3 represents the triune God. The number 7 represents perfection. The number 1 represents unity. The number 6 represents man.

The triple designation of 6 figuratively indicates the antichrist’s attempt at mimicking the triune God.^{xiv}

The antichrist is the triune man. He claims to be God, but he is just a goat. He would like to be 777 – triple perfection – but he is only 666.^{xv}

The antichrist is simply a man, failing three times over.

However, the number 666 is also a literal designation. John refers to “calculating the number”. The total sum of his name is six hundred and sixty six.^{xvi}

This is the only clear use of what is called “gematria” in the Bible. The Greek word “geometria” (γεωμετρία) gives our transliterated word “geometry”.

The practice of gematria tracks all the way back to John and centuries before when Hebrew and Greek letters were given numerical values. And by using certain letters, a numerical figure can also be represented.

People, by the way, thought Hitler was the antichrist. Besides all the obvious reasons, they thought this because the letters of his name in English totaled six hundred and sixty six. “H” had a numerical value, “I” had a value, and so on.

The trouble is that we are not told what language we are to calculate the antichrist’s name with. Is it Hebrew, Latin, Greek, German, English, Italian? Even with this, we can still have all sorts of combinations of letters to get to the total of six hundred and sixty six.

Let me explain it this way. If A = 1, B = 2, C = 3, D = 4, and E = 5, I could use several combinations to get to the sum of 6.

I could use two As and one D.

I could use one C, one B, and one A, which, when added, equals 6.

I could even use two Cs. This reminds me of my report cards growing up.

There are all kinds of combinations just to get to a single 6. Imagine how many combinations there are that add up to 666.

On the walls of Pompeii, archeologists found where a man had written, “I love her whose number is 545.”

This was not her phone number. He was both identifying her to those who knew her and concealing her identity to anyone else.

Now, this is the challenge, since many different letter combinations can equal 666, it is impossible to figure the name out in advance – it is a puzzle.

The bottom line is simple. The Lord did not want to give this man's name away until he made his claim to deity. At that time, the insightful believer will be able, with wisdom, to confidently determine that the letters of his name do, in fact, equal 666.

So, do not try to guess now.

I have come across all sorts of guesses. Henry Kissinger's name equaled 666, and so did John F. Kennedy's, Lyndon Johnson's, and Ronald Reagan's.

One author pointed out that the name Bill Gates III equals 666 and so does the phrase, Windows 95.^{xvii}

You are probably thinking, "That explains it – I knew my computer was the antichrist!"

No, do not waste your imagination on the puzzle – it will be solved in the Tribulation. This is one puzzle you do not want to solve.

What does the church do in the meantime – while we, like the Thessalonians, wait for Jesus Christ to take us up?

In light of our deceived world; in light of so many false teachers distorting the gospel; in light of moral values and absolutes being washed down the sewer, the good news is that the mission of the church is not a puzzle – it has never changed.

One search and rescue team in Colorado puts it this way: "Millions of people visit the mountains of Larimer County, Colorado, each year. A few will become lost, stranded, or injured – and some will die. Our objective is to find and rescue these lost or injured people before it is too late. We are dedicated to saving lives."

It is as simple as this.

From the first century to the twenty-first century, our commission remains the same. "Go – make disciples, baptizing and teaching them all I have commanded you – and listen, I am with you always," Jesus said, "even to the end of this age – until I call the church home."

This manuscript is from a sermon preached on 3/1/2009 by Stephen Davey.

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ⁱ Adrian Rogers, Unveiling the End Times in Our Time (Broadman, 2004), p. 164.

ⁱⁱ Rob Bell, Velvet Elvis (Zondervan, 2006), p. 139.

ⁱⁱⁱ Brian McLaren, A Generous Orthodoxy (Zondervan, 2006), p. 93.

^{iv} Don Veinot, Midwest Christian Outreach, Inc., "Doug Phillips – New Paganism?" <http://ministrywatchman.com>, July 5, 2007.

^v Leadership Journal, (Winter 2009), p. 59.

^{vi} Robert L. Thomas, Revelation: Volume 2 (Moody Press, 1995), p. 180.

^{vii} Donald Grey Barnhouse, Revelation: God's Last Word (Zondervan, 1971), p. 247.

^{viii} William Barclay, Revelation: Volume 2 (Westminster, 1976), p. 99.

^{ix} Barnhouse, p. 247.

^x Rogers, p. 168.

^{xi} David Jeremiah, What In the World Is Going On? (Thomas Nelson, 2008), p. 158.

^{xii} Rogers, p. 169.

^{xiii} Daymond R. Duck and Larry Richards, The Book of Revelation (Thomas Nelson, 2006), p. 199.

^{xiv} Thomas, p. 183.

^{xv} Ray Stedman, Revelation: God's Final Word (Discovery House, 1991), p. 258.

^{xvi} Thomas, p. 182.

^{xvii} Mark Hitchcock, Is the Antichrist Alive Today? (Multnomah, 2002), p. 67.