

MISTAKE 32

THE FINAL ANTICHRIST WILL BE A LITERAL HUMAN BEING: NOT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

There are people who see the final Antichrist as an impersonal force, some evil religious system, or even some type or artificial intelligence. However, as we will discover, the Bible consistently speaks of Antichrist as an actual person. If so, then the question is whether this person has already come in history, the preterist view, or whether he is still to come, the futurist view.

The idea that there will be a final Antichrist who is an actual person, who is still to come on world's stage, is based upon a number of things. We can highlight them as follows.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION SPEAKS OF FUTURE EVENTS

The futurist view is based on a literal understanding of the Book of Revelation. While the first three chapters are dealing with issues of that particular time, from chapter four forward the subject is the future.

God has given us the Book of Revelation for a number of reasons and one of them is the explanation of “things to come.” Therefore, when Revelation is read in a *normal* sense, the events spoken about must take place in the future. Indeed, there is no possible way to find their fulfillment in the first century, or at some other time in church history.

This is especially true of what Scripture says about the coming “beast,” the “Antichrist.” The biblical description of who he is, as well as what he will do, remains unfulfilled. Nobody has come upon the scene of history and fulfilled what is written about this biblical “beast,” the “man of sin.”

In fact, Scripture says that this coming man of sin will only be stopped when Jesus Christ returns to the earth. We read the following in the Book of Revelation:

Then I saw the beast and the kings of the world and their armies gathered together to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army. And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur (Revelation 19:19-20 NLT).

Any attempt to say this passage has already been fulfilled is futile. The coming of the predicted Antichrist, as well as his eventual doom, is still a future event.

Therefore, all things considered, the futurist view of Revelation is the most consistent with the facts.

THE TESTIMONY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL

The idea that the appearance of the final Antichrist is still future is confirmed by the Book of Daniel.

We find that the wars of final Antichrist are described in Daniel 11:40-45. The time of this conflict is declared to be “the time of the end.”

At the time of the end the king of the south will attack him (Daniel 11:40 NET).

There is nothing in the context that would restrict the force of the word “end.” Consequently, the end of all things must be the meaning:

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Furthermore, this battle concludes with the destruction of Antichrist in the Holy Land followed by the resurrection of the Old Testament believers

At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued. Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace (Daniel 12:1-2 NLT).

Since these predicted events have not yet occurred, therefore the “end” in view here must be the final days of this present age.

THE EVIDENCE THAT ANTICHRIST IS A HUMAN BEING

As for Antichrist being an actual person who is still to come on the stage of history, the following observations should be made.

1. HE IS A MEMBER OF A SATANIC GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS

As we look at the text of Revelation, we find that Antichrist is a member of a satanic group of three individuals. We read the following:

Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet (Revelation 16:13 NIV).

Here the Antichrist, the beast, is compared to the dragon, Satan, and the false prophet. Since Satan is clearly portrayed in Scripture as an actual personage, we should also view the beast and the false prophet in the same manner. It would be inconsistent to interpret one or two of these references literally while the others figuratively. It is important to be consistent in our interpretation.

2. HE IS COMMISSIONED BY THE DEVIL

This personage is commissioned of the devil himself. John explained how the dragon, the devil, gave power to the beast:

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 (Revelation 13:2 NIV).

This is another indication that we are dealing with a human being.

3. THIS PERSON IS ENERGIZED AND EQUIPPED BY SATAN

We are also told that this man of sin is energized and equipped by Satan. We read the following in Thessalonians:

The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:9 ESV).

The fact that he is called “the lawless one” indicates that we are dealing with a single person. It is not an institution.

4. ANTICHRIST REMAINS A HUMAN BEING

With all these traits, Antichrist is still a human being. John made this very clear when he wrote the following:

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This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666 (Revelation 13:18 ESV).

Here we find that his number is that of a man. This seems to make his identity clear. The Final Antichrist is a human being.

5. HE WILL SELL HIS SOUL TO THE DEVIL

It seems that the final Antichrist will be a human being who personally gives his soul over to the devil. When the devil tempted Jesus, he offered the Lord all the kingdoms of the world. The only requirement is that Jesus would have to bow down to him. Matthew records the following:

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me” (Matthew 4:8–9 ESV)

The Lord would not bow. We read what happened next:

Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only’” (Matthew 4:10 NIV).

When the devil tempted the Lord Jesus, and offered him the kingdoms of the world, he did not receive the response from the Lord which he was after.

Rather he only received a rebuke. However in the final Antichrist, Satan finds a human being who is willing to sell his soul for the chance to rule the world.

6. HE AND THE FALSE PROPHET WILL BE TORMENTED

Finally, we are told that when Christ returns, this personage will be tormented for all eternity. As we saw earlier, he will be thrown into the lake of fire with the “false prophet” at the return of Christ:

Now the beast was seized, and along with him the false prophet who had performed the signs on his behalf - signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. Both of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire burning with sulfur (Revelation 19:20 NET).

Later, we are told that the devil will eventually join these two in the “lake of fire:”

And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet are too, and they will be tormented there day and night forever and ever (Revelation 20:10 NET).

You do not torment an idea, something symbolic, or something built, as in artificial intelligence! You can only punish and torment a living creature! This is a further indication that the final Antichrist is an actual person.

CONCLUSION: THE FINAL ANTICHRIST IS COMING

Therefore, when all the evidence is in, we can conclude the following. The Bible, when interpreted in a normal literal sense, says that there will be a personal final Antichrist who comes on the scene of history shortly before the return of Jesus Christ.

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This Antichrist will not be an evil influence, an ungodly system, or some type of created artificial intelligence. Instead he will be an actual human being who does the bidding of Satan. His coming is still in the future. This is the consistent biblical view of the subject of Antichrist.