

The UnHoly Trinity

Revelation 13

INTRODUCTION: Today is **Palm Sunday**, that day when we celebrate the Triumphant Entry of Jesus Christ through the Golden Gate in Jerusalem amidst the Hallelujah's of the Jewish people. Keep in mind that this same crowd who celebrated Jesus on Palm Sunday would be demanding his execution by Friday of the same week. Why? Well, partially because the mob is fickle and easily swayed. But partially because he didn't do what they expected.

They assumed he would enter through the gate, take an immediate right and enter into Fort Antonius and drive out the Roman garrison stationed at Jerusalem. But he didn't do that, rather, he took a left and made his way to the Temple, His Father's house and drove out the money changers. He was a different kind of King than they expected at least at His first coming.

Scripture tells us, that a day is coming when another man will enter into Jerusalem. He will also turn toward the temple proper. But he will do something that a myriad of the greatest leaders in human history have been unable to accomplish - namely bring about a time of peace on the most contested piece of real estate on the entire planet, the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

A rectangular plate spanning approximately 35 acres, the Temple Mount has been fought over for thousands of years. But a coming leader will arise who will be able to strike a deal with the Islamic WAQF (*waf*) which is basically an Islamic committee in Jerusalem.

In the book of Revelation we see a time when the Jews are peaceably able to reconstruct a modest version of the Temple and re-institute the sacrificial practices of the OT economy. This is made possible by a Satanically empowered individual that you know as THE ANTICHRIST.

Since the New Testament was written there have been thousands of people accused of being Anti-Christ. Nero, Hitler, Bin Laden. When I was a boy people thought it was Mikhail Gorbachev because of the birth mark on his head. Some thought it might be Jared Kushner, and he didn't try too hard to dissuade his detractors, purchasing 666 Fifth Avenue in midtown Manhattan in early 2007.

Well who is this individual and what can we expect him to do?

The title **Anti-Christ** referring to a specific individual is only used one time in scripture, that is in **John 2:18**. In other places he is called -

- Daniel** - He was prophesied in Dan. 7,8,9,11. He is called the Desolator, Willful King, Little Horn.
- Zechariah** - The worthless shepherd

•**Paul's** writings - The man of sin, son of perdition, man of lawlessness
2 Thessalonians 2 - Persecution was so intense that the church was concerned that they had missed the rapture and the Tribulation had begun.

Paul says, **2 Thessalonians 2:3–4 (ESV)**

³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

•Now here in **Revelation** we see this man described as the Beast out of the sea. Now, some of you will have a little different verse numbering with the final verse of chapter 12 and the first of chapter 13, that is nothing to be concerned with. The verse numbers were not inspired anyway, they were given to by editors help us know which passage we are referring to. The ESV numbers it this way...

TEXT: Revelation 13:1–18 (ESV)

1 And I saw a beast rising out of the sea,

- The **Beast** is the man we know most popularly as the Anti-Christ.
- The **sea** in prophetic literature has reference to the Gentile, non Jewish nations.

Here specifically he makes an allusion to **Daniel 7** where Daniel saw a series of 4 Nations arising on the Planet each of which would Persecute Israel.

The **Babylonian** Empire, the **Medo-Persian** Empire, the **Greek** Empire under Alexander the Great, then the **Roman** Empire.

Revelation 13 uses the exact same imagery as **Daniel 7**.

1 And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns (**Roman Empire**) and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.

2 And the beast that I saw was like a leopard (**Greek Empire**); its feet were like a bear's (**Medo-Persian Empire**), and its mouth was like a lion's mouth (**Babylonian Empire**). And to it (that is this new beast rising out of the sea) **the dragon** (remember who that is?) gave his power and his throne and great authority.

3 One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast.

So there you see a counterfeit **death** and **resurrection**. It doesn't say he will die, but it says that he will receive a mortal wound.. then somehow he will recover. I'll say more

about that in a moment.

4 And they worshiped the dragon, (That is Satan) for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" 5 And the **beast** was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months

That's 3.5 years - Remember Anti-Christ will make peace for the first half of tribulation, then suddenly break it half way in.

6 It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

In the Jewish context, there was no sin as severe as Blasphemy. If you remember that was the charge they leveled against Jesus for claiming to be God. Jesus said the only sin that will not be forgiven is Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. ***Well for Antichrist Blasphemy is his mother tongue.***

7 Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.

That is those Jewish believers who come to faith during the Tribulation period.

7b. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,

So notice, the nations still exists, but more and more they are under the influence and authority of Antichrist.

There you see this idea of a one world government. Politically, you will see to schools of thought -

- **Nationalists**, who believe that a country should look out first for it's own concerns, protect its borders and autonomy.
- **Globalists**, who seek to erase national distinctive and pave the way for a one world government.

This is why issues like border security, military defense, and America first slogans resonate so deeply in the conservative christian community. This is why we are concerned when men like **George Soros** pours billions of dollars into efforts to create as he calls it, "an open society".

If you were paying attention, the call for a one world system was greatly amplified during the Covid 19 pandemic.

- Former British prime minister **Gordon Brown** vocally called for "*a temporary form of a global government*" to deal with it. ¹

¹ Jeremiah, David. Where Do We Go from Here? (p. 28). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.

- Professor **Ar-vind Ashta** of the Burgundy School of Business in France wrote, *“Perhaps, the situation created by COVID-19 might serve to highlight the particular advantages of shifting to a world federal government. This may trigger a change that would not only help mitigate the damage caused by the pandemic, but would also offer a solution to many of the other challenges humanity currently faces.”*²

If Covid could amplify this shift, imagine how the emergence of the Tribulation period will effect the trend toward a one world government.

How quickly can a person arise in power like this? Well let me ask you - did you know the name Volodymyr Zelenskyy two month ago? If he can win the hearts of the world in 2 month in the midst of a two nation war, can you imagine what is possible if a leader arises amidst the chaos of the Tribulation period?

8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, **everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.** 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear: 10 If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

So up to this far we have seen the first beast, the man we call Antichrist. Now we are introduced to the Second Beach, a man known as **THE FALSE PROPHET** -

11 Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. 12 It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.

If the antichrist was a political leader this man is a religious leader although he will quickly show that he has political ambitions is appointed as an ECONOMIC TSAR by antichrist.

But his main role is to serve as the **chief cheerleader fo antichrist**.
As the Holy Spirit points to Jesus, this man points to the Anti- Christ.

You see all throughout the scriptures - a Leader and a Prophet pointing to the Leader.

- So Aaron spoke for and pointed to Moses.
- John the Baptist pointed to Jesus.
- And this man points to Anti-Christ.

It could be that this man, the FALSE PROPHET will be the one who performs the healing of ANTI-CHRIST.

² Jeremiah, David. Where Do We Go from Here? (p. 28). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.

13 It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people.

So the signs performed by the two witnesses of God we read about a couple of weeks ago, will also be performed by this false prophet.

14 and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. 15 And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.

With advances in technology it's not difficult to imagine that this could be a form of AI - **Artificial Intelligence** that multiplies the control of Antichrist. It could involved robotics.

16 Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, 17 so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

Once the false prophet has taken control of the economic system, the free market economy is dead. He says who can buy, he says who can sell.

He controls trade by means of a personal identification that shows your fidelity to the program of antichrist.

As companies expand globally and information technologies advance, many of the companies you deal with have a treasury of information of you.

- Florida **CFO Jimmy Patronis** told a group If you have participated in DNA testing your data has most likely already been sold to insurance companies and they will use that data to determine your premiums.
- We've all experienced the private conversation where we mention at interest in buying a product, and discover ironically that the product endlessly pops up on our social media.
- **DISNEY** - Has a global footprint. It's much larger than Florida or California. Yet you have a profile with that company that is accessed every time you log into an app or walk through a park.

There are many similar companies that have a worldwide expression and a bottom line that makes them more powerful than many national governments.

- **APPLE** - Now worth \$2.2 trillion, compared to the wealth of countries' worldwide — it would be the 8th richest country in the world. Hitting this milestone means Apple is

currently wealthier than Italy, Brazil and Canada in terms of GDP and ultimately would be richer than 96% of countries on Earth.

- **Inflation** has driven many into the **Crypto currency market** rapidly making paper and national currencies obsolete.

The technological integration that is needed for someone to control the global market is already in place.

18 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.

Now the list of things this may be referring to is endless so your guess is as good as mine, but remember it's purpose - it is to show fidelity to antichrist. So somehow it will mark you as being a part of his program, enabling you to participate in the global marketplace.

Later God gives a strong warning against receiving the mark - **Revelation 14:9–11 (ESV)** ⁹ And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

So there we have it, the Satanic Trinity - Satan, Anti-Christ and the False Prophet.

So who will the antichrist be? Is he alive today?

- Some have suggested that the AntiChrist will be Jewish... making him look as if he may be a Jewish Messiah. Could be.
- Some have suggested that he will be Italian, literally Roman, leading some to suggest that he arises out of the Vatican. Could be.

I want to suggest another alternative. I believe he will arise out of the Islamic Community... 2 reasons -

1. This theory is in keeping with his unique ability to bring about a peace that enables the Jews to rebuild the temple.
2. Islam is looking for the exact same prophetic figures we are looking for, except from a different angle.

If present trends do not change, Islam will pass Christianity as the World's dominant religion very shortly.

•Presently those who practice Islam make up 1/5 of the world's population. If the current trend continues, 1/2 of global births will be in Muslim families by the year 2055.

- Islam is not only the fast growing religion in the world, it's the fastest in the USA, Canada, and Europe.
 - The Annual growth of Islam in the US is approximately 4% but there are strong indicators that it may have grown to over 8% in recent years.
 - Every year 10's of thousands of Americans convert to Islam.
 - The annual number of converts to Islam has quadrupled since 9/11.
- This is a world wide revival for Islam happening and most of us are oblivious to it.**
- 80% of those who convert to Islam in America are from Christian Churches.
 - If the numbers are accurate 60,000 people leave Christian Churches to convert to Islam each year.

While this is disturbing in and of itself, when one understands a little about **Islamic Eschatology** (*view of the End Times*) the rise of Islam become a very important issue.

You see for Christians, we view one's theology of the last days as optional, debatable, but for the Muslim an understanding of the last days is one of the **FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM**.

So understanding the Islamic perspective on the end times, and having the christian understanding clear is becoming more and more RELEVANT.

Both Christians and Muslims await the coming of 3 individuals.

Islamic and Christian Eschatology (Study of the End Times) Compared			
CHRISTIANITY	Anti-Christ (Religious Leader)	False Prophet (Religious Leader)	JESUS CHRIST (Christian Messiah)
ISLAM	Al-Mahdi (Islamic Messiah)	Al-Maseeh (Islamic Jesus)	Ad-Dajall (Islamic Anti-Christ)

1. **Al-Mahdi** (The Muslim Messiah/Savior Figure) the term means, "the guided one". The coming of the Mahdi is the first of 5 major signs the Muslim's are waiting for. Islam teaches that the Mahdi will be a descendant of Muhammad and will bear his name. He will be a world leader of Islam - becoming much like an Islamic Pope. His ascendancy to power is said to be preceded by an army from the East carrying black flags or banners of war - (ISIS?). He is expected to lead an army to Israel to capture the Holy Land for Islam. He is expected to be riding on a white horse.

2. **Al-Maseeh** (The Muslim Jesus) Islam predicts a second coming of Jesus. But the Jesus they are expecting is NOT, i repeat is NOT the Jesus that you and I know and love. According to Islam... this man is NOT the Son of God, he is NOT God in the flesh. The Qur'an specifically denies that Jesus was ever crucified or that he died. Muslims believe that Allah miraculously delivered Jesus from death, He ascended into heaven alive and he will one day return.

This false Jesus will subject himself to the Mahdi. He will make a pilgrimage to Mecca as a good Muslim. He will institute Islamic law. He will be a great Muslim Evangelist.

Now - this is the figure we know of as - **THE FALSE PROPHET.**

3. **The Dajjal** - Islam's Antichrist, our Christ.

They consider him the great deceiver. They expect him to be blind in one eye. They believe he will claim to be Jesus Christ... that's because He IS Jesus Christ.

They ultimately believe that the Muslim Jesus will slay the Christian Jesus. We know better.

CONCLUSION/INVITATION:

There is a principle in scripture that God tells His people what He is about to do.

- Before the great flood, God warned Noah.
- Before God judged Sodom, he revealed it to Abraham.

Amos 3:7 (ESV)

⁷ "For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.

John 15:14–15 (ESV)

¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

The Lord's Supper

I Corinthians 11

- Deacon's come forward.
- Distribute elements.
- Fence the table – Saved, Baptized, in good standing.
- Explain the procedure – WE WILL PRAY, READ A PASSAGE and PARTAKE TOGETHER.

THE BREAD

1. Pray –

2. Read –

1 Cor. 11 -

24and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

3. Partake

THE CUP

1. Pray –

2. Read

1 Cor. 11

25In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

3. Partake

Closing Reading 26For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.