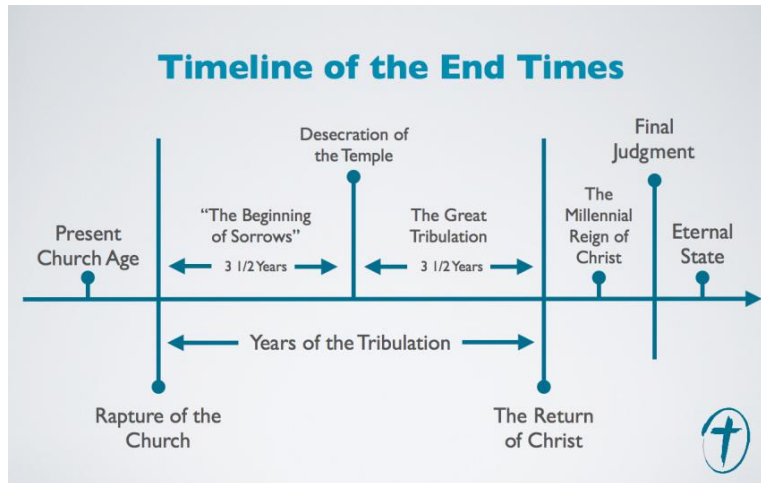


Revelation Series, Rev. 13-“The Antichrist Revealed”

8.22.18

The Bible predicts that world-wide chaos, instability and disorder will increase as we approach the end of this age.



The world is marching toward a future chaos that will be set off after we're gone...the Rapture of the church. Imagine millions and millions of people...perhaps 1 billion people suddenly disappearing all at once and the fear and devastation brought on by the Rapture will cause a worldwide outcry for relief and order at almost any cost. That will set the stage for the emergence of a new world leader who will promise a solution to all problems. He will negotiate world peace and promise order and security. What the world will see is the emergence of a man the Bible calls: the Antichrist. Tonight's message is: "The Antichrist Revealed."

You know there are a lot of misunderstandings and confusion about who this man is, and when he will appear, and what powers he can exercise. Yet, Revelation 13 gives us details about this man. Let's see it...

Revelation 13:1-2

¹ And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns 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; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.

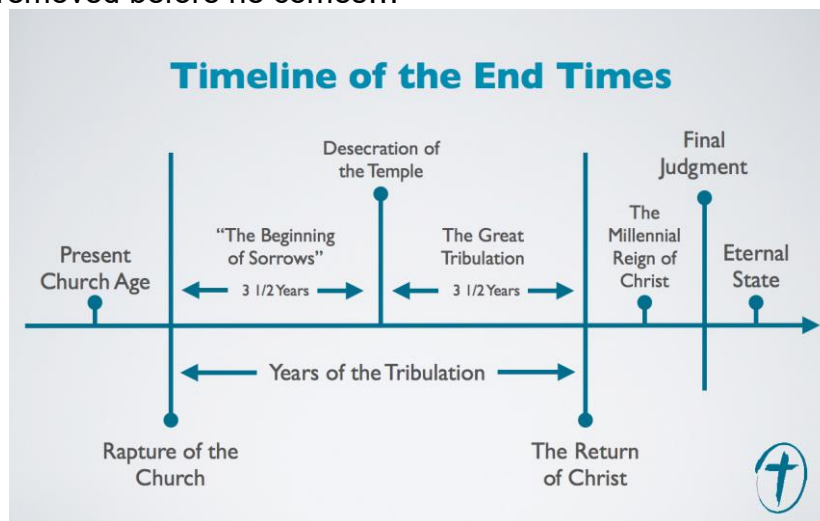
Church family, the Antichrist will be a literal person, a man. Think about it. He could be alive right now. I thought about this as I was watching the Little League World Series this weekend. He could be a 12-year old boy taking a swing at a ball or fielding a grounder. He could be occupying a seat in a university classrooms this fall. He could be 30 years old. He could be 5 years old. Bible commentator, John MacArthur gives this scenario:

"Somewhere at this moment there may be a young man growing to maturity. He is in all likelihood a brooding, thoughtful young man. Inside his heart, however, is a hellish rage that boils like a caldron of molten lead. He hates God. He despises Jesus Christ and he detests the Church. In his mind there is taking shape the form of a diabolical dream of conquest. He will disingenuously present himself as a friend of Christ and the Church and the world. Yet, he will, once empowered, pour out Hell itself onto this world. Can the world produce such a prodigy? Hitler was once a little boy. Stalin was a lad. Nero, Bin Laden, Hussein were once children scurrying to and fro. Sad to say, but the tenderness of childhood will be shaped by the Devil into the terror of the Antichrist." John MacArthur

Indeed, it could be that the Antichrist is walking around on this earth at this very moment. We see here in Rev. 13 that the Antichrist is described in some detail; yet, one detail we won't find is the identity of this man. Yet, people have tried through the centuries to figure it out. In fact, today, if you Google, "Who is the Antichrist," you get over 9.5 million hits.

Here's what we do know. The Bible indeed gives information about the Antichrist. From the Old Testament, we have loads and loads of prophecy from the Book of Daniel. From Daniel 7 and 12, we learn he will be an intellectual genius. He will have the ability to speak with oratorical magnetism and charisma. His political power will be unequaled. He will surround himself with those who will assemble a one-world political system, a one-world economy and monetary system and eventually a one-world religion. Daniel 11:21 tells us he will come to power and "obtain his kingdom through flatteries." In other words, he will be a "master of deception." Why? Because he will be empowered by the "Father of Lies," himself, Satan!

We saw in Rev. 13:1 that he comes in great power with 10 horns and 7 heads, 10 crowns and names on each of these heads. Obviously this is symbolic. It's figurative...but, it indicates His dominion and power throughout the world. The description of him in verse 2 being a leopard, bear and lion, represent the speed, strength and power of his dominion on the earth, as is prophesied in Daniel 7 about the vision of the 4 beasts. And I want to remind us of something else... **Turn to 2 Thessalonians 2**. I remind us...this man will have no power until we're all gone. Remember, the Church...has to be removed before he comes...



The Antichrist will not be revealed until the One who now holds him back is taken out of the way. Who is that? It's the Holy Spirit and He will be removed and taken out of the way (the **Restrainer** as He is called), and when that happens, he will be revealed.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-10

¹ Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 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. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill

with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

Now go back to Revelation 13 and we're going to see these "false signs and wonders and wicked deception."

Revelation 13:3-4

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. ⁴ And they worshiped the dragon, 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?"

It appears the Antichrist will be killed during the Tribulation period because of a fatal head wound. What causes the fatal head wound? We don't know. Does someone try to assassinate him? Again, we don't know. But, I caught the word "seemed" in verse 3. Did you? It "**seemed**" that he had a mortal head wound, but was then healed.

Folks, I believe this is part of those "fake signs and wonders." It's a ruse. It's deception. It's smoke and mirrors. And yet, John tells us, "the whole earth marveled as they believed the lie." In other words, they take Satan's bait, hook, line and sinker. But, jump down to verse 14 (and we'll get to this in greater detail in a few minutes), but for now...I want you to see that the Antichrist appears to have been attacked with a sword (or at least it was made to look that way).

Revelation 13:14

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.

I want you to take a guess: How many days do you think the Antichrist made it look like he was dead? How about 3! Yep, 3 days is my guess. Just like Jesus. COUNTERFEIT resurrection! Listen, I believe since Satan was cast out of heaven for the last time by Michael, he's in full deception mode on this earth. And the world buys it! They believe this is a miraculous, astonishing resurrection, and they will worship him. And isn't that what Satan has wanted all along: WORSHIP!!!

Let me park here a second and give you some other thoughts to consider... There is no way to know for sure how this man might look...but, I believe in terms of his outward appearance, I believe he will be a strikingly attractive man. People will just look at him and say, "I like that guy." And this combination of extreme looks, a magnetic personality and his amazing speaking ability will make him virtually irresistible to the masses. I believe when he comes on the scene, and begins to bring peace to the Middle East after the Rapture, people will flock to him like flies to honey and they'll fall over themselves seeking to do anything he asks. He's going to be smart and he's going to be able to appear to solve problems the world thought could never be solved.

Listen, I believe this man is going to have more charisma and more charm than Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt, JFK, Reagan, Clinton, Obama and Trump all rolled into one. He's going to set himself up as the King of this earth.

Some might say... "I'd never worship a man like that, nor would I be deceived like that." Folks, we're deceived every day. We worship all kinds of things. We worship our houses, our jobs, our cars, our trucks, our sports, our hobbies, and our phones...we can't put them down...and all of this is part and parcel to the fact that we are worshipping ourselves. We worship our bodies. We like to tan them, manicure them, tuck them, inject them, tattoo them, pierce them, you name it. All because we want that perfect body. You tell me that people won't be duped by the Antichrist when he comes. You're wrong: He'll have easy pickings! It won't be hard. And the Bible describes this...

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

⁹The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹²in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

You see, the **refusal and rejection** of these people during the tribulation to surrender their lives to Jesus will seal the deal. God will say, "Have it your way!" and He'll stamp their decision...DONE...DELUDED...DECEIVED!

Yes, the Antichrist starts out being a friend to the world, but suddenly he will turn on the world during the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation...he will hold nothing back then...He will blaspheme God and he will come after the people of God (those who don't have his mark). Watch...

Revelation 13:5-10

⁵And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸and 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. ⁹If anyone has an ear, let him hear: ¹⁰If 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.

In the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation...the Antichrist will be on a killing rampage...I believe with swords. Why swords? Well, radical, militant Muslims believe infidels should be killed by what? Beheading! And while, I won't be dogmatic about it...I believe the Antichrist will most likely be a Muslim. Do you know how those who do accept Christ as their Savior from the preaching of the 144,000 will be killed during the Tribulation? They will be behead. Revelation 20 speaks of this...when those martyred during the Tribulation are rewarded by Jesus, in that they will rise to rule and reign with Him during the Millennial Reign.

Revelation 20:4

⁴Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

So, we're done! NO...not so fast...there's even another man to help in the deception. In verses 11-18 we're introduced to another man. The Apostle John is going to tell us about the Antichrist's

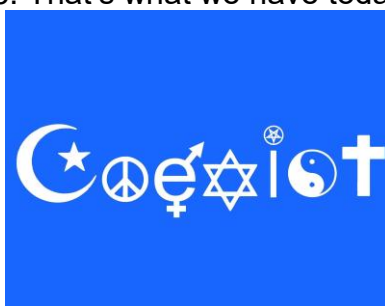
“right-hand” man...his “campaign manager,” if you will. This man will be a copy-cat. He will seek to do what the Two Witnesses (Moses and Elijah) had been doing during the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation as they were preaching the gospel to the world from the streets of Jerusalem. He will now preach about the Antichrist!

Revelation 13:11-15

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

The False Prophet will be a powerful man. He will be able to perform miracles (he’s ALLOWED) to perform these false signs. He will make it appear that he is calling fire down from heaven just like Elijah did in the Old Testament. Do you see the counterfeit? Do you see the fact that Satan never had an original idea? He’s always copying God. What we have here is the UNHOLY TRINITY! We have Satan acting as god, that Antichrist acting as the Son and the False Prophet acting as the Holy Spirit.

And the world will worship the Antichrist! Listen, I’m convinced during the first 3 ½ years, the Antichrist will allow all kinds of worship. Secular humanism will about...that blend of all the world religions together will reign supreme. That’s what we have today...



Coexist...be “politically correct,” be tolerant, be compromising and be accepting that all religions are equal. One religion can’t say to another religion that you have it wrong...because there is no right and wrong. Just do what feels right...everyone does that which is right in their own eyes...after all...all religions are the same and all roads lead to god. That will be the mindset during the first 3 ½ years...and church...that’s the mindset that we’re seeing even now.

Listen...we live in a country where the progressive liberals are gaining more and more of a foothold. They’ve been gaining since the 1960’s. They’ve turned our secular colleges into incubators for liberalism and hatred for God and Christianity. And you now what...we can’t change this to a large degree. It’s been going on for too long. The dye is cast into the wool.

The truth is: you and I can’t control the world that our children and grandchildren will inherit. But, what I can control is how I teach my children and grandchildren. I can control what I model before them...the moral direction of my own life...which is to point them to Jesus in **how I live**.

I can encourage them and help them to know that the Lord is with us and He will sustain us in whatever may come and to remind them there’s a purpose...a reason for our existence that goes

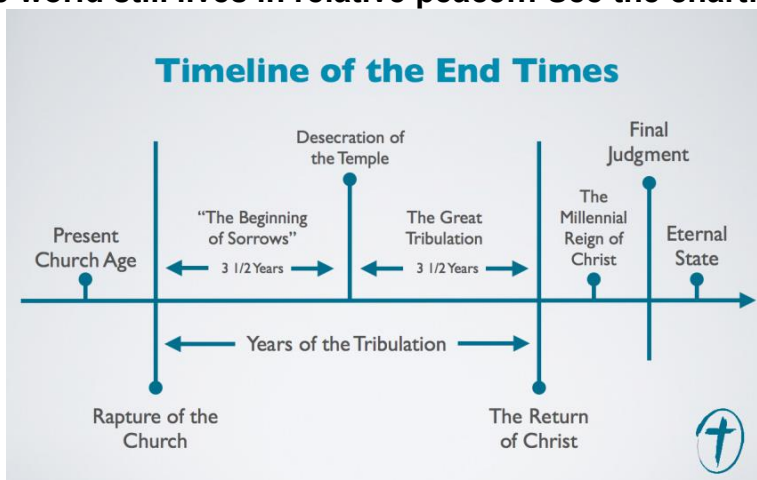
beyond just accumulating trinkets for ourselves. Our purpose for existence: Glorify Jesus Christ. That's our job...that's our main job...Glorify Him and point others to Him.

Listen...do you know what I've learned in 50 years of living...ever obstacle or problem is resistance...like weights. I can begrudge it or like exercise...I can see the resistance...the weight as a way to get stronger. Don't be depressed by what you see around you...be encouraged that the resistance makes us stronger. Peter said it this way:

1 Peter 4:12-19

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Don't lose heart...keep doing good! You see, today...right now...we're still living in the "CHURCH AGE." The world still lives in relative peace... See the chart...



but a time is coming...when the Antichrist is revealed...But in the middle of the Tribulation... the Antichrist turns on the world and the Antichrist will say, "YOU MUST follow me!!!" He will demand worship! And now the False Prophet will be allowed to complete the job of the Great Deception with all these fake miracles and an image of the Antichrist will be erected in the Temple...the abomination of desolation Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24!

What's amazing is how the Antichrist will turn on the world and demand everyone take his mark, and the False Prophet will make the world take this mark, in order for anyone to buy or sell anything. Look at verse 16-18 as we begin to wrap up:

Revelation 13:16-18

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. 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.

What is the mark? Who's name? We don't know. But we do know in Scripture the number six is the number for man. The number 7 is considered the number of God...the perfect number. So, the number 666 in triplicate is the culmination of all that man is... And ultimately, (and this is the scariest part of all), anyone who takes this mark, will seal his or her final doom. They will literally be branded and it will be fatal. For those having the mark of the Antichrist will have made their final decision to reject the preaching of the two witnesses and the 144,000 Messianic Jews about the Lord Jesus Christ, and thus they will eventually stand before the Great White Throne Judgment and be cast into the Lake of Fire with Satan, the Antichrist and the False Prophet.

Church, the Antichrist has been revealed to us tonight and it is heavy, weighty and frightening to consider if you are LEFT HERE ON THIS EARTH and do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior when the Rapture comes...this is what awaits you. **But, remember, the Antichrist will be the second to last ruler of this world. Who's the last ruler?**

Jesus...

Unfortunately, the unsaved of the earth, who believe the lie of the Antichrist, and take his mark...it will be too late. And yet, they will still bow down to Jesus as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords! You see, when Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation period after the Battle of Armageddon, those with the mark will know they have made the most gargantuan mistake of their lives. **But, for us here tonight, there is still time**...RIGHT NOW...if you've never given your life to Jesus...you can make your decision now...while there is still time to follow the ONE, TRUE and ONLY Christ...the real Christ!