

Who is (and isn't) the Beast?

Part 3: Revealed at the Appointed Time (6/8/25)

Please turn to 2 Thessalonians 2:1.

SO FAR....

- Purpose of sermon series is to ***remove ourselves from apocalyptic fervor and use the Bible as our guide for discerning who the Antichrist ISN'T***, so that we're not deceiving ourselves, others, and ruining our testimony by making false predictions.
- God gives 3 aspects of discerning the Beast: 1) His characteristics, 2) What he says and does, and 3) Events that take place at his coming and while here.
- In order for anyone to be the Antichrist, **they must fulfill ALL of the above** as written in the Bible. We cannot point to someone through "a preponderance of the evidence" or because we don't like them.
- There is NO ONE in antiquity who fulfilled all the qualifications for him.
- There is NO ONE alive who does either.
- Coming of Antichrist is accompanied by supernatural signs, wonders, and miracles even to the point of calling down fire from heaven.
- As Jesus' identity as Messiah was confirmed by His prophetic miracles, so will the Antichrist.
- FP will use prophetic religious scriptures and attach them to signs, wonders, and events taking place to point to Antichrist as the new Savior, worthy of godhood and worship.
- He may use the Bible, the Quran, etc., and claim that Antichrist is fulfilling prophecies within that point to Messiah.
- The signs will be SUPERNATURAL and not merely parlor tricks or technology.
- I'm not completely counting out tech, just saying there will be Bonafide miracles involved.
- It's the miracles that convince people to worship Beast as a god, take his mark, worship his image, and take on the number of his name 666.

FASCINATING. ***I keep my finger on the pulse of the UFO/UAP community***, most of who are New Agers who reject the Church and the Bible and believe Jesus only to be an "ascended master." Do you know they're saying nowadays? One of their more popular conspiracy theories about how these higher dimensional beings are going to introduce themselves to us? They claim they're going to stage a second coming event. Whenever they pose this, I respond "second coming of who?" just to make them admit "Jesus."

TODAY we focus on the fact that **Antichrist will not be revealed before the time God has appointed for his arrival.**

The reason we're learning this is so we can **stop pointing to someone already known and famous and trying to figure out if it's him or not. It's not.**

Remember that Antichrist imitates Christ....

Scriptural records of Jesus at His birth and childhood are minimal. When He was born, when He was a toddler, one incident in the Temple when he's 12, then nothing until He was 30. The Bible said He grew in stature and wisdom but upon His 30th birthday is when He revealed Himself as the Messiah and Son of God...again accompanied by the miraculous.

Before His 30th birthday, Jesus concealed His true identity. There are no records of Him preaching or performing any miracles. He didn't try to recruit any disciples.

Why did He wait? It was not yet His appointed time. He wasn't going to make His move until His Father gave Him the green light to. What did He do in those "lost years"? Most likely He worked as a carpenter under his stepdad Joseph.

Consider this: **Jesus lived and worked like a regular, unknown Guy** right up until He was Baptized by John.

- He acted like any other rank and file Jewish man of the 1st century up to the moment the Holy Spirit descended from heaven like a dove, landing on His shoulder.
- He was just another face in the crowd until the voice of God the Father spoke audibly from the Heavens and said "this is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased!"
- He went from night to day in a short time.
- He went from being relatively unknown to celebrity in a small period.

So it will be with the Antichrist. Even if he's alive right now, he's hidden. Only a select few know or at least suspect who he is, perhaps those who witnessed certain miracles at his birth. All the rest of us are oblivious and will remain so until the appointed time.

Therefore that nullifies any well-known figure. Presidents, popes, billionaires, celebrities, military leaders, politicians, religious leaders...if they're already famous and in the spotlight, they aren't the guy. *None of them arrived in the limelight with signs, wonders, and miracles.*

[2Th 2:1-8 ESV] 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.

In these verses Jesus is reassuring the Thessalonian Church that the **2nd Coming & Resurrection hadn't happened yet**. They were afraid they missed it and got themselves all worked up. Let's review what needs to happen first:

- 1) VERSE 3: REBELLION. Your KJV says "falling away" and the Greek word is apostasy, which translates to "defection from the truth, falling away, forsaking."

The likely context is **defection from Christ**, falling away from the Christian faith, and forsaking the truths of the Scripture.

Who is rebelling? While there's lots of debate, my reading tells me it's the trend of world as a whole moving further and further away from Jesus. Some say the rebellion is taking place within the church and that is possible too.

Is the rebellion some big event or something that's taking place gradually? IDK. The world is most certainly falling further away from Jesus with every passing day.

- Do things reach a "tipping point" where God finally decides its time to stop restraining and allow the Beast to come forth? IDK.
- Is there going to be some major act of rebellion that happens in a short period time that acts as the catalyst? IDK.
- When preaching about the end times, some speculation is involved.

Whichever one it is, ***said rebellion is attached to*** a) the restrainer and b) the revealing of Antichrist. Attached like cars on a train.

- 2) VERSES 6-7: THE RESTRAINER. IDK who the Restrainer is. Some believe it's the Holy Spirit. Others believe it's the church. Still others think it's an angel. Whoever it is, ***he's the one stopping the Antichrist from going public***. From revealing himself. The identity of the Beast will remain hidden to the world at large until the restrainer opens the door and let's the antichrist out. **I think of him as a prison guard unlocking a jail cell.**
- 3) VERSE 3: ARRIVAL OF ANTICHRIST. *After* the rebellion is when the Beast is revealed. Not before. We won't or can't know who he is until the rebellion event takes place first.
- 4) VERSE 6: ***there is an appointed TIME***, one created by God Himself. Remember it's the Lord Who truly decides the timing of Biblical events, not angels, not the dragon, and not humanity. The Lord has a specific time where he tells the Restrainer to open the door and allow the Antichrist out.

After the Beast is set free he's immediately accompanied by great signs, wonders, and miracles some of which are 1) supernatural prophetic events taking place and 2) miraculous powers worked through and by the FP and Antichrist himself.

People are dazzled, confused, awed, and inspired by these miracles that APPEAR to **fulfill ancient prophecies from the Bible and (perhaps) elsewhere.**

At this point the Antichrist imitates Jesus yet again by **going to newly rebuilt Jewish Temple.**

2000 years ago **Jesus went to the Temple on the Day of Atonement**, the last day of the Jewish Fall Feasts, when ALL of Israel is gathered at the Temple. It's the biggest event of the entire year for Jews. HP is about to sacrifice animal and offer it to God as the substitute for everyone's sins.

[Jhn 7:37-38 ESV] 37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

Reference is during ***Exodus the people are wandering the desert and are dying of thirst***. Moses strikes the rock and water flows from it, slaking the thirst of hundreds of thousands of Hebrews and their livestock. Jesus is the Rock, about to be struck down (crucified/sacrificed) by His own people, shedding both blood and water for the salvation of His spiritually thirsty and dying people.

Jesus gets the crowd's attention, drawing it AWAY from the High Priest and to Himself! He's telling the crowd to come to HIM instead and verse 39 states the living water He's offering is God the Holy Spirit.

In other words, **Jesus is saying HE is God! He forgives sins!** HE is going to be the sacrifice that Father God will accept to atone for sin. He's both the blood sacrifice AND the Eternal High Priest.

Listen carefully and apply to the end times, apply to the moment Antichrist arrives: **Jesus is telling them—and us—that God is NOT in the Temple and never will be again!** That He is God, standing among them. That HE is the Temple! That He will make THEM into His Temples and fill them full of the Spirit!

Antichrist imitates Christ. When the 3rd Jewish Temple is rebuilt and the world has rebelled against Jesus, he will step into the limelight accompanied by great signs.

- He will walk INTO the Temple and immediately exalt himself above every other god every named on earth.
- Remember that when the Temple is rebuilt, the Jews can go back to practicing their religion the way Moses taught them: making the sacrifices, observing the feast days like the Torah instructs.
- That includes the great sacrifice for sin on the last day of atonement.

I believe the Jewish High Priest will be about the make said sacrifice and that all of modern Israel will be gathered...as well as the MSM.

I believe the Antichrist will **stop the sacrifice and try to do what Jesus did: declare to the crowd gathered that he is god.** He will divert their attention from the HP to himself and call upon everyone to come to him and be filled with his demonic spirit. He will try to make them into his temples!

Unlike Jesus, **he will actually go into the Temple and make said declarations.** What did I reveal a moment ago? God wasn't and still isn't in the Jewish Temple b/c the NC makes US His temple.

2000 years ago, **Jesus stayed outside the Temple** for the reasons I already shared with you: because the Jewish Temple was moot when Christ came. He was not in there anymore, but was out among the people already forgiving sins.

Remember what made the priests so angry: He equated Himself with God. When He declared people's sins forgiven they rightly responded "only God can forgive sins!" I can't help but wonder if Jesus gave them a BIG WINK when they said that....

God is no longer in the Jewish Temple, and He won't be when it's rebuilt in the end times. He told the crowd 2000 years ago, us today, and the future generation that He's not there. So any joker who walks in there and says "I am god!" is a fake! Jesus warned us ahead of time.

Yet that's what the Antichrist does. **He interrupts the atonement sacrifice** just like Jesus and calls attention to himself, declaring that he is god. This is why Jesus said:

[Jhn 5:43 ESV] 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him.

Revelation 13 states that the Antichrist will come in the name of his father, the Dragon.

Before I close, I will share one last thing and I admit it that it's **more speculative**. Before I continue, much "end times" preaching and teaching is including the entire "Left Behind" series and the non-fiction ET teachings people produce.

Jesus ministry was 3.5 years and I believe that of the Antichrist will be as well. I know many people say 7 years but that, in my opinion, is just as speculative as what I'm putting forth.

The ***Tribulation will be 7 years long***, the final "week" of Daniel's prophecy that I don't have time to get into today (but have covered previously). **I don't believe the Antichrist will be revealed until 3.5 years into the Tribulation.**

Where does he come from? Is another big question people ask and I do think his human origin will be from a particular country.

That being said...**his non-human origin is from someplace else** that ties into today's sermon. The Book of Revelation tells us where the Antichrist is...right now...where he will come from:

[Rev 11:7 ESV] 7 And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them,

This verse is when the Antichrist kills the 2 witnesses and says his origin in the bottomless pit.

[Rev 17:8 ESV] 8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

This is when John is being *given a tour by an angel* who confirms what's said earlier: the Beast is currently living in the BP and eventually rises from it to reveal himself.

The BP isn't Hell, it's a place below Hell specifically used as a supermax prison to the same angels who sinned in Genesis 6 and created the Nephilim. Its possible other beings are imprisoned there too, such as the spirits of the Nephilim.

THAT is where the Antichrist is. That is where he's being "restrained." So when does he get released and who is the restrainer?

[Rev 9:1-2 ESV] 1 And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and **he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. 2 He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit**, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft.

Some symbolism is being used here.

- **Verse 1:** the "star" descending from heaven is an angel and stars = angels is used all over the Bible. I believe this angel, whoever he is, is the restrainer. The warden of the prison located under the earth called the BP.
- **Verse 1:** he's given the "key" to unlock this prison and let the inmates out, which includes the Beast.
- **Verse 2:** he opens the door to the prison which allows the Beast to escape and come to earth.

The Scripture is clear that **he comes from BP and that the BP is a prison** that is locked, and must be unlocked. It also tells us that that's where the Beast resides. Revelation 9 tells us when it's going to be unlocked and that an angel does it. I believe this is what Paul had already told the Thessalonians when he says "Don't you remember when I already told you these things?"

The angel opens the BP at the midpoint of the final 7 years, 3.5 into it. Again: the 3.5 year "time" of the Antichrist will be the same as the 3.5 year "time" of Christ.

One last thing: Revelation 9 states that the King of the BP is a fallen angel named Apollyon, which translates to "destruction/destroyer." In 2 Thessalonians 2:3, Paul uses the same Greek word when identifying the Antichrist:

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 [Apollyon the Destroyer]**.

The Antichrist is the “son” of Apollyon the Destroyer.

The Beast will not be revealed before his time, just like Jesus wasn't revealed before His. We cannot point to some current well-known figure and say “it might be him.”

Any current person whose already in the limelight is already revealed and didn't arrive with great signs, wonders, and miracles. The Antichrist will remain hidden right up until his moment comes...then his fame will spread quickly as people witness and testify to his miracles and how he seems to be fulfilling prophecy: Biblical and otherwise.

Like Paul said to the Thess people: let's not get worked up or afraid but properly discern the Biblical order of things.