

# Who is (and isn't) the Beast?

*Part 1: (5/25/25)*

*I've known about the Antichrist for most of my life* and have the same question as many others: WHO IS HE?

The purpose of this sermon series is for you and I to **operate in Biblical discernment** as far as the Beast is concerned.

**Our problem is the Lord didn't reveal who the Antichrist is**, He only gave enigmatic clues such as the number 666 which is the "number of his name" whatever that means. God gave us his characteristics, events that would take place when he's here, words the Beast would speak, and actions he would take.

What's happened in the last 2000 years is some within **the church have tried to point to this person or that and say "it's him! He's the guy!"** Emperors, conquerors, popes and political figures have all been labeled as the son of perdition . . . and *every prediction was and IS [currently] false.*

Since God didn't choose to tell us exactly who the Beast is, **we must pour through the Scriptures which will help us determine who he ISN'T.**

**Why is this important?**

**So that we don't get caught up in sensationalism and false predictions which make us look foolish.**

Also: *to avoid false teaching.* If we truly believe that \_\_\_\_\_ is the guy, we can't help but to believe in the "right now" timing of other things that don't take place until the 7 year Tribulation begins.

*Today's sermon contains lots of "stage setting" and next weeks will have much more meat.*

Before we go any further, I'd like to address 3 things.

BURDEN OF PROOF. Sometimes I hear another Christian point to someone (and it's almost always someone they don't like) and say "he's the guy!" When I give pushback, they ask me to prove them wrong.

**The burden of proof is on anyone making the assertion that \_\_\_\_\_ is the guy.** It's NOT on someone else to disprove them.

"I'M LOOKING FOR CHRIST NOT ANTICHRIST" is a statement I hear from some whenever I address this subject. The Lord chose to address the character, actions, words, and events surrounding the Antichrist in at least 5 different books in the Bible spanning centuries. **It's clear to me that He wants us to know about this guy and teach it to others.**

PEOPLE TALK ABOUT ANTICHRIST A LOT, INCLUDING UNBELIEVERS. I didn't get Saved until I was 27 years old, but both knew of and talked about the Antichrist before then.

*When "The Omen" finally came to TV* in the 1970's I waited until mom went to bed, snuck downstairs, and stayed up way past my bedtime watching it. To play a joke on me, my sister wrote 666 on her forehead, under her hair. She walked up to me and dramatically lifted her hair. I pointed and yelled so loud half of Addison heard me proclaim that my sister was the Antichrist! Then I went to school the next day and told everyone who would listen.

You may never get an unbeliever to listen to a verse-by-verse exposition of Luke's Gospel, **but their ears will perk up if you mention the Antichrist**...so let the Church be informed so *we can talk to them about it and use it as an opportunity to share the good news.*

**I won't be able to cover everything** I want to in today's sermon, there will be at least one more if not two.

I'm going to repeat what I said earlier: **the church has been 100% wrong** for 2 millennia on trying to predict who the Beast is and my study the "why" bares out 3 things:

- Events current at the time: wars, pestilence, natural disasters, persecution, etc.
- Great division whether political, religious, or between countries.
- Since 1948: events surrounding Israel.

**Whenever a major event is going on** like a war, famine, disease, natural disasters, and persecution people get "end times fervor" and are far more likely to point to so and so as the Antichrist.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> century many within the church believed that **Roman Emperor Nero** was the Antichrist. Not only was he an evil in his character and lifestyle, but his persecution of Christians was horrific. He's the one responsible for executing the Apostles Peter and Paul. He set fire to his own capital city and blamed it on the church in order to turn the people against Christians. What's more is that according to numerology, his name added up to 666.

Although he died in 68 AD, many in the church were convinced **he would be raised from the dead**—a loose interpretation of Revelation 13 where one of the heads of the Beast is mortally wounded then comes back to life. They believed that after Nero had risen he would fully come out as the famous Beast of Revelation.

When **Napoleon Bonaparte** rose to power in 1798 he had great influence over France and Europe in the political arena. He gathered an army and not only conquered entire nations, but actually took the Pope Pius VI hostage, dissolved the Holy Roman Empire, and coronated himself as "Emperor." His goal was to march all the way to the Holy Land and liberate Jerusalem from the Muslims (he never made it).

A significant portion of Christians in Europe and even some in the US *labeled him as the Antichrist*...and we're wrong.

When **Hitler and Mussolini** teamed up in WW2 the church was convinced they were the Antichrist and False Prophet. Before he died, there was an old preacher named **Doc Cornwall** and I loved hearing him speak. He was in college during WW2 and laid out an entire, Bible based timeline on his wall "proving" Hitler was the Beast and Mussolini was the FP. He matched up their characteristics and their actions and laid it all out in detail.

According to him, **he had a significant number of the guys in his dorm convinced**. Then the war ended and as Doc preached it: *"my Antichrist committed suicide and they killed my FP."* He then tore down his carefully crafted timeline and had to apologize to a bunch of guys he'd gotten worked up.

**In 1970's America there was apocalyptic fervor** after Christian author Hal Lindsey released a book titled "The Late Great Planet Earth" which went viral. At the time there was an American politician named Henry Kissinger who was both the US Security Advisor and Secretary of State. He was a man who could broker peace among the nations, and was sent out by Presidents Nixon and Ford to do just that. He's responsible for the then famous Paris Peace Accords and many saw him as someone who had the ear of world leaders.

The Bible says **the Antichrist is good at flattery** and would start out as a man of peace, going so far to broker a 7 year peace covenant with "many" [nations] according to the Book of Daniel.

*After reading Hal Lindsey's book that pointed out the same*, many in the church labeled Kissinger as the Antichrist. It helped that, like Nero, his name added up to 666. Reflecting on the church's obsession with Kissinger at the son of perdition, Bob Dylan wrote a song about it! Referring to the church, one verse says "*Henry Kissinger's got you tied up in knots!*"

**Kissinger died in 2023 at the age of 100.** He wasn't guy.

**When the 1990's hit America**, we went through another bout of end times fervor with the approach the new millennia. Some in the church were contemplating *2 Peter 3:8* where a day to the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as to a day. They speculated that the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> millennia—by Biblical standards—and the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup>. Some interpretations of end times prophecies in the Bible strongly suggest that if we were truly at the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> day, then Jesus was due to return at any moment and begin His millennial Kingdom: the 7<sup>th</sup> day.

**That meant the Antichrist was likely alive and well**, and the American Church picked Bill Clinton. He fulfilled some of the characteristics the Bible said the Beast would have: a great speaker, charismatic, a flatterer, and convincing. During that time I actually read an end times novel written by a Christian author who all but said the Antichrist was Clinton.

The clincher for some was when he *presided over the Oslo Accords*: peace between Israel and Palestine. It helped that his name added up to 666 according to gematria. But he wasn't and isn't the guy.

Earlier in the 90s others were highlighting **Saddam Hussein** who launched missiles into Israel. The Bible says that, at some point, the Antichrist attacks Israel...so when Saddam sent the SCUDS in, end times buffs raised up their antenna. I received a letter from a soldier who was there, in Desert Storm, and he said he believed Saddam was the Antichrist and even quoted the Bible to support his claim. Saddam died in December 2006: he wasn't the guy.

**Right here in 2025** we have President Trump who just finished a tour of Middle East. He met with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and others. In his first term he moved our **embassy to Jerusalem** and created the *Abraham Accords*. The AA's are a combo of both peace and trade and the purpose of his recent tour of ME was to get other nations to join it: including Israel. He wants to take over Gaza and rebuild it. He's saying that we're in a "golden age"...a phrase end time prophecy buffs have used for decades and attributed to the "first term" the Antichrist will have when he comes to power for 7 years.

**Elon Musk invented neural net**, an implant that will supposedly make humans smarter, faster, etc. One paralyzed man had some of his limb usage restored after taking it. Therefore some are saying it's a precursor to the Mark of the Beast. I just debated a fellow on social media who posted the video of a SpaceX rocket landing back on earth. Said fellow claimed this was musk "calling down fire from the sky" which Revelation 13 states the False Prophet will do. With a combo of neural net and SpaceX, this fellow is convinced Musk is the FP.

***Neither Trump nor Elon are the Antichrist or the False Prophet.***

**How do I know this?** Thus the purpose of today's sermon. Why we need to hear this. So that we can all know who it isn't when others start pointing fingers at this person or that one. So that we don't allow excitement or passion to guide what we believe. Remember that zeal is the product of what we believe, but should not guide what we believe. I want all of us to be able to 1) navigate through exciting end times stuff and 2) help others do the same.

**We can pour through the Scriptures and EASILY eliminate people as candidates** for the Beast or FP. Easily and quickly.

**Summary of 3 things the Lord uses to identify the Beast in the Bible:**

- His characteristics
- Things he will say and do.
- Events that take place at his arrival and while he's here.

**A few of his characteristics** (not comprehensive):

- A king of dark sentences: the occult/Satan worship.
- A king of fierce countenance: he has a manly or outright mean looking face. Intimidating. [Does that sound like Bill Gates??]
- Corrupts with flatteries: he's got charisma, flatters people, charms them.
- Master orator: good at public speaking, can sway crowds.

There are other characteristics but suffice to say *many human beings contain one, more, or all of them...* but **that's not enough to say they're "the guy."**

**There are some things the Antichrist is going to say/do:**

- Speaks out against Jesus and Father.
- Speaks out against the Church and the Jews.
- Makes a false peace with many nations
- Becomes a military conqueror and invades nations.
- Martyrs Christians and Jews
- Will assign 10 kings under him.

- Enters the Jewish Temple and declares himself to be god.
- Introduces the mark that must be taken on the right hand or forehead.

People have taken these things and tried to label a man through a **preponderance of evidence**. POE is what holds up in small claims court, like Judge Judy. The judge hears both sides and through a preponderance of evidence decides for either the plaintiff or defendant.

**That's not how it works for identifying the Beast.** We cannot do it that way. Whoever the guy is, he must:

- Have ALL the characteristics outlined in the Bible.
- Do ALL the things the Lord says he will do in the Bible.

One more category: *events that take place when the Antichrist comes and is already here.*

- Deceptive supernatural signs, wonders, and miracles.
- Fire being called down from the sky,
- 2 Witnesses who prophesy to and against the Antichrist 1260 days.
- Antichrist kills 2 witnesses after the 1260 days are fulfilled.
- Trumpet and Bowl judgments poured out on the planet during the Antichrist's raid including:
  - Water turning bitter and then blood.
  - Comets and fire raining down from the sky and causing massive damage.
  - Terrible earthquakes the likes of which we've never seen before.
  - Darkness on the "capital city" of the Antichrist for days.
  - Pustules breaking out on anyone who takes the Mark.

ALL the events must take place, not most or some.

*I could go on but you get the point.*

#1 While some conqueror, king, politician, or religious leader in history may have had some of his qualities and done a few of the things Antichrist is going to do, none of them had or did all. Even most!

#2: Very few of the **events** listed in the Bible surrounded any historical figure labeled as the Antichrist. A guy being in power during a solar eclipse might qualify for the "darkness" thing, but that's only 1 event among many.

[Pro 18:17 ESV] "The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him."