

Apocalypse Now (Revelation Revisited)

Session 10 /

THE COMING TRIUMVIRATE FROM HELL

1 In our last study we read John's description in Revelation 12 of the red dragon - who
2 turns out to be the Satan. We read of Satan's efforts against Israel and the Jews
3 throughout history. Now, in chapter 13, we get a good description of this "dragon" and
4 his henchmen - Antichrist and the False Prophet - in the coming Tribulation period. The
5 goals of this evil trio will be increased as the "restraint" of the Holy Spirit is removed
6 following the Rapture of the Church.
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8 Rev. 13:1-10

9 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea,
10 having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his
11 heads the name of blasphemy. [2] And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard,
12 and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the
13 dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. [3] And I saw one of
14 his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the
15 world wondered after the beast. [4] And they worshipped the dragon which gave
16 power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the
17 beast? who is able to make war with him? [5] And there was given unto him a
18 mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to
19 continue forty and two months. [6] And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against
20 God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. [7]
21 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and
22 power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. [8] And all that
23 dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of
24 life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. [9] If any man have an ear,
25 let him hear. [10] He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth
26 with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of
27 the saints.
28

29 Dr. D. D. Pentecost summarizes this coming brilliantly in his book *Prophecy For Today:*
30 *The world is headed toward a unified political system and a unified religious system that*
31 *beggars description and defies imagination. The Word of God has had so much to say*
32 *about the warfare between God and Satan, between the kingdom of God and the kingdom*
33 *of darkness, between this world and the heavenlies. The Scriptures reveal that this*
34 *conflict is going to come to its climax when Satan brings about his masterpiece, the man*

1 *of sin, the lawless one, the Beast, on this world scene as the head of a great confederation*
2 *of nations, under whom all nations shall be consolidate into one great world empire that*
3 *will center in the worship of Satan. This system will be characterized by lawlessness,*
4 *godlessness and absolute authoritarianism. It will be the aim of this dictator to*
5 *exterminate every believer in Jesus Christ and to outlaw God from this universe.*

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8 It will help us in our study today to read some of the scriptural references to this awful
9 man of sin - both from the New and from the Old Testaments. Let's begin with the great
10 statesman (in both the Babylonian and Persian Empires), Daniel:

11
12 Daniel 7:7

13 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and
14 terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake
15 in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the
16 beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

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18 On line 12 is Daniel's revelation that the antichrist will be "diverse from all the beasts
19 that were before it...." Think of world rulers who predated the Antichrist who terrorized
20 the world and consider that the Holy Spirit teaches us through Daniel that they were
21 amateurs compared with the Antichrist:

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- 23 1. Adolf Hitler (whose hatred of Jews brought about the Holocaust and WWII)
- 24 2. Joseph Stalin (who sacrificed 27 million of his people during WWII and probably 75
- 25 million in total)
- 26 3. Mao Zedong of China (who, it is believed) was responsible for 70 million deaths) *It is*
- 27 *noteworthy in considering world missions that Mao's grandson spoke from our pulpit a*
- 28 *few months ago and his relationship to Christians and the Lord)*
- 29 4. Kim Jong-il (of North Korea - 20 million dead)
- 30 5. Vlad III the Impaler (who killed anyone who offended him. He once had two men's
- 31 hats nailed into their head because they didn't take them off in his palace. He got the
- 32 name "impaler" for the way he executed his enemies.)
- 33 6. Pot Pol (of Cambodia who killed people for no reason and reduced his nation to the
- 34 stone age)
- 35 7. Idi Amin Dada (of Uganda who was responsible for at least 300,000 murders and was
- 36 believed to be a cannibal.)
- 37 8. Emperor Caligula (who terrorized his empire)
- 38 9. Ante Pavelic (of Croatia who killed 700,000 in one concentration camp alone).
- 39 10. Emperor Nero (of Rome whose evil caused the deaths of multitudes of early followers
- 40 of Christ.)

1 As evil as those ten men were, they were “pikers” compared to the coming Antichrist.
2 How so? Scripture says if God did not arbitrarily stop the Tribulation there would be no
3 one left alive on this planet. Jesus said so: Matthew 24:22-25 And except those days
4 should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake (those
5 who have accepted Christ during the Tribulation) those days shall be shortened. [23]
6 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. [24]
7 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and
8 wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. [25]
9 Behold, I have told you before.

10 11 The Ten Horns Represent Power

12
13 Daniel wrote (Daniel 7:7) that this “beast,” the Antichrist, had ten horns. No, not literal
14 horns. This represents nations, those that have amalgamated their interests with that of
15 the Antichrist. One by one, nations are discarding God in favor of those own secular
16 persuasions. They will be “patsies” for Antichrist and will fall at his wretched feet, one
17 by one. But not for long:

18 19 Daniel 7:8-9

20 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little
21 horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and,
22 behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great
23 things.

24 [9] I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose
25 garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne
26 was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

27
28 There are so many “explanations” of these horns from various sectors that I could spend a
29 few nights of studies here trying to explain them all. Some link the ten horns to the ten
30 Caesars. Others link them to the G-7 conglomerate of economic national entities in
31 Europe. You can pick your favorite explanation here. For me, verse 9 is the key! The
32 Ancient of Days, God Himself, tells Antichrist, “Your days are over. You are done!”

33 34 Daniel 7:25

35 And he (Antichrist) shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear
36 out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall
37 be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

38
39 Is that ever a depiction of our times now! It is popular to “badmouth” Christians and the
40 Christ of God. It is popular as well to change the times and laws, from sex laws to

1 gender ideas. Yes, the spirit of Antichrist will attempt to “wear out” the saints of the
2 most high. Antichrist will have no regard for rules or laws of society that have been
3 revered for centuries. He will be “the lawless one.” For three and a half years,
4 Antichrist will rule the roost on this planet. I do not wish to be here when he makes
5 himself known.
6

7 When Antichrist comes (that happens when Jesus removes the first seal off the scroll or
8 book of judgment - Rev. 6) he will make a peace covenant with many nations - including
9 Israel. Daniel 9:27 **And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and
10 in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for
11 the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the
12 consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate. Remember
13 that a “week” in prophecy usually refers to a seven years. When Antichrist takes power
14 in Europe over that federation of nations, he will look to Israel and see that turmoil
15 between Jews and Arabs continues to the detriment of the economy and his control. So
16 Antichrist will make an agreement with the Jews promising he will honor their integrity in
17 the land and will “confirm” they own the land. The Jews will conclude that this “noble
18 leader” must be the man who gives Israel back to them, the one of whom Abraham
19 prophesied. They will accept him - believe it or not - as their messiah.
20**

21 How can Antichrist (Rev. 13:1-2) look like a leopard, have feet like a bear and a mouth
like a lion? How can he have seven heads? Here is the Golden Rule of
Interpretation: When the plain sense of the Scripture makes common sense, seek no
other sense. Because the plain sense of this passage does not make common sense we
naturally seek another sense. Since there are no seven-headed animals, this composite
picture must be a symbol. (See drawing on page 5)

22
23 The horns, heads, animal distinctives clearly relate to nations who follow Antichrist and
24 give him the awful destructive power he demonstrates throughout the Tribulation. Tim
25 Lahaye made a fascinating observation in one of his books: *A rather interesting side*
26 *note regarding the Holy Spirit’s description of the beast to represent kingdoms appears in*
27 *the contrasts in the book of Daniel. When one thinks of world governments, they take on*
28 *a beautiful shape, as did Nebuchadnezzar’s image in Daniel 2. Each section of that*
29 *image represented one of the four coming world kingdoms. (Babylon, Persia, Greece*
30 *and Rome) However, when God describes the coming world kingdoms, He uses beasts to*
31 *symbolize them. Human beings look favorably on government as a great help to them,*
32 *whereas God looks on government as a great hindrance to them, as does anyone who has*
33 *studied history and observed government’s bestial treatment of humanity.*

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20 During the first half of the Tribulation (3 ½ years) Antichrist is shown amalgamating his
21 control of our Earth. Along with his helper, the False Prophet, he will use false religion
22 as a very effective tool in his domination. Could that evil religious system be Islam?
23 This teacher thinks so. However, midway through the Tribulation, Antichrist will show
24 his treachery even to his helper - the religious system - and obliterate it.
25

26 THE COUNTERFEIT RESURRECTION

27

28 Antichrist's "image" will be greatly enhanced sometime midway through the Tribulation
29 by his alleged assassination and resurrection. Rev. 13:3 And I saw one of his heads
30 as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world
31 wondered after the beast. We know very well that this is a phony claim by Antichrist
32 since, while Satan has the power to destroy, he does NOT have the power to create life.
33 Rev. 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the
34 bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder,
35 whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world,
36 when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. It is clear that Antichrist
37 is attempting here to emulate everything that Christ Jesus did while He was on this Earth.
38 We know that Jesus died on the cross and descended into Hades where He "took captivity
39 captive." In order to gain credibility with still unbelieving masses, Antichrist will
40 counterfeit Jesus, the real Christ. People who know the Word will not be fooled.

BLASPHEMY

Blasphemy involves, among other things, verbal mocking of Deity. Western nations are very familiar with this as blasphemy is shown in television, movies, books, politics, culture, etc. But blasphemy will take on a whole new dimension when the master of it, Antichrist, puts it in motion during the Tribulation: Rev. 13:5-6 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. [6] And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

This blasphemy will consist of more than words. Satan will institute, through the False Prophet, a religious system in which he declares himself as god and master of the universe. Satan will endue him with unbelievable power so that he pulls off "miracles" day after day, thoroughly impressing unknowing citizens of that time - people who are clueless about Scripture.

Miracles, miracles, miracles. That's most of the content of contemporary Christian television. While we believe in miracles, scripturally accomplished and Christ-honoring, much of the shenanigans we see on the screen today are manipulated by clever speakers. And the people whom they address are too ignorant of God's Word to know the difference. In His Mount Olivet prophecy discourse, Matthew 24 and 25, Jesus stated emphatically several times that DECEPTION OF BELIEVERS would be a sign of the end time. If you watch carefully, much of what we see on screens today, allegedly miraculous, is tied in with that "plant your seed" pitch, involving money to the "healer."

What is the ultimate blasphemy? It is the consideration of God to be anything other than Who He really is. Yes, curse words are horrendous and sinful; but - pulling God off His holy majestic throne and reducing Him to a virtual butler to our own wishes and desires is much more blasphemous.

The Apostle Paul spoke of the blind worship of Antichrist: 2 Thes. 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

THE POWER OF ANTICHRIST IN THE TRIBULATION

Rev. 13:7

And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

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I remember well the years of Madalyn Murray O’Hair, the atheist who successfully got prayer and Bible reading ejected from schools by Supreme Court edict. Even after her death, there were fears of further actions from her, which was impossible, as she was dead. . In the late 1990's, she disappeared, along with her younger son Jon and her adopted grand-daughter. It was learned some years later that a member of her staff kidnapped her (\$500,000 in gold coins) and murdered her along with the two others.. Later, to evade the Texas death penalty, the killer led authorities to her grave near San Antonio. There were found her bones (readily identified by an ID # on her metal hip) along with her skull - as well as the bones of her child and grandchild. The blasphemer had by now long since met her Creator and Judge.

Satan and his two henchmen will attempt to intimidate all the humans then living on earth. He will not be successful as 144,000 sealed, saved and empowered Jewish evangelists (Rev.7:9) will have reached multitudes for Christ. Nations have historically turned against God; however, there has always been a remnant. A strong modern case in point is China which is vehemently atheistic; yet there are believed be over 100,000,000 strong Christians in that land. John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Antichrist’s Assistant - The False Prophet (the unholy ghost)

But does Antichrist honor his commitment? Remember, he is the spawn of Satan. Does Satan honor his commitments? Never. Antichrist will renege on his word and move into Jerusalem, the holy city, to set up his false religious system. Rev. 13:11-18 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. [12] And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. [13] And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, [14] And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. [15] And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. [16] And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: [17] And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. [18] Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his

1 number is Six hundred threescore and six.

2
3 Now we have all three of this vicious, unholy triumvirate: Satan the unholy Father,
4 Antichrist, the unholy son, and the False Prophet, the unholy spirit. This UNHOLY
5 SPIRIT will do signs and wonders among the populace, impressing the multitudes who
6 turn to Antichrist in worship and adoration.
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8 As already indicated in these notes, one of the “signs” of the false prophet will be “the
9 death and resurrection” of Antichrist. Rev. 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was
10 (alive) , and is not (dead); and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit (resurrect), and
11 go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were
12 not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold
13 the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.
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15 Our Lord Jesus told us 2000 years ago about this scenario: Matthew 24:24 For there
16 shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders;
17 insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Strong belief,
18 endorsed by religiosity, is a strong force indeed. Whether the belief is right or wrong,
19 evil or pure, if it is endorsed by a religious bent there will be people who buy into it.
20

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A strong case of that is Nazism from Germany. Begun after WWI by a very small group - a handful really - of fanatics, Nazism (National Socialism) became the religion of Germany, even though it was sin personified and nutty as a fruitcake.
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22
23 1. The ethnicity of the False Prophet. We read in Revelation 13:1 that the Antichrist
24 came from the “sea.” The “sea” in prophecy often refers to gentile nations. But Rev.
25 13:11-12 indicates the False Prophet comes from the Earth, which usually means Israel or
26 the Jews. If that is truly the case here, it would mean that an apostate Jew would turn
27 against his own people and nation in the employ of Satan.
28

29 2. “He had two horns like a lamb.” Here again you have the audacious copy-cat
30 mentality of Satan, never original. Jesus was introduced by John the Baptist: “Behold the
31 Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world!” Lambs are not blessed with
32 horns; in this case the “horns” represent “power.” Or authority. Was it this unholy
33 spirit to which Jesus referred in Matthew 7:15? Beware of false prophets, which come
34 to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. This False
35 Prophet comes in sheep's clothing, as a lamb....but the Holy Spirit refers to him as what?
36 A Beast!
37

38 3. The False Prophet will speak like a dragon (empowered by Satan) and will have the

1 authority of Satan and the Antichrist at his disposal. Task will be to fulfill all the orders
2 of Satan himself and to lead a world religion of Satanic worship.
3

4 (Many do not understand or have never heard that Hitler's Nazism got its start in the
5 mountains of Bavaria with a dozen or so men devoted to the worship of Satan. Hitler
6 himself was a Satanist and believed until 1940 that he was the human embodiment of the
7 Antichrist, calling himself "ubermensch." (Superman) Do not ever underestimate the
8 satanic element of cults and false religions. They are the Pandora's box to destruction.)
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10 The Mark Of The Beast

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12 Rev. 13:16-18

13 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive
14 a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: [17] And that no man might buy or
15 sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.
16 [18] Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the
17 beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and
18 six.
19

20 Throughout my lifetime erroneous prophecy teachings have claimed that all sorts of
21 people were the Antichrist - Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin....and others. The 666 is the
22 number of the Antichrist during the Tribulation ("6" being considered the number of a
23 man as opposed to "7", a mark of deity. The mark will be a number each follower of
24 Satan and Antichrist will have available to buy or sell.
25

26 I well remember in WWII the use of stamps we received from the government, used to
27 ration food and other vital stuff. It was not enough to have money, one had to have the
28 stamps to buy tires, some clothing, food, gasoline, etc. So it will be in the Tribulation:
29 take Satan's mark or starve - and your children and family as well. The pressures to take
30 the mark will be enormous; however, one who takes the mark has forfeited all salvation
31 for time and eternity.
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33 NEXT WEEK: REVELATION 15 - A GLIMPSE INTO HEAVEN
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