

Anti-Christ & False Prophet

Matthew 24

INTRODUCTION: Today we are going to talk about a man that you know of as Anti-Christ.

Since the New Testament was written there have been thousands of people accused of being Anti-Christ. Nero, Hitler, Bin Laden, Here are a few that may surprise you. A lot of evangelicals thought it would be Kennedy because he was Catholic.

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 - Desolator, Willful King, Little Horn
- Paul - man of sin, son of perdition, man of lawlessness
- Zechariah - Worthless Shepherd
- Revelation - The Beast

Text: Matthew 24:15–16 (ESV)

¹⁵ “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

In **Daniel 7** God gives a vision of 4 great kingdoms that will rise up and persecute Israel.

Daniel 7:1–8 (ESV)

¹ In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. ² Daniel declared, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.

Sea in biblical languages is often used to refer to the Gentile Nations.

³ And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

Beast 1 -

⁴ The first was like a lion and had eagles’ wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it.

That was Babylon, under Naebucanezer. Modern Iraq is ancient Babylon.

Beast 2 -

⁵ And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.'

Medo-Persian Empire. Raised up on one side as Persia gained power over Medea. Persia is the present day Iranians. The Medes are the present day Kurds (remember Saddam Hussein gassed the Kurdish people). Persia consumed the 3 ribs, the 3 sections of the Babylonian empire.

Beast 3 -

⁶ After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

That is Greece. The lightening like, leopard like attacks of Alexander the Great. Four Generals took over the Greek Empire after Alexander.

Beast 4 -

⁷ After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

Fourth Beast with Iron Teeth, with 10 horns. When the roman empire fell in the 4th century it splintered into 10 nations.

⁸ I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

This little horn continues boasting till the Son of Man comes to destroy him.

So Daniel sees a 10 nation federation coming up out of the old Roman empire and one coming from among them and that one being the Anti-Christ.

Now - Rev. 13 is focusing on that resurrection of the old roman empire and the one coming from it.

Revelation 13:1–18 (ESV)

the Dragon is Satan.

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

The Beast is who we know as the Anti-Christ.

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 the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.

So this is the RE-Unification of Europe, the Old Roman Empire under the influence of Satan.

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.

There are several interpretations of this passage:

1. It is speaking of the resurrected Roman Empire
2. Some believe this is Judas raised from the dead.
3. A very popular belief is that this was the Roman Emperor Nero.
4. I hold that this is Anti-Christ who is mortally wounded but before he dies, he is healed by the false prophet.

You see the term ANTI in the Greek can mean against, but it also means IN THE PLACE OF. For example, in a poker game the term ANTE is when you put a little bit of money on the table, IN PLACE OF the money you have in your pocket. So this little horn isn't coming simply AGAINST Jesus, He is coming as a type of Jesus.

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 - the last half of the tribulation or the Great Tribulation. 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. 7 Also 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, 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.

THE FALSE PROPHET -

11 Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth.

This is the False Prophet. 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 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. 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.

So see that - this Mark that we are all familiar with doesn't come from the political system (Anti-Christ) but from the religious system (False Prophet).

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.

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

RECAP - So we know that out of a re-unified Europe will arise a Political Leader who will bring peace in the Middle East - he will make a 7 year peace treaty with Israel at the half way point he will break the treaty and wage war with Israel. There will also be a Religious Leader who will turn the world's attention toward this Political Leader. Both of these are empowered by Satan.

As I said last week, it seems very likely to me that this if the end is near that this man Anti-Christ will be Islamic and of Middle Eastern Descent.

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.

- Ad-Dajjal (The Muslim Anti-Christ) Our Jesus Christ
- Isa Al-Maseeh (The Muslim Jesus) Our False Prophet
- The False Prophet Al-Mahdi (The Muslim Messiah/Savior Figure) Our Anti-Christ

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.

If you remember when our forces went into Iraq you saw murals of Saddam Hussain riding a white horse, with a sword drawn. He was portraying himself as the Mahdi. It is believed that the Mahdi will also be an Archaeologist and he will produce missing parts of the Old and New Testament and with these he will seek to convert Christians and Jews.

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.

According to Islam's sacred traditions, Jesus' return is to take place just outside Damascus at the white minaret in the Eastern side of the city, wearing two garments lightly dyed with Saffron.

This 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.

Remember Jesus said, "Many will come in my name saying, 'I am He' do not believe them."

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

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 their Muslim Jesus will slay the Christian Jesus.

NOW WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES ALL THIS MAKE?

When you understand what the bible teaches regarding the end times... you realize that practically everything you hear on the National News points you to Jesus!

- A Nation's beliefs about the End Times drives its Foreign Policy - This is true for our nation, that is why we remain a staunch Ally of Israel, it is because we believe that one day Israel will come to Jesus. This is also true of any Islamic Nation.
- If you remember Mahmoud Ahmadinejad frequently referenced his belief that the 12th Imam or the Mahdi was destined to return. What you need to know is that they believe he will return in the midst of a world war. Therefore, there is eschatological motivation for war and for terror.
- When you see chaos in the Middle East, when you see the angry rise of Islam, when you see Israel under threat - let your faith in the scriptures soar!!! The Apostle John told us these things 300 years before Muhammad was born.