

# **“The Anti-Christ”**

**(Rev. 13:1-10)**

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## **I. Introduction**

### **A. The presidential debates**

1. The candidates
2. Which one will people be drawn to?
3. The search for a leader

### **B. What is it that attracts followers?**

1. What is that thing we call “charisma?”
  - a. Hard to define...but unmistakable when you see it
2. Is it the hope they offer?
  - a. Winston Churchill and England

### **C. Today....Satan’s Masterpiece**

1. The world’s most charismatic leader of all
2. Given a strange name in Revelation 13
  - a. Called the “Beast from the Sea”
  - b. But you may know him as “the Antichrist”

### **D. Who is He?**

1. Centuries of guesses
2. Every evil leader from...

- a. Nero
- b. Hitler
- c. Saddam Hussein
- d. Ahmadinejad

## II. Review

### A. The seven characters of chapters 12 & 13

- |                           |   |                |
|---------------------------|---|----------------|
| 1. The Woman              | = | Israel         |
| 2. The Dragon             | = | Satan          |
| 3. The Male Child         | = | Jesus          |
| 4. The Remnant            | = | Saved Israel   |
| 5. Michael                | = | The Archangel  |
|                           |   | ***now***      |
| 6. The Beast from the Sea | = | The Antichrist |

## III. Text....Rev. 13

### What we know about the coming Antichrist

#### 1. He will emerge out of the remnants of the Roman Empire (v.1)

- a. John stands and observes as an incredible beast arises
- b. *“out of the sea”*
  - 1. Sea refers to mass of mankind
  - 2. (Rev. 17:15)—*“And he said to me, ‘The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.’”*
- c. The Beast is a MAN – not a country
  - 1. (Rev. 13:18)—*“Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.”*
- d. He had *ten horns* on his head
- e. 700 years earlier Daniel had seen something similar

1. Daniel also saw a beast with 10 horns

(Dan. 7:7)—“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a **fourth beast**, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had **ten horns**.”

2. They represented four coming empires

- a. Babylon
- b. Persian
- c. Greece
- d. Rome

3. The 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom was never completely conquered

- a. Would be revived in the end days

4. The 4<sup>th</sup> empire would eventually have 10 horns

- a. 10 main rulers

4. Therefore—

- a. The Beast is the coming Antichrist
- b. He will lead the revived Roman Empire

1. Europe!!!

- c. There will be 10 major nations;

1. However, he will gain control

5. He will “*blaspheme the name of God*”

(Dan. 7:23-25)—<sup>23</sup> *Thus he said: The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.* <sup>24</sup> *The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings.* <sup>25</sup> *He shall speak pompous words against the most High, shall persecute the*

*saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.”*

*f. He will have seven heads & seven crowns*

1. Seven key world governments
2. Viewed from John’s perspective writing in 90 AD
3. Defined in more detail 4 chapters later

**2. He will be possessed by Satan (v.2)**

a. Will have great power

*1. “The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion.” (v.2)*

2. The powers of the beasts (empires) Daniel saw

a. This final kingdom embodies the strengths of its predecessors

a. Nothing like it before

b. Will get his power directly from Satan.....v.2

*1. “The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.” (v.2)*

2. Literally; “Satan possessed”

3. But how????

c. Will happen immediately after Satan is hurled out of heaven

1. The War in Heaven (Rev. 12:7-12)

a. Michael and the good angels

b. Satan and the evil angels

2. Satan loses!

a. Cast out of Heaven (v.9)

b. Great joy in Heaven (v. 10)

3. But, Woe to the Earth! (v. 13-17)

- a. Knows his days are numbered
- b. In the middle of the Tribulation
- c. Will personally possess the one we call the Antichrist
- d. Another case of Satan possession
  - a. Judas Iscariot
  - b. (John 13:27)—“Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him...”

**3. He will be brought back from death (v.3)**

- a. Satan cast from Heaven
  - 1. Only 3 ½ years left
  - 2. Will need a body
- b. Meanwhile....the wounded leader
  - 1. *“One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.” (v.3)*
  - 2. One of the 10 heads of the revived Roman Empire
  - 3. Will suffer a deadly wound
  - 4. Should have died
    - a. Or he may literally die
  - 5. Satan possesses him and heals him
- c. Theories regarding who it might be
  - 1. Some believe Hitler will be brought back to life
    - a. Bob V’s theories
  - 2. When President Kennedy was assassinated

- a. The US is an extension of the Roman Empire
    - \*most of you are European
  - b. Many believed Kennedy would come back
  - c. Others are hoping for Elvis
3. It's probably going to be somebody alive at that time
- d. We are told that in the end, people will believe "**Satan's Lie**"

1. II Thes. 2:9-12

*(9) The coming of the Lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, (10) and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. (11) For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie (12) and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."*

- e. Satan may claim that the Antichrist is the Messiah???
- 1. Thus making Satan himself God
  - 2. Raising the Antichrist from the dead!

#### **4. He will offer the world peace (v.3)**

- a. The whole world will marvel
  - 1. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast." (v.3)**
  - 2. Will worship Satan
- b. The world desperately wants peace
  - 1. "A hundred years of tyranny is better than one day of anarchy"
- c. He will offer peace to all...including the Jews
- d. Evil leaders arise during chaos
  - 1. Out of the chaos of the blood of the French revolution, **Napoleon** was born.

2. Out of the vast chaotic revolution of the labor movement, **Lenin** was born.
  3. Out of the chaos mass of revolution, **Hitler** was born.
- e. Today...people searching for peace
1. A sign of the end times
  2. (I John 2:18)—“Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.”

## 5. People will worship him...and Satan (v.4)

- a. *“Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast” (v.4)*
- b. Will worship Satan during the Tribulation
- c. That has always been Satan’s goal
- d. He will be unlike any leader the world has ever seen

*1. “... and they also worshiped the beast and asked, ‘Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?’” (v.4)*

- b. He will appear to be a true genius

*1. Military genius*

*2. Economic genius*

*4. Religious genius*

- a. The False Prophet aids him

1. Will meet him next week

- b. He will have the Temple rebuilt

1. Peace in the Middle East

2. Gives Jews control

## 6. He will show his true colors during the middle of the tribulation (v.5)

a. ***“The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for 42 months.” (v.5)***

b. Great orator....like Adolf Hitler

1. May have been the most dynamic orator ever
2. Many believe he was demonically assisted
  - a. Demonic eyes
  - b. Into Eastern mysticism
  - c. Surprise transformation from a jerk to a genius
3. Like the Antichrist, he sought to destroy Jews
4. Wanted a 1000 year reign
  - a. Millennium
  - b. The “third Reich” (1000 years)
5. Actually aided God’s plan
  - a. Forced the Jews into a homeland

c. He will sit in the temple in the middle of the tribulation

1. The beginning of persecution
2. Will immediately go after the Jews

d. Will break his covenant of peace

1. Daniel 9:27

*“He will confirm a covenant with many for seven years. In the middle of the seven years he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple we will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”*

2. Will launch the *great* tribulation

- a. Will last 42 months

## **7. He will openly blaspheme God (v.5-6)**

*a. “He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.” (v.6)*

- 1. The Abomination of Desolation
- 2. In the Temple of God
- b. The blasphemy against God will be without apology
- c. Today it is somewhat subtle...although its getting less and less subtle
  - 1. TV flooded with blasphemy
  - 2. Kathy Griffin at the Emmy’s
    - a. Her comments
    - b. The fact that she got away with it

## **8. He will declare war on Christians (v.7)**

*a. “He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them.”*

- b. The world will approve of his attacks on the saints
  - 1. Blame for catastrophes will be placed on saints
  - 2. The whole world follows his lead

## **9. He will reign over the entire earth (v.7-8)**

*a. “(7) And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. (8) All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast...”*

- b. They have found their “savior”

## **10. He will only be rejected by true believers (v.8-10)**

*a. ....all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world. (9) He who has an ear, let him hear. (10) If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the*

*sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.”*

- a. All except those whose names are written in the Book
  - 1. Book of Life
  - 2. The Lamb slain
- b. Will call for patient endurance and faithfulness

## **11. He will be defeated**

*a. “And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” (Rev. 20:10)*

## **IV. Summary**

### **A. Some day Satan will offer the world a savior**

- 1. W.A. Crisswell

*When he appears, you will see the most fascinating, the most scintillating, the most magnetic mortal man that has ever walked across the stage of human history.*

*In all time and tide and history, there will never have appeared a human being with the glory, the personality, the intriguing, bewitching, ingratiating manner of this man, a veritable god of wisdom, insight, accomplishment and achievement.*

*Satan will give him his power and his throne and his authority. This man will accept the gift that Jesus spurned when Satan offered him all of the glories of the kingdoms of this world; and the whole earth will acclaim the man as the very incarnation of glory and wisdom and might and power and honor.*

### **C. Yet he will be a liar**

- 1. Jesus said, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)*
- 2. And the truth is that, *“The kingdom of the world will soon become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever. (Rev. 11:15)*
- 3. Over every inch of creation