

36. The Antichrist (Beast)

- The antichrist will rise out of a "dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong" kingdom made up of 10 smaller kingdoms. This global kingdom will be different from any other kingdom that has ever existed. It will "devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it" (Daniel 7:7-8, 23). As the antichrist (little horn) rises to power, three kingdoms (kings) will be pulled out by the roots before him (Daniel 7:8, 20). The antichrist will initially be a man of peace (will sign a peace treaty with Israel; Daniel 9:24-27). He will try to change the set times and the laws, will deny the god of his father, will lead a one-world government, will speak boastfully, will be feared, will have a fatal wound and come back to life, will wage war against believers (persecuting and killing believers), will exalt and magnify himself above every god, will say unheard-of things against the God of gods, and will be worshiped.

- In order to fulfill Jeremiah's prophecy (Jeremiah 25:11), the nations (including the Jewish people) must serve the king of Babylon for approximately the last four years of the Great Tribulation (refer to Jeremiah 25 commentary). This implies that the antichrist will become the king and supreme ruler of Babylon the Great about three years after the start of the Great Tribulation. After the antichrist comes back to life, He will break the treaty with Israel and desecrate the Jerusalem temple at the Tribulation midpoint (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). God's holy people will be delivered into his hands for the second three and a half years of the Great Tribulation (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5-8). Satan (dragon) will give the antichrist (beast) his power and his throne and great authority.

- "I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?' There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain" (Revelation 13:3-8). Refer to the following verses for additional information about the antichrist: Revelation 13:1-18, 17:1-18, 18:1-24, 19:1-21, 20:1-15; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Matthew 24:15; Daniel 7:7-28, 9:24-27, 11:36-45, 12:1-13; and 1 John 2:18-22.