

# Sagecreek Bible Church

## Worksheet

### “The Antichrist”



8 August 2022

## THE DERTH OF LEADERSHIP IN THE WORLD TODAY

The lack of true leadership at the national and international level in the world today make the study of the Antichrist very important to us. The world is ready for a leader who will take control of what appears to be chaos and command the respect and following of the people.

What do you think would happen if a miracle-working, brilliant leader was to walk across the American or world scene and say, "I have the answer to all of our economic and political stress?" Do you think anyone would follow him?


The very character we're talking about is called the Antichrist. He comes to light from the book of Daniel and the writings of John. He is a charismatic leader. In Daniel Chapter 7, we read that he has "**a mouth speaking great things**" (v. 8), "**a mouth that spake very great things**" (v. 20), and, "**he shall speak great words against the most High**" (v. 25).

In the thirteenth chapter of Revelation, which is the comparative study to Daniel Chapter 7, it says, "**And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things**" (v. 5). In fact, a little later in the program of the Antichrist, he establishes a great image that everybody is supposed to worship, and even this image speaks.

He will not only be a tremendous speaker, but he will be extremely attractive. The little horn "**looked more imposing than the others**" (Dan. 7:20). When this man walks into a room, he will capture everyone's attention. He will have an inhuman magnetism that will draw people to him.

Study what the Prophet Isaiah tells us about the Messiah.

**Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.**

What differences do you see between the Christ and the Antichrist?


The Antichrist will be the master politician of all history, the greatest diplomat who ever lived. Dan. 7:20 says he “**had eyes,**” and that phrase refers to his mental intellect and cleverness. He will be able to solve the problems of the world with superhuman wisdom.

John also tells us, “**The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion**” (Rev. 13:2). Remember the consecutive kingdoms we have studied that Daniel described? Babylon was the lion, Medo-Persia the bear, and Greece the leopard. In other words, this beast combines the strength, brutality, and swiftness of these kingdoms. He will be a Nebuchadnezzar-Cyrus-Caesar-Alexander, bound together in one personality.

Dan. 7:20 says that the “**other horn . . . came up, before which three of them fell**” (Dan. 7:20). What this means is that the Antichrist moves in and replaces three of the nations by some sort of political subterfuge and somehow maneuvers them until he appropriates their power to himself. His cleverness is described in Daniel 11:21, where it says “**he will seize it through intrigue.**” The King James Version calls it “**flatteries.**” He’ll be able to talk people into anything.

He is also a cultic leader, a person who considers himself a religious man. “**He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws**” (Dan. 7:25). He wants to take over for God and is going to insist people fall down and worship him. Revelation 13:8 says, “**All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast.**”

The Scripture says that the Antichrist “**will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it**” (Dan. 7:23). And he “**shall wear out the saints of the most High**” (Dan. 7:25). The people who are saved during the Tribulation period become the target of this man, and he determines to destroy them. People who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ may be living during the Tribulation period, and many of them will become believers. However, their lives will be in treacherous situations; many of them will be martyred for their faith. It may be a slow, torturous wearing down of the people of God. He may wear them out through public seizure, certainly through economic squeeze. He will undoubtedly starve some of them to death.

Even though this person has yet to appear, he may be living today, polishing his skills until his time comes. The Bible says his spirit is already here. “**Every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world**” (1 John 4:3). Another warning says, “**Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come**” (1 John 2:18). What does the word “antichrist” mean, and what is meant by John when he says this spirit is already in the world?


## HIS NAMES ARE LEGION

Antichrist is given many names in Scripture.

J. Dwight Pentecost, in his book *Things to Come* (p. 334), gives a list of names compiled by Arthur W. Pink (*The Antichrist*, pp. 59–75) which are applicable to Antichrist:

“The Bloody and Deceitful Man (Ps. 5:6), the Wicked One (Ps. 10:2–4), the Man of the Earth (Ps. 10:18), the Mighty Man (Ps. 52:1), the Enemy (Ps. 55:3), the Adversary (Ps. 74:8–10), the Head of Many Countries (Ps. 111:6 [sic]), the Violent Man (Psalm 140:1), the Assyrian (Isa. 10:5–12), the King of Babylon (Isa. 14:2), the Sun [sic] of the Morning (Isa. 14:12), the Spoiler (Isa. 16:4–5; Jer. 6:26), the Nail (Isa. 22:25), the Branch of the Terrible Ones (Isa. 25:5), the Profane Wicked Prince of Israel (Ezek. 21:25–27), the Little Horn (Dan. 7:8), the Prince that shall come (Dan. 9:26), the Vile Person (Dan. 11:21), the Willful King (Dan. 11:36), the Idol Shepherd (Zech. 11:16–17), the Man of Sin (2 Thess. 2:3), the Son of Perdition (2 Thess. 2:3), the Lawless one (2 Thess. 2:8), the Antichrist (1 John 2:22), the Angels [sic] of the Bottomless Pit (Rev. 9:11), the Beast (Rev. 11:7; 13:1). To these could be added: the One Coming in His Own Name (John 5:43), the King of Fierce Countenance (Dan. 8:23), the Abomination of Desolation (Matt. 24:15), the Desolator (Dan. 9:27).”

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Knowing the names of the Antichrist as he is found in the Scriptures will prevent confusion. In the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of Daniel, he is called “**the little horn**,” which is a phrase used to describe power and authority. The 8<sup>th</sup> chapter calls him “**a fierce-looking king**” (v.23), and in chapter 9 he is “**the ruler who will come**” (v. 26). Later, Daniel says he is the willful king (11:36).

In the New Testament he is called “the man of lawlessness” (2 Thess. 2:3), “**the antichrist**” (1 John 2:18), and “**a beast coming out of the sea**” (Rev. 13:1). Many names and many disguises are attributed to Satan’s offspring.

## THE PERSON AND MINISTRY OF THE BEAST, THE HEAD OF THE EMPIRE

J. Dwight Pentecost, in his book *Things to Come*, gives a comprehensive overview concerning the individual who will appear in the end time as the head of the Gentile powers in their ten kingdom federation. His person and work are presented in Ezekiel 28:1-10; Daniel 7:7-8, 20-26; 8:23-25; 9:26-27; 11:36-45; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10; Revelation 13:1-10; 17:8-14.

Dr. Pentecost, in a combination of the truths in these passages, reveals the following facts concerning his activities. As you study each set of passages, record your thoughts on what they mean with specific focus on how that should affect our actions today as we serve Jesus Christ.

(1) He will appear on the scene in the “latter times” of Israel’s history (Dan. 8:23).


(2) He will not appear until the Day of the Lord has begun (2 Thess. 2:2).


(3) His manifestation is being hindered by the Restrainer (2 Thess. 2:6-7).


(4) This appearance will be preceded by a departure (2 Thess. 2:3) of the saints to be with the Lord (2 Thess. 2:1).

What does this mean to New Testament Christians and how we will interface with the Antichrist?


(5) He is a Gentile. Since he arises from the sea (Rev. 13:1) and since the sea depicts the Gentile nations (Rev. 17:15), he must be of Gentile origin.


(6) He rises from the Roman empire, since he is a ruler of the people who destroyed Jerusalem (Dan. 9:26).


(7) He is the head of the last form of Gentile world dominion, for he is like a leopard, a bear, and a lion (Rev. 13:1). (Cf. Dan. 7:7-8, 20,24; Rev. 17:9-11.) As such he is a political leader. The seven heads and ten horns (Rev. 13:1; 17:12) are federated under his authority.


(8) His influence is worldwide, for he rules over all nations (Rev. 13:8). This influence comes through the alliance which he makes with other nations (Dan. 8:24; Rev. 17:12).


(9) He has eliminated three rulers in his rise to power (Dan 7:8, 24). One of the kingdoms over which he has authority has been revived, for one of the heads, representing a kingdom or king (Rev. 17:10), has been healed (Rev. 13:3).


(10) His rise comes through his peace program (Dan. 8:25).

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(11) He personally is marked by his intelligence and persuasiveness (Dan. 7:8, 20; 8:23) and also by his subtlety and craft (Ezek. 28:6), so that his position over the nations is by their own consent (Rev. 17:13).


(12) He rules over the nations in his federation with absolute authority (Dan. 11:36), where he is depicted as doing his own will. This authority is manifested through the change in laws and customs (Dan. 7:25).


(13) His chief interest is in might and power (Dan. 11:38).


(14) As the head of the federated empire he makes a seven-year covenant with Israel (Dan. 9:27), which is broken after three and one-half years (Dan. 9:27).


(15) He introduces an idolatrous worship (Dan. 9:27) in which he sets himself up as god (Dan. 11: 36-37; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:5).


(16) He bears the characterization of a blasphemer because of the assumption of deity (Ezek. 28:2; Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:1, 5-6).


(17) This one is energized by Satan (Ezek. 28: 9-12; Rev. 13:4), receives his authority from him, and is controlled by the pride of the devil (Ezek. 28:2; Dan. 8:25).


(18) He is the head of Satan's lawless system (2 Thess. 2:3) and his claim to power and to deity is proved by signs wrought through satanic power (2 Thess. 2:9-19).


(19) He is received as God and as ruler because of the blindness of the people (2 Thess. 2:11).


(20) This ruler becomes the great adversary of Israel (Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; Rev. 13:7).


(21) There will come an alliance against him (Ezek. 28:7; Dan. 11:40, 42) which will contest his authority.


(22) In the ensuing conflict he will gain control over Palestine and adjacent territory (Dan. 11:42) and will make his headquarters in Jerusalem (Dan. 11:45).




(23) This ruler, at the time of his rise to power, is elevated through the instrumentality of the harlot, the corrupt religious system, which consequently seeks to dominate him (Rev. 17:3).


(24) This system is destroyed by the ruler so that he may rule unhindered (Rev. 17:16-17).


(25) He becomes the special adversary of the Prince of Princes (Dan. 8:25), His program (2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 17:14), and His people (Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; Rev. 13:7).


(26) While he continues in power for seven years (Dan. 9:27), his satanic activity is confined to the last half of the tribulation period (Dan. 7:25; 9:27; 11:36; Rev. 13:5).


(27) His rule will be terminated by a direct judgment from God (Ezek. 28:6; Dan. 7:22, 26; 8:25; 9:27; 11:45; Rev. 19:19-20). This judgment will take place as he is engaged in a military campaign in Palestine (Ezek. 28:8-9; Rev. 19:19), and he will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20; Ezek. 28:10).


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(28) This judgment will take place at the second advent of Christ (2 Thess. 2:8; Dan. 7:22) and will constitute a manifestation of His Messianic authority (Rev. 11:15).


(29) The kingdom over which he ruled will pass to the authority of the Messiah and will become the kingdom of the saints (Dan. 7:27).


### OUR STRATEGY

The strategy for the Christian is not to look for the Antichrist, but to at least know what his plans are. I'm not looking around and guessing who and where the Antichrist is. He might be alive today, and he might be strutting on the stage of politics at this time, but speculation about him does not fit either of the two things God has told us to do in the light of the coming Christ.

Those two simple things are first to work: "**Occupy till I come**" (Luke 19:13). He said to work until He comes.

The second thing is this: "**Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour**" (Matt. 25:13).

So, our job, in light of the fact that we are looking for Christ, is to work and to watch. When I see all these things happening that tell me the Antichrist is coming, it just helps me focus my attention on the coming of Christ.

## Final Project

Combine the thoughts you have documented in this paper and in your own words describe the Antichrist and what we should be doing in our time to warn the world of his coming.
