

# Antichrist Revealed

"The beast that you saw *was and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss* and to go to destruction. And *those who dwell on the earth will wonder*, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast, that *he was and is not and will come*" (Rev. 17:8, emphasis added).

When Antichrist is revealed, after Michael the restrainer is removed at the midpoint of the seventieth week (2 Thess. 2:6), the whole earth will be amazed-not only concerning the true identity of this man, but that: he is a dead man come back to life. And this shocking reality will cause most of the world to give their full allegiance to him.

## Nine Startling Facts:

When we bring these passages together and add several others that are self-explanatory, a revealing picture of Antichrist's true identity begins to come into sharp focus. The facts are that Antichrist is:

1. A man who will claim to be God incarnate (Dan. 11:36; 2 Thess. 2:3,4).
2. A man who will be an extremely powerful and ungodly military leader (Ezek. 38:4, 8, 9; Dan. 11:38).
3. A man who will be given the diabolical power of Satan himself (Rev. 13:12; 2 Thess. 2:9).
4. A man who is the dead leader of one of the seven previous beast empires of Satan (Rev. 17:11).
5. A man who was killed by a fatal wound to the head (Rev. 13:3) with a military weapon or "sword" (Rev. 13:14).
6. A dead man who will come back to life to rule the final beast empire of Satan (Rev. 13:3, 12; 17:8, 11).
7. A man who will receive the absolute allegiance and worship of the world when they recognize who he is, a dead man brought back to life (Rev. 13:12; 17:8; 2 Thess. 2:3, 4).
8. A man with Japhetic (Roman) lineage who more probably will come from the ancestral line of Magog (Gen. 10:2; Ezek. 38:2).
9. A man whose soul will come up out of the Abyss (Rev. 11:7).

Can we determine the specific identification of Antichrist? In this regard, these last six facts about Antichrist are of crucial significance, especially points 4, 6, and 8.

First, both Nero and Hitler fit the three crucial criteria discussed above.

By way of review we have seen that:

1. Antichrist must have been a leader of a former beast empire (Rev. 13:3; 17:11). Both Nero and Hitler meet this criterion.
2. Antichrist must have died by a "wound of the sword" (Rev. 13:14). Neither Nero nor Hitler died literally by the sword, but both died by weapons used in warfare, and Hitler in particular took his life during battle rather than surrender.
3. Antichrist will be from "the land of Magog" (Ezek. 38:2), which is a perfect description of Hitler, who not only was from the geographical area of Magog, but also came from the ancestral lineage of Magog. Nero, however, was not from the land of Magog. And because Rome was founded by the nomadic tribes of Magog, Meshech, or Tubal, it is uncertain as to which of these peoples he descended from, although this author would be inclined to think that Nero was Magogite as well.

Two further considerations, however, make the choice between Nero and Hitler virtually indisputable in this writer's opinion. These additional considerations are:

4. Antichrist will be a notorious anti-Semite (Matt. 24:15-21; Rev. 12:13-17). Hitler is the supreme anti-Semite of all history. Nero despised Jews, but he hated all non-Romans in general, and unlike Hitler, he had no consuming desire to specifically destroy only the Jews.
5. Antichrist will be immediately recognized-and it will be the immediate recognition of this man, when his true identity is revealed, as a dead man brought back to life-that will amaze the world to the point that the world will follow after and worship him (Rev. 13:3; 17:8). Hitler would easily qualify in that regard, being, in the opinion of pollsters, the most recognizable face in the world today, whereas Nero would not have the immediate worldly recognition that Hitler would have. Without question, Hitler best meets all the requirements to be the Antichrist, given several pages earlier in this chapter, and he certainly was the historical embodiment of Antichrist's supremely evil nature although the early church was convinced that Nero was the Antichrist. Had I lived at that time, I am sure that I would have agreed, having no better choice at the time.