

The Rise of the Antichrist and End Day Powers

Dan. 11:36-45, Rev, 13:1-8

The Heathen Rage Against God and His people." Psalm 2

The "last days" or "end times" refers to the final phase of Satan's and mankind's rebellion against God.

As the visible representatives of God and His Word on earth, both national Israel and ethnic Jewry, as well as the church comprised of Jew and gentile will increasingly becoming the focus and target of national secular humanism's rebellion against God. The "people of the Book" Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob along with the followers of the anointed "seed" Jesus, must be silenced for Satan's great deception through the Antichrist to succeed. Persecution of Christians currently will increase until the rapture of the Church. Once the brethren are "raptured" out, the "accuser of the brethren" will attempt to become the annihilator of the Lord's "brethren according to the flesh."

The Final Fury of the Times of the Gentiles

In the days preceding the rapture of the Church we can expect to observe an escalation of conflict among gentile powers who are jockeying for position and dominance. The rising of "nation against nation" in our news will lead to even more "wars and rumors of wars" in the tribulation period according to Matthew 24 and Luke 21. These current "**Times of the Gentiles**" or the times of gentile domination of the world began with Israel's Babylonian captivity by 605 BC and concludes with Israel's time of trouble which Jesus called **the tribulation**. Matthew 24:15-29. The gentile world powers were first revealed to King Nebuchadnezzar in two visions and interpreted by Daniel the prophet. These dreams laid out man's vision of grandeur and power portrayed in the golden headed statue in chapter 2 versus God's view of the same as a succession of ravaging beasts in chapter 7. The times of the gentiles began with Israel's 600 BC Babylonian captivity and ends with the return of the Lord Jesus to earth at His second advent at the end of the tribulation

Luke 21:20-28 "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter there into. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and **Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled**. And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

Jacob's Time of Trouble

This follows Israel's latter day return to the land and precedes the return of her Messiah.

Jeremiah 30:3-7 "For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. And these *are* the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah. For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it: **it is even the time of Jacob's trouble**; but he shall be saved out of it."

The Rise of the Rebellious Ruler

The time frame - Tribulation

Daniel's 70th week/seven of years Daniel 9:25-27 The future prince of the revived Roman Empire will make a peace covenant with many for seven years. This is the last seven years of the 490 years called the **Tribulation**. (There was a gap of time in prophecy - 483 consecutive years happened then stopped; and Messiah was to die prematurely before the Temple was destroyed and prior to the final seven years.)

Context Dan 11:2-20 First part of the indignation 42 months, 3 & 1/2 years = the first half of the seven year tribulation

The Great Tribulation – the last half of the tribulation. (10,630 days/ 42 months/ Beginning from middle of the 70th week, (a time, times, half a time= 3 & ½ years)

Historically foreshadowed Hellish Ruler

Daniel wrote not only about end times but also the next 3-400 years re: Persia, Greece, Egypt, Syria. **Antiochus Epiphanies**, ruler of Syria (165 BC), is the historical type of the Anti-Christ. 11:21-35 On the way home from a defeat in Egypt he ransacked Jerusalem and sacrificed a sow on the altar and set up an idol. His forces ruled three years. The Jewish Maccabean Revolt defeated the Syrians in 165 BC, recaptured and rededicated the Temple, which Jesus observed John 10:22, as The Feast of Dedication/Hanukkah in Hebrew.

Daniel 11:35 – **“it is yet for a time appointed”** (time gap in between the 483rd year and the last 7 years) 11:36 - skips ahead to a prophecy 2000 plus years into the future using Antiochus as the type of the Anti-Christ
“Own will” – Politically, he will be allowed to have his way for 42 months – last half of the Tribulation

The “Abomination of desolation” “against God” “against the God of Gods,” Daniel 11:36,37; Revelation 13:4,6
“marvelous things against the God of gods,” “above every god,” “nor regard any god” He is also called “man of sin, the son of perdition.” 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 “Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: *for that day shall not come*, except there come **a falling away first**, and that **man of sin be revealed**, the **son of perdition**; Who opposeth and **exalteth himself above all that is called God**, or that is worshipped; so that **he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**”

Matthew 24:15 **“midst of the week”** of Daniel's prophecy Dan. 9:27 is 3 & 1/2 yrs. into the Tribulation. Matthew 24:16-19 “Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!”

All out attempt to slaughter Tribulation saints Daniel 11:36/ 7:25/ Revelation 11,13 The Anti-Christ will dominate the saints, ie: Jewish believers saved under the witnessing of the two prophets in Jerusalem and of the 144,000 witnesses and he will murder many.

“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were **slain for the word of God, and for the testimony** which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, **that should be killed as they were**, should be fulfilled.” Revelation 6:9-11

Daniel 11:37 **“God of his fathers”** the Antichrist rejects religious monotheistic upbringing. (possibly Jewish origin) With that possibility in mind, let's imagine a Jewish Antichrist. What I am about to describe to you is mere speculation, by no

means a scripturally based prophecy. It is simply an imaginary exercise to show how quickly the Antichrist could rise to power. What if Ukrainian President, Voldymyr Zelenski, repels the Russians and he miraculously survives an assassination attempt in which he experiences a seemingly mortal head wound as the scripture does predict of the Antichrist. Revelation 13:3,4. "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, *Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*" Such an individual will be the wonder of the world. All would say, "if Russia can't take him down, then no one can." Imagine that the EU accepts Ukraine and Zelenski is elected as the strong man to head the EU. Meanwhile, imagine that Israel drops tactical nuclear bombs, taking out Iran's nuclear program. The UN which makes an Olympic sport out of condemning Israel, would condemn Israel worse than they are condemning Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. The Arab Sunni Muslim nations would be ecstatic over the demise of the Shia Muslim Iranian threat. Then imagine Zelenski as the new head of the EU leading Arab nations into a 7- year peace treaty with Israel allowing them to rebuild the Temple in exchange for their nuclear weapons and the guarantee of secure borders from their hostile Arab neighbors some of whom are already softening. In conclusion of this imaginary scenario here are the latest political developments: The 2020 Abraham Accords, spearheaded by former President Donald Trump was entered into by United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, Morocco, Egypt and Jordan. They saw the benefit of lining up to trade with Israel due to her technological superiority and new natural gas dominance. On March, 4, 2022 Breitbart news reported that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman asserted that Israel could be a potential ally, based on the stipulation that Israel will work to solve the "conflict between Israelis and Palestinians." He then said, "We don't look at Israel as an enemy, we look to them as a potential ally, with many interests we can pursue together." This favorable statement from the royal house of Saud would have been unimaginable only 2 years ago.

I repeat, what I just described is merely a speculative look at current events and by no means a scripturally based prophetic interpretation. It is simply an imaginary exercise to fill in the blanks not identified in scripture with current world events and leaders to show how quickly the Anti-Christ could rise to power. As to the identity of the Antichrist, no one knows. I just used Zelenski as an example of how one phrase in scripture can be used to build a case, which would be a dangerous precedent for establishing any doctrine. However as to what scripture does say, this end time leader who will be a self-proclaimed deity will not "regard the God of his fathers." Daniel 11: 37 I am not the first one to surmise from this verse, that he could be Jewish. It is hardly likely that Israel would believe a Muslim origin covenant. One wrinkle in this proposal is that Daniel 11:37 says he will not "regard the desire of women." Zelenski is a happily married family man. This exercise is only meant to show how quickly events could happen to bring about the necessary geo-political conditions for the Anti-Christ. Now back to what is known in scripture.

The regional origin of the Anti-Christ

In Revelation 13:1 The Beast, ie: the Antichrist, will rise out of the "sea." – Several Bible students have suggested this means that he comes from out of the "sea of people" in the empire surrounding the Mediterranean Sea which some historians have referred to as a "Roman lake."

The historic connection Daniel 9:26-27 indicates that the origin of the Antichrist's people is from the fourth successive empire in Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2 and 7. The people that destroyed Jerusalem was that fourth or Roman Empire.

The prophetic implication This prince from that people would make a covenant of peace with many for one week ie: seven years according to the context. Thus eschatology authors have used the term to describe this confederation as the "Revived Roman Empire" ruled over by the prince, ie: Anti-Christ.

Is the Anti-Christ alive today? Possibly, but only God knows. A few years back a Russian, Jewish, PHD student from Moscow attending my Bible study at the University of NC at Charlotte, asked, "Do we know who is this Antichrist?" I replied, "Even he, does not know who he is until Satan enters him." He responded, "No, we know who he is...Putin." Putin is the leader of Russia for life due to his consolidation of power over the last decade. If anything he could lead Russia against Israel, were the Rapture to happen in the next few years.

The Antichrist will come to power within the Revived Roman Empire region. Daniel 2:33,34; 7:8; 9:24-27

The Antichrist will not be revealed until after the Rapture of the Church. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-7

The Antichrist will be revealed during the Tribulation period Matthew 24:15-21; Daniel 9:24-27

Israel is back in the land since 1948 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

Persecution of the Jewish people is driving many back to Israel. Love them and share the scriptures with them.

The spirit of anti-Christ is already at work.

1 John 4:1-6 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit of antichrist*, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."

There is a great falling away from the faith 2 Thessalonians 2:3

Know the Word and recognize the lies

2 Timothy 3:12-17 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

Perilous times are near

2 Timothy 3:1 "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

Fear not

2 Timothy 1:7,12 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

Preach the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ