

Today In Bible Prophecy

Episode 13

What Will Be The Career Of The Final Antichrist? (Part 1)

In our last episode we discovered a number of things about the biblical “Antichrist.” We are now going to build upon what we previously learned.

While we mentioned the possibility, that some Christians hold, that Antichrist is not a person who either has arrived on the scene of history, or will arrive, we reject this idea.

In fact, we believe that the evidence is clear that he is an individual opposed to Jesus Christ, not a mere symbol.

In our book, *The Final Antichrist*, Question 9, we examine this issue. Among other reasons as to why we believe that he is an actual human being who will arrive in the last days, is what the Scripture has to say about his destiny.

First, he, along with his cohort, the false prophet, is cast into the lake of fire upon the return of Christ.

Now the beast was seized, and along with him the false prophet who had performed the signs on his behalf - signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. Both of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire burning with sulfur (Revelation 19:20 NET).

Here he is called by one of his many names, “the beast.” Interestingly, while there are many antichrists past present and future, there is only two human beings who are designated as “beasts” in Scripture, these two individuals.

Antichrist is the “first beast” and the false prophet is a “second beast.”

One thousand years later, the devil is thrown into that same lake of fire with the beast and the false prophet.

And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet are too, and they will be tormented there day and night forever and ever (Revelation 20:10 NET)

Not only are the beast and the false prophet still there, we are specifically told that they will be tormented forever. You do NOT torment an idea, an impersonal force, or a symbol. You can only torment a living personage.

Also, in our previous episode, we answered the question as to why we should take the time to study about the Antichrist? We listed 6 reasons:

1. **The Subject Of Antichrist Is Part Of Holy Scripture**
2. **Antichrist Is Highlighted In Scripture**
3. **He Is Prominent In End-Time Events**
4. **Some Christians Think We Will Live To See Him**
5. **The Subject Is More Than Something Of Mere Curiosity Or Sensationalism**
6. **Antichrist Has Been A Subject Of Study By Believers From The Beginning**

There are many questions that arise about this personage. We thought that it would be good to first give a general overview of his career according to the Scripture. We will then come back later and deal with some specific questions about him in more detail. This overview will take place in this episode as well as the next.

What Will Be The Career Of Final Antichrist? (Part 1)

This is “Question 27” in our book *The Final Antichrist*. Scripture has much to say about him. Indeed, in looking at his career, we list over 30 things that the Bible says about him!

Consequently, because there is so much to say, we will do this in two parts. Again, this will be a general overview. We go into greater detail in our book on most of these 30 things.

The Facts That The Bible Emphasizes About This Man

Scripture tells us a number of things about the events in the life of this coming man of sin, the final Antichrist. Though we cannot be absolutely certain about the exact chronology of these events, we are able to list the main things that the Bible records. They can be summed up as follows.

1. He Will Appear At The Time Of The End

Scripture is clear that the final Antichrist will not appear on the stage of history until the time of the end. The Lord said the following to the prophet Daniel.

As Gabriel approached the place where I was standing, I became so terrified that I fell with my face to the ground. “Son of man,” he said, “you must understand that the events you have seen in your vision relate to the time of the end” (Daniel 8:17 NLT).

Indeed, his coming signals the time of the end. He cannot appear before these last days, since his coming sets the stage for the soon return of Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is clear that the final Antichrist has not yet arrived on the scene.

As we mentioned in our last episode, many antichrists have come, many are here now, but there is a final one who is coming. John wrote:

Children, it is the last hour, and just as you heard that the antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have appeared (1 John 2:18 NET).

The final Antichrist will appear at the time of the end.

2. His Arrival Will Signal The Beginning Of The Prophetic Period, The Day Of The Lord

The Bible says that Antichrist's coming will commence a prophetic period known as the "Day of the Lord." Paul wrote about this time to the church at Thessalonica. He said:

And now, brothers and sisters, let us tell you about the coming again of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered together to meet him. Please don't be so easily shaken and troubled by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Even if they claim to have had a vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us, don't believe them. Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed--the one who brings destruction (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 NLT).

This period cannot begin until Antichrist arrives on the scene.

We explain the "Day of the Lord" in detail in our book *Look Up A Timeline of 50 Last Days Events* (Event 4). Simply put, the "day of the Lord" refers of a specific time in the future when the Lord Himself will divinely intervene in our world in a number of direct ways. Included under the expression is a large group of prophetic events predicted in both the Old and the New Testaments.

3. The Final Antichrist Is Presently Being Restrained By Someone Or Something

We know that someone or some "thing" is presently restraining, or holding back, the appearance of Antichrist. Paul wrote the following to the Thessalonians.

And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes (2 Thessalonians 2:6 NLT).

The pre-tribulation rapture view holds that the Lord will take the true believers out of the world before the final seven-year period of God's wrath upon the earth. It is variously known as "The "Seventieth Week of Daniel," "The Time of Jacob's Trouble. It is also called "The Great Tribulation" though technically, this phrase only refers to the last half of this seven-year period.

According to the pre-tribulation view, immediately following the rapture of the church, the final Antichrist will be revealed. Until that time, his true identity will remain unknown to the world.

The reason he cannot be revealed before this time is because the Holy Spirit of God, through the believers living upon the earth, is presently restraining the coming man of sin. Once the believers are removed through the rapture, this evil personage can then be revealed for who he really is.

Other views of the rapture of the church, the mid-tribulation, the pre-wrath, and post-tribulation view, believe the restrainer of Antichrist consists of something else. However, all agree on this point: the final Antichrist is presently being restrained.

(For a defense of the Pre-Tribulation view of the rapture of the church, see our book *The Rapture and The Pre-Trib Rapture Defended*.)”

4. He Will Appear As An Inconspicuous Figure

Antichrist appears on the scene of world history as an inconspicuous figure. This is explained for us in the Book of Daniel. We read of his rise from obscurity.

After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns. “While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully” (Daniel 7:7-8 NIV).

He is called a “little horn.” This indicates his rise is from relative obscurity. Therefore, he will not be someone who has an immediate high profile.

5. He Will Appear As A Man Of Peace

He starts out upon a career of conquest by peaceful means. In the Book of Revelation, we are introduced to the four horsemen of the apocalypse. Scripture says.

I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest (Revelation 6:1–2 NIV).

Some interpreters believe that the person who sits on the white horse is a reference to the conquering Christ. Indeed, in Revelation 19, we are told that He returns to the world with the armies of heaven on a “white horse.”

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses (Revelation 19:11-14 ESV)

However, in this context, there is negativity associated with all of the other riders on the horses. Therefore it is better to understand this is reference to the Final Antichrist. The white horse would then be an evil parody of Jesus. Although he first appears as a “man of peace” he will establish his worldwide rule by brute force.

6. He Will Seemingly Make A Peace Treaty With Israel

This brings us to our next point. The final Antichrist makes, or confirms, a treaty or covenant with the Jews. Daniel wrote about this agreement.

He will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven (Daniel 9:27 NLT).

While the word “peace” is not used in describing this treaty, or covenant, this seems to be the best way of understanding what takes place. Indeed, it fits the idea that this individual is initially seen as a person who brings “peace” to the world.

This man of sin will do everything in his own name, or authority. Jesus said of him.

I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him (John 5:43 ESV).

He will be welcomed by the Jews because of this treaty. The nation which rejected Jesus as their Messiah will receive this man as the one whom they will place their hope.

The phrase “one set of seven” refers to a period of seven years. The particular peace treaty will begin the seventieth week of Daniel, also known as the time of Jacob’s trouble. It is the last seven years in this age in which we live before Jesus Christ returns. Therefore, this is a very significant event.

7. This Treaty Will Likely Involve Jerusalem And The Temple Mount

This treaty will seemingly allow the Jews to take complete possession of the area of the Temple Mount, the place where the First and Second Temple stood. We read about the measuring of the temple in the Book of Revelation. It says:

Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, “Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth” (Revelation 11:1–3 ESV).

The fact that the temple is measured assumes that it exists at that time and that it is under the control of the Israelis. We are not told what Antichrist receives in return for making this deal with the nation.

See our book *The Jews, Jerusalem, and the Coming Temple* for further information on this subject.

8. He Will Head Up A Ten Nation Political Confederacy

It seems that at the same time when he negotiates this peace treaty with the Jews, he becomes the head of a ten-nation confederacy. Scripture speaks of this confederacy in the following manner.

The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name (Revelation 13:1 NIV).

The “beast” as we have mentioned, is one of the many descriptions of the final Antichrist.

We read the explanation of the ten horns later in the Book of Revelation. It says:

The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast (Revelation 17:12–13 NIV).

The ten horns are ten kings. They give their complete authority to this beast, the Final Antichrist.

9. The Confederacy Will Become A World Power

By the middle of this final seven-year period, this ten-nation confederacy will be a world power. The Book of Revelation says.

The beast was permitted to go to war against the saints and conquer them. He was given ruling authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation (Revelation 13:7 NET).

He has complete authority over everything and everyone. In other words, worldwide domination.

10. He Will Break The Agreements He Made With His Allies

Since this final Antichrist is the ultimate liar, he will break the agreements and various the alliances which he had previously made.

First, the Babylonian system of these “last days,” which is described as a woman riding a beast, is no longer needed. Antichrist only used it to gain world power. Once he has the power, this institution can be done away with. The ten-nation confederation, which is under his control, destroys this system called the harlot or prostitute. The Bible says.

The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God’s words are fulfilled (Revelation 17:16–17 NIV).

This reveals that it was foolish to place any trust in this man.

11. He Will Break The Covenant With The Jews

The agreement with the Jews will also be broken in the midst of the seven-year period. The Bible explains it this way.

He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him (Daniel 9:27 NIV).

Antichrist will put an end to the sacrifices which were being offered in the temple. He will then turn upon the nation which embraced him, Israel.

Paul wrote about what will occur when the people think they are at peace.

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 NIV).

There will be no safety for them. In fact, when they think they have peace then destruction will suddenly come upon them.

Let’s sum up what we’ve seen so far...

Although the Bible speaks about many antichrists, there will be a final one who is still to come.

The final Antichrist is a human being, not a symbol or an impersonal force.

Scripture has much to say about him. Therefore we should not ignore the subject.

Thus far, we have chronicled his career as follows:

1. He Will Appear At The Time Of The End
2. His Arrival Will Signal The Beginning Of The Prophetic Period, The Day Of The Lord
3. He Is Presently Being Restrained By Someone Or Some “Thing”
4. He Will First Appear As An Inconspicuous Figure
5. He Will Appear As A Man Of Peace
6. He Will Seemingly Make A Peace Treaty With Israel
7. This Treaty Will Likely Involve Jerusalem And The Temple Mount
8. He Will Head Up A Ten Nation Political Confederacy
9. The Confederacy Will Become A World Power
10. He Will Break The Agreements He Made With His Allies
11. He Will Break The Covenant With The Jews

This sums up what we have seen so far.

There is much more that we will add but you’ll have to wait till our next episode.