

Today In Bible Prophecy

Episode 14

The Career of the Final Antichrist (Part 2)

Thus far we have seen a number of points which the Bible makes about this coming Antichrist. In fact, we have noted 11 specific things that the Scripture says about this individual. They include the following:

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

We Now Continue With Our Look At The Career Of The Antichrist

Let's now continue our overview of the career of this Final Antichrist. This is the second of three parts.

Remember, we are merely mentioning some of the main things that are recorded in the Bible about his life. There is no attempt here to give an exact chronology of the events, list everything that he will do, or go into great detail about these events. Many of these subjects are dealt with in our book *The Final Antichrist: The Coming Caesar*.

12. The Beast Kills The Two Witnesses

During the last seven-year period before the return of the Lord Jesus, known as “the seventieth week of Daniel,” or “the time of Jacob’s trouble,” two witnesses arrive on the scene who supernaturally

testify to the Lord for some three-and one-half years. After their mission is complete, the Bible says that the final Antichrist is allowed to kill them:

And when they have [the two witnesses] have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them (Revelation 11:7 ESV).

Here we have the first specific reference to this personage as the “beast.” In the Book of Revelation there are some 38 references in all. He is introduced as the beast when he is allowed to murder these two witnesses of the Lord.

While John wrote that there are many antichrists, there is only one “beast” who will rule the world. The word “beast” conjures up the idea of a cruel creature. This is precisely who this final Antichrist is by nature. The term “beast” is reserved for this particular individual, or the group that he leads.

As far as the identities and the career of the two witnesses, we go into further detail in question 31 of our book *The Final Antichrist*.

13. He Rises From The Abyss, The Bottomless Pit

From this verse, we also learn something about his origin. He rises out of the abyss, the bottomless pit.

And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them (Revelation 11:7 ESV).

The Book of Revelation also says.

The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come (Revelation 17:8 NIV).

The beast arises from this place. This has led to speculation that this final Antichrist will actually be inhabited or possessed by some demonic spirit from the abyss.

The abyss, the bottomless pit, is the prison house of evil spirits. In some sense, though human, the Final Antichrist originates from there. (For a more complete look at the subject of the abyss, or the bottomless pit, see our book *Hell: The Final Destination Of Unbelievers*).

14. He Arises From The Sea

We are provided further information about his origin. As we noted in our previous point, the beast is said to rise from the abyss, the bottomless pit. We are now told that he also arises from the sea.

And I saw a beast rising out of the sea (Revelation 13:1 ESV)

The Sea Can Symbolically Refer To God's Enemies

The sea is used symbolically in the Bible for those who are in opposition to God.

But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt. There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked." (Isaiah 57:20-21 ESV).

Therefore, this is a further indication that this personage is an enemy of the Living God.

The Sea Monster

Furthermore, the imagery of the sea monster is used throughout the entire Old Testament to represent those evil kingdoms who persecute the people of God. Therefore, "the sea" in this context would have an evil connotation.

15. He Is Further Described As Having Ten Horns, Seven Heads With Ten Diadems (Crowns) On The Horns

Four more things then are revealed about him.

[The beast arises] with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads (Revelation 13:1)

He symbolically has ten horns, seven heads, ten diadems, or crowns, on the horns as well as blasphemous names on the seven heads.

The Dragon And The Beast

Interestingly, in the previous chapter, the dragon, the devil, is also described the same way as the "beast."

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems (Revelation 12:3 ESV).

While the beast in chapter thirteen is described in the same way as the dragon in chapter twelve, they are two different personages.

The Ten Horns

With respect to the beast, the ten horns represent the ten countries, or rulers, that will join him in a "last days" coalition of nations. Daniel had previously written about these "ten horns."

After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns (Daniel 7:7 ESV).

The fourth beast in Daniel's vision refers to the Roman Empire. Rome will be revived in the "last days." Consequently, this geographical area is from where the Final Antichrist originates.

The Seven Heads And The Ten Diadems (Crowns)

There is no consensus of opinion as to what the seven heads refers to or the ten diadems. Some think the seven heads refers to the seven world kingdoms that have existed until this time. Others believe it refers to seven successive kings or kingdoms that are ruling during the reign of the Final Antichrist.

Likewise, the ten crowns or diadems have a number of different possible meanings according to Bible students. It may refer to the political power of the Antichrist. What we do know is that it is describing his kingdom.

Blasphemous Names

The blasphemous words connected to this final Antichrist are a recurring theme about this personage. He consistently blasphemes the God of the Bible.

16. He Will Receive Some Type Of Fatal Head Wound

This seems to be *the* significant event in the life of the coming Antichrist. The Bible says:

One of the beast's heads appeared to have been killed, but the lethal wound had been healed. And the whole world followed the beast in amazement (Revelation 13:3 NET).

There is some question as to what actually happens here. Does the "Final Antichrist" actually die and then somehow come back to life. This is a popular view, but it is not the only possibility.

To some commentators, the phrase "one of the "beast's heads" seems to rule out his personal death and phony resurrection. In addition, while it says that "one of the heads is wounded to death," nowhere does it say that beast himself is dead.

Therefore, perhaps the "he" is not speaking about him personally but rather something else. It has been suggested that this is referring to the revived Roman Empire from which he is the head, or the leader. As we saw in the previous point, Daniel 7:7 describes the fourth empire in his vision as "the beast." Therefore, both the person of Antichrist as well as his empire, can be describes as a "beast."

Furthermore, the idea that this "head" refers to his empire, and not merely to the beast himself, is consistent of what we find in Scripture. Recall Nebuchadnezzar was called "the head of gold" in Daniel's interpretation of the king's dream. The reference was to his kingdom, not only to Nebuchadnezzar personally.

In other words, it seems that the government of the beast looks like it will in some sense be dead, but it somehow miraculously returns to life (we will deal with the issue of the potential death and then a possible resurrection of the Final Antichrist in more detail in a future episode)

17. He Becomes The Beast, A Man Controlled By Satan

At this point, it appears that this man goes from a world leader in politics to a worldwide dictator. He is now the beast, a satanically controlled individual. The Bible says.

And the whole world followed the beast in amazement; they worshiped the dragon because he had given ruling authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast too, saying: “Who is like the beast?” and “Who is able to make war against him?” The beast was given a mouth speaking proud words and blasphemies, and he was permitted to exercise ruling authority for forty-two months (Revelation 13:4-5 NET).

Let us not miss the statement that the people on earth actually worship the dragon, Satan, or the devil. He is mentioned first.

The dragon is the one who gives the ruling authority to this personage. The world watches these events in amazement. Recall, the beast, the Final Antichrist, is the one who was allowed to kill the two witnesses (Revelation 11:7).

(For information on this personage, Satan, or the devil, we have an entire book on the subject that deals with him in great detail... *Satan: Our Adversary The Devil*).

After the worship of the dragon, the beast, the Final Antichrist is also worshipped. It seems that he is viewed as some sort of invincible individual. Seemingly nobody is able to defeat him in any type of military engagement.

Again, we find have the emphasis that this personage speaks arrogant and blasphemous words against the Lord.

The satanically inspired rule of this individual will only last three-and-one-half years. It will be the last half of the final seven-year period, the Great Tribulation. While it is only a relatively short period of time, it will be the worst three and a half years that our planet will ever experience.

18. As Antichrist Rules Politically He Curses The Living God

The political rule of the entire world begins. The Bible says the following will happen.

So the beast opened his mouth to blaspheme against God - to blaspheme both his name and his dwelling place, that is, those who dwell in heaven. 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, and all those who live on the earth will worship the beast, everyone whose name has not been written since the foundation of the world in the book of life belonging to the Lamb who was killed (Revelation 13:6-8 NET).

As a worldwide ruler, the beast feels free to curse the God of Scripture. This includes all who belong to Him whether in the heaven or on the earth.

We are also told that this final Antichrist will overcome those “saints” who have put their faith in Christ. This would be a reference to those who placed their faith in Christ at some time during this last seven-year period, the tribulation saints.

Also, we should note that it is again mentioned that he was “given authority” to rule everyone. The ultimate evil belongs to the devil.

We are also told that those who belong to this evil world system are the ones worshipping the beast. In contrast, those who have believed in Jesus Christ do not worship the devil or this evil emissary of him.

19. A Second Beast Arrives On The Scene: The False Prophet

Another beast arrives on the scene to promote the final Antichrist. He is known as the “false prophet,” or the “second beast.” The Bible explains him as follows:

Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth. He had two horns like those of a lamb, but he spoke with the voice of a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast (Revelation 13:11 NLT).

This second beast comes up from the earth. While some believe it may refer to the land of Israel, since the same Greek word can mean either “land” or “earth,” it is also possible that the reference here is contrasted to heaven, the origin of the Lord. In other words, there is nothing “divine” or “heavenly” about this second beast, he is from our fallen world.

His horns make him appear as a lamb but, in point of fact, he spoke like a dragon. The dragon is one of many symbols of the devil.

We should also notice that it says that he had been given the same authority as the “first beast.”

This brings us to the end of our second episode about the career of the Final Antichrist. But there is still much more to consider. We will complete our survey of his inglorious career in our next episode.