

The Antichrist

(An analysis of his person and work)

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).
3. His manifestation is being hindered by He (Holy Spirit?) who restrains (2 Thess. 2:6-7).
4. This appearance will be preceded by a departure (v. 7), which may be interpreted either as a departure from the faith or a departure of the saints to be with the Lord (v. 1).
5. He will rise from the revived Roman Empire and he will be a ruler of the people who destroyed Jerusalem (Dan. 9:26).
6. He will be the head of the last form of Gentile world dominion, since he is like a leopard, a bear and a lion (Rev. 13:1; compare Dan. 7:7-8, 20, 24; Rev. 17:9-11). As such, he will be a political leader. The seven heads and ten horns (13:1; 17:12) will be federated under his authority.
7. His influence will be worldwide, for he will rule over all nations (13:8). This influence will come through the alliance he will make with other nations (Dan. 8:24; Rev. 17:12).
8. His rise to power will come through peaceful means (Rev. 6:1-2).
9. He personally will be marked by his intelligence and persuasiveness (Dan. 7:8, 20; 8:23), and also by his subtlety and craftiness (Ezek. 28:6), so that his position over the nations will be by their own consent (cf. Rev. 13).
10. He will rule over the nations in his federation with absolute authority (Rev. 13:4ff). He is depicted in Scripture as doing his own will. This authority will be manifested through a change in laws and customs (7:25).
11. His chief interest will be in might and power (11:38).
12. As the head of the federated empire, he will make a seven-year covenant or treaty with Israel (9:27), which will be broken after three and a half years (v. 27).
13. He will introduce idolatrous worship (v. 27) in which he will set himself as god (11:36-37; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:5).
14. He will bear the characterization of a blasphemer because of his irreverent assumption of deity (Ezek. 28:2; Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:1, 5-6).
15. This one will be energized by Satan (Ezek. 28:9-12; Rev. 13:4), will receive his authority from him, and will be controlled by the pride of the devil (Ezek. 28:2; Dan. 8:25).
16. He will be the head of Satan's lawless system (2 Thess. 2:3), and his claim to power and to deity will be proved by signs effected through satanic power (vv. 9-10).
17. He will be received as god and as ruler because of the blindness of the people (v. 11).
18. This ruler will become the great adversary of Israel (Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; Rev. 12).
19. This ruler, at the time of his rise to power, will be elevated through the instrumentality of the "harlot," the corrupt religious system, which consequently will seek to dominate him (Rev. 17:3).
20. This system will be destroyed by the ruler so that he might rule unhindered (vv. 16-17).
21. He will become 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, 24; 8:24; Rev. 13:7).
22. While he continues in power for seven years (Dan. 9:27), his satanic activity will be strongest in the last half of the seven-year period of the Tribulation (Dan. 7:25; 9:27; 11:36; Rev. 13:5).
23. His rule will be terminated by a direct judgement from God (Ezek. 28:6; Dan. 7:22, 26; 8:25; 9:27; 11:45; Rev. 19:19-20). This judgement 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 (v. 20; Ezek. 28:10).
24. This judgement 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).
25. The kingdom over which the beast ruled will pass to the authority of the Messiah and will become the kingdom of the saints (Dan. 7:27).