

Eschatology

The Unholy Trinity

Satan, Antichrist & The False Prophet

Having introduced the main characters of the end time, including Israel, Christ Jesus and Satan, John goes on to describe the important personages that dominate the Great Tribulation in Rev. 13, including the beast, the coming world ruler, and the false prophet, the religious assistant of the beast who will support him throughout the period of Daniel's 70th week.

[The Beast from the Sea](#) (Rev.13: 1-10)

Revelation 13 is first of all a revelation of the revived Roman Empire in its period of worldwide dominion, but more especially the first 10 verses directs attention to the evil character who exercises satanic power as the world leader.

His person and work are presented in:

Ezekiel 28:1-10; Daniel 7:7-8, 20-26; 8:23-25; 9:26-27; 11:36-45;
2 Thessalonians 2:3-10; Revelation 13:1-10; and 17:8-14.

The scriptures also have much to say about his character by the following names that are given to him:

- The Little Horn (Dan. 7:8)
- The King of fierce countenance (Dan. 8:23)
- The Prince that shall come (Dan. 9:26)
- The Vile Person (Dan. 11:21)
- The Willful King (Dan. 11:36)
- The Idol Shepherd (Zech. 11:16-17)
- The Man of Sin (2Thess. 2:3)
- The Son of Perdition (2Thess. 2:3)
- The Lawless One (2Thess. 2:8)
- The Antichrist (1John 2:22)
- The Beast (Rev. 11:7; 13:1)

In relationship to the above mentioned scripture references, we learn a great deal about the revived Roman Empire and its evil leader...Antichrist:

- He is a gentile. Since he arises from the sea and the sea depicts the Gentile nations.
- He is the head of the last form of Gentile world dominion, for he is like a leopard, a bear, and a lion.
- He is a political and military leader.
- His rise in power comes from his peace program.
- He personally is marked by his intelligence, persuasiveness, his subtlety and craft, so that his position over the nations is by their own consent.
- He rules over the nations in his federation with absolute authority.
- He receives his authority from Satan and is controlled by the pride of the devil himself.
- Signs wrought through satanic power prove his claim to power and deity.
- He is a master deceiver even to the point of appearing to be raised from the dead.
- His headquarters will be made in Jerusalem at the 3½-year mark.
- He is the abomination that causes the desolation of the 3rd Temple.
- People worship him and swear their allegiances to him. Those that do not are executed and made examples of for others to worship him.
- He is the great adversary of Israel and of The Prince of Princes.
- He wages war against the Son of God and is cast into the lake of fire.

The above list is only the tip of the iceberg in regards to what we know about the Antichrist. A thorough study of the above references will reveal a crystal clear picture of who this individual will be when God allows him to enter the world stage.

Jesus could not of been clearer when he said “Behold, I have told you in advance.” (Matt.24: 25-28) There is so much detail about the Antichrist because Jesus does not want his sheep to be mislead when the appointed time comes.

John ends his revelation of the Antichrist with a proverb (13:10). This proverb contains important practical truth for those believers alive at the time of Antichrist’s persecution. They are to depend on God’s providence and not take matters into their own hands.

The Beast from the Earth (Rev.13: 11-18)

In close association with the first Beast (Antichrist) is a second individual beast known as the “False Prophet” (Rev. 19:20; 20:10). It is in Revelation 13 that we get the fullest description of his character and purpose.

➤ **His Person** (13:11)

That the false prophet arises from the earth suggests that he will be less overpowering and terrifying than the Antichrist. He will be winsome and persuasive.

The notation of the horns can indicate that he will appear to be as harmless as a lamb. He does not come as a conquering dictator, but appears as a subtle deceiver, with meekness and gentleness.

Despite his deceptive appearance, the false prophet is no less a child of hell than the Antichrist. Satan uses him as his mouthpiece.

➤ **His Power** (13:12-14)

The false prophet’s mission will be to cause the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast. The false prophet will lead the worldwide religion of Antichrist worship.

He will perform great signs of his own which mimics those of Jesus and the two witnesses.

➤ **His Program** (13:15-18)

He will use “great signs and wonders” including the deception of “breathing” life into an image of the Antichrist. The word “breath” translates “spirit” or “wind.” The false prophet will be very successful in wooing those that have rejected Jesus Christ as Lord. After that success (first 3 ½ years), the false prophet will cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

To enforce the worship of Antichrist, the false prophet will require all people to “have a mark on their foreheads or right hands”, proving their loyalty to the first beast. Those refusing the mark will not be able to buy food or participate in commerce of any kind. They will also be sought after and killed.

Along with Satan, the counterfeit of the Father, and Antichrist, the counterfeit of Jesus Christ, the false prophet will form the satanic false trinity. He will be the counterfeit of the Holy Spirit.