

Eschatology ABF Series
Antichrist
November 3rd

Review

Questions to Be Answered

1. What does the term “antichrist” mean?
2. Is the antichrist a person, an influence or a characteristic of a group of people?
3. Who is the antichrist?
4. What is his character & what does he do?
5. What is the mark of the beast?
6. How will his reign of power end?

1. Definition of the Term “Antichrist”

The Greek word, ἀντιχριστός, used here for “antichrist” can have two meanings.

1. It can mean “against Christ,” in the sense of someone or some power who opposes Christ and His work.
2. The word can mean “instead of Christ,” signifying a person or power who takes the place of Christ - a counterfeit Christ.

The Antichrist will demonstrate and embody both these meanings.

II Thessalonians 2:3-4 *“Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.”*

Antichrist comes as an impostor of the Christ from God. There is a striking outward similarity between Antichrist and Christ. Will Jesus Christ be revealed some day? So will Antichrist (vss 3,8). Will Christ be in God's temple? Antichrist will sit there also (vs 4). Is Christ God? Antichrist will claim to be (vs 4). Did Christ support His claim to be God with signs and wonders? Antichrist, too, will perform signs and wonders (vs 9). Christ has a kingdom; so will Antichrist. Christ comes by the power of the Spirit; Antichrist will come by the power of a spirit, who is the devil himself.

2. Is the Antichrist a person, an influence or a characteristic of a group of people?

II Thessalonians 2:7-8 *“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the*

breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.”

A reality that stands opposed to Jesus, but also that claims to be the Christ, the anointed of God, must be a man as Christ was a man, a man in whom they put their trust, a man to whom the people can look for deliverance from their miseries. How can something claim to be Jesus, the man, and not be a man himself? Supporting this logic, II Thessalonians 2 seems to make this plain. Antichrist is “that man of sin” and “the son of perdition” (vs 3); he shows “himself that he is God” (vs 4); he is “that wicked (one)” (vs 8).

It is significant that Antichrist will be a man. Antichrist will not be some strange creature, unrecognizable to you and me, some foreigner, a man from Mars or another solar system. Antichrist will not be a stranger to humanity. Indeed, he will be the final and full development of man, of the human race. You will know him well, for his nature will be your nature. Man always has and always will claim equality and identity with God. This man’s claims will be believable; he will be one of us.

I John 2:2 *“Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.”*

I John 2:18 *“Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.”*

I John 2:22 *“Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.”*

I John 4:3 *“... and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.”*

These antichrists in the early church were counterfeit Christians who had split away from the body of true believers. They were deceivers who had not really experienced a genuine gospel conversion. They were liars who denied that Jesus was the promised Messiah.

3. Who is the antichrist?

Is he a Jew?

Daniel 11:37 *“He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all.”*

But, the word Elohim can refer to God or false gods. It might just mean that he has a religious heritage, but has rejected it.

From the tribe of Dan??

Genesis 49:17 *“Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse’s heels so that his rider falls backward.”*

Both Christ and Antichrist are born of the Jews, but Antichrist will be born of the tribe of Dan —“the viper in the road”

Daniel 9:27 *“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 on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”*

The idea is that Antichrist would have to be a Jew for the Jews to ever accept him, whether as their Messiah or in a covenant with him. The Bible doesn't say anything about Messiah here. The covenant with Antichrist has to do with attaining a military victory, the Antichrist saving Israel from Russian armies (see Ezekiel 38??). Israel has already entered into covenants with non-Jews. One prime example took place when the Jews signed a peace treaty with Yasser Arafat, a Gentile, not a Jew, at the Oslo Accords of 1993.

John 5:43 *“I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him.”*

This actually seems to teach the opposite. The antichrist comes in his own name.

Evidence that he is a Gentile

Beast from the Sea

Revelation 13:1 *“And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.”*

“The sea” in Scripture depicts the Gentile nations. The 10 horns of both Revelation and Daniel indicate that Antichrist will come out of the Revived Roman Empire of 10 Gentile nations. Closely related to the Beast is the false prophet, who is said to arise “out of the earth” (Revelation 13:11). This might indicate that the false prophet will be a Jew, in contrast to the Antichrist himself, who is a Gentile coming out of “the sea.”

Is he gay?

Daniel 11:37 KJV *“Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.”*

Daniel 11:37 *“He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all.”*

I like the NIV translation, *“the one desired by women”*. This refers to the Messiah. Every Jewish woman wanted to be the mother of the Messiah. He is apposed to this Messiah.

From a country in the revived Roman Empire – the 4th kingdom

Daniel 7:7-8 *“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. I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.”*

Daniel 7:24a *“As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them ...”*

The little horn would come “up among them” - that is, from among the 10 horns that were the kingdoms of Western Europe. So it would be a little kingdom somewhere in Western Europe.

Is he the pope?

This was a very popular interpretation during the period following the reformation.

This came mostly from the idea that he will come from the revived Roman Empire and that he is the source of much false doctrine.

I would lean toward the pope being the False Prophet. I think he would be more received as a false religious leader, than a political leader.

It may be the false prophet who is a Jew from the tribe of Dan.

4. What is his character? What does he do?

He will deceive the nations and possibly even the saints

Matthew 24:24 *“For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.”*

He is identified by the names given to him

“little horn” – Daniel 7:8

“the ruler who will come” – Daniel 9:26

“stern-faced king” – Daniel 8:23

“a master of intrigue – Daniel 8:23

“a contemptable person – Daniel 11:21

“a worthless shepherd” – Zechariah 11:16-17

“the one who brings destruction” – II Thessalonians 2:3

“man of sin” – II Thessalonians 2:3

“the lawless one” – II Thessalonians 2:8

“the evil man” – II Thessalonians 2:9

“the Beast” – Revelation 13:1

He will persecute the saints

Daniel 7:21 *“As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them”*

He will uproot three kingdoms (countries)

Daniel 7:8 *“I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.”*

Daniel 7:24c *“... he shall put down three kings.”*

He will be different than the other kings

Daniel 7:24b *“... he shall be different from the former ones ...”*

Guess ... he was equally a political and a religious powerhouse; most other kings focused on the political

He will blaspheme God

Daniel 7:25 *“He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.”*

II Thessalonians 2:3-4 *“Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.”*

Revelation 13:5 *“And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.”*

God's people (the saints) would “be given into his hand” for “a time and times and half a time”.

It/he would “speak great words against” or blaspheme God

He will exercise world domination for 3½ years

Daniel 7:25 *“He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.”*

Revelation 13:5 *“And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.”*

He will “intend to change times and law”

Daniel 7:25b “... *and shall think to change the times and the law ...*”

Guess ... change the calendar as others have done.

Guess ... change/abolish the dates of the Jewish feasts

He will be both a political power and, through the false prophet, a religious powerhouse

Daniel 7:8 “*I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots.*”

5. What is the mark of the beast?

Revelation 13:16-18 “*He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man’s number. His number is 666.*”

It is referenced in Revelation 14:9, 11, 15:2, 16:2, 19:20, and 20:4.

The word used in the passage for the mark is the Greek word χαραγμα (charagma). In antiquity, this word was always associated with the Roman emperor. It often contained the emperor’s name, his image and the year of his reign. It was necessary for buying and selling and was required to be affixed to documents to attest to their validity.

In the tribulation period, as in the days in Rome, it will be the only way to function in society.

Many have theorized about the meaning of 666. Goliath stood six cubits tall, and he wore six items of armor. Nebuchadnezzar’s statue stood sixty cubits high, six cubits wide, and six musical instruments beckoned its worshipers. Some have named Nero, Hitler, various U.S. presidents and other world leaders as the Beast represented by the number. All these guesses are just that-contrivances that tell us nothing about the meaning of the number.

The most likely answer is perhaps the least intriguing. Revelation 13:18 tells us it is the number of man. We see this affirmed throughout Scripture. In Genesis, man was created on the sixth day. In the Old Testament Law, men were called to work six out of every seven days. A Hebrew could only be held as a slave for a maximum of six years. After six consecutive years of sowing a field, it was required to lay fallow. The number may not identify an individual so much as it identifies the human race.

We could sum it up to say the number 666 represents the ultimate in human ingenuity and competence. The Antichrist is the epitome of man’s last attempt at ruling the world before Jesus overrules all those who oppose Him once and for all.

Is the seal visible?

Not clear. Here are other places where that language is used.

Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads. (Revelation 7:3)

They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. (Revelation 9:4)

Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion, stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. (Revelation 14:1)

They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. (Revelation 22:4)

6. How will his reign of power end?

He will be destroyed by Jesus at His return

II Thessalonians 2:8 *"And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming."*

Revelation 19:20 *"And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur."*

Conclusion

Fred Leuter's Oration:

We **a**bhor the antichrist – we **a**dore the Christ.

We **b**lame the antichrist – we **b**elieve in the Christ.

We **c**urse the antichrist – we **c**onfess the Christ.

We **d**espise the antichrist – we **d**esire the Christ.

We **e**xplain the antichrist – we **e**xalt the Christ.

We **f**ear the antichrist – we **f**ellowship with the Christ.

We **g**lare at the antichrist – we **g**aze at the Christ.

We **h**ate the antichrist – we **h**onor the Christ.

We **i**nvestigate the antichrist – we **i**nsist on the Christ.

We **j**udge the antichrist – we are **j**udged by the Christ.

We **k**now about the antichrist – we **k**now the Christ.

We **l**oathe the antichrist – we **l**ove the Christ.
We **m**inimize the antichrist – we **m**agnify the Christ.
We **n**ullify the antichrist – we **n**eed the Christ.
We **o**ppose the antichrist – we **o**bey the Christ.
We **p**ut down the antichrist – we **p**raise the Christ.
We **q**uestion the antichrist – we **q**uote the Christ.
We **r**eject the antichrist – we **r**everence the Christ.
We **s**urvey the antichrist – we **s**erve the Christ.
We **t**est the antichrist – we **t**rust the Christ.
We **u**nmask the antichrist – we **u**plift the Christ.
We **v**ilify the antichrist – we **v**erify the Christ.
We **w**arn against the antichrist – we **w**orship the Christ.
We **y**awn at the antichrist – we **y**earn for the Christ.
We **z**one out the antichrist – we **z**ero in on the Christ.