

## The Book Of Revelation Study 64

### *Revelation 13:1-10 (NKJV)*

<sup>1</sup> *Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.*

<sup>2</sup> *Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.*

<sup>3</sup> *And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.*

<sup>4</sup> *So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"*

<sup>5</sup> *And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.*

<sup>6</sup> *Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.*

<sup>7</sup> *It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.*

<sup>8</sup> *All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

<sup>9</sup> *If anyone has an ear, let him hear.*

<sup>10</sup> *He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.*

In the chaotic times of confusion, uncertainty, and unrest that will prevail during the Tribulation, the world will long for a leader.

People will be desperately hoping for someone powerful and influential to unite the divided and contentions nations of the world;

Someone to bring hope in the midst of helplessness; someone to provide a sense of security in an unsettled time of apprehension and fear.

People will be desperately seeking a strong, charismatic, authoritative leader to pull the world back from the brink of disaster.

Those longings will be fulfilled. The powerful leader people desire will come and unify the world under his rule.

He will appear at first to be everything people thought they were looking for. And for a brief time he will bring peace and prosperity. But he will turn out to be far more than the world bargained for.

He will be a dictator more cruel and powerful than any other leader the world has ever known. This man often called the Anti-Christ, will be the culmination of a long line of would be world conquerors.

What men like Alexander the Great and the Roman emperors in ancient times and Hitler and Stalin in modern times only dreamed of doing, the Anti-Christ actually will do, he will rule the entire world and receive its worship.

Just as the Anti-Christ will be the culmination of a long line of political rulers, so also will he be the ultimate false religions leader.

In the broadest sense, an “antichrist” [is any] one who denies the Father and the Son”

**1 John 2:22 (NKJV)**

***<sup>22</sup> Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.***

**2 John 1:7 (NKJV)**

***<sup>7</sup> For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.***

Such charlatans have been around throughout human history;  
In the first century the apostle John lamented that;

**1 John 2:18 (NKJV)**

***<sup>18</sup> Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.***

**1 John 4:3 (NKJV)**

***<sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.***

The Bible predicts that the end times will see an unprecedented proliferation of false Christs' and Anti-Christ.

Jesus warned those who heard Him;

**Mark 13:6 (NKJV)**

***<sup>6</sup> For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and will deceive many.***

**Mark 13:21-22 (NKJV)**

***<sup>21</sup> Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, He is there!' do not believe it.***

***<sup>22</sup> For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.***

Those satanic impostors will culminate in the final Anti-Christ, who will be more vile, evil, and powerful than all the rest.

The astounding description of the Ant-Christ presented in the opening verses of this chapter is the most gripping, thorough, and dramatic on in all of Scripture.

However, it was not new teachings to John’s readers.

John wrote in his first epistle that his readers had heard this before ;

**1 John 2:18 (NKJV)**

***<sup>18</sup> Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.***

After describing Anti-Christ and his activity, the apostle Paul reminded the Thessalonians;

*2 Thessalonians 2:5 (NKJV)*

<sup>5</sup> *Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?*

These passages indicate that the truth about Anti-Christ was common knowledge in New Testament times.

The original source of the biblical teaching about the Anti-Christ is the book of *Daniel*.

*Daniel 7* pictures the Anti-Christ as a little horn arising from the ten horns of the fourth beast of *Daniels* vision.

*Daniel 7:8 (NKJV)*

<sup>8</sup> *I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.*

Note earlier in the verse, the writer notes that “**three**” of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before [Anti-Christ],” indicating that he will destroy three of the other rulers, and subjugate the rest during his rise to power.

Later in *chapter 7*, *Daniel* saw that the “*horn [Anti-Christ] was waging war with the saints and over powering them*”

*Daniel 7:21 (NKJV)*

<sup>21</sup> *I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,*

Anti- Christ is seen leading a savage persecution of God’s people “until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom” (*V-22*)

Daniel described Anti-Christ’s kingdom (a revived Roman Empire) as:

*Daniel 7:23 (NKJV)*

<sup>23</sup> *Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces.*

That is different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.

As previously noted, Anti-Christ, unlike other tyrants in human history, will rule the entire world.

In *verse 25 Daniel* sad that Anti-Christ;

*Daniel 7:25 (NKJV)*

<sup>25</sup> *He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.*

This counterfeit Christ will, as previously noted, persecute God’s people. He will also institute a new religion (*the worship of himself; Dan 11:36-37; 2 Thess 2:4*), a reign of evil, and will rewrite history to suit his purposes.

Helping him do so will be his associate, the false prophet. We will talk more of this later.

*Daniel 8:23b-25* gives another glimpse of Anti-Christ and his reign of terror;

*Daniel 8:23b-25 (NKJV)*

<sup>23</sup> " *king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes.*

<sup>24</sup> *His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people.*

<sup>25</sup> *"Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without human means.*

He will be an insolent intimidator, devious, possessing a power not his own, a fierce destroyer of his victims, and so arrogant that he will dare even to *"oppose the Prince of princes"*, who is the Lord Jesus Christ

That move will prove fatal, however, and God's power will fall on Anti-Christ, who will be broken without human agency."

*Daniel's* prophecy of the seventy weeks describes Anti-Christ as:

*Daniel 9:26-27 (NKJV)*

<sup>26</sup> " *And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.*

<sup>27</sup> *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."*

Anti-Christ will make a pact with Israel for seven years. Half way through that seven year period, however, he will break that covenant and attack the Jewish people.

His plan will be to wipe them out, so that God's promised kingdom cannot come  
Anti-Christ's assault will also include believing Gentiles, as he seeks to destroy all believers.

Another important passage is found in *Daniel 11*:

*Daniel 11:36-45 (NKJV)*

<sup>36</sup> " *Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.*

<sup>37</sup> *He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.*

<sup>38</sup> *But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things.*

<sup>39</sup> *Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.*

<sup>40</sup> " *At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through.*

<sup>41</sup> *He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon.*

<sup>42</sup> *He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape.*

<sup>43</sup> *He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels.*

<sup>44</sup> *But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.*

<sup>45</sup> *And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.*

According to this prophecy, Anti-Christ will have absolute power, he “*will do as he pleases*”. As the leader of a worldwide false religion, he “*will exalt and magnify himself above every god, he will show no regard for the gods of his fathers, nor will he show regard for any other god;*”

*Daniel 11:36-37 (NKJV)*

<sup>36</sup> *"Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.*

<sup>37</sup> *He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.*

And even worse than that his arrogant pride will lead him to blasphemy, and he “*will speak monstrous things against the God of gods.*

“Like his evil master, Satan, Anti-Christ will be blasphemous, profane, and proud. But also like his master “he will come to his end, and no one will help him”

In addition to *Daniels* prophecy, the original readers of *Revelation* had information about the Anti-Christ from the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In *Matthew 24:15-16*, Jesus quoted Daniel’s prophecy about Anti-Christ, warning those alive in that day;

*Matthew 24:15-16 (NKJV)*

<sup>15</sup> *"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),*

<sup>16</sup> *then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

Another source of information about the Anti-Christ available to John’s readers was the book of 2 Thessalonians written several decades earlier.

The apostle describes the Anti-Christ in words reminiscent of *Daniels* prophecy:

*2 Thessalonians 2:3-10 (NKJV)*

<sup>3</sup> *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,*

<sup>4</sup> *who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

<sup>5</sup> *Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?*

<sup>6</sup> *And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.*

<sup>7</sup> *For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.*

<sup>8</sup> *And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.*

<sup>9</sup> *The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,*

<sup>10</sup> *and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

In this passage Paul clearly delineates Anti-Christ's character, describing him as the "*man of lawlessness*", "*the son of destruction*"

He also described Anti-Christ's career.

When Anti-Christ takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God, he will break his covenant with Israel, and commit the abomination of desolation that both Daniel and Jesus warned about.

After deceiving the world into worshiping him during the last half of the Tribulation, "*with all power and signs and lying wonders,*"

Anti-Christ will be destroyed by the appearance of the Lord's coming.

*Revelation 19:11-21 (NKJV)*

<sup>11</sup> *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.*

<sup>12</sup> *His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.*

<sup>13</sup> *He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.*

<sup>14</sup> *And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.*

<sup>15</sup> *Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

<sup>16</sup> *And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

<sup>17</sup> *Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,*

<sup>18</sup> *that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."*

<sup>19</sup> *And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.*

<sup>20</sup> *Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

<sup>21</sup> *And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

In *Chapter 13* Anti-Christ is described beginning his massive effort on earth to defeat God and His purposes.

Satan will try to prevent Jesus Christ from setting up His earthly kingdom by setting up his own under Anti-Christ.

As a spirit being, Satan depends on humans to carry out his evil plans on earth.

He controls all unbelievers; since they are, "*of their father the devil, and [want] to do the desires of [their] father*" (*John 8:44*)

*"They walk according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience"* (*Eph 2:2*)

Some humans have been (and are) under Satan's or his demons') direct control.

For example, Satan used Judas to betray Jesus to His death.

*Luke 22:3 (NKJV)*

*<sup>3</sup> Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.*

During His earthly ministry, Jesus showed His mastery over Satan by casting demons out of people. He also delegated power over the demonic realm to the apostles, to aid them as they confronted Satan's kingdom

*Mark 3:14-15 (NKJV)*

*<sup>14</sup> Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach,*

*<sup>15</sup> and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons:*

By doing so, He and the apostles not only freed people from demonic bondage, but also hindered Satan from carrying out his earthly agenda.

Having been cast permanently from heaven, (12:9), Satan will know that the time remaining to him is brief (12:12)

To lead his last, desperate onslaught against God, he will empower his final Anti-Christ. The opening verses of this chapter reveal seven features of this ultimate dictator:

**His ancestry,**

**His authority**

**His acclaim,**

**His adoration,**

**His arrogance,**

**His activity,**

**His admirers**

**We will begin to look at those the next time we come together in this study.**