

## The Book Of Revelation Study 67

*Revelation 13:4-10 (NKJV)*

<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 chapter 13 so far we have seen that there are seven features to be seen of the final and ultimate dictator, Anti-Christ.

We have already looked at four of the seven and will now look at the rest of them.

First;

### HIS ARROGANCE

*Revelation 13:5-6 (NKJV)*

<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.*

Like his master, Satan, Antichrist will be an arrogant blasphemer.

Blasphemy will not be incidental but central to his operations.

The phrase **there was given to him** refers to God's sovereign control of events

Let's note what was said of Nebuchadnezzar:

*Daniel 4:17 (NKJV)*

<sup>17</sup> *'This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.'*

God will allow antichrist to blaspheme to give full vent or expression to the satanic wickedness that will cover the earth at that time.

He will exhibit a total disregard for the true God by continually **speaking arrogant words and blasphemies**.

**Antichrist's blasphemies will not be subtle, but open, outrageous, and monstrous even to the point that he "takes his seat in the temple of God. Displaying himself as being God" (2Thess 2:4).**

This is reminiscent of Satan's original desire when he fell from heaven and holiness.

*Isaiah 14:12-14 (NKJV)*

<sup>12</sup> *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!*

<sup>13</sup> *For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;*

<sup>14</sup> *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'*

Daniel predicted that Antichrist will be characterized by proud, arrogant, blasphemous words.

*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.*

*Daniel 7:20 (NKJV)*

<sup>20</sup> *and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.*

Note that Daniel also says that he (antichrist) will speak out against the Most High and against the God of gods

*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.*

*Daniel 11:36 (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.*

Antichrist's arrogance will surpass that of anyone else in human history.

He will be Satan's mouthpiece, voicing his master's frustrated rage against God.

He will be also the supreme blasphemer in a world filled with blasphemers.

So hardened will sinners' hearts be that at that time that God's judgments will elicit not repentance, but more blasphemy.

*Revelation 16:8-9 (NKJV)*

<sup>8</sup> *Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.*

<sup>9</sup> *And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.*

Antichrist's **blasphemies against God** will include blasphemy of **His name and His tabernacle**, and **those who dwell in heaven**.

God's **name** represents all that He is; it is the summation of His attributes. So comprehensively evil will Antichrist's blasphemy be that it will even include god's **tabernacle: (heaven)**

*Hebrews 9:23-24 (NKJV)*

<sup>23</sup> *Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.*

<sup>24</sup> *For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;*

**And those that dwell in heaven with Him.**

Thus antichrist will utter blasphemous words aimed directly and specifically at God's Person, His abode, and His people, both the redeemed saints and the holy angels.

But neither antichrist's blasphemies nor his reign of terror will last indefinitely.

God will grant antichrist **authority to act for only forty-two months** (the last three and a half years of 1,260 days of the Tribulation, the seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy;

*Daniel 9:24 (NKJV)*

<sup>24</sup> *"Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.*

Antichrist and Satan will be allowed to operate only within the time limit set for them by the true Ruler of the universe. For a few years they will dominate the world.

## HIS ACTIVIT

*Revelation 13:7 (NKJV)*

<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.*

Antichrist will not be all talk; he will be capable of decisive, deadly action.

Once again the text notes that antichrist can do only what he is **given** permission by almighty God to do, thus stressing that God never relinquishes His absolute control of events.

Because they will refuse to worship him, antichrist will **make war with the saints and overcome them;** Believers in the true God will bear the brunt of his murderous fury.

He will perceive them as a threat to his authority **over every tribe and people and tongue and nation**, which again **was temporarily given to him** by God's sovereignty.

The result will be a worldwide slaughter of God's people.

Daniel long before predicted this widespread martyrdom of God people.

*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 persecution will begin in earnest at the midpoint of the Tribulation, when antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel

*Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)*

<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."*

*Daniel 11:31 (NKJV)*

<sup>31</sup> *And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.*

*Daniel 12:11 (NKJV)*

<sup>11</sup> *And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.*

*Matthew 24:15 (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),*

*2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (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.*

The Antichrist will successfully **make war with the saints and overcome them** does not mean that he will have power to destroy their faith

He will overpower them physically, but not spiritually.

Genuine saving faith cannot be destroyed, because:

*Romans 8:38-39 (NKJV)*

<sup>38</sup> *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,*

<sup>39</sup> *nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Nor will the Lord Jesus Christ, who is infinitely more powerful than Antichrist or Satan, permit any true child of His to suffer the loss of eternal life.

*John 10:27-29 (NKJV)*

<sup>27</sup> *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*

<sup>28</sup> *And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*

<sup>29</sup> *My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.*

But Antichrist will slaughter God's people on an unprecedented scale as he expresses his world dominance.

## HIS ADMIRERS

*Revelation 13:8-10 (NKJV)*

<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.*

As noted previously in the discussion of verse 4, **all who dwell on the earth will worship** the Antichrist.

(John here shifts from past tenses to future tenses.) the phrase **all who dwell on the earth** is used throughout Revelation to describe unbelievers;

*Revelation 6:10 (NKJV)*

<sup>10</sup> *And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"*

*Revelation 8:13 (NKJV)*

<sup>13</sup> *And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"*

*Revelation 11:10 (NKJV)*

<sup>10</sup> *And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.*

So it does not include everyone who will be alive at that time.

Here is the limiting factor specifically stated; it is **everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain** that will worship Antichrist.

Unbelievers, those whose names are not recorded in the **book of life**, will perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved;

*2 Thessalonians 2:10 (NKJV)*

<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.*

Scripture also teaches that the faithless will be judged because;

*2 Thessalonians 2:12 (NKJV)*

<sup>12</sup> *that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

While the eternally elect are saved through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the non-elect are lost because they refuse to believe the gospel.

*John 3:36 (NKJV)*

<sup>36</sup> *He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."*

Unbelief and rejection always indicate those persons whose names were not **written in the book of life**.

**Seven**, times in the New Testament, believers are identified as those whose name are **written** in the **book of life**;

**The book of life** belonging to the **Lamb**, the Lord Jesus, is the registry in which God inscribed the names of those chosen for salvation before **the foundation of the world**. (this phrase is used as a synonym for eternity past in this verse)

*Revelation 17:8 (NKJV)*

<sup>8</sup> *The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*

*Matthew 25:34 (NKJV)*

<sup>34</sup> *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

Unlike unbelievers, the elect will not be deceived by Antichrist;

*Matthew 24:24 (NKJV)*

<sup>24</sup> *For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*

Nor will they worship him;

*Revelation 20:4 (NKJV)*

<sup>4</sup> *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

Antichrist will not be able to destroy believers' saving faith, for the Lord Jesus Christ promised:

*Revelation 3:5 (NKJV)*

<sup>5</sup> *He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.*

Believers have been in the keeping power of God since before creation, and they will be there after the destruction of this order and the establishment of the new heaven and the new earth.

Now listen, believers are doubly secure, because the **book of life** belongs to **the Lamb who has been slain**.

Not only the decree of election, but also the atoning work of Christ seals the redemption of the elect forever.

*1 Peter 1:18-19 (NKJV)*

<sup>18</sup> *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,*  
<sup>19</sup> *but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

The Father will not undue the work of the Son.

The very saints that Antichrist massacres during his persecution of God's people are later seen triumphant and victorious in heaven;

*Revelation 15:2-4 (NKJV)*

<sup>2</sup> *And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having*

*harps of God.*

<sup>3</sup> *They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!"*

<sup>4</sup> *Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."*

Antichrist may take their lives, but he cannot destroy their faith.

This astounding vision of the beast from the sea concludes with a call for spiritual understand.

**"if anyone has an ear, let him hear"** is used sixteen times in the New Testament to emphasize a particular important truth.

In all its previous uses in Revelation it is followed by the phrase, **"what the Spirit says to the churches."** The omission of that phrase suggests that the church is not in view in this passage.

Here the phrase introduces a proverb that concludes this passage;

*Revelation 13:10 (NKJV)*

<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.*

This proverb contains important practical truth for those believers alive at the time for Antichrist's persecution.

They are to depend upon God's providence and not take matters into their own hands.

Those believers **destined** by God's sovereign plan **for captivity** (imprisonment) are to accept that incarceration as God's will.

They are not to resist or fight against Antichrist.

Amazingly, the passage upholds the divine institution of capital punishment even by Antichrist's evil government, warning that **"if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed"**

God's people must not retaliate against their persecutors; there is no place now, and there will be no place then, for militant, aggressive, violent believers terrorizing their persecutors.

*1 Peter 4:19 (NKJV)*

<sup>19</sup> *Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.*

Instead of reacting violently, believers must exemplify **the perseverance and the faith of the saints.**

**They must be like the Lord Jesus;**

*1 Peter 2:23 (NKJV)*

<sup>23</sup> *who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;*

He also said in his writings;

**1 Peter 3:16 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> *having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.*

**1 Peter 4:14 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> *If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.*

The message of this passage is clear. Let the monstrous beast from the abyss do his worst. Let Satan and his demon hosts have their hour.

God controls the future and believers belong to Him.

**Romans 8:37 (NKJV)**

<sup>37</sup> *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

And we will triumph on that glorious day when;

**Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> "The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"