

THE ANTICHRIST

The Antichrist will be the vilest, satanically empowered, dictator that our world has ever known. He will rule the world for seven years (Dan 9:27). We don't know his name or from what country he will arise. He is commonly known as the Antichrist, although that name is not used as a proper name in Scripture.

Daniel's vision of the Antichrist

This infamous person is only spoken about in the OT by the prophet Daniel who lived 2600 years ago. He had a vision of four great beasts that represented future kingdoms, the last of which was terrifying and very powerful. It had large iron teeth and it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It had ten horns and:

“While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was *another horn, a little one*, which came up among them; and *three of the first horns were uprooted before it*. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully” (Dan 7:8).

The little horn is the Antichrist. Daniel said he looked more imposing than the other leaders and he had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. So why is he called a little horn? It could imply youth, inexperience, or anonymity. When he comes on the scene, a divine court is set up to deal with him, and in verse 11, he is killed. He is only allowed to rule for forty-two months (Revelation 13:5). The following verses in Daniel 7 describe the coming of the Messiah to rule all nations and peoples of every language.

Daniel said:

“As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them, until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom” (Dan 7:21-22).

Israel would undoubtedly have regarded themselves to be the holy people mentioned here, but as we know from the Gospels, they did not recognize Jesus to be their Messiah and they forfeited their right to reign in his kingdom. By God's grace, the Church, consisting of believers from all nations, will now enjoy that privilege. They will possess the Messiah's kingdom at his return. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the Earth” (Matt 5:5). “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 5:10).

An angel interpreted the vision for Daniel:

“The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them, another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times, and half a time. But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him (Daniel 7:24-27).

When the Antichrist rises to power, he will oppress God's people for 3 1/2 years until the Messiah returns and destroys him. The set times and laws he will seek to change may include religious holidays, Judeo-Christian morality, and the calendar year which begins with the year

of Jesus' birth. The year 2024 means 2024 years since Jesus was born. The year 2033 is 2000 years from Pentecost when God poured out his Spirit on the believers in Jerusalem and the Church was born.

“The people of *the ruler who will come* will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. *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 at the temple, he will set up *an abomination that causes desolation*, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him (Dan 9:26-27).

These verses are important because Jesus refers to them.

“So when you see standing in the Holy Place ‘the Abomination that causes Desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ... For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again (Matthew 24:15-16, 21).

The Romans destroyed Jerusalem and its temple in 70 AD. So Daniel's prophecy that ‘The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary,’ means that the Romans are the people of the future ruler, the Antichrist, or at least the Roman Empire which covered large parts of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. The ‘he’ at the beginning of Daniel 9:27 refers back to this ruler. He will confirm, or perhaps impose, a covenant with ‘many’ for seven years. This *may* refer to the majority in Israel and may have to do with building a temple on Mount Zion. The prophecy of the seventy ‘sevens’ concerns the anointing of the Most Holy Place. However, in the middle of the seven years, he will increase his power by putting an end to the normal activities at the Jewish temple and setting up an idol of himself. Daniel said:

“The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place” (Daniel 11:36)

The death of the Antichrist

“Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words *the horn* was speaking. I kept looking until *the beast* was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire” (Dan 7:11).

“But reports from the East and the North will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many. He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.” (Dan 11:44-45).

The Antichrist will be killed while fighting his wars. His place of death is between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas, at the beautiful holy mountain (Mount Zion in Jerusalem). He is overthrown and destroyed by Jesus at his coming by the breath of his mouth, perhaps his powerful word, and the splendor of his coming. (Rev 19:19-21). The Antichrist and his False prophet are thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, a metaphor for hell. Then follows the thousand years of Christ's reign on earth. When the thousand years are complete, the Devil is captured and thrown into hell where the Antichrist and his False prophet were thrown a thousand years earlier (Rev 20:10). They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

For further details on Daniel's prophecies concerning the Antichrist, see under Daniel.