

**“THERE ARE
SEVEN KINGS”**

**Candidates for President
of the World**

Bob Faulkner

Dedication

To the poor folks who search the newspapers to find the antichrist, when they could be searching the Scriptures...

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INTRODUCTION

Who shall rule the world one day? Jesus, for one, and finally. Before Him comes the anti-Jesus, inhabited by the one who has been looking, for thousands of years, for the right man in which to dwell. This man must be in perfect agreement with Satan's agenda.

That agenda includes total opposition to the desires of God toward Israel, toward His Son, toward the disciples of Jesus. It includes world domination so that the God of Heaven will have no chance to find a dwelling place here. And most importantly it includes worship. All earthlings, including the God-Man Himself, must bow at the feet of the Satan-man, whom we generically call the "antichrist." His name while here will be much more appealing than that.

The prophecy of Revelation 17 leads us to seven candidates for that Presidential Office. An angel is trying to describe to John the nature of the beast that has appeared before him, carrying a woman. He says that the seven heads on this beast have a dual interpretation. First, he says, they stand for seven mountains on which the woman sits. But further, "there are seven kings", quite possibly sitting atop one mountain each.

Rome has always been singled out here, because it is a city on seven hills. And the word translated *mountains* here can indeed be "hills." The end of the chapter will suffice to identify Rome,

in some form, as the woman. The statement there is clear: *The woman is the city that reigns over the kings of the earth!* Period. (Exclamation mark, in my opinion.)

But if the woman is the city, how can the seven mountains also be the city she sits on? A gymnastic impossibility, I believe. Though I am one who has always favored the seven-hills-is-Rome thing, a closer look may cause us to see that these seven mountains are nothing more than seven kingdoms upon which seven specific kings have sat in the past, and present (for John), and future.

The flow of the explanation given by John seems to me to fit that interpretation quite well. Seven kings sitting atop seven kingdoms. Identify them, and you identify antichrist. Here's why:

Verse 10: In John's day, five of these kings/kingdoms had fallen. One was in existence as he watched. One had not (still has not) come.

Now don't go to sleep here. Listen...

This seventh world kingdom/king will only be around a little while. *It is not the antichrist kingdom*, though I can almost guarantee that people living then will think so.

How do I know that number seven is not the antichrist? I know from verse 11: The beast (code for antichrist) is the *eighth*

kingdom! But I thought there were only seven! No, seven *heads*. But the creature itself is the *eighth* entity, and includes all the seven!

Not only does he include, through his characteristics, all seven, he is actually *one of the seven!* (Read it yourself!)

Get it? One of the seven specified kings who ruled in the past, or John's present, or our future, will rule again *as antichrist* (here called "the beast."). Raised from the dead! That's why he is called the beast that "was, *and is not* (John's day), and yet is (to come)." He's coming.

Mimicking Jesus, you see. Jesus too *was*, then was killed, and then was raised again from the dead, and is coming.

The world will go wild over this man. Who is he? The angel narrows it down, I believe, to seven men. I believe God has seen to it that these men are described in the very Book – the Bible - that describes the true King that shall come. There would be no way for His people to scan the headlines and figure out who he is. The mystery would have to be resolved via information He has given to all of us.

Consider again verse 10: In John's day, five of these kings had already fallen. They lived before John did, in the days we call "Old Testament times."

Consider also that the angel says that this beast *was* (in John's day) and *is not* (in John's day, first century). He ruled, then, *before John*, and is one of the five that were fallen, or that are dead. These are the very candidates, then, to examine as possible antichrists.

There is a popular theory out there about the "seventh" head of the beast, the seventh king, the one that is still in our future. They say he comes, he is assassinated, he is clearly dead, but then soon after he is miraculously brought back to life as antichrist. That fits nicely much of the prophecy we have just examined. But not all. There is still the detail given to John that the antichrist *was* (based on the first century) *and is not*.

Believing that every detail matters, I take you through a series of studies of men, right out of your Bible, who lived before John, and who had characteristics that a true antichrist would have. These are men who have already been used by Satan once on the planet, but who never finished the work they had started. Now they will finish it, perhaps soon...

I apologize for the fact that I was not able to bring the number to five in "Old Testament Times" . Perhaps you can help with this, and then narrow it further to one.

For the sake of the argument, I will also include a look at the king who "is" in the first century, and we will discuss further that seventh king idea.

Pretty important stuff. You may well know the name of the one who will rule the world in which *you are still living*. Without a newspaper. Without CNN or Fox News or a laptop or an android. Just by knowing your Bible. You do know your Bible, don't you?

Before we take a look at the candidates, we need to get his *final* description, so we will be able to recognize him a little more easily when he appears. What is the antichrist going to look like, the one who takes the Kingdom out of the control of "king seven" and becomes "number eight"?

His descriptors and titles are clearly laid out by Paul, John, and Daniel. First Paul: (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 8-9)

- The man of sin
- The son of perdition
- Exalts himself above any God
- Sits as God in God's Temple
- Shows himself to be God
- Consumed by the breath of Jesus at His return
- His coming is with power, signs, lying wonders
- Those who are perishing will be deceived

Then John (Revelation 13, 1-10; 17:8-17; 19:19-20)

- Caricatured as having seven heads
- Pictured as having 10 horns with 10 crowns

- He wears a blasphemous name
- Empowered by Satan
- Miraculous cure, healing, resurrection, that deceives the world
- Receives worship
- Speaks blasphemies against God, and all pertaining to God
- Continues for 42 months
- Overcomes the saints of God (Church)
- Worldwide authority
- All un-saved will worship him
- He lived during “Old Testament” times
- He was not alive on earth in John’s day
- He will ascend from the Pit to the earth
- The earth will marvel at his ascent
- (Perhaps) his death is by a sword wound
- He is the eighth world ruler, but one of the original seven also
- He will unite with ten kings at the end, and destroy Babylon
- He will attempt war with Jesus at His coming
- He is captured and thrown alive into the lake of fire
- He will be tormented there day and night forever

And Daniel. We shall examine the sequence of the prophecy of Daniel 11 later. For now we look only at that part of the Daniel prophecy that is clearly a description of the final campaign of antichrist, verses 36-45.

- He is a willful king
- He magnifies himself above every god
- He speaks blasphemies against the God of Gods
- He is prosperous until the end
- He does not care about women
- He honors only the “god” of armies, a foreign god which he will promote
- He will be attacked in the end from north and south
- In escaping, he will destroy as he goes
- He enters Israel and takes it
- He conquers Egypt
- Libya and Ethiopia shall either follow or pursue him
- He hears of more trouble and so must destroy even more
- He sets up a last stand somewhere in the Israel area
- He suddenly comes to his end, and no one helps him.

Place all these descriptions side by side and you see the sketch of the Evil One emerge. Let me try to summarize:

1. He proudly receives the worship of mankind. He totally defies the true God and all of God's true people.
2. He rules an Empire, and wants control over the entire world.
3. He is in league with Satan, actually possessed by him, and thus able to deceive the masses. His power is immense.
4. He is eventually countered by other earth forces, then dealt with by the Son of God. He comes to a quick, violent, end.

There he is. But this Evil One has lived before and was doing some of the same things in his first go-around. Look carefully at the following biographies of men who were like him, and see which one is pin-pointed as the one who will return. Some of the names are found in your Bible, others by a quick look at history. Only number seven is a mystery, but if I understand the prophecy, his is a mystery that matters very little.

“FIVE HAVE FALLEN”

CANDIDATE #1. NIMROD

A few verses buried in Genesis 10 between the famous Noah and the illustrious Abraham mention a “mighty hunter” named Nimrod. So what does that have to do with our inquiry? Hunters are not the caliber of men who rule empires and challenge God before a planet... are they?

Not normally. But this one was. Today, the equivalent would be a man who would rise up and protect the nations from the spread of militant Islam. In my childhood, the world was just recovering from one who protected the German people from sinking into a financial pit. Protectors are always elevated by the people of a nation. War heroes. They were saying “I like Ike” when I was a boy. Ike was Eisenhower, Dwight D. Presidential candidate. General Eisenhower, WW II hero. We love men who keep us safe.

Nimrod’s claim to fame was warding off the swarms of animals that threatened the people of his day. Mighty hunter became mighty hero. So much so that his fame evolved into legend. He is the man behind the myths of Babylon and even other cultures.

Unfortunately, his prowess was on the wrong side. David could kill giants and lions and bears in the name of Jehovah. Daniel

and his three friends could claim that God would see them through the ordeals of furnaces and dens of wild cats. Big cats. Man-eating Cats. In these men, God received all the glory.

Nimrod was of a different ilk. He was the grandson of the man who had despised his father Noah. The entire line of that family did not seem well-disposed to God and was in rebellion against him, even hundreds of years later.

It is roughly 2,000 B.C. It is quite possible that Abraham is alive and is being called out of Nimrod's world, a world that included the founding of both Babylon and Nineveh! Legend has it that he confronted Abraham!

The beginnings of world domination are recorded in these five verses of Genesis.

No, not just a hunter was Nimrod. Verse ten makes it clear he was a king. An emperor. A mighty man "before the Lord". Commentators believe that this "before" is in the sense of "against", in front of in a challenging menacing way.

Here we can do no better than to quote renowned Jewish historian Josephus to complete the story of Nimrod:

Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God. He was the grandson of Ham, the son of Noah, a bold man, and of great strength of hand. He persuaded them not to ascribe it to God, as if it were through his means

they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness. He also gradually changed the government into tyranny, seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence on his power. He also said he would be revenged on God, if he should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he would build a tower too high for the waters to reach. And that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers.

Now the multitude were very ready to follow the determination of Nimrod, and to esteem it a piece of cowardice to submit to God; and they built a tower, neither sparing any pains, nor being in any degree negligent about the work: and, by reason of the multitude of hands employed in it, it grew very high, sooner than anyone could expect; but the thickness of it was so great, and it was so strongly built, that thereby its great height seemed, upon the view, to be less than it really was. It was built of burnt brick, cemented together with mortar, made of bitumen, that it might not be liable to admit water. When God saw that they acted so madly, he did not resolve to destroy them utterly, since they were not grown wiser by the destruction of the former sinners; but he caused a tumult among them, by producing in them diverse languages, and causing that, through the multitude of those languages, they should not be able to understand one another. The place wherein they built the tower is now called Babylon, because of

the confusion of that language which they readily understood before; for the Hebrews mean by the word Babel, confusion ...

Wikipedia, online encyclopedia, claims that certain sources allege that he actually told his followers that he was a god and allowed them to worship him. The well-known Semiramis, also real but equally legendary, is his consort and fellow divinity.

In rabbinical writings up to the present, he is almost invariably referred to as "Nimrod the Evil" (Hebrew: הרשע נמרוד).

But, says Wikipedia, Nimrod is also referenced in the main theological work of Baha'i. And some call him Zoroaster, a founder of yet another ancient – and present – faith. He is Sargon of Assyria to others. Our Genesis account rings with louder and louder peals of truth!

As to his death, many legends have arisen, none verifiable. At least one mentions death by sword at the hands of Esau. All seem to indicate violence in his last moments.

Let's sum it up. We are looking at a king who ruled a significant, even world-wide, kingdom. A king fit for a "woman" of false religion to ride, as in Revelation. He was anti-Jew (Abraham). He believed he was a god and therefore worthy of worship. He hated God and wanted power over all the earth so as to protect earth from the possibility of another flood. He was the first king of Babylon, the city that is finally destroyed in the end times.

Yes Nimrod, you can apply for the position. If ever there were a man wanting to finish his work on earth, empowered even more by your friend Lucifer, it is you.

Candidate #1 is established.

CANDIDATE #2. THUTMOSE II

First candidate, first book of the Bible.

Second candidate, second book of the Bible. The Pharaoh of the Exodus. Does he fit the same sort of description as we saw for Nimrod, and as we expect in antichrist?

There are certainly several characteristics that apply.

- Egypt was a major power of the day, the 1400's BC.
- Egypt's Pharaohs considered themselves to be Divine.
- This Pharaoh defied the God of Israel, and his messenger, Moses.
- He certainly died a violent death, by drowning.
- He persecuted the people of God.
- God raised him up to show His glory in him.

We have moved 500 years from the days of Abraham and Nimrod. The Egyptian might has risen, and God has planted His own people in their midst. Slaves for many years, and an important piece of the economy of Egypt, the Pharaoh is bound and determined to keep God's people right where they are. The confrontation that follows is well-known Biblical history.

One question that arises is the definite identity of the Bible Pharaohs. There are three, you know. One elevated Joseph from prison, a later one "knew not Joseph," at the time when

Moses was born. And forty years later, there is the so-called “Pharaoh of the Exodus.” There is a range of opinion as to his historical identity, but quite a few Biblical scholars have settled on Thutmose II as the man in question. Wikipedia:

Thutmose II (1493 or 1492 to 1479 BC). Alfred Edersheim proposes in his "Old Testament Bible History" that Thutmose II is best qualified to be the pharaoh of Exodus based on the fact that he had a brief, prosperous reign and then a sudden collapse with no son to succeed him. His widow Hatshepsut then became first Regent (for Thutmose III) then Pharaoh in her own right. Edersheim states that Thutmose II is the only Pharaoh's mummy to display cysts, possible evidence of plagues which spread through the Egyptian and Hittite Empires at that time.

Ultimately this discussion is not that important, if Thutmose II is not the man we are seeking. In my opinion, if God was truly trying to lead our thinking to a particular man, He would make that man relatively easy to identify, by Scriptural means.

Nevertheless I leave Thutmose in the listing for the reasons given above. It is interesting to me to see just how much in common the “anti-Christ” figures of history share.

CANDIDATE # 3, SENNACHERIB

From the Egypt of the 1400's BC, we travel to ancient Assyria in its heyday, under one of its mightiest Emperors, King Sennacherib. His reign is recorded as 705 to 681. He is mentioned by name in three Bible portions: II Kings 18, 19; II Chronicles 32; Isaiah 36, 37. All three texts tell the same story of a proud Emperor, depending on his own strength and his god Nisroch to defeat the tiny nation of Judah. After all, he had already taken Israel captive, he reasoned, and no one stopped him.

What he did not understand was that God, our God, had orchestrated the captivity of Israel for His own purposes, using Sennacherib as His willing tool. God's protection is eventually removed when a nation has gone too far. Judah would eventually fall, but not until God's time, and not under Sennacherib's rule.

Let's see how many of the traits for which we seek are found in this man.

- World-class empire, with desire for total control? Yes
- Against Jews? Indeed! It was Sennacherib's Assyria that first made major inroads into Jewish lands, eventually taking all of the northern Kingdom (Israel) captive, and populating that land with its own people. Soon it would

threaten Judah, but after some initial intimidation by the proud king of Assyria, God would stop him there.

- Anti God? Yes, he defied the God of Israel, belittled Him, mocked Judah and her king. Wikipedia gives us these insights into Assyrian Emperors and their relationship to religion: *The religion of the Neo-Assyrian Empire centered around the Assyrian king as the king of their lands as well. However, kingship at the time was linked very closely with the idea of divine mandate.[8] The Assyrian king, while not being a god himself, was acknowledged as the chief servant of the chief god, Ashur.* Isaiah 36:20 shows us the sneering domineering attitude this man had toward other gods and gods in general. He boasts to the Jews, through his chosen representative: “Who among all the gods have delivered their countries from my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?”
- Violent death? Yes, killed by his two sons while he worshiped his false god.
- Killed by sword? Yes, that was the method chosen by his own sons to end their father’s life.

There is another connection with Assyria to the “seven kings” picture of Revelation, in that Assyria, in Micah 5, is called “the land of Nimrod,” bringing us back to candidate #1.

Seven heads. Seven times Satan has risen up seeking to control all, and humiliate the God and the people of Israel.

Those who seek to find antichrist in Scripture also point, in that same prophecy of Micah to the mention of “The Assyrian” that will come into the land of Israel, tread in their palaces. Messiah will rise up and deliver the people from this man, says Micah.

This intriguing prophecy lends itself to other interpretations, but a word study of the two words “the Assyrian” brings up some interesting possibilities. Is the Assyrian, Sennacherib, indeed coming back, only to be destroyed again?

I leave this candidate by means of the work of one of England’s finest, a “romantic” look at our subject, as proof that Sennacherib’s fame lives on...

The Destruction of Sennacherib, 1815
BY LORD BYRON (GEORGE GORDON)

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when Summer is green,
That host with their banners at sunset were seen:
Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn hath blown,
That host on the morrow lay withered and strown.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast,
And breathed in the face of the foe as he passed;
And the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly and chill,
And their hearts but once heaved, and for ever grew still!

And there lay the steed with his nostril all wide,
But through it there rolled not the breath of his pride;
And the foam of his gasping lay white on the turf,
And cold as the spray of the rock-beating surf.

And there lay the rider distorted and pale,
With the dew on his brow, and the rust on his mail:
And the tents were all silent, the banners alone,
The lances unlifted, the trumpet unblown.

And the widows of Ashur are loud in their wail,
And the idols are broke in the temple of Baal;
And the might of the Gentile, unsmote by the sword,
Hath melted like snow in the glance of the Lord!

CANDIDATE #4: ETHBAAL III

“Who?” you say.

Yes, at first glance this name is pretty far out. But stay with me. There is actually an Ethbaal in your Bible, I Kings 16:31. He is the father of Jezebel, the wife of Ahab, the wickedest woman our Scriptures have ever recorded. This was no doubt a marriage for politics. For, Ethbaal, as you may know, was certainly not a Jew. Ethbaal was king of a nation that was already corrupt, and would one day be swept away by history. I speak of Phoenicia, and its great city Tyre, located roughly in the area of today’s Lebanon and Syria. *Phoenicia was an enterprising maritime trading culture that spread across the Mediterranean from 1500 BC to 300 BC*, according to Wikipedia.

Also, as Canaanites, they were unique in their remarkable seafaring achievements... The Phoenicians were among the greatest traders of their time and owed much of their prosperity to trade.

The prophecy of Ezekiel indeed mentions this trading aspect of the Phoenician way, showing how it corrupted this civilization.

But until their demise, to rule these cities was to be a man of worldwide power and glory and riches. Their influence spread

all over the world. Though they were not technically an empire, they were surrounded by and connected to Empires, and the greatness of these connections became an integral part of Phoenicia.

Ethbaal is called “king of the Sidonians” in the Kings passage, and Josephus adds that he was also king of Tyre, the twin city to Sidon. These were the main cities of the Phoenician culture.

“Ethbaal”, by the way, means “with Baal.” Baal was the predominant god of the enemies of Israel, and Ahab sold out to Baal worship to please his evil queen. Ethbaal and his daughter were two of the reasons that the curse of God came on the northern kingdom in 721 BC.

The name “Ethbaal” was used by other kings of Tyre over the generations to come. One of them, Ethbaal (or Itto-Baal) III, seems to be the subject of the startling prophecy given by Ezekiel in his 28th chapter. Josephus says that he was the one reigning at the time of the fall of Jerusalem. Hence the words of Ezekiel 28 would apply to him, as judgment was soon coming at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar (570 BC).

I list this man as one of the “seven” kings of Revelation, not exclusively because of any of the above facts. I list him because of that prophecy in Ezekiel to which I have referred. There is

possibly no more clear description anywhere in the Bible of a man so totally given to Satan's program for this planet. He and Satan are cursed simultaneously, just as Satan and the serpent share a curse in Genesis 3. Listen carefully to the main points of this prophecy, paraphrased. God is speaking to the prince of Tyre, Ethbaal III:

- You are proud.
- You say "I am a god."
- Your riches have been gained by your superior knowledge and wisdom.
- Your success in trade has made your heart exalted.
- Strangers are coming against you.
- You will be thrown into a Pit.

But keep listening as God now speaks to the king – the real ruler – of Tyre, Satan himself, embodied in this wicked man:

- You were indeed perfectly wise and beautiful.
- You were in Eden.
- You were the first of the created angels.
- By being involved with trading on earth you became violent, and entered into sin.
- I cast you out.
- You were still proud.
- I cast you to the ground.
- I allowed you (inside Ethbaal) to be burned to ashes.
- You shall be no more.

Some of this prophecy seems to speak of Satan's final judgment in the Lake of Fire.

Once more we compare what we have seen here to others of his kind, and to the final model called antichrist and we ask, is this the one? The list starts looking familiar.

- Proud
- Exalted above God, wanting to be God
- World ruler
- As a descendant of Canaanites, truly an enemy of Israel
- Filled with Satan and cursed with him
- A violent end

Yes, he seems to qualify, does he not? Could he return, and attempt to complete his work against Israel and Israel's God?

CANDIDATE #? NEBUCHADNEZZAR?

Yes, that is a question mark after his name. He meets many of the requirements, for sure, but he leaves us wondering in some other areas of his life. I cannot with confidence call him “number 5”.

Nebuchadnezzar is fairly well known to students of the Bible. His name is associated with the destruction of Jerusalem and all that led up to it. It was a sad day for the southern Kingdom called Judah, when it seemed that God’s program for the Promised Land was finished. It wasn’t finished at all, but sorrow gripped the Jews who were carried away to Babylon, then transferred to the Kingdom of Persia, possibly to waste away as other nations of antiquity and be forgotten.

Judah was not the only target of the world conqueror. We read in the last candidate’s bio that Tyre also was on Nebuchadnezzar’s list. This new rise of Babylonia was largely due to the ambition of this one man. Certainly he meets the requirement of world emperor. There is no question also of his devotion to false gods, and his arrogance, for which, you will recall, God brought him to such a lowly place personally that he was out in his backyard eating grass as an animal.

Arrogance, anti-Semitism, idolatry, conquest, these shall forever be the characteristics of Satan's men on the planet. He had all of this and more.

And we cannot forget his modern counterpart, who certainly had the antichrist people talking. Yes, Saddam Hussein believed he was the new Nebuchadnezzar, and like the ancient king, Hussein actually built structures using bricks engraved with his own name. We all know what that came to, but there was at least a remembrance that something regarding Babylon is not yet finished.

But there are issues – and positive ones – about this man.

1. When God wanted to give to His people an outline of history via a staggering dream, he chose this pagan Emperor (Daniel 2).
2. In response to the correct interpretation of his dream by Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar rightly praised the true God! “Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets...” It is hard to imagine how a Satan-possessed man could even begin to utter such words. (Daniel 2:47.)
3. When the king is lured into throwing Daniel's friends into a fiery furnace, and it backfires, Nebuchadnezzar immediately realizes his mistake and says “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego,” then

goes on to say that anyone who dares speak against Israel's God is to be cut in pieces. Emotional response, but sincere, it seems. (Daniel 3:26-30.)

4. Then comes Nebuchadnezzar's pride, and his humiliation, afore-mentioned. But when it is all over, such praise to God as we seldom hear from even church members today. In his own accounting of it: (Daniel 4:34-37) " ... I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation... Now, I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice..." Oh, amen! To hear such things from the head of the government!
5. And, Nebuchadnezzar did not die a violent death at all, but as an old man he was enjoying his retirement years in the magnificent city he had built.

With all of this going for him, why even list Nebuchadnezzar at all as a type of antichrist? For the answer to this we must move to Isaiah's prophecy in chapter 14. The words are addressed to the "King of Babylon."

You may recall that Isaiah's main work was to deal with the Assyrian Empire that carried away Israel, and seriously

threatened Judah. Babylon had not even come to power when Isaiah prophesied. When it finally came to power, there was one king who embodied its greatness, and its oppression against Israel, culminating in Jerusalem's destruction, 586 BC. It is only "natural" to point the finger at Nebuchadnezzar when dealing with Isaiah 14.

And we must deal with Isaiah 14 because it is one of two passages in the prophetic writings that clearly addresses Satan while it is addressing an earthly king. In Ezekiel 28 we could see Ethbaal being used. Now, a king of Babylon.

But it may be unfair to jump from "a" king of Babylon to the great Nebuchadnezzar, especially since he is not named in Isaiah 14. Let's take a closer look at this mysterious chapter. An antichrist figure is certainly there, but have we properly identified him?

First to notice in the chapter is the introduction to this prophecy. It is to take place at a time when God has mercy on Jacob, and once more chooses Israel, settling them in their own land. Gentiles are to be joined with Jews, even clinging to them. The Jewish people will be ruling over all who have oppressed them. In that day a recitation is to be spoken against the king who had brought them bondage.

More about this time period is brought out in verse 7. "The whole earth is at rest." It seems that all are rejoicing over the

downfall of this evil one. His entrance into awful judgment is reviewed.

Strange. This does not seem to match what we know of the last days of Babylon, or the last days of Nebuchadnezzar, who as we reported above, died in peace.

Then the King of Babylon must be Belshazzar, as recorded in Daniel? But was he the one for whom the entire world was shaking? Was there a world upheaval when the Persians took Babylon? Something does not compute. Yet the Word of God cannot be wrong.

If this were not curious enough, the next part of Isaiah 14 begins to chronicle the one who was inhabiting this “King of Babylon.”

Here was the true ruler of the nations. Lucifer! The one who wanted to exalt his throne above the heavens and be as the Most High!

In fact he would be brought to the lowest depths of the Pit, a fate that reminds us of words in the Book of Revelation.

See the intertwining of spirit and man in 16-17. Seeing Satan, but really a Satan-filled man, the earth marvels at the easy

judgment of the one who seemed so all-powerful. Compare the judgment of Babylon in Revelation 17-18, the Babylon that is to come, and the man who will rule it.

I personally believe that antichrist is here being described, the final one, number eight in Revelation 17 terms.

We will leave Nebuchadnezzar in the list as a possible preview of this man, one of the seven mountains of power over the centuries, but if we need to eliminate one – and we do – to connect to the count of the angel in Revelation, I strongly suggest that this is the one.

CANDIDATE #5. ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES

This man has always been my personal choice as the man who shall rise from the dead. A careful study of a forgotten but very amazing prophecy in the end of the book of Daniel, is my reason. Let's visit the book.

Most of the prophecy of Daniel 11 is so perfect that the critics have claimed that whoever wrote the book of Daniel simply pretended to be a prophet and when he came to the end of history, he just guessed the future, and was a bad guesser.

I approach the Book of Daniel as I do the entire Bible. It's true. It's all true. There was a Daniel. He did write a book. He wrote this book. An angel did appear to him. The angel told him the future, and here it is...

First, the end of the Persian Empire at the hands of the Greeks. Namely, Alexander. Next, Alexander dies and his kingdom is divided among his four main generals. The focus narrows then to only two of them, who become known as "the king of the North" and "the king of the South" in the text.

The conflict between these two kingdoms, namely the Syrian Empire and the Egyptian Empire, is spelled out from generation to generation, until in 11:21, the focus narrows even more. A

vile king arises. We know him as Antiochus Epiphanes. A liar. A man convinced of his divinity, but truly a despicable man. A hater of Israel. He comes into conflict with the growing Roman Empire and is defeated. Later he dies a sickly death, eaten of worms. That historical figure would take us through Daniel 11:35.

But something happens in verse 36 that we are not ready for. Daniel sees things that have not indeed happened in our past. And verse 36 of Daniel 11 is the beginning of a series of events that take us right to the end of time!

A man rises to power, unopposed. He speaks out against God. He blasphemes. He is attacked by Egypt. And Syria. Meaning, this final king is outside the domain of both of these leaders. He enters into Israel and is destructive. But then come some armies against him. He takes a last stand. He is quickly defeated. A worldwide time of trouble is a part of all of this. Resurrections take place. Everlasting life is ushered in.

Daniel's critics say, "See, the world has not ended. Daniel must be wrong!" The believer says, "There is a man coming that will continue the unfinished business of Antiochus Epiphanes. In fact, it may be the resurrected Antiochus himself."

This latter section of Daniel 11 is indeed the antichrist, "number 8." But his sudden appearance in a text dealing with

the one we know to be Epiphanes makes us believe that this is the very same man, in an end-time context, where Syria and Egypt have new Kings, but the same animosity.

Paul even borrows from Daniel 11 when describing the man who will come in the last days. Daniel had actually seen him in chapters 8 and 9, but we'll let those go for now. The bottom line here is that Antiochus, resurrected or not, fits the pattern of the antichrist-type men who have ruled in past ages, being directed by Satan to harm the people of God, and then take over the world. They have been cut down so far. Number eight will get a lot farther, but he too will pass to the Pit.

“ONE IS”

CANDIDATE #6. DOMITIAN

It is generally agreed that Roman Emperor Domitian ruled at the time John was writing the Book of Revelation. John had been exiled to the island of Patmos by that Emperor, and it seems that Domitian is included in his prophecy.

We need to return to Revelation 17 to refresh our memories. Recall that the angel told John that there are a total of seven, but really eight, world-class kings coming to the earth. He said that five had already come and gone. I have pointed out up to now at least five candidates for those positions. They all looked like antichrist. They hated God. They ruled over men. They hated Israel and all the people of God.

But then the angel adds, “one is.” That is, one such person is actually alive today, John. Yes, remember he was talking to John. In John’s day, two men could have filled the antichrist bill quite well: Nero and Domitian. But the historical evidence for Domitian leads us his way for now. Does he fit the mold of the ones we have studied so far?

A simple trip to Wikipedia, and we glean a few facts. I am not quoting directly, but used that source for some common knowledge about Domitian and religion.

Domitian was a “traditionalist” as far as the Roman assortment of gods and the ways of the gods. By Roman standards he was religious and moral. He was especially devoted to Jupiter, the head of the gods in that culture, and his female counterpart, Minerva.

The Romans believed that emperors were deified, made gods, at their death, though some claimed the privilege earlier than that. Domitian did indeed deify members of his family, and wore the title of “Deus” (god) himself, putting his reign in line with the other antichrist types we have observed.

Were other religions tolerated in Rome, and under Domitian? Yes, as long as they could mix, with no disturbance, with the other religious trends. It is much like today. Christ and His teachings are fine until they cause social upheaval, or defiance of the gods of the day. It is clear that John would not be able to hide the total different-ness of his faith. Christianity had caused serious upheavals everywhere it went. It became a prime target of Rome, as did the ever-persecuted Jewish faith from which Christianity sprung, in the eyes of Rome.

A more severe view of Domitian is found in the Bible Hub "Bible Study Tools" section.

Here was a cruel man. He killed his brother, and afterwards began the second persecution of Christians. Jews were also to be put to death. A law came into being, and I quote, "That no Christian, once brought before the tribunal, should be exempted from punishment without renouncing his religion."

As with Nero, everything was blamed on Christians. Famine, pestilence, earthquake, in whatever province of Rome, was because of these pests.

An oath was created for the Christians to take. If they would not, it was instant death. There were many other ways for Christians to be found guilty. Even the ridiculing of idolatry was a serious offense. The beloved Timothy of Scripture is said to have done such a thing in A.D. 97. The citizens under this Emperor felt free to beat him to death with clubs.

Such was the reign of the 1st century antichrist. So does he fit? Certainly. Anti-Christ. World ruler. Deified. The pattern holds.

“ONE IS YET TO COME”

CANDIDATE #7: ?

Here is the great unknown one. The next superman of the world. A man who will hate Jews and Christians. A man of immense power. He will think himself Divine. And all the rest.

But how I wish I could convince my readers/listeners that that next man is *not* the final antichrist. I am confident we shall not be able to stop the speculation about Russians and Popes and other great men who arise. But whoever he is, he is not number eight. He is number seven.

I have heard the assassination theory. And I must agree it could be true, if I have misinterpreted a small bit of the text here. Let's look at it again.

Revelation 17:8. It seems so simple. “The beast that you saw *was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit.*” Lots of clues there, and in my opinion they cancel out the possibility of number “seven” being assassinated, and then immediately rising from the dead.

The angel tells John, who lived in the first century, that the beast that *John saw was*. “Existed in the past” is the meaning of

that 3-letter word. WAS. How clear can I make it? Someone who used to live.

The beast that John saw *is not*. Does not exist, is not alive, today. "One is", namely Domitian. But the beast "is not." Clear?

You see why I am voting for one of the "Old Testament" candidates.

But number seven will be here one day. Powerful indeed. Attracting the attention of Christians everywhere. Denounced. Condemned. Perhaps rightly so. But another, worse than he is, will be in place within a few years after number seven's reign begins.

KING #8 IS ACTUALLY ONE OF THE ABOVE CANDIDATES

There can be a lot of differences on which of the above candidates is truly the antichrist. But one thing is, in my opinion, non-negotiable truth, namely, that the final world ruler before Jesus *will be a resurrected king*.

I align my proofs for you:

Revelation 13: 1-4. After a description of the beast's outward feature, including his seven heads, John sees that one of the heads was *as if* it had been wounded mortally. Killed. Dead. *As if*, or "as it appeared" to men. But the deadly wound was healed. Not dead after all.

So the world, seeing this, worshipped the beast, and realized there would be no way to make war against one who could indeed rise from the dead!

Revelation 17:7-11. Referring to the mortal wound of chapter 13, the angel describes this same beast a bit more by saying of him that he was – historically – but is not now, and that he will ascend out of the pit (where he has been placed awaiting his grand re-entrance into the world). One who was, from the viewpoint of the earth, alive at one time, but who exists now

only in the underworld, will re-appear at a given point, giving to men of earth the appearance of a resurrected god-man.

Then the angel gives even more details. He says there are a total of seven kings from which to choose. Five of them have already died, one is alive in John's day, and one will come at the end, but only to reign a short time.

The final hint from John's angel: The "beast" that we know as antichrist is actually one of those seven, but is called the "eighth" because of the flow of history making it seem at first that he is just another man in a new generation. Actually he is from a past generation, probably already past when John heard these words.

One other piece of information can be gleaned from the apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10. Paul says that the man of sin will enter the world "according to the working of Satan", with power, and signs, and lying wonders.

Notice Paul is not just talking about antichrist's *existence* here, but his *entrance* here. The enemy will find a way to convince the people of earth that this man is indeed rising from the dead. No doubt the major news networks will focus on the very spot of his miraculous revival. Miracles will occur. The world's focus will be on him from that day, and the seventh world ruler

will have to give way to the man decreed from the beginning to bring in the holocaust of all that is good and true, ushering in the judgment and return of the true Christ a few years later.

We sit with awe before the predictions of what shall surely come to this planet. Perhaps soon.

Afterword

The candidates are not really candidates in the modern usage of the word. There will be no debates. No primaries. No door to door.

The election is over. As all the other heavenly elections, this one took place before the foundation of the world. A man has been chosen to live on the earth (done), die (done), and come back from the grave empowered by Satan (not done as yet). He will oppose God and God's Christ and God's people. He will control the entire world for a short time. He will be cast into the lake of fire and be punished there forever.

God has put into our hands the key to discovering who this man is, so that we will be prepared for his coming and not walk in the darkness of the rest of the world. I trust this little book will help you search the Scriptures about this matter, for it is no light topic, as His own surely know.