

“The Career of Antichrist”

Daniel 9:24-27; Revelation 13:4-18; 19:11-21

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Benjamin Creme and the “Maitreya”
 - Maitreya or the “Christ”, in New Age belief, is the master of all descended masters, who will unite all the religions of the world based on the common doctrine of brotherly love.
 - Supposedly take human form in 1977 and living in the suburb of London, waiting for the day when he will be introduced to the world.
 - Introduction of the Maitreya, the World Teacher from Share International.
 - Because Maitreya is connected with Buddhism, he will be known by a different, unidentified name
- The Antichrist as the SUBSTITUTE CHRIST
 - 1) His RISE to Power
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8-- *“Mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 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.”*
 - 2) His SOURCE of Power
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10-- *“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not love the truth that they might be saved.”*
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:11-- *“God will send them strong delusion that they should believe the lie”*

“The Career of the Antichrist”

A. His First Act as World Leader

- Daniel 9:24-27-- *“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. Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until the Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The streets shall be built again, and the walls, even in troublesome times. And after sixty two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; 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 of desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with the 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 pour out on the desolate.”*
1. **The 490-Year Plan to prepare the Jews for their Messiah and His kingdom**
 - a. Broken down into four sections
 - b. We are currently living in the “gap” or intermission between the 69th and 70th “Seven”
 - 1) The intermission began after March 30, 33 AD when Jesus presents Himself as Messiah the Prince, and is rejected by the Jewish leadership, and subsequent the crowds at His crucifixion.
 - 2) During this intermission...
 - a) The temple in Jerusalem is destroyed and Jerusalem itself is trodden under foot by the Gentiles.
 - b) The return of the Jew to the land as the “dry bones” are reassembled, devoid of spiritual life.
 - c) Jesus Christ is building His church, comprised of believing Jews and Gentiles.

- d) Sometime during this intermission, Jesus Christ will return for His bride, the Church, and take them to His Father's house. This will take place at the rapture of the church.
- e) The Antichrist will come to power.

2. God's time clock will start again when the Antichrist makes a covenant with Israel to provide protection for them from their enemies.

- Daniel 9:27-- *"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 abomination shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."*
- a. Two Key Interpretative questions:
 - 1) Who is the "he" who will confirm the covenant?
 - a) Some believe that this prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus Christ at His first coming, and therefore there is no gap between the 69th and 70th week.
 - b) The "he" refers to the "prince who is to come" — to the Western World leader in the end times, the "little horn" or "Antichrist"
 - 2) Who are the "many"? Clear reference to the unbelieving Jews who will enter into an alliance with the prince who is to come. Daniel 9:24
 - John 5:43-- *"I have come in my Father's name and you do not accept me; but if someone comes in his own name, you will accept him."*

B. His Death and Resurrection Cements Him as the World Leader

- Revelation 13:3-4-- *"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. So they worshiped the dragon who have authority to the beast and they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast?' Who is able to make war with him?"*
- 1. **Someone assassinate him but God allows Satan to bring him back from the dead.**
- 2. **God uses Satan for His own purposes** for the Antichrist needs to be one the world scene for God's plan to unfold during the tribulation period.
- 3. **This event probably takes place at the midpoint of the seven-year tribulation period.**
 - a. Satan has been cast out of heaven and knows that his time is short. Revelation 12:12
 - b. Satan duplicates the resurrection of Christ and thus cements the Antichrist's power over the world.

C. His ABUSE of POWER-- Revelation 13:4-18

- 1. **He DEFAMES the Person and People of God**
 - Revelation 13:5-6-- *"And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven."*
 - a. The Antichrist has a "big mouth"
 - Daniel 7:8-- *"a mouth speaking pompous words"*
 - Daniel 7:25-- *"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."*
 - b. He will use his "big mouth" to blaspheme God, Jesus Christ, the tribulation saints, and you and I.
 - c. He will be the master deceiver and will put down everything pertaining to God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the followers of Jesus.

2. He DEMANDS WORSHIP as God

- Revelation 14:4-- *"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?'"*
- a. **He will claim to be God**
 - Daniel 11:36-37-- *"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. 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."*
- b. **He will desecrate the temple in Jerusalem by causing the sacrifices to cease and by erecting an image of himself in the Holy of Holies.**
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:4-- *"opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."*
- c. **He will be aided by the activities of the False Prophet**
 - Revelation 13:11-18-- *"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercised all authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. He performed great signs, so that he even made fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by the signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image of the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive the mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one has the mark or name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666."*
- 1) Satan has always sought to counterfeit God, and thus he will counterfeit the trinity.
 - a) Satan will be worshiped as "god the father"
 - b) The Antichrist will be the opposite of Jesus Christ
 - c) The False prophet assumes the role of the Holy Spirit
 - (1) Does not draw attention to himself but to the Antichrist
 - (2) Will call down fire from heaven
 - (3) Will give life to the image of the beast erected in the temple
- 2) Worship of the Image of the beast will not be voluntary, but mandatory.
- 3) The false prophet will issue the "mark of the beast" — 666. Everyone will need to have this mark to either buy or sell. With no mark, one is marked for death. Either you worship or die.

3. He DESTROYS those who refuse to worship him.

- a. **He seeks to destroy the Tribulation believers.**
 - Revelation 13:7-8-- *"It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given to him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. 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."*
- b. **He will seek to destroy Israel and the Jewish people**
 - Matthew 24:15-22-- *"Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And*

let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened."

D. His FALL from POWER

- Revelation 19-11-21-- *"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. His eyes were like the flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 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. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. 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, 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 great and small.' 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. 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. 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."*

Application:

1. **Live in such a way that the quality of our love and character will counter the false accusations of the antichrist!**
 - 1 Peter 3:14-16-- *"But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. But sanctify the LORD God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed."*
2. **Worship voluntarily the One who alone deserves our adoration, our allegiance, our devotion.**