

# REVELATION – SERMON 50

## *THE COMING PRINCE*

Revelation 13:1

### INTRODUCTION

- Throughout history, certain men have risen to power and so captured the hearts of men that they became objects of worship
- But there is a coming world leader who will go beyond any other, making himself god, and commanding the worship of the entire world
- He will also be the most evil man who has ever lived – the devil incarnate
- Chapter 13 details the operations of Satan during the Tribulation
- Along with the dragon (Satan), we are shown two of his key operatives, described as the first and second beasts
- Satan and his devils are spirit beings and their operations on earth are carried out through human agents
- From the day of his first rebellion, Satan's desire has ever been: "I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:14)
- This chapter shows his attempt to imitate the triune nature of the Godhead by constructing his own unholy triad of Satan, Antichrist and the False Prophet
- In this study, we will examine some details about this character known as the Antichrist

- The term “antichrist” is only found in the epistles of John (1 John 2:18,22; 4:3; 2 John 7)
- The prefix “anti” can mean either “against” or “in place of”, hence the antichrist is both an opposer of Christ, as well as a false Christ (Matthew 24:5,24)
- Eschatology, including teaching on the antichrist, formed an important part of the apostles’ instruction to the churches (2 Thessalonians 2:5; 1 John 2:18)
- A proper understanding of these coming events will help to guard us against the errors of our day that have deceived many (cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:2)

## **I. THE DESIGNATION OF THE BEAST**

### **A. He is a beast**

1. This term (Greek *therion*) indicates a wild animal and is used thirty-six times in Revelation (first usage in 11:7)
2. The use of this term gives a clear link to the beast of Daniel 7
3. His rule will be one of beast-like brutality
4. Note that in man’s eyes, this individual and his counterpart will be highly esteemed and praised, but in God’s eyes they are brute beasts (cf. Luke 16:15)
5. Revelation 13 gives us a view of the Antichrist’s kingdom from God’s perspective

### **B. Many different names are used in Scripture for this individual**

The Bloody and the Deceitful Man (Psalm 5:6)  
The Wicked One (Psalm 10:2-4)  
The Man of the Earth (Psalm 10:18)  
The Mighty Man (Psalm 52:1)  
The Enemy (Psalm 55:3)  
The Adversary (Psalm 74:8-10)  
The Violent Man (Psalm 140:1)  
The King of Babylon (Isaiah 14:2)  
The Son of the Morning (Isaiah 14:12)  
The Spoiler (Isaiah 16:4-5; Jeremiah 6:26)  
The Nail (Isaiah 22:25)  
The Branch of the Terrible Ones (Isaiah 25:5)  
The Profane wicked Prince of Israel (Ezekiel 21:25-27)  
The Little Horn (Daniel 7:8)  
The King of Fierce Countenance (Daniel 8:23)  
The Prince that Shall Come (Daniel 9:26)  
The Desolator (Daniel 9:27)  
The Vile Person (Daniel 11:21)  
The Wilful King (Daniel 11:36)  
The Idol Shepherd (Zechariah 11:16-17)  
The Man of Sin (2 Thessalonians 2:3)  
The Son of Perdition (2 Thessalonians 2:3)  
That Wicked (2 Thessalonians 2:8)  
The Abomination of Desolation (Matthew 24:15)  
The One Coming in His Own Name (John 5:43)  
The Antichrist (1 John 2:22)  
The Beast (Revelation 11:7; 13:1)  
—A W Pink

### C. There are many types of the Antichrist in the Bible

1. Cain (Genesis 4:5-14; Jude 11; 1 John 3:12)
2. Nimrod (Genesis 10,11)
3. Pharaoh of the Exodus (Exodus 5-12)
4. Abimelech (Judges 9)

5. Saul (1 Samuel 13)
6. Goliath (1 Samuel 17:10)
7. Absalom
8. Nebuchadnezzar
9. Haman (Esther 3:1-15)
10. Antiochus Epiphanes
11. Herod (Matthew 2:8)
12. Judas Iscariot (John 17:12)

## **II. THE DERIVATION OF THE BEAST**

- A. He ascends from the bottomless pit (11:7; 17:8)
  1. The origin of his character and power is from hell (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10)
- B. He arises from the sea
  1. The sea indicates the Gentile nations (Revelation 17:15)
  2. The sea also is used to describe a restless and troubled humanity under sin (Isaiah 17:12; 57:20)
  3. The new heaven and earth will have no more sea (Revelation 21:1)
- C. He comes from a European background

1. Daniel 9:26 states, “The people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary”
2. This refers to Rome’s destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, therefore the Antichrist will originate from a modern equivalent of the Roman Empire

D. The state of the world at his coming

1. A morally corrupt world (2 Timothy 3:1-5)
2. A spiritually corrupt world (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
3. The removal of the Restrainer – the Holy Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7)
4. The rapture of believers (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 3:10)

### **III. THE DOMINION OF THE BEAST**

A. The prophet Daniel was given much information regarding the Antichrist and his rule

1. He received a vision of four successive kingdoms – Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome (Daniel 7)
2. This corresponds with the image of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (Daniel 2) which viewed the kingdoms from man’s perspective, while Daniel’s vision views them from God’s perspective
3. From the fourth beast, representing Rome, arose a “little horn” (representing Antichrist) among ten horns

4. More descriptions of the antichrist are given in Daniel chapters 8,9 and 11

## B. The nature of his kingdom

1. He will rise to power:
  - a. By means of a covenant with Israel (Daniel 9:27)
  - b. By deception and peace agreements (Revelation 6:2)
  - c. By overthrowing other kings (Daniel 7:8,24)
  - d. By a great miracle (Revelation 13:3-4)
  - e. Through the instrumentality of the harlot – the corrupt religious system of the last days (Revelation 17:3)
2. His rule will be concurrent with the seven year tribulation period (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15-31), and in the final 3½ years he will have complete power (Revelation 13:5)
3. The extent of his rule will be global (Daniel 7:23; Revelation 13:7), controlling the earth's population militarily and economically (Daniel 11:43; Revelation 13:17)
4. He will change times and laws
5. He will persecute the saints (Daniel 7:21,25; 8:24; Revelation 13:7)

## C. The character of the beast

1. He is empowered by Satan (Daniel 8:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:9; Revelation 13:4)

2. He will exalt himself as God (Daniel 8:25; 9:27; 11:36-37; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:4)
3. He will be a blasphemer (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5)
4. His countenance will be formidable and striking (Daniel 7:20; 8:23)
5. He will be a great orator (Daniel 7:8,20)
6. He will be highly intelligent (Daniel 8:23-25)
7. He will be a sodomite (Daniel 11:37)
8. He will honour “the God of forces” (Daniel 11:38)
9. Above all, he will hate Jesus Christ, seeking to overthrow him, his plan and his people (Daniel 8:25; Revelation 17:14)

<b>CHRIST</b>	<b>ANTICHRIST</b>
Came from above (John 6:38)	Ascends from the pit (Revelation 11:7)
Came in his Father’s name (John 5:43)	Comes in his own name (John 5:43)
Humbled himself (Philippians 2:8)	Exalts himself (2 Thessalonians 2:4)
Despised (Isaiah 53:3; Luke 23:18)	Admired (Revelation 13:3,4)
Finally exalted (Philippians 2:9)	Finally damned (Isaiah 14-15; Revelation 19:20)
Does his Father’s will (John 6:38)	Does his own will (Daniel 11:36)
Came to save (Luke 19:10)	Comes to destroy (Daniel 8:24)
The Good Shepherd (John 10:14-15)	The idol shepherd (Zech 11:16-17)
The “true vine” John 15:1	The “vine of the earth” (Rev 14:18)
The “truth” (John 14:6)	The “lie” (2 Thessalonians 2:11)
The “Holy One” (Mark 1:24)	“That Wicked” (2 Thessalonians 2:8)
The “man of sorrows” (Isaiah 53:3)	The “man of sin” (2 Thess 2:3)
The “Son of God.” Luke 1:35.	The “son of perdition” (2 Thess 2:3)
The “mystery of godliness” (1 Ti 3:16)	The “mystery of iniquity” (2 Thess 2:7)

—Clarence Larkin

## **IV. THE DOWNFALL OF THE BEAST**

- A. The scriptures make frequent reference to the final doom of the antichrist (Ezekiel 21:25-27; 28:7-10; Daniel 7:11,27; 8:25; 9:27; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 17:11; 19:20; 20:10)
- B. His end will be with great violence by the Lord Jesus himself at his coming

## **CONCLUSION**

1. The stage is being set in our day for the arrival of the Antichrist
2. In just the last century, global communications, a global and cashless financial system, and the unification of Europe show that we are drawing very close to the end of the age
3. It is imperative then, that you flee to Christ today, to escape the coming wrath
4. Those who hear the gospel and refuse or delay their repentance will pass into the tribulation and be sent a strong delusion that they should believe a lie (2 Thessalonians 2:11)
5. Though the Antichrist is yet to come, there are now many antichrists in the world (1 John 2:18)
6. The spirit of antichrist corrupts the doctrine of Christ, his nature and work (1 John 4:3)
7. We must hold fast to a biblical Christology, and firmly rebuke the many antichrists who are seeking to pervert the truth of Christ