

The Rise of the Anti-Christ

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, August 5th

There are more than 100 prophecies about his second coming recorded in the New Testament!

If Jesus fulfilled all of the O.T. prophecies about his 1st coming, He will certainly fulfill the O.T. and N.T. ones about his second coming! (Mt 5:18)

Scripture reveals that there will be two distinct “stages” to his Second Coming.

1st Stage: He will come “in the air” for His Church! (*Acts 1:11; 1 Thes. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-58*)

2nd Stage: He’ll come “in power” to reign on the earth. (*Ps. 2; Zech.12; 2 Thes. 2; Rev. 19*)

What happens between these two events?

Rev 1:1 *“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, ... which must shortly come to pass...”*

Rev. 2-3: Letters to the Churches. (Church Age)

Rev. 4: Rapture (Transformation, Evaluation, Remuneration) of The Church, and the Consummation of our relationship (Rev. 19)

Rev. 5: A transition period where Jesus receives the “Title” to the earth, sealed with 7 seals.

The opening of this “Sealed Book” introduce the “Tribulation” period.

Purpose of the Tribulation period:

- To give the world what it wants (Self Rule) Self rule eventually becomes *Satan's* rule!
- To turn Israel back to Himself. (Rev. 12; Ro 11:25-26)
- To give the world one last chance to repent. (Rev 14:6-7)

The tribulation will last for 7 years divided into two “halves.”

1. The Tribulation (The Rise of the Beast)

A. A Charismatic leader will rise to power.

- 1) He’s a peaceful rider on the White horse in Rev. 6:2 and a terrible beast in Rev. 13!
- 2) His rise could be initiated by a cataclysmic event that will “launch” him into the world’s eyes.
- 3) He’ll “solve” the Middle East Crisis initiating a 7 year “Peace Treaty”. (Daniel 9:27)
 - a) Probably negotiate the rebuilding of the Temple and be embraced as the Jewish “Messiah”.

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- b) Muslim’s will probably accept him as their own “Messiah” known as the “12th Imam”.

“The world will not come to an end until a man from my family and of my name shall be master of the world! When you see a green ensign coming from the direction of Khorasan, then join them, for the Imam of God will be with the standards who will be called al-Mahdi.” Muhammad

- 4) He’ll be backed by 10 major Nations in his rise to world wide power. (*Dan. 7:7,24; Rev. 17:12*)
- 5) His “Kingdom” includes characteristics of the previous empires. *Dan. 7:17-22; Rev. 13:2*
- 6) His kingdom will be *Satanically* enabled! (Rev. 12:9; 13:2) *“The Dragon (Satan) gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority”*
- 7) He’ll be backed by the “Church”, using religion to gain the trust of the people. (Rev. 17)
- 8) This period of “political popularity” will last 3 ½ years. (Dan. 9:27; Rev. 13:1-5)

2. The Transition: “Resurrection of the Beast”

A. There will be a possible assassination attempt.

- 1) Satan will possess (and apparently resurrect) him. (Rev. 13:3) *“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast”*
- 2 Thes 2:3,9 *“even the son of perdition... whose coming is after the working of Satan”*

B. His “False Prophet” will do miracles to deceive the masses. Rev 13:12-15

“he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, and doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men... deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast... And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”

C. He will Desecrate the Temple and demand worship.

2 Th 2:3,4 *“for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”*

1) This event ushers in The “Great” Tribulation. Mt 24:15-24

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: ... 21 then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake they shall be shortened.” (To 3 ½ years Dan. 9:27; Rev. 12:14; 13:5)

Conclusion: The rise of the Anti-Christ will be:

- **Rapid:** 2 Th.2:8 *“then shall that wicked one be revealed”*
- **Reasonable:** 2 Th. 2:9,10 *“whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved!”*
- **Rebellious:** He’ll defy God and demand worship! 2 Th 3:4 *“exalteth himself above all that is called God... showing himself that he is God.”*

Application:

Rev. 13:3 *“all the world wondered after the beast”* The vast majority of the world will get caught up in the “web” of “wonder” until it’s too late!

- Initially Pharaoh hardened his own heart to God. (Ex, 7:14, 22; 8:15,19, 32; 9:6)
- Eventually *“the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh”* Ex, 9:12

This pattern will be repeated! 2 Th 2:11-12 *“And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”*

Have you really “Believed the Truth?” about God’s plan for your redemption?

Believed: Pisteuō: to entrust and **commit!**

If so, then the rest of the chapter applies to you! 1 Thes. 2:12-16,17

“But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Now our Lord Jesus ... which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace... Comfort (parakaleo: to call near) your hearts, and stablish you (sterizo: turn resolutely) in every good (agathos: beneficial) word and work.”

Are you willing to “resolutely turn” from your own way Truly “draw near” to Christ, And invest your life in “every good work” that’s beneficial from Eternity’s perspective?