

The Little Horn

According to verse 8, something new is added to the prophetic outline. A “*little horn*” rises up among the ten horns of the fourth beast. This “*little horn*” is the antichrist. There is so much speculation about the antichrist that many are confused, but we’re not interested in speculations. We want to know what the Bible says. In order to identify this little horn, we will gather our information straight from the Bible!

Here are 10 clear identifying marks of the antichrist from Daniel 7:

1. is a “*little*” power/ kingdom (vss. 8, 24)
2. would emerge after pagan Rome (vss. 7, 8)
3. comes up from “*among them*”. Somewhere in Western Europe. (v. 8)
4. uproots 3 horns/ kingdoms (v. 8)
5. prominent man at it's head who speaks for it (mouth) and guides it (eyes) (v. 8)
6. it is “*different*” from the other horns/ kingdoms (v. 24)
7. it would persecute the people of God (vss. 21, 25)
8. would seek to change God's law and times (v. 25)
9. would blaspheme God (v. 25)
10. career is for a “*time, times, and a dividing of times*” (v. 25), that is 1,260 years (Revelation 12:6, 14)

His Identity Revealed

Only one entity fits all the identifying marks given in the Bible—only one qualifies. It is the Roman Church! Surprised? You shouldn't be! This is, after all, nothing new. Every Protestant reformer came to the same conclusion—From Luther to Calvin to Wesley; they all preached this simple biblical message! Let's be clear: God is not against people. He is, however, against false systems. The issue is with the teachings of the system—they distort the true, biblical picture of God and His character. God, of course, loves all people from all religious backgrounds, but He does not love all systems. This is an issue of truth and error, not of personality or playing favorites. God is looking for people who are willing to stand for Bible truth; people who are willing to be completely committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Do you want to be one of those people? I know I do!

The implications of this identification will become clearer and clearer as the meetings progress.

Presentation guide 3:

Has religion **failed**?

This study addresses the very important issue of the antichrist from a Biblical perspective. There are many opinions and ideas about the identity of the antichrist. We are not interested in these. Our interest is in what the Bible actually says about the subject. This is a serious (and seriously misunderstood) topic so we want to be sure to be honest and humble in our study and conclusions. Let's get started!

Simple salvation

Salvation is simple. Consider, for example, John 17:3: “*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*” There it is—eternal life, the text says, comes by “*knowing*” God. That is, having a faith-based relationship with Him. To know God, then, is to have salvation. To not know God is to fail of experiencing salvation. According to Scripture, the antichrist obscures the person and work of Jesus. In doing so, he effectively prevents people from knowing God in an accurate way. This has serious implications. It is imperative that we know God, through Jesus, for ourselves! Knowing who the antichrist is won't, of course, save anyone. Knowing Jesus Christ, however, results in salvation! See 1 John 5:11-13.

Are you deceived?

The essence of deception is that the deceived party is unaware that they are being deceived. This is what makes deception so dangerous and sticky. Think of it: no one ever says, “Hey, I'm being deceived right now.” If someone knows they are being deceived, it ceases to be deception. Now you may be thinking to yourself, “Well I'm glad that I'm not deceived.” The problem is that is exactly how deceived people think! See what we mean by sticky? How, then, can we be sure that we are not deceived? Great question! The answer is simple: be sure that what you believe is consistent with the Bible, God's Word. The Bible is the filter for deception. See Matthew 4; Isaiah 8:20; 2Peter 1:19-21; 2Timothy 3:16.

The apostle Paul and the Antichrist

Paul wrote about the coming antichrist in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4. In v.3 Paul uses two names to refer to the antichrist: 1. Man of sin — 2. Son of perdition

What is the significance of that second name? Only one other person in the Bible is referred to by that name. Who was it? Judas Iscariot! See John 17:12. Wow, what a discovery! Judas did not violently oppose Jesus Christ, rather he subtly betrayed Him. He came, not from the outright opposition of the Pharisees or the Romans, but from the very inner-circle of Christ's own followers, the disciples. He looked friendly, but secretly betrayed. Paul purposefully employs this phrase. He's saying that the coming antichrist will not appear as an outright opposer, but as a subtle imposter. This is very important to grasp. Note also that according to verse 4, the antichrist goes into *"the temple"*, not to show that he is against God, but rather that he is God! So he is a religious-looking entity. He sets himself up as God, not as against God.

Another important passage, taken from a sermon that Paul preached in Ephesus, is found in Acts 20:28-30. Here Paul says that these coming deceivers would arise from within the church itself! Just like Judas Iscariot, the conflict would come from inside (betrayal), not from outside (outright opposition). Before we go on to the book of Revelation, remember what the dividing issue is in the book of Revelation. It is worship—the true worship of the one true God. See Revelation 13, 14 (count the number of times *"worship"* occurs in these two chapters.) In fact, Satan utilizes the antichrist as a front-man in order to procure worship for himself. Revelation 13 makes this unmistakably clear. Also, remember the 2 Thessalonians 2 passage from above! Look again at verse 4—*"who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called or that is worshipped"*. There it is! It's all about worship! Based on what we've learned so far, we are looking for a religious figure who will obscure the true place, person, and worship of Jesus Christ, thus potentially preventing people from coming to truly know Him.

Does Jesus Christ Have a Twin? The Great Counterfeit

The book of Revelation agrees perfectly with what Paul says about the antichrist. Strange as it may seem, the antichrist actually seeks to impersonate Jesus Christ. This is communicated clearly in Revelation. Does Jesus Christ have a twin? No, He does not, but the way that the antichrist seeks to counterfeit Jesus, one would wonder! Just compare the picture of Jesus Christ given in the Gospels and Revelation with the picture of the antichrist given in Revelation 13. We will note 8 points of counterfeit and comparison:

1. Jesus begins His mission from the water (to save)—Mt.3:16,17 | Antichrist begins his mission from the water (to deceive)—Rev 13:1
2. Jesus resembles His Father—John 14:9 | Antichrist resembles Satan—compare Rev 12:3,9 with Rev 13:1
3. Jesus is depicted with symbolic horns and crowns (representing kingly power)—Rev 5:6; 19:12 | Antichrist is depicted with symbolic horns and crowns (representing a usurped kingly power)—Rev 13:1
4. Jesus receives power and authority from His Father—Mt 28:18 | Antichrist receives power and authority from His "father" figure, the dragon—Rev 13:2,4

5. Jesus' duration of earthly ministry 3 1/2 years—Daniel 9:26, 27 (also, a simple study of John with the other Gospels reveals this) | Antichrist's duration of mission 42 months or 3 1/2 years—Rev 13:5
6. Jesus was slain and resurrected after the 3 1/2 years—Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20 | Antichrist was slain and resurrected after 3 1/2 years—Rev 13:3
7. Jesus received worship following resurrection—Mt 28:17 | Antichrist receives worship after wound was healed—Rev 13:3-4,8
8. Jesus receives universal dominion and authority—Mt 28:18-20 | Antichrist claims to receive universal dominion and authority—Rev 13:2,3,7

Plainly there is a counterfeit motif on display here. Revelation symbolically describes that the antichrist is setting himself up a Christ-figure! This agrees perfectly with Paul's picture of a Judas-like betrayer who comes from the inner-circle, pretends to be God, and seeks worship. He's a subtle imposter, remember, not an outright opposer.

So Who Is It?

The Biblical picture is both compelling and conclusive. We will look at 10 biblical identification characteristics of the antichrist. In Daniel chapter 2 God showed King Nebuchadnezzar a great metal statue. That statue was a timeline that continued from the time of Daniel down to the second coming of Jesus. It consisted of five different sections which represented five different eras of history. Let's review:

- › Head of Gold Babylon 605 B.C. - 539 B.C.
- › Chest and arms of Silver Medo-Persia 539 B.C. - 331 B.C.
- › Belly and thighs of Bronze Greece 331 B.C. - 168 B.C.
- › Legs of Iron Rome 168 B.C. - A.D. 476
- › Feet of Iron and with Clay Divided Europe A.D. 476 - ?

Now when we turn to Daniel 7, we find that Daniel uses different symbols to describe the same kingdoms.

- › Lion Babylon 605 B.C. - 539 B.C.
- › Bear Medo-Persia 539 B.C. - 331 B.C.
- › Leopard Greece 331 B.C. - 168 B.C.
- › Fourth Beast Rome 168 B.C. - A.D. 476
- › Ten Horns Divided Europe A.D. 476 - ?

The fourth beast had ten horns. This fits perfectly with the ten toes of the statue in Daniel 2. But Daniel now takes it a step further.